#### PRIV. PETER SCHUHMACHER

Co. H, 169<sup>th</sup> New York State Volunteer Infantry Regiment part i – regimental information, newspaper articles, resolutions



Priv. Peter Schuhmaker (1827-1904), Co. H, 169<sup>th</sup> N.Y. (July 4, 1866) Collection of the New York State Military Museum, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.



**SCHUHMACHER, PETER.** – Age, 33 years. Enlisted, September 6, 1862, at Sand Lake, to serve three years; mustered in as private, Co. H, October 6, 1862; mustered out with detachment, June 8, 1865, at Albany, N. Y.; also borne as Shoemaker.

Source: Documents of the Senate of the State of New York, One Hundred and Twenty Ninth Session, Vol. V, No. 8 (Part 2) – Annual Report of the Adjutant-General of the State of New York for the Year 1905, Brandow Printing Co., State Legislative Printer, Albany, 1906.

## NEW YORK

IN THE

## WAR OF THE REBELLION

1861 to 1865

COMPILED BY

#### FREDERICK PHISTERER

Late Captain U. S. Army

ALBANY
WEED, PARSONS AND COMPANY
1890

New York in the War of the Rebellion, 1861 to 1865, by Frederick Phisterer, Weed, Parsons and Company, Albany, 1890, pp. 59-60; 503-4.

## STATE ORGANIZATIONS IN SERVICE OF UNITED STATES.

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH REGIMENT OF INFANTRY.

#### TROY REGIMENT.

Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, 1862, Col. Clarence Buel received authority to raise this regiment in the, then, 12<sup>th</sup> senatorial district of the State; it was organized at Staten Island, and mustered in the service of the United States for three years; Companies A to E at Troy, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>, 1862; the remaining companies at New Dorp, Staten Island, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, 1862. June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1865, it received by transfer the men of the 142<sup>d</sup> N. Y. Vols. not mustered out with their regiment.

The companies were recruited principally: *A* at Nassau, Troy, Schodack and Poestenkill. *B*, *G*, *H* and *I* at Troy; *C* at Troy, Brunswick, Hoosick, Pittstown, Easton and Poestenkill; *D* at Sandy Hill, Kingsbury and Fort Edward; *E* at Fort Edward; *F* at Whitehall, Lisbon and Fort Ann; and *K* at Lansingburgh and Troy. Company I was also known as the *Nail Factory Company*.

The regiment left the State Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>, 1862; it served in the Provisional Brigade, Abercrombie's Division, Defenses of Washington, from Oct., 1862; in the Military District of Washington, D. C., 22<sup>d</sup> Corps, from March, 1863; in the 2<sup>d</sup>, Foster's, Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup>, Corcoran's, Division, 7<sup>th</sup> Corps, at Suffolk, Va., from April 17<sup>th</sup>, 1863; on the Peninsula, Va., in June and July, 1863; in the Department of the South, 18<sup>th</sup> Corps, from Aug., 1863; on Folly Island, S. C., and in Foster's and Drake's Brigades, Vogdes's Division, 10<sup>th</sup> Corps, from Oct., 1863; in the District of Florida, from Feb., 1864; in the 2<sup>d</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>d</sup> Division, 10<sup>th</sup> Corps, from April, 1864; in the 2<sup>d</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>d</sup> Division, 18<sup>th</sup> Corps, from May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1864; in the 3<sup>d</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>d</sup> Division, 10<sup>th</sup> Corps, from June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1864; in the same of 24<sup>th</sup> Corps, from Dec., 1864; of the Provisional Corps, from March, 1865; of the 10<sup>th</sup> Corps, from April 2<sup>d</sup>, 1865; and, commanded by Col. Alonzo Alden, it was honorably discharged and mustered out July 19<sup>th</sup>, 1865, at Raleigh, N. C.

During its service the regiment lost by death, killed in action, 6 officers, 67 enlisted men; of wounds received in action, 1 officer, 58 enlisted men; of disease and other causes, 3 officers, 150 enlisted men; total, 10 officers, 275 enlisted men; aggregate, 285; of whom 25 enlisted men died in the hands of the enemy; and 2 officers and 26 enlisted men were killed by the explosion of the magazine at Fort Fisher, N. C., Jan. 16th, 1865. The regiment took part in the following engagements, etc.:

Casual	ties of the 169 <sup>th</sup>	N. Y.	V.	-				-	:	-
			Wounded.							
		Kil	led.	Di			ov'd.	Miss	ing.	]
						1100		1,1155	·g•	
PLACE.	Date.	Officers.	En. Men.	Aggregate.						
	1863.									
Siege of Suffolk, Va.	April 17 - May 4									
Edenton Road	April 24									
Sub-total			1			3	4			8
Siege of Battery Wagner, S. C.	Aug. 28 - Sept. 7		1				1			2
Operations in Charleston Harbor, S. C.	Sept. 8 - Dec. 31									
Bombardment of Fort Sumter	Oct. 27 - Nov. 9									
	1864.									
Seabrook and John's Island, S. C.	Feb. 9-11									
Operations against Petersburg and Richmond, Va.	May 5-31									
Port Walthall and Chester Station	May 6-7					1	69		24	
Swift Creek	May 9-10		8		4					
Drewry's Bluff	May 14-16	1	4		3					
Bermuda Hundred	May 18-26		3		2					
Sub-total		1	15		9	1	69		24	119
Cold Harbor, Va.	June 1-12									
First Assault	June 1	1	7		13	4	53			
Second Assault	June 3		2		1					
Sub-total		1	9		14	4	53			81
Before Petersburg and Richmond, Va.	June 15 - Dec.		16		19		76			111
Assault of Petersburg, Va.	June 15-19		8		6	1	57		3	75
Mine Explosion, Petersburg, Va.	July 30	1	1				8		9	19
Dutch Gap, Va.	Aug. 13									
Strawberry Plains, Va.	Aug. 14-18									
Sub-total		1	3	1	3	1	13		1	23
Chaffin's Farm, Va.	Sept. 29 - Oct. 1		5		3		23		6	37
Fort Fisher, N. C.	Dec. 25									
	1865.									
Fort Fisher, N. C.	Jan. 15	2	8		4	2	37			53
Cape Fear Intrenchments, N. C.	Feb. 11-12									
Fort Anderson, N. C.	Feb. 18-20									
Near Wilmington, N. C.	Feb. 22									
Campaign of the Carolinas	March - April 26									
Bennett House, N. C.	April 26									
Total loss		6	67	1	58	12	341		43	528

## REGIMENTAL LOSSES

IN

## THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

1861-1865

A TREATISE ON THE EXTENT AND NATURE OF THE MORTUARY LOSSES IN THE UNION REGIMENTS, WITH FULL AND EXHAUSTIVE STATISTICS COMPILED FROM THE OFFICIAL RECORDS ON FILE IN THE STATE MILITARY BUREAUS AND AT WASHINGTON.

By WILLIAM F. FOX, Lt. Col., U. S. V.

President of the Society of the Twelfth Army Corps; late President of the 107th N. Y. Veteran Volunteers' Association; and Member of the New York Historical Society.

ALBANY, N. Y.
ALBANY PUBLISHING COMPANY
1889

Regimental Losses in the American Civil War, 1861 – 1865, by William F. Fox, Albany Publishing Company, Albany, N.Y., 1889, pp. 122, 240, and 459.

#### THREE HUNDRED FIGHTING REGIMENTS.

It is not claimed that these are the Three Hundred Fighting Regiments of the Army; but, that they are three hundred regiments which evidently did considerable fighting. There were, undoubtedly, others which did equally good or, perhaps, better fighting, and their gallant services will be fully recognized by the writers who are conversant with their history. But, for lack of other information, [chapter X.] deals only with those which sustained the heaviest losses in battle. It includes every regiment in the Union Armies which lost over 130 in killed and died of wounds during the war, together with a few whose losses were somewhat smaller, but whose percentage of killed entitles them to a place in the list. It may be suggested that large casualty lists are not necessarily indicative of the fighting qualities of a regiment; that on many occasions regiments have rendered valuable service and achieved a brilliant success with but slight loss. Granted, as regards some particular action or instance; 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.

#### ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH NEW YORK INFANTRY

DRAKE'S BRIGADE - AMES'S DIVISION - TENTH CORPS.

(1) COL. CLARENCE BUEL. (2) COL. JOHN McCONIHE; BVT. BRIG.-GEN. (Killed). (3) COL. ALONZO ALDEN.

COMPANIES.	KILLED AND DIED OF WOUNDS.			DIED OF	Total		
	Officers	Men	Total	Officers Men		Total	Enrollment
Field and Staff	1	1	2		1	1	18
Company A	2	13	15		20	20	147
В		14	14		6	6	131
C	1	15	16		12	12	154
D	2	14	16	1	10	11	161
Е	1	20	21	1	16	17	162
F	1	20	21		18	18	148
G		12	12		11	11	122
Н	1	11	12		13	13	127
I		12	12		8	8	156
K	1	15	15	1	10	11	141
Totals	10	147	157	3	125	128	1,467 *

157 killed === 10.7 per cent.

Total of killed and wounded, 618; died in Confederate prisons (previously included). 23.

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BATTLES.	K. & M. W.	BATTLES.	K. & M. W.
Suffolk, Va.	2	Petersburg, Va., June 30, 1864	26
Fort Wagner, S. C.	4	Petersburg Mine, Va.	7
Chester Station, Va.	14	Petersburg Trenches, Va.	18
Walthall Junction, Va.	12	Dutch Gap, Va., August 13, 1864	8
Bermuda Hundred, Va.	2	Chaffin's Farm, Va.	6
Cold Harbor, Va.	19	Fort Fisher, N. C.	† 39

Present, also, at Edenton Road; Carrsville; Blackwater; Zuni; Nansemond; South Anna; Drewry's Bluff; Darbytown Road; Wilmington.

<sup>\*</sup> Does not include men transferred from the One Hundred and Forty-second New York, after the war had ended.

<sup>†</sup> Including those killed by the explosion of the magazine, the day after the fort was captured.

Notes. - Organized at Troy, N. Y., and mustered in by companies during September and October, 1862, the men coming from Rensselaer and Washington counties. The regiment was actively engaged in the defence of Suffolk, Va., April, 1863, where it served in Foster's Brigade, Corcoran's Division. In the following summer it participated in the operations about Charleston Harbor, and in May, 1864, it moved with the Army of the James to Bermuda Hundred. The regiment disembarked there with Butler's Army, and hard fighting, with its consequent heavy losses, immediately ensued. At Cold Harbor it fought in Martindale's Division; Colonel McConihe was killed in that battle. The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth held a perilous position in the trenches before Petersburg, losing men there, killed or wounded, almost every day. While there, on the evening of June 30, 1864, the brigade (Barton's) was ordered to charge the enemy's lines, so that, under cover of their fire, Curtis's Brigade could throw up an advanced rifle-pit; but the regiment while going into position was prematurely discovered by the enemy, and thereby drew upon themselves a severe fire, which not only frustrated the plan, but cost the regiment many lives. The regiment was one of those selected for the expedition against Fort Fisher; it was then in Bell's (3<sup>d</sup>) Brigade, Ames's Division, Tenth Corps, and took part in the desperate but victorious assault on that stronghold. A large proportion of its losses there, however, occurred at the explosion of the magazine, after the fort had been captured. After the fall of Fort Fisher, the regiment accompanied the Tenth Corps in its advance on Wilmington. It was mustered out July 19, 1865.

GREATEST LOSSES IN BATTLES.

FORT FISHER, N. C. Jan. 15, 1865.						
Regiment.	Division.	Corps.	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.	Aggregate.
203 <sup>d</sup> Pennsylvania	Ames's	Tenth *	46	145	-	191
169th New York †	Ames's	Tenth	31	54	3	88
117 <sup>th</sup> New York	Ames's	Tenth	27	82	1	110
142 <sup>d</sup> New York	Ames's	Tenth	12	32	1	45
112th New York	Ames's	Tenth	11	35		46
115 <sup>th</sup> New York	Ames's	Tenth	11	32	1	44

<sup>\*</sup> These troops were detached from the Twenty-fourth Corps, but remaining in North Carolina, were reorganized as the Tenth Corps, to which they originally belonged.

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<sup>†</sup> Part of this loss occurred in the explosion of the magazine, after the capture of the fort.



# RENSSELAER CO.,

NEW YORK.

Mith Illustrations and Biographical Sketches

€ OF D

ITS PROMINENT MEN AND PIONEERS.

BY

NATHANIEL BARTLETT SYLVESTER,

Author of "Historical Sketches of Northern New York and the Adirondack Wilderness," "History of Saratoga County, New York," etc.

PHILADELPHIA:

EVERTS & PECK.

-188o.

History of Rensselaer County, New York, by Nathaniel Bartlett Sylvester, Everts & Peck, Philadelphia, 1880, pp. 91-106.

#### Rensselaer County in the Great Rebellion of 1861. Chapter III.

#### THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH N. Y. VOLS.

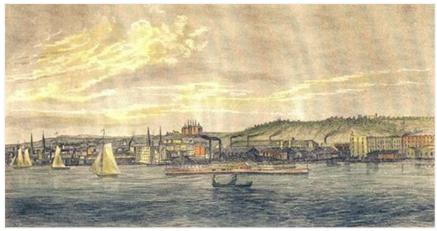
Prepared by Colonel James A. Colvin.

The history of the 169th Regiment of Infantry, New York State Volunteers, is that of a regiment distinguished for qualities which never become public fame, but which, nevertheless, are most effective in accomplishing results. commanding officers were remarkable for that unfailing obedience to orders which characterizes the trained and disciplined soldier, and under all circumstances they and the regiment were found steadfast to duty. How well that duty was performed can only be outlined in this brief record of events in which the command participated. It did its full share of hard work and hard fighting, and could truly say, in the words of St. Paul, that it had been "in journeyings often, in perils of waters, ...in perils by mine own countrymen, ...in perils of the sea, in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, ...in cold and nakedness." Its casualty record shows how faithfully it served. It had soldiers who went down to their graves with all the fortitude of Christian martyrs, and who met death with an awful majesty which impresses its witness with its thrill of power, even though many long years have passed since he beheld it. Brave, gallant, and true were they who were left behind on the field. Of the nine hundred and fifteen men enlisted and on the rolls at the first muster, less than one hundred and twenty returned home with the regiment at the close of its term of service. The ranks were filled up several times, and yet these accessions were quickly disposed of by the events of war. To illustrate this it is enough to mention that in one fight, the regiment lost one hundred and three officers and men, or one-fourth of its effective forces reported present for duty on the day of battle; on another occasion seventy-four of the one hundred and fifty men taken into action; and in one month, the brief period of thirty days beginning with June 1, 1864, there were three hundred and sixty-four men and officers of the 169th Regiment killed or wounded.

#### ORGANIZATION.

The 169<sup>th</sup> Regiment was the child of chance. One of those fortuitous events which lead to unexpected results brought about its formation in Rensselaer County. Its nucleus, "A Company, or the First Company," was recruited by Capt. James A. Colvin, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. Jerome B. Parmenter, and 2<sup>d</sup> Lieut. Bernard N. Smith, for the 125<sup>th</sup> Regiment, and as there were eleven companies, the war committee in making assignments did not give it a position. Col. Willard, commanding the 125<sup>th</sup>, having announced his intention of breaking up the company and using the men for the purposes of equalizing his own companies, an order was secured from the adjutant-general of the State directing the muster of the company into service, and giving its officers their rank. It was thus left unattached, becoming finally the senior company in the 169<sup>th</sup>.

Thus rendered supernumerary, the company remained in barracks at Batestown, near Troy, its official existence dating from August 21, 1862. Recruiting had not been discontinued, much enthusiasm prevailed, and the war committee of Rensselaer County determined to organize another regiment. On August 29, 1862, the field and some of the staff-officers of the new regiment were designated, and on August 31<sup>st</sup> Lieut.-Col. John McConihe assumed command of the rendezvous, which had been vacated on the day previous by the 125<sup>th</sup> regiment.



View of Troy from Watervliet Arsenal (1860)

1st Lieut. William E. Kisselburgh entered at once upon his duties as adjutant, and Maj. John Knowlson took the position of surgeon. By September 20th the remaining nine companies had completed their organization, Clarence Buel assuming command as colonel, and Alonzo Alden taking the position of major. The three field-officers had seen service, Col. Buel having resigned his rank of captain in the Harris Light Cavalry to take the colonelcy of the new regiment. Lieut.-Col. McConihe was promoted from captain in the 1st Nebraska Volunteers, and Maj. Alden from 1st lieutenant and adjutant in the 30th New York Volunteers. The captain of the senior company had also served as a private in the 25th Regiment New York State Militia, under the first call for troops in 1861. The senior first lieutenant was a very capable officer, who, although not having been in the army, was quick, intelligent, and thorough in learning his new profession. The senior second lieutenant had served as private in the 44th New York State Volunteers, and had been wounded at Hanover Court-House during the memorable seven days' fight. All of the other officers except one, 1st Lieut. Gager, of G company, were new to the service.

The necessary number of men having been recruited by September 20<sup>th</sup>, as stated, the companies received their designation by letter. The next thing to be accomplished was the mustering of the regiment into the United States service. On Sept. 25, 1862, Companies A and E were mustered in by Capt. Hager, U. S. A. The difficulty of keeping the men together prevented the mustering of the other companies. It was hard to enforce strict discipline, and too strong a pressure on the new recruits was likely to result in depleting the ranks of men who, although willing to serve, had not as yet acquired a perfect sense of their position as soldiers, and were ready to assert their independence. It was accordingly determined to order the regiment to New York, where it was thought, the allurements of home and the fears and pleadings of friends might be less effective.

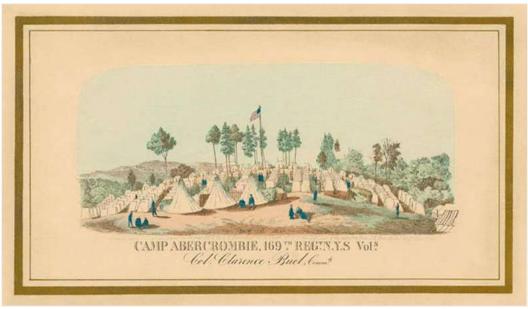
#### THE ROUTE.

On the evening of Sept. 25, 1862, the 169<sup>th</sup> Regiment took up the route and made its first movement towards the scene of war. Taking the cars at Batestown, it reached New York early on the ensuing day, and went into quarters at the Park barracks. Notwithstanding the most strenuous exertions of the officers, the men took the freedom of the city, and it was decided to seek a "change of base." After three days' delay, and by order of Brig.-Gen. Van Vechten, who had made every effort to befriend the regiment, marching orders were published on the evening of September 28<sup>th</sup>, the objective point being New Dorp, on Staten Island, where the regiment was to go into barracks and complete its muster-in. Landing on Staten Island, the regiment marched seven miles to its camp, where it remained for sixteen days, during which time the ranks filled up, the men who had been absent

from their companies returning by squads to the command. The companies not previously mustered were mustered into the United States service on October  $6^{th}$ , the following being the officers' roster of the regiment after the organization had been perfected:

Rank. Names.	Date of Commission.	Date of Muster.
Colonel Clarence Buel (Capt. H. L. Cavalry, Aug. 14, 1861.)	Oct. 11, 1862	Oct. 8, 1862
LieutColonel John McConihe (Capt. 1st Neb. Vols., June 30, 1861.)	Sept. 17, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
Major Alonzo Alden (2 <sup>d</sup> Lieut. June 1 <sup>st</sup> , 1861, and 1 <sup>st</sup> Lieut. and Adjutant, May 28, 1862, 30 <sup>th</sup> Reg. N. Y. V.)	Sept. 20, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
Adjt. Wm. E. Kisselburgh	Sept. 1, 1862	Sept. 1, 1862
Quartermaster Sidney N. Kinney	Sept. 1, 1862	Sept. 2, 1862
Surgeon John Knowlson	Sept. 3, 1862	Sept. 3, 1862
First Assist. Surg. Jos. T. Skinner	Sept. 18, 1862	Sept. 19, 1862
Second Assist. Surg. Porter L. F. Reynolds	Sept. 22, 1862	Sept. 22, 1862
Chaplain Joel W. Eaton	Sept. 23, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
Capt. James A. Colvin, A	Aug. 21, 1862	Sept. 25, 1862
First Lieut. Jerome B. Parmenter, A	Aug. 21, 1862	Sept. 25, 1862
Second Lieut. Bernard N. Smith, A	Aug. 21, 1862	Sept. 25, 1862
Capt. Nathaniel Wood, B	Sept. 13, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
First Lieut. David P. Benson, B	Sept. 13, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
Second Lieut. Michael Holmes, B	Sept. 13, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
Capt. Joseph H. Allen, C	Sept. 16, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
First Lieut. Frank W. Tarbell, C	Sept. 16, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
Second Lieut. Chas. E. Morey, C	Sept. 16, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
Capt. Warren B. Coleman, D	Sept. 17, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
First Lieut. Robert O'Conner, D	Sept. 17, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
Second Lieut. John H. Hughes, D	Sept. 17, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
Capt. L. M. Wright, E	Sept. 17, 1862	Sept. 25, 1862
First Lieut. John F. Croft, E	Sept. 17, 1862	Sept. 25, 1862
Second Lieut. Chas. H. Palmer, E	Sept. 17, 1862	Sept. 25, 1862
Capt. Augustus D. Vaughn, F	Oct. 11, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
First Lieut. James F. Thompson, F	Sept. 25, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
Second Thomas D. Jellico, F	Sept. 25, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
Capt. John T. McCoun, G	Sept. 20, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
First Lieut. George H. Gager, G	Sept. 20, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
Second Lieut. Thomas B. Eaton, G	Sept. 20, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
Capt. Wm. H. Wickes, H	Sept. 20, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
First Lieut. Wm. S. Hartshorn, H	Sept. 20, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
Second Lieut. Wm. H. Lyon, H	Sept. 20, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
Capt. Michael Murnane, I	Sept. 20, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
First Lieut. Spencer W. Snyder, I	Sept. 20, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
Second Lieut. Patrick Connors, I	Sept. 20, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
Capt. Daniel Ferguson, K	Sept. 20, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
First Lieut. Daniel J. Cary, K	Sept. 20, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862
Second Lieut. Edwin R. Smith, K	Sept. 20, 1862	Oct. 6, 1862

On Oct. 15, 1862, the 169<sup>th</sup> Regiment, fully organized, and armed with Vincennes rifles, started for Washington, reaching the capital on the afternoon of October 18<sup>th</sup>. It was quartered at the Soldiers' Rest, adjoining the depot of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. On the succeeding day, October 19<sup>th</sup>, the regiment moved up through Washington and Georgetown to the chain-bridge, crossing over the Potomac River into Virginia and going into bivouac near Fort Ethan Allen. Four days later the regiment moved back nearer to chain-bridge, and then went into camp. This, its first experience in regular camp, was preliminary to settling down to all the duties of military life. The camp was called "Abercrombie," in recognition of the general commanding the post and division. Col. Buel, a thorough disciplinarian and soldier, at once enforced that discipline and initiated that system of drill which is so necessary for the perfection of a soldier.



Camp Abercrombie, 169<sup>th</sup> Regt. N.Y. S. Vols., Col. Clarence Buel, Commanding Published by Louis N. Rosenthal, Lith., Philadelphia, Penn. (ca. 1862) Digital Collections, The Library Company of Philadelphia

#### THE LESSONS OF THE CAMP.

Having now reached a position where the strict routine of solder-life became imperative, the 169th Regiment went through a regular course of company and battalion drills, guard-mounting, camp and picket duty, parades, reviews, etc. The officers were kept hard at work improving the efficiency of the command, and it was not long ere the regiment began to show the salutary effect, from a military point of view, of the drill and discipline it was subjected to. It was not all easy work, however, and there were frequent opportunities for curbing the fractious spirit of men hitherto unaccustomed to restraint. But improvement came with each succeeding day, and in time the principle of subordination and strict obedience to command became well understood and acted upon. Perhaps this lesson was more quickly impressed by the vigor and determination of the officer to whom as committed the task of trying cases and awarding punishment for infraction of duty. This officer was Major Alden, who, in compliance with orders from the Secretary of War, was appointed by the colonel as regimental referee, with jurisdiction co-extensive with that of a regimental court-martial. The referee's court superseded the regimental court-martial, by virtue of section 7, act of Congress, approved July 17, 1862. The major, having already seen sixteen months' service in the 30th Regiment of New York Volunteers, was familiar with all the details of discipline, and earnestly and vigorously set himself at work to administer proper punishment to all offenders against military law. This involved a stern exercise of authority, which was exact in its dealing with offenders, and brought down on the major the denunciation of all who had occasion to appear before him for trial, their partisans uniting with them in their promises of what would be done to "get square" should the opportunity arise. These threatenings never took effect, however, and in later days, and under the trying circumstances of active field-life, turned into acquiescence in the decisions of one whose bearing commanded the respect of all who served with and under him.

In November, 1862, Lieut.-Col. John McConihe was obliged to avail himself of a leave of absence in consequence of the breaking out afresh of an old wound received at Shiloh. About the same time Maj. Alden was detailed by order of

Gen. Abercrombie as a member of a general court-martial for the trial of Col. Doubleday, of the 4<sup>th</sup> Heavy Artillery. After this court had been in session about three weeks another court was convened with Col. Clarence Buel as president, the old court having been dissolved. Maj. Alden assumed command of the regiment. At this time the officers of the regiment organized the regimental band, which afterwards became such a feature in enhancing the efficiency of the regiment. This band was made up by details from the several companies, the officers purchasing the necessary instruments. In the latter part of December Gen. Abercrombie assumed command of the district, and moved his headquarters to Arlington House. Col. Buel was relieved from the court and took command of the brigade, composed of the 118, 152<sup>d</sup>, and 169<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteers. Thereupon Adj. Kisselburgh was assigned to Buel's staff, and Lieut. Jerome B. Parmenter was assigned to the duties of adjutant. By a contribution among the officers an extensive supper of chickens and oysters was prepared for the regiment on Christmas-day, and various sports were inaugurated, which caused the day to be spent very pleasantly. Col. Buel prepared an excellent dinner for the officers of the regiment. Maj.-Gen. James A. Garfield was one of the guests. Thus the time passed off pleasantly and quietly, nothing doing but the usual picket and fatigue duty and camp duties. Just before the close of the year the regiment was re-armed, the Springfield rifle taking the place of the heavy and cumbersome Vincennes rifle.

#### ON DUTY IN WASHINGTON.

On Feb. 12, 1863, the brigade commanded by Col. Buel was broken up, the 169<sup>th</sup> Regiment being detached and ordered to Washington, where it reported to Gen. Martindale, military governor, for "provost-guard duty," and encamped for a brief period at "Camp Crescent," so named because it was crescent-shaped. By direction of Gen. Martindale excellent barracks were constructed near "the Circle," between Washington and Georgetown, which, in honor of the general, were called Martindale barracks. Into these the 169th moved about March 1, 1863. About this time Lieut.-Col. McConihe rejoined the regiment, and Col. Buel was put on a military commission at the Old Capitol prison, with Capt. Jerome B. Parmenter as judge advocate. Soon after the regiment reported in Washington, Major Alden was assigned to the command of the district of Georgetown, and continued his command until the regiment left the district for more perilous duties. The 169th gained for itself some renown with the military governor and other officials on account of its propriety of conduct and fidelity in the discharge of duty, and when the siege of Suffolk, Va., by Gen. Longstreet made it necessary for the Secretary of War to send the 169<sup>th</sup> with other troops to defend that place, Gen. Martindale made a special request to have the 169th New York Volunteers remain in Washington. While in Washington, some important changes were being made in the appearance of the regiment, the uniform being made to conform with that of the regular army. In this uniform, with glittering shoulder-scales and white gloves, the men bore themselves proudly, and paid great attention to their duty. The effect was shown in the details from the regiment for guards to the public offices, Company A supplying the regular guard at the Treasury Department, Gen. Halleck's headquarters, and other prominent positions, from which the captain commanding the company found extreme difficulty in relieving his men when the time came for the regiment to enter the field. The exigencies of the service seemed to require that the regiment should be sent to the front, and, despite the effort to detain it in Washington, it departed for Suffolk, Va., on April 15, 1863. Henceforth the work of the 169th was to be done in the field, in the trenches, and upon the march, in the midst of all the trials and vicissitudes of war and the sorrows of battle.



1. Col. Follansbee's & Field & Staff Officers' Quarters

2. Mass. 7<sup>th</sup> Battery, Capt. Davis 3. Fort Halleck 4. Line Officers' Quarters

10. Petersburg R. R

missary 8. Fort McC 7. Fort Union 9. 13th Indiana Reg't. 11. Breast Works 6. Battery Mass.

Camp of Massachusetts Sixth Reg't. Vols., Suffolk, Va.
Published by I. C. Eastman, Bookseller & Stationer, Lowell, Mass. (1863)
From an original drawing in possession of Col. A. S. Follansbee
Collection of the Chelmsford Historical Society, Chelmsford, Mass.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Mass. Infantry left for Boston on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May after serving in the Union garrison at Suffolk since September 15, 1862. The 169<sup>th</sup> moved into its camp after its return from the Blackwater the following day. Formerly known as Camp Dodge, the 169<sup>th</sup> renamed the camp as Camp Foster, in honor of their division commander, Brig.-Gen. Robert S. Foster. The site of Camp Griswold, the regiment's former camp since its arrival in Suffolk in April, was to the right of the train depicted in the lithograph traveling west on the Norfolk & Petersburg R.R.

#### SUFFOLK AND THE BLACKWATER.

Arriving at Suffolk, Col. Buel reported to Maj.-Gen. Peck, by whom the regiment was assigned to the brigade commanded by Col. Robert S. Foster, of the 13<sup>th</sup> Indiana Regiment, who was soon after commissioned as brigadier-general. This brigade was included in the division commanded by Brig.-Gen. Michael Corcoran.

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, Gen. Corcoran was assigned to the duty of feeling the position of the enemy on the Edenton road, and ascertaining their strength. About three thousand troops, infantry and artillery, followed the Edenton road about five miles from the breastworks, and found the enemy in considerable force and strongly intrenched. The artillery opened, but with no other effect than to draw the enemy's fire, and with the aid of a little musketry, forced the enemy's skirmishers behind their strong breastworks.

Four companies of the 169<sup>th</sup>, under command of Lieut.-Col. John McConihe, supported three pieces of Follet's Battery on the right of the road, and six companies under command of Maj. Alden, supported the other three pieces on the left of the road, both supports being under the general supervision of Col. Buel. After considerable cannonading it was found necessary to pass up through the woods intervening to a position in sight of the enemy's intrenchments. The three pieces of artillery with Maj. Alden's command were ordered to take that position, which was done under a heavy artillery fire from the enemy. Col. Buel accompanied Maj. Alden, but had no sooner reached the place designated than he was severely wounded in the hand and left the field. Col. Buel's conduct was characterized by remarkable coolness and indifference to danger, and he proved

himself to be a brave officer. The position was maintained for about one hour, when the battery and its infantry support withdrew to the position of the other forces. Maj. Alden's command lost one killed and several wounded, the major himself having been wounded on the left thigh by a shell, and having his horse shot through the neck by a fragment of shell. Thus terminated the first engagement of the 169<sup>th</sup> with the enemy, and its conduct on the occasion was highly complimented in general orders from the brigade commander. Col. Buel was so severely wounded that he went to his home in Troy and did not return to the regiment under three months. Maj. Alden made the following report to the regimental commander of the part taken by his command:

"It is with pleasure and pride that I am able to bear record of the bravery and gallantry that characterized the conduct of both officers and men under my command while facing the continuous and unabating shower of shell, grape, and canister from the well-directed fire of the enemy. Every order was cheerfully and promptly obeyed however imminent the danger involved."

The following congratulatory order was received from the brigade commander, Col. J. C. Drake, 112<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteers:

"Headquarters 2<sup>d</sup> Provisional Brigade, "Suffolk, Va., April 25, 1863.

"Special Order.

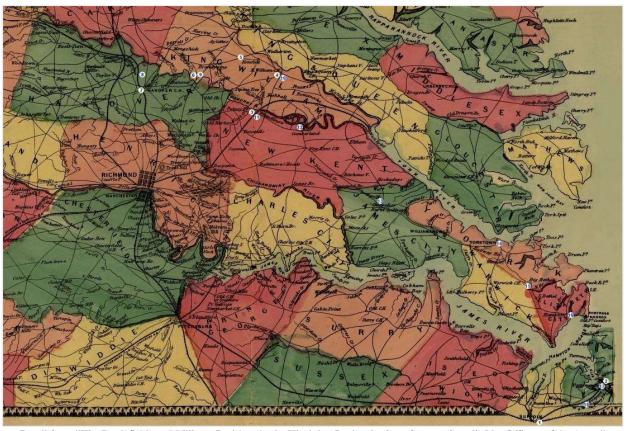
"The colonel commanding the 2<sup>d</sup> Provisional Brigade desires to present his thanks to the 169<sup>th</sup> Regiment New York Volunteers for their good behavior in the action of yesterday, and his sympathy to those who sustained injuries. By command of

"J. C. Drake,
"Col. Commanding 2<sup>d</sup> 'Prov. Brigade."

On the 3<sup>d</sup> of May an attempt was made to penetrate and break the enemy's lines on the Providence Church road. After severe fighting, the enemy evacuated their entire works, raised the siege of Suffolk, and commenced a retreat towards Petersburg and Blackwater River. During the night of the 3<sup>d</sup> the 169<sup>th</sup> guarded the bridge over the Nansemond River. Early on the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup>, infantry and cavalry pursued the retreating enemy and captured many stragglers. Frequently, after the siege was raised, the 169<sup>th</sup> joined in expeditions to the Blackwater, where the enemy had made a lodgment and tore up about thirty miles of railroad track. During these forays there were frequent collisions with the enemy, and Zuni and the Blackwater Ford were added to the list of engagements in which the regiment participated.

#### THE BLACKBERRY RAID.

The enemy having retired from Suffolk, it became necessary to send the troops to some other point, and accordingly the 169<sup>th</sup> with other regiments was transferred to a command where it was supposed it would do the most good. Gen. Lee at this time was making his memorable march into Pennsylvania, which culminated with the battle of Gettysburg. The troops available from Suffolk and other points within easy reach of Fortress Monroe were gathered under Gen. Dix, then commanding that department, and sent to operate on Lee's communications with Richmond. On June 27, 1863, an expedition was started under command of Gen. Getty towards Hanover Junction. This force, including the 169<sup>th</sup> regiment, went on transports to Whitehouse Landing, on the Pamunkey River, and marching thence by way of King William Court-House, reached Hanover Court-House on the afternoon of July 4<sup>th</sup>. The march was rapid, and under a glowing sun, told severely upon the men. The troops hurried on to the South Anna River and



Detail from "The Battlefields and Military Positions in the Virginian Peninsula, from Surveys Supplied by Officers of the Army"

Daniel A. Heald (1818-1900)

Published by the Home Insurance Company of New York (1862)

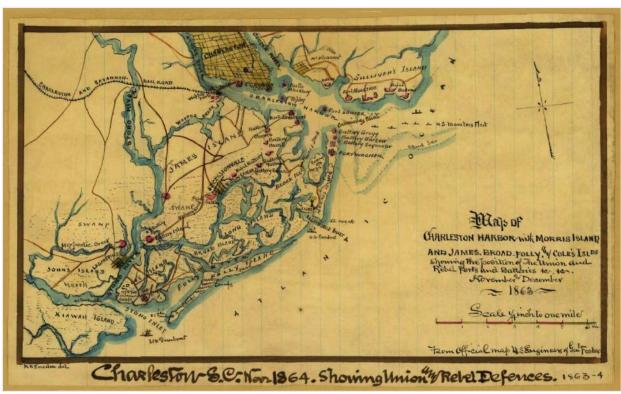
Collection of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

The expedition to the South Anna River left Norfolk and sailed up the York and Pamunkey Rivers to White House; upon its conclusion the troops took transports at Hampton for Portsmouth.

attempted to the destruction of the bridge at that point. The force was too small and the enemy were too strongly intrenched to permit of anything more than a demonstration, and no assault was made except on the smoke-houses along the The most memorable incidents on the night of July 4th, within the recollection of the writer, were the capture of a ham and a sleep of brief duration in a mud-puddle, - the night being rainy, - with slumbers disturbed by the occasional explosion of shells, with which the enemy were trying the position as well as tempers of the tired and hungry soldiers, who, as it appeared, had only marched up there to march down again. The regiment withdrew that night, falling back to Taylor's Farm, where it rested. The march was finally taken up down the Peninsula, the regiment leaving Whitehouse, wither it had returned to await transportation, to "hoof it" down towards Fortress Monroe, in the midst of a storm which swelled the streams, and compelled the men to wade at some points up to their hips in water, carrying their arms and ammunition above their heads. This march was very severe. It took the regiment through the Chickahominy swamps, over corduroy-roads built by Gen. McClellan the year previous, and through all sorts of fatiguing discomforts. But this expedition had a crowning glory from which it derived a name. The Peninsula, and indeed the whole country through which the troops passed, was grown up with blackberry-vines, on which the luscious fruit hung in such profusion that it more than taxed the powers of the soldiers to gather it. It levied its tribute also, and put an injunction upon the bowels of the men, so that the medical staff was spared an immense quantity of opium and other saving medicaments, the event causing general remark. The concurrent voice gave to this expedition, therefore, the name of the "Blackberry Raid," and well it deserved its name. We came, we saw, we conquered, and were overcome in turn by one of the simplest dispensations of nature. The conclusion of this expedition brought the 169<sup>th</sup> Regiment to Bowers' Hill, near Portsmouth, Va., on July 14, 1863. Here the regiment did picket duty towards Suffolk, which had been occupied by the enemy. The troops were reviewed while at Bowers' Hill by Maj.-Gen. John G. Foster, and then, as was always to be expected after a special review, something "turned up."

#### IN FRONT OF CHARLESTON.

Experience verified expectation, and on July 27, 1863, the regiment was ordered to Portsmouth, Va., whence it was to embark for Folly Island, South Carolina. This island is one of those fringing the South Carolina coast, and lies next south to Morris Island, which is the first piece of land or sand-strip southerly and on the left of the entrance to Charleston harbor. These two islands are separated by a narrow inlet. The regiment remained at Portsmouth quartered at the court-house until August 2<sup>d</sup>, when it went on board of the propeller "Nelly Pentz." This was the first experience of the regiment at sea, and it was discomforting in every sense. The vessel was destined for Stono Inlet, by which it was to proceed up the Folly River, as the narrow strip of water intervening between the island and the adjacent country was called. The weather became unpropitious, a storm arising in time to make serious trouble in reaching the destination. Darkness came on and the entrance to the river had not been found. The captain of the vessel became excited and seemed to have lost his head. The situation was serious enough, and the uncertainty was not relieved when the captain of the boat rushed along the deck saying, "I would not give a penny for our lives!" Some of the passengers began to make ready to swim, while others prepared to drown; but all suggestions of this character were lost sight of when the vessel reached Stono Inlet, and, guided by the light of a flaming bonfire on the shore, rounded the point of Folly Island and passed safely into the river. This was on the evening of August 5th, and on the succeeding day the steamer went up to Pawnee Landing, where the regiment disembarked, and marched across the narrow island to the sea, and thence, under orders from Brig.-Gen. Israel Vogdes, it went two miles down the beach to where the remainder of Foster's brigade was encamped. For six months the regiment kept this station. Its camp was laid out just in rear of a sand-bluff, against which the waters of the Atlantic beat at their highest tide. The routine of duty was, of course, that incident to the soldier's life, diversified, however, by excursions every day to Morris Island, where the regiment sent details for duty in the parallels and took part in the siege operations against Charleston and Fort Wagner. There was a good deal of sameness in this experience. Regular picket duty was done along the inner shore of Folly Island. The holding of the works, which were nightly pushed forward towards the grand objective point of Charleston, was not an enviable position, for when thus engaged the regiment was under constant fire. The shells from Forts Johnson and Sumter, and the "whisking" shots from Fort Wagner, required that the men should be constantly alert to avoid danger. Sharpshooting by day and mortar and heavy-gun practice by night kept all sharply alive to the perils that beset them. Yet they soon got accustomed to the sound, and laid on their arms and slept while their pickets kept watch against sudden attack. "Johnson, cover!" or "Sumter, cover!" were damnable reiterations in the ears of the regiment in those days. They meant that a shell had been seen to rise from one or the other of the rebel forts, and that it behooved the men to care for their safety by seeking the bomb-proofs or some other position where they were likely to be remote from danger. The cry at these times was given by the lookouts designated to watch for mortar-shells as they soared skyward before coming down



Charleston, S.C., November 1864. Showing Union and Rebel Defences, 1863-4. From the Journal of Private Robert Knox Sneden, 40<sup>th</sup> N.Y.V., Topographical Engineer of the III Army Corps, Vol. 5, 1863 November 9 - 1864 August 10 Collection of the Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Va.

with a rush and explosion. The difference in the signals arose from the fact that Sumter being near the position of the troops, and Johnson more remote, it became a matter of celerity to escape the shots from Sumter, while those from Johnson might be more leisurely avoided.

The 169th formed a part of the force ordered up to take advantage of any chance for an active forward movement on the day that the batteries on Morris Island and the iron-clads stationed at the entrance to Charleston harbor leveled their guns on Fort Sumter. The fort was reduced to a crumbling mass of ruins, but no attempt was made to cross the intervening stretch of water and assault it. On this occasion, Maj. Alden and Capt. Colvin came near getting into serious trouble for their first and only infraction of orders during their connection with the regiment. Both of these officers had been detailed for court-martial duty, but on learning that the regiment was to share in the movement against Sumter they neglected their detail and went with their command. As a consequence, the court was prevented from sitting, and a reprimand from Gen. Vogdes followed. They were threatened with court-martial themselves if they persisted from absenting themselves from the court, even if their regiment was to go into action; but, under the circumstances, the general condoned their fault. The details of Maj. Gen. Gillmore's operations at this point, with the capture of Fort Wagner and the whole of Morris Island, are too well known to warrant repetition. The regiment shared in all the labor which brought about the reduction of Fort Wagner, occupying the trenches close up to and in front of the fort on the night preceding the morning of its evacuation and capture.

In the early days of the regiment's stay on Folly Island, Col. Buel returned to the command, having recovered from his wound. In all of the operations from April 24<sup>th</sup> to this time Lieut.-Col. McConihe commanded the regiment. Maj. Alden had



Detail from "Plan of a Portion of the Siege Operations Against the Defenses of Charleston Harbor, prior to the Capture of Fort Wagner, September 7, 1863"

Prepared by Julius Bien & Co., New York, and published in the "Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 1861-1865" (1895)

The Federal siege parallels and sap lines are in blue; Fort Wagner is outlined in red.

been assigned to command the station at Pawnee Landing, with its fortifications, and Adj. W. E. Kisselburgh was detailed as aide-de-camp on the staff of Gen. Vogdes, by whom his personal qualities and ability were highly esteemed. This position Lieut. Kisselburgh retained until he left the service in March, 1865, when he accepted a position, with the rank of major, in the Quartermaster's Department of the State of New York.

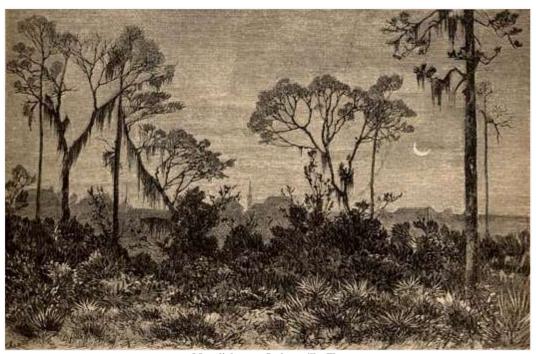
In November, 1863, Col. Buel was taken sick with fever and returned to his home in Troy, resigning his commission on Feb. 13, 1864.

The mortality from disease among the troops in front of Charleston was very great, the 169<sup>th</sup> losing less men perhaps than any other regiment. This was due to the care and skill of its medical staff, Surg. Knowlson devoting his best efforts to the physical welfare of the command with a fidelity which distinguished him during his entire period of service. The casualties for six months, during which the regiment was engaged in the siege of Charleston, were comparatively small, only a few men being killed or wounded.

On Dec. 20, 1863, Lieut.-Col. McConihe went North with a recruiting detail, and Maj. Alden was relieved from his post at Pawnee Landing to take charge of the regiment. The monotonous routine of siege duty continued until Feb. 8, 1864, when the 169<sup>th</sup> was included in a force sent to make a demonstration towards the flank and rear of the defenses of Charleston. This movement was intended as a diversion to cooperate with Gen. Truman Seymour's expedition to Florida. The regiment was crossed over to Seabright Island, and thence forded the Edisto River to John's Island. A demonstration was made at Rantoul Bridge after some preliminary skirmishing and with this brief engagement a diversion was made of sufficient importance to retain and hold in check a rebel force which would otherwise have been sent to oppose Gen. Seymour's movements. The defeat at Olustee sent Gen. Seymour back to Jacksonville, on the St. John's River, where he fortified and called for reinforcements.

#### ORDERED TO FLORIDA.

In response to this demand troops were sent forward. The 169<sup>th</sup> was included, and started in light marching order, leaving tents and baggage behind. On February 23<sup>d</sup>, the regiment took a transport, which carried it down the coast and up the St. John's River to Jacksonville, where it arrived on February 24<sup>th</sup>. This city showed proofs of the devastating influences of war, many of the buildings having been burned down. The regiment formed line of battle on the verge of the town, and with other troops, constructed extensive earthworks. Upon the completion of these the regiment was shifted across a creek emptying into the St. John's below the town, and went into camp in a grove of oaks, – a deserted planter's house



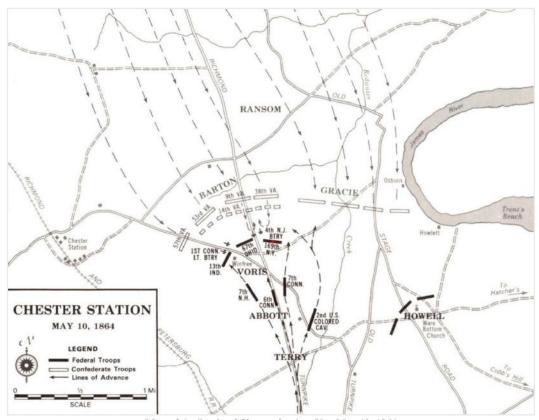
Moonlight over Jacksonville, Fla. James Wells Champney (1843-1903) Published in "The Great South – A Record of Journeys..." (1875)

making excellent regimental headquarters. The location was delightful, overlooking the beautiful St. John's River. These were the brief halcyon days of the regiment. It had never had a better selection of ground for an encampment. The picket-line, distant less than two miles, was easily reached, and the luxuriant vegetation and balmy weather of the Southern midwinter excited a feeling of contentment and repose quite novel to the soldiers. Tactics were taken up theoretically and practically, and the pomp of war was put on with all the fullness required by the regulations compatible with the equipment of the command. Frequent expeditions were made upon the river. The orange-groves, loaded with fruit and blossoms, enhanced the luxury of the hour. But this was short-lived. The enemy were known to be somewhere within reach, and an effort was to be made to meet them. Force was therefore sent out, the 169th being called upon to take a hand in the movement. On April 1st the rebels were met on the King's Road, about two miles out from Jacksonville. The skirmishing began, and after some short, sharp work, it was decided not to attempt an uncertain battle, as the enemy were intrenched on the other side of Cedar Creek, where the depth of water and the overflowed land prevented operations with any hope of success. The troops returned to Jacksonville. On April 11th, Lieut.-Col. McConihe rejoined the command with a number of recruits. He also brought his own commission as a colonel, and the commissions as lieutenant-colonel and major of Maj. Alden and Capt. James A. Colvin respectively. Under these commissions, on April 12<sup>th</sup>, these officers were mustered in the field roster then comprising the names of Col. John McConihe, Lieut.-Col. Alonzo Alden, and Maj. James A. Colvin. It was found necessary at this time to re-equip the regiment with tents, knapsacks, clothing, etc. as the steamer "Maple-Leaf," which had been used for transporting the stores left behind on Folly Island, was blown up by a torpedo on the St. John's River, and sank to the bottom, carrying down all of the baggage and stores. Another change in the position of the regiment was then to come.

#### BACK TO OLD VIRGINIA.

The regiment left Jacksonville for Fortress Monroe, Va., April 20, 1864, reaching Hilton Head, S. C., on the 22<sup>d</sup>. It was there paid off, and then proceeded to Fortress Monroe, arriving on the 26th. At this point Lieut.-Col. Alden went home on a twenty days' leave of absence. The regiment received orders to proceed to Gloucester Point and there disembark, which was accomplished on the evening of the same day. Gen. Butler was in command of all the forces, and Gens. Vogdes and Foster were under him. On the first day of May, 1864, all the troops at this point were reviewed by Gen. Butler, and orders were issued to commence drills, - company, battalion, and skirmish. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, some of the troops proceeded on transports to West Point, to divert the attention of the enemy from another movement. In the meantime most of the troops, including the 169<sup>th</sup> regiment, went down the York River, up the James River, and quickly and quietly disembarked at Bermuda Hundred, and proceeded immediately about seven miles towards Petersburg, to a point known as Foster's Plantation, where they constructed rifle-pits. Other works were added in the course of operations at this point until a strongly-fortified line was established. A series of movements towards and upon the rebel lines of communication between Richmond and Petersburg was then initiated, the fortified position mentioned forming the base from which they were conducted. On May 7th the troops moved out upon a road parallel with the Richmond and Petersburg turnpike, and towards the railway and near to what was called Walthall Junction. The enemy was found to be quite strongly posted, and the movement turned out to be more of a reconnaissance in force, preparing the way to subsequent encounters. Considerable loss ensued to both sides, as a briskly-conducted fight was the outcome of this movement. The 169<sup>th</sup> lost a few men in this action. The troops then returned to Hatcher's Run. On May 8th, Lieut.-Col. Alden returned to the regiment, his leave having only half expired. Early on the morning of May 10th the 169th marched out to near Chester Station, on the railway between Richmond and Petersburg, forming line of battle on each side of the Richmond and Petersburg turnpike facing towards Richmond, and supporting two pieces of the 1st New Jersey Battery which were stationed on the turnpike-road. The regiment, with some other troops, was temporarily brigaded under the command of Col. Voorhes, of the 67th Ohio, and the position thus taken was on the right flank of Gen. Gillmore's main force, which was working down towards Petersburg tearing up and destroying the railway and cutting this line of communication between Richmond and Petersburg. The 13th Indiana was to the left of the 169th, holding a country road running parallel to the turnpike, and supporting a section of Elder's regular battery. The ground intervening between the two roads was well wooded, and the connection between the regiments was broken by dense masses of underbrush and young timber. These troops were to guard against any surprise or sudden advance of the enemy from Richmond.

This movement, not unexpected, therefore, soon began. The rebels massed in front and began manœuvering to turn the position. Brisk firing ensued between the batteries mentioned and the rebel guns. A stubborn contest on the skirmishline soon satisfied the Confederates that things were not so easy as they had expected. They formed their line of battle, and deploying a brigade on the right flank of the 169<sup>th</sup>, charged for the purpose of breaking its center and turning its right. The regiment was greatly overmatched, and the masses of the enemy excited remark as they came down, the exclamation "Good God! major, see how thick they are!" coming from the lips of Capt. Ferguson, of K Company, to Major Colvin, who held four companies of the left wing in the woods, on the left-hand side of the turnpike.



Map of the Battle of Chester Station, Va., May 10, 1864 Published in "Back Door to Richmond: The Bermuda Hundred Campaign, April-June 1864" by William Glenn Robertson (1987)

The position of the 169<sup>th</sup> N.Y. at the start of the battle is indicated by the red dot.

The right wing of the regiment, under Lieut.-Col. Alden, and the two remaining companies of the left wing occupied the woods on the right-hand side of the road, the right wing being posted partially in the woods and partially in open ground just outside and in front of them. The attempted flanking movement on the right was met by Lieut.-Col. Alden with a change of front, and the enemy were repulsed at that point, the engagement becoming very hot. Fresh troops on the rebel side were thrown forward, and overlapping the right wing of the regiment, which steadily swung around its flank to prevent the rebels from getting in its rear; and it was not until outnumbered, and when the enemy had surrounded and captured a portion of Company A, that the right wing slowly retired, yielding the ground stubbornly. While the right was thus engaged the left wing, posted on the turnpike, was having its share of the conflict. The rebels charged in double formation, or four deep. The steady fire of the 169th did not prevent their advance, and they kept their formation splendidly and pressed forward. Major Colvin, in response to the request of the lieutenant commanding the section of the 1st New Jersey Battery, stationed on the road, swung back the right of his four companies, so as to permit the gun to be fired across his front and obliquely to the turnpike. This gun was handsomely served, and was discharged twice with a full grist of canister, piling up the rebels in front. But the attacking force was too strong; it had already begun to lap over the left of the regiment, and to avoid being flanked Col. McConihe ordered the men to fall back. The artillery-men in charge of the limber had driven furiously away, leaving the gun on the left of the road behind. Its fellow on the right had been withdrawn. Major Colvin called for men to help run the gun off and stooped to loosen the trail-rope, when the bursting of a shell



Star from the regimental banner of the 169<sup>th</sup> N.Y., shot off at the 3<sup>d</sup> Battle of Port Walthall Junction, Va., (the rear-guard action of the Battle of Drewry's Bluff), May 16, 1864 Provided by Linda Cary

alongside and the close proximity of the enemy warned him that there was no time, and the gun was left to its fate. One of the capturing force immediately jumped upon the piece and crowed like a rooster. The regiment fell back a few rods to a crossroad, where it found reinforcements coming up. A charge was made upon the enemy, and the gun was recaptured. The rebels made a counter-charge, and the position previously occupied by the 169<sup>th</sup> became debatable ground, neither side holding it. In this action the regiment lost fifty-eight men, killed, wounded, and missing. Col. McConihe, who was on the turnpike near the center of the regiment, was cool and collected, and had his horse shot under him. The undergrowth caught fire during this conflict, and those who were severely wounded were unable to get away, some of them perishing in the flames. Afterwards a burying detail, under flag of truce, was sent out from each side. The 169<sup>th</sup> behaved splendidly in this affair, falling back only at the last moment, and

gained credit for its steadiness and bravery. Lieut.-Col. Alden's skillful handling of the right wing saved the greater part of the regiment from capture.

On May 14th the 169th, with other troops, numbering about two thousand, under command of Brig.-Gen. Ames, was sent to the left flank of the army then operating against Drury's Bluff, on the James River. On this occasion the regiment was at the other extreme of the forces, having been transferred from the right to the left flank. It was stationed on the line of the railroad at and across the Richmond and Petersburg turnpike, with pickets thrown out on high ground overlooking the latter city, and facing in just the contrary direction from the position of May 10<sup>th</sup>. On the 15<sup>th</sup> most of the troops composing Ames' command were ordered to join the forces operating against Fort Darling, and only the 169<sup>th</sup> New York and the 13th Indiana, with Sanger's regular battery of light artillery and a regiment of colored cavalry, remained. Maj. Colvin as division officer of the day had been left in charge of the picket-line in front of the works at Foster's Plantation, and included in his command were one hundred men of the 169th. Late on the evening of the 15th he was ordered to bring these men to the front, and, relieving this detachment from the picket, they rejoined the regiment without waiting to send the knapsacks back to the works. From this little event arose an interesting episode in the history of the regiment which will be given farther on. The morning of May 16<sup>th</sup> opened with every prospect of a bright and pleasant day. An extremely dense fog overhung the land early in the morning, but it was of that kind which rises to meet the sun and bears promise of something livelier and more cheerful behind it. In this instance it had something of a lively surprise in store. The air was pleasant, the sun lighting up the fog; the camp-fires sent up their curling smoke from where the regiment lay lazily enjoying the opening day on the slope of the hill which rose gently from the cut through which the railroad ran; the pickets were well out and alert, cavalry videttes being posted on the front and flank of the forces, and everything seemed secure. But as "things are not what they seem," so it proved in this case. Just as the breakfast had been served to the field-officers, and before they had a chance to taste of it, a hurried rush of horses, the sharp challenges of the picket, and an instant alarm brought everyone to his feet and the regiment quickly into line. The picket along the railway was reinforced, and Col. McConihe was told that the enemy had driven in the cavalry and were close at hand. Sharp firing soon began, although as yet the enemy were invisible, but as if it needed only this to start the tremulous mist, the curtain slowly rose to a scene of exciting warfare. The rebel skirmish-line occupied one side of the railroad, and the 169th picket, deployed, held the other, while on the rise of ground beyond the railroad the rebel line of battle was advancing. Sanger's Battery, in position on the crest to the rear of the 169th, opened fire, and was quickly answered from the other side. Forced back by superior numbers, the outpost retired slowly. Here Lieut. W. S. Birdsall, a young and promising officer, was killed. The entire regiment was then deployed in skirmishing order, and, being hard pressed, fell back, facing the enemy and preserving its line, across a ravine and up an adjoining slope, where it halted. The needed reinforcements by this time coming up, the line was advanced to reoccupy its former position. The rebel line was steadily driven back to the railroad, and the camp of the morning was regained, but the breakfast was gone, the shelter-tents were missing, and the knapsacks belonging to the men brought up the night before had disappeared. These knapsacks, however, have still another part to bear in this history. The loss of the regiment in this action was thirty-six officers and men, killed, wounded, and missing.

The fortifications on the Bermuda Hundred front, previously referred to, had been made very strong, and extended from the James River to the Appomattox. The position was strategic, and consequently a source of annoyance and discomfort to the enemy. On May 18<sup>th</sup> an effort was made in the vicinity of

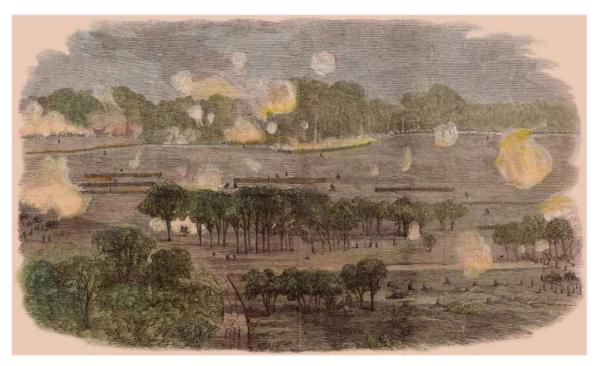


Map of the Overland Campaign, 1864

Hatcher's Run to break the line and dislodge the Union forces from their intrenchments. The picket-line was strongly attacked and forced at one or two points, but the enemy were vigorously met, and the artillery prevented any further advance. This attempt was renewed on the  $20^{\rm th}$ , and again on the  $22^{\rm d}$ , but without success, the rebels being repulsed in every attack. In these engagements the  $169^{\rm th}$  lost twenty-seven men.

#### COLD HARBOR AND PETERSBURG.

Maj.-Gen. W. F. Smith, commanding the 18th Corps, having been ordered with his command to report to Gen. Grant, then engaged in his celebrated movement by the left flank, was reinforced with the 3<sup>d</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>d</sup> Division, 10<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, Col. J. C. Drake commanding. This brigade comprised the 169th and 112th New York, the 13<sup>th</sup> Indiana, the 9<sup>th</sup> Maine, and 4<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire Volunteers, and was assigned to the 3<sup>d</sup> Division of the 18<sup>th</sup> Corps, commanded by Gen. Charles Devens. Embarking on May 27th, the regiment went to West Point, whence it marched to White House, Va., the entire division reaching there on May 30<sup>th</sup>. On the afternoon of May 31st the troops moved out to a point distant about ten miles from White House, and on the morning of June 1st started to effect a junction with Gen. Grant. They reached Cold Harbor about five o'clock P.M. Gen. Devens' division formed line of battle under fire on the outer edge of a piece of woods, which skirted a road by which the troops had come into position, and which, at the point where the 169th was posted, ran parallel to the formation. The brief moments before the charge was ordered gave no time for rest. The men had been marching all day, and went into the action fully equipped, with knapsacks slung. Between the line of battle and the rebel forces was a large field or stretch of open ground half a mile wide, on the further verge of which was a thickly-wooded ridge or hill, sloping upwards from the intervening plain. At the foot of this slope and at the edge of the timber the rebel skirmish-line was posted in small pits, and the ridge was crowned with a strong rifle-pit, flanked and supported by the rebel batteries. The guns enfiladed the ground over which the charge was to be made. There was little time for thought, for soon the order came to "forward." The 169th



1, 1. Rebel Guns. – 2. Rebel Line of Battle. – 3, 3. Rebel Earth-Works and Rifle-Pits. – 4. Devens' Division Charging Rifle-Pits, and Capturing 580 Prisoners. – 5. Brooks' Division. – 6. Martindale's Division.

# THE CAMPAIGN IN VIRGINIA – FIGHT AT COLD HARBOR, JUNE 1, 1864 – GENERAL SMITH'S CORPS IN ACTION. [FROM A SKETCH BY WILLIAM WAUD.]

Harper's Weekly, a Journal of Civilization, June 18, 1864.



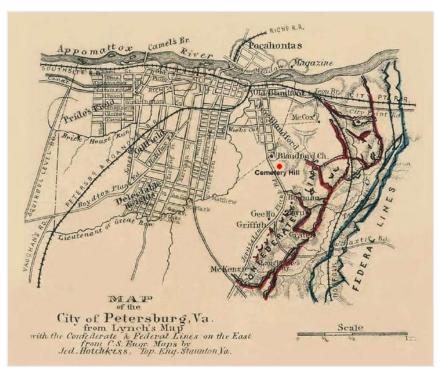
Devens' Division, indicated by the three lines under the green arrow, was led by Drake's Brigade, (including the 169<sup>th</sup> N.Y.), in the assault at Cold Harbor on June 1, 1864, as indicated by the red arrow.

advanced with its division, the long line of battle moving steadily from the woods, preceded by its skirmish-line, and the order "double-quick, march" being given, the men started forward with a cheer and dash. They were met with volleys of musketry in front, with shot and shell, shrapnel and canister in their face and from the flank. It was a trying task to cross that field through its hell of flame and death; but still they pressed onward. The knapsacks became irksome, and the men unslung them right and left, as still they charged onward. Comrades fell fast, the ranks were broken, the dead and wounded were not few but many, and still the charge was sustained until reaching the edge of the woods, at the foot of the enemy's position, the line paused and closed up the ranks. The leaden hail poured fast, the hill was yet to be surmounted, and the rebel works were to be gained.

At this moment Col. John McConihe fell, giving up his life for the flag he loved so well, one bullet piercing his body and another his heart. Col. Drake, commanding the brigade, received a mortal wound. Lieut.-Col. Alden, assuming command of the 169<sup>th</sup> and its brave associates held the ground for which they fought. But it had cost them dear! – one hundred and three officers and men of the 169<sup>th</sup> having bought victory with their blood.

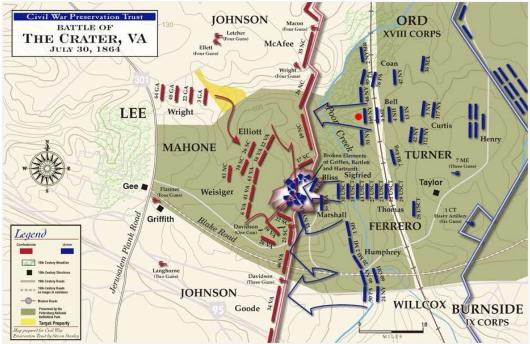
Lieut.-Col. Alden was wounded in the head when, seizing the regimental color from its bearer, who had fallen, he had driven its staff into the parapet of the rebel works. He was carried from the field by rebel prisoners, who at his command did duty in bearing off the killed and wounded of the regiment. Col. Alden's wound was pronounced mortal by the surgeons, but he still lives. Capt. Allen was shot through the arm, and also left the field. The morning report of the regiment on the day of the battle of Cold Harbor showed an effective force of four hundred and ten men, Maj. Colvin was left in command. After the close of the fight the troops held the ground they had taken. The regiment captured a number of prisoners, and with them some of the knapsacks lettered Co. F, 169<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteers, before referred to as having been lost on the day of the Drury's Bluff fight. The regiment remained at Cold Harbor for several days, during which the Army of the Potomac continued its movement by the left flank, until at length the 18th Corps, being then on the right flank of that army, was called on in turn to follow out Gen. Grant's plan of operations. On June 13th the 18th Corps, with the 169th, under command of Maj. Colvin, was withdrawn to the rear, and left Cold Harbor, marching to White House. The regiment again took transports and was carried back to Bermuda Hundred, and crossing the Appomattox at Point of Rocks participated in the advance on Petersburg.

This movement was made with celerity, and early on the afternoon of June 15<sup>th</sup> line of battle was formed facing Petersburg Heights. Shortly before dusk the order was given to charge, and the line of battle swept forward, preceded by its skirmishers. There was a short but ineffective resistance by the defenders of the rebel works, and the long line of rifle-pits and redoubts was quickly captured, with a number of pieces of artillery. On this occasion the regiment met with very slight loss. At dark the regiment was moved to the left of where it was resting, and was directed to reverse the rebel rifle-pit in front of its position. This work was undertaken. Maj. Colvin was ordered by Col. Curtis, then commanding the brigade, to send out a picket detail under command of a captain to make connection with the pickets to the right and left of the regiment. This was done. The picket was thrown out towards Petersburg, and Capt. Tarbell, commanding the detail, reconnoitered the ground in front. Returning to the line of works, he reported to Maj. Colvin that he had gone to some distance in advance of the picket and had found no opposing force, and asked why the troops were not pressed forward. Maj. Colvin went with Capt. Tarbell beyond the line some distance towards Petersburg, and confirmed the latter's report. Returning, he sought Col. Curtis, his brigade commander, whom he found conferring with Gen. Smith. He immediately reported the facts just stated, and was ordered by Gen. Smith to



Map of the City of Petersburg, Va., from Lynch's Map with the Confederate & Federal Lines on the East, from C. S. Engr. Maps by Jed. Hotchkiss, Top Eng., Staunton, Va. (1864)

return to his regiment. He complied. It was understood that the 2<sup>d</sup> Corps, under Gen. Hancock, pursuing the left-flank movement, would relieve the 18th Corps that night. It did so, coming up about two o'clock A.M. on the 16<sup>th</sup>. All night long the rattling of trains and the sound of locomotive-whistles indicated that Gen. Lee was hurrying his troops to Petersburg to confront the danger that awaited him there. The morning of June 16th dawned, and Lee was in front in force. The rebel lines confronted the Union army on the very ground which had been passed over the night preceding by Capt. Tarbell, and the long siege of Petersburg had begun. On June 16<sup>th</sup> the 2<sup>d</sup> Corps charged to gain the position over which the 18<sup>th</sup> Corps could have walked on the night before, and was repulsed with great loss. On June 17<sup>th</sup> the regiment returned to Bermuda Hundred, where remaining only three days it was sent back to Petersburg, arriving there on June 21st. It was at once put into the line of works, and went on picket duty. On June 30th the 2d Brigade of the division was ordered to charge the enemy's works, concealing its movement behind a piece of woods. The 3<sup>d</sup> Brigade, including the 169<sup>th</sup>, was ordered to make a demonstration to the left of the proposed assault, for the purpose of diverting attention from the main attack. It was an unfortunate diversion for the regiment. Col. Barton, commanding the 2<sup>d</sup> Brigade, did not assault as expected, and the 3<sup>d</sup> Brigade bore the brunt of the battle. The 169<sup>th</sup>, at first under the shelter of a bank rising from the edge of a small stream, was ordered forward. The rebel defenses were very near to the Union line, – so close, in fact, that the men on either side could call out to the other and bandy words. As the regiment arose from its sheltered position and attempted to charge it was met with a withering fire, so close, so hot in its deadliness, that there was no withstanding it. The men were shot down in one fierce blast, falling in line like a windrow of grain which is cut by the reaper. There were no supports, and the terribly-weakened line fell back the few feet it had advanced and regained cover. The regiment having been greatly depleted by the causalities occurring during the month, Maj. Colvin was only able to take one hundred and fifty men into this fight. He brought back



Map of the Battle of the Crater, Va., July 30, 1864 Prepared by the Civil War Preservation Trust

The 169th N.Y. was in the van of the assault by Col. Louis Bell's brigade, on the right flank of the main attack in the direction of the exploded mine.

The regiment's position is indicated by the red dot.

seventy-six fit for duty, losing seventy-four in killed and wounded within the brief space of a few minutes. This slaughter ended the record of the regiment for June, 1864. In the brief period of thirty days beginning with the battle of Cold Harbor, on June 1<sup>st</sup>, and ending with this fight at Petersburg, on June 30<sup>th</sup>, the regiment lost three hundred and sixty-four officers and men in killed and wounded.

The regiment continued in the trenches, losing a daily average of three men, but recovering some of its strength by the return of convalescents from hospitals, etc. On July 30th it participated in the charge on the rebel lines which followed the explosion of the mine under one of the forts in front of Cemetery Hill, which Gen. Grant was anxious to secure. The details of this great battle, although interesting, cannot be given. We can only review the action of the 169th. On the night before the morning of the explosion the regiment was moved back from the trenches and sent to the rear, and left within easy distance of the point from which the charge was to be made. Early in the morning of July 20th the regiment was sent forward to the rear of the works, fronting the mine. The men were told to lie down and make no noise, no matter what happened. The day had dawned, the morning was bright and clear. Everything was ready, and everyone was intent with expectation. On either hand were the siege batteries, with the artillerymen at their posts; the massive guns were loaded and trained, and the gunners stood ready to fire. There was a shaking of the earth, and as the rebel fort went high in the air, in a mixture of men, dirt, and timber, the iron-throated monsters belched forth their flame and smoke with a deafening roar. All along the line the guns opened, and it seemed as if the universe must split with the infernal din of hundreds of cannon. The troops jumped to their feet, and their resounding cheers added to the uproar. The sharp rattling of musketry and the rebel cry showed that the armies were engaged. The battle had begun; its history cannot be told here. The troops were hurried forward in support of those in advance. Gen. Turner, then commanding the division to which the 169th was attached, formed his command in massed column

of regiments, left in front, thus bringing the 169<sup>th</sup> at the head of the division. This was done just under cover of the advanced line of the Union works. Gen. Turner gave the command to forward, and the regiment dashed over the works and the ground intervening between the lines. Reaching the rebel defenses, further progress was stopped by the masses of men in front, who had charged and occupied the inside of the enemy's rifle-pits. The movement on Cemetery Hill was not successful, but the regiment held its position enfiladed by a fire from the rebel batteries to its right. Late in the day the regiment was withdrawn, the rebels coming down in force and regaining their intrenchments. The 169<sup>th</sup> fell back only when the enemy had possession of the rifle-pits, and were so close that opposing forces could have shaken hands across the top of the earthwork. The color-bearer being wounded, Maj. Colvin brought off the regimental standard. Capt. Vaughn, F Company, was killed in this action, the total loss of the regiment being twenty-three.

#### BACK TO BERMUDA HUNDRED.

On Aug. 1, 1864, the regiment returned to Bermuda Hundred, and Lieut.-Col. Alden resumed command, having recovered from his wound received at Cold Harbor. On August 10<sup>th</sup> the 169<sup>th</sup> was assigned to duty at Dutch Gap, on the James River, and supplied the picket detail and defense to the working-parties engaged in digging the canal. The morning of August 13th was ushered in with the roar of cannon from the rebel gunboats and batteries, starting every man from his tent. A shot from one of the gunboats passed over the plateau on which the regiment was encamped, carrying down several of the shelter-tents and accelerating the movements of their inmates. On this occasion the regiment lost twenty-two. Lieut. Crippin was killed, Asst. Surg. Mandeville was badly wounded, and Lieut. Swartwout, acting adjutant, lost his left arm. The position was held and the work progressed. The brigade was rejoined on August 10th at Deep Bottom, where a conflict was raging. The regiment arrived late, and lost only slightly. In the morning the enemy retired, and the command returned to the James River. On August 20th the 169th went back to Bermuda Hundred, and on August 25th to Petersburg, where it remained on siege-duty until September 28th. Early in September, Lieut.-Col. Alden went north to secure a detail of drafted men for the regiment, and rejoined at Chapin's Farm on October 1st. September 29th was memorable for the fight at Chapin's Farm and the assault on Fort Gilmer, Mai. Colvin then commanding the regiment. In the first charge the rebels were driven from their positions behind two successive lines of snake-fence and fell back on a run towards Richmond. The 169th pressed on after a rebel field-piece which had been annoying in its intentions, but failed to capture it. This charge was made across the fields to the right of the road extending towards Richmond and parallel with Fort Gilmer. It was a very pretty thing while it lasted, but was soon over, the regiment dashing ahead with a vigor which demoralized the opposing forces, who sought shelter under cover of their fortifications. This charge was no sooner ended than a line was formed to charge Fort Gilmer. This work was a part of the defenses of Richmond, and was on the same line and series as Fort Harrison, captured the same day by the Union forces operating farther to the left. A hollow intervened between the road and the fort. The regiment charged down the slope and up the next hill to the very abatis around the fort, but, the brigade being unsupported, could do no more, and fell back to the road, still within range of Fort Gilmer's guns. In these actions the regiment lost thirty men in killed, wounded, and missing. Capt. Mulhall was severely wounded by a canister-shot passing through his thigh. Capt. B. N. Smith was distinguished in the assault on the fort for his gallantry and daring. That night the regiment fell back, and a line of works was constructed. Lieut.-Col. Alden having returned was mustered as colonel, Maj. Colvin taking promotion as lieutenant-colonel, and Capt. J. H. Allen succeeding



For Ft. Fisher direct – The Expedition leaving the Chesapeake (December 1864)
Alfred Rudolph Waud (1828-1891)
Collection of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

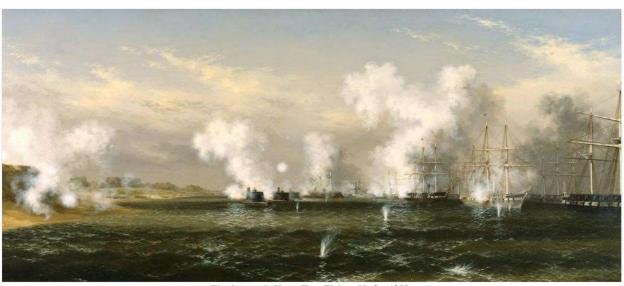
The S. S. "Baltic," built by the Collins Steamship Line in 1850, captured the coveted Blue Riband in 1851 for the fastest transatlantic crossing by a steamship, from Liverpool, England, to New York City in 9 days, 19 hours, and 26 minutes, at an average speed of 12.91 knots. She set a new record again in 1854, and was to remain the fastest steamship on the Atlantic for almost five years. The Baltic, in the center of the sketch by Alfred R. Waud, is depicted transporting the 169<sup>th</sup> N.Y. and its brigade during the first expedition to Cape Fear, N.C., in December of 1864.

as major. On October 8<sup>th</sup> the enemy made their appearance on the Darbytown road, driving in the pickets, capturing Elder's battery, and charging on the extreme right, where they were met by the 1<sup>st</sup> Division, while the 2<sup>d</sup> Division, including the 169<sup>th</sup>, moved up in support. The rebels lost heavily and were repulsed, the casualties on the Union side being very small.

#### FORT FISHER.

On Dec. 7, 1864, the first Fort Fisher expedition started, under command of Gen. Butler. The 169<sup>th</sup> composed part of this expedition. December 8<sup>th</sup> the regiment embarked at Bermuda Hundred on the steamer, "Sedgwick," in which it proceeded to Hampton Roads. It having been decided that the "Sedgwick" was not seaworthy, the troops were transferred to the steamer "Baltic," which sailed on the 12<sup>th</sup>, and reported at a point about twenty-five miles of Fort Fisher, N. C., and on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> the fleet of gunboats, frigates, and monitors opened a furious bombardment of the fort. At two o'clock P.M. on the 24<sup>th</sup> a portion of the troops, including the 169<sup>th</sup>, landed north of Fort Fisher, and captured two hundred and sixty of the enemy, and were preparing to make a charge on the fort, when orders were received from Gen. Butler to re-embark without delay. The re-embarkment continued all night. The 169<sup>th</sup> were, however, aboard the "Baltic" early in the evening. Gen. Butler thought the fort could not be taken by assault, and therefore ordered the expedition to return.

The regiment returned to its camp at Chapin's Farm on December 31st, and three days later was again ordered, with other troops under command of Gen. A. H.



Final Assault Upon Fort Fisher, N. C. (1872)
Xanthus Russell Smith (1839-1929)
Collection of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, Penn.

Federal troops, including the 169th N.Y., may be seen on the beach to the right (north) of Fort Fisher.

Terry, to return to Fort Fisher. Taking the steamer "Thames" on January 4th, the 169th was landed on the morning of the 13th on the beach, about four miles north of Fort Fisher. The 169th was the first regiment to land, and Lieut.-Col. Colvin was the first on shore. The landing was effected near a redoubt, which was hastily evacuated by the Confederates, and taken possession of by Company I, Capt. Dunn commanding. During the night of the 13<sup>th</sup> the regiment moved down to within a mile of the fort. On the 14th, Col. Alden, being detailed as general officer of the day, made a careful reconnaissance of all the approaches to Fort Fisher, and with his reserve captured a boat loaded with provisions and ammunition at a dock on the Cape Fear River, near the fort. The troops were put into position during the morning of the 15th. A line of works, facing towards Wilmington, had been thrown up, and these were defended by the 3<sup>d</sup> Division of the 10<sup>th</sup> Corps, consisting of colored troops, and Abbott's brigade of the 1st Division of the 10th Corps. The 169th was included in Gen. Ames' or the 2<sup>d</sup> Division of the same corps, and it may be here remarked that this division, or portions of it, had served at times with the 18th Corps, and had become so interchangeable that it was in the habit of wearing the badges of both the 10<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Corps.

The 2<sup>d</sup> Division having been selected to assault Fort Fisher, its brigades were formed in three lines of battle, in the following order: 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, Col. N. M. Curtis; 2<sup>d</sup> Brigade, Col. Galusha Pennypacker; 3<sup>d</sup> Brigade, Col. Alonzo Alden. The 3<sup>d</sup> Brigade included the 169<sup>th</sup> Regiment, under command of Lieut.-Col. James A. Colvin, Col. Alden having been called to take charge of the brigade, as Col. Bell, its regular commander, had been assigned to other duty. The charge was made at three o'clock P.M. This record does not permit of an account of the efforts and deeds of the other brigades or regiments. The charge was led by the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, followed closely by the 2<sup>d</sup>. Col. Alden, who was a few rods in advance of his brigade, had sent word back to Lieut.-Col. Colvin to be ready to charge, and at the proper moment raised his hand and beckoned the regiment on. Lieut.-Col. Colvin, drawing his sabre, gave the command, "Forward, double-quick, march," and with one impulse all the officers of the regiment sprang to the front, and as their swords swung high in the air and flashed in the sunlight the men gave a

ringing cheer and bounded forward. Never did the regiment go into a fight in better spirits or with greater vigor.

Under the heavy fire from the fort and from the rebel gunboat on the Cape Fear River, which poured in its shot from the flank, the regiment pressed forward, rapidly reducing the distance to the coveted works. A strong timber palisade protected the land face on which the troops were advancing. A fearful shower of grape poured over and around them, but still they pressed onward until, seeing an opportunity for entering the fort by the sally-port, they made a movement by the right flank, crossing a little bridge over a small inlet or stream, and dashed along the roadway into the fort. As the regiment entered, Gen. Ames directed Lieut.-Col. Colvin to take it around to the rear of the works and push the men in as far as possible. This was done, and the rebel garrison met them only a few feet distant. Determined to hold the ground, the men advanced until the stubborn resistance of the enemy made further progress only a matter of dogged, persistent fighting. The big Armstrong gun presented to the Confederates by British admirers was wheeled inward and discharged at the Union troops. A private in the 169th, who had served in the Russian army, seized a rebel field-piece and, aided by some of his comrades, fired it with good effect. Col. Alden was on the top of the fort, directing the brigade and fighting with his men from traverse to traverse, - almost hand to hand, - capturing one gun platform after another. Each traverse was thus an independent work, and had to be charged and taken in turn.

Just before dark a dingy white cloth was waved from one of the entrances to the subways under the platforms and traverses. As the 169th was then in the rear of the fort, which was not inclosed, and on the ground level of the fort, this cloth was seen by Lieut.-Col. Colvin, who, waving his handkerchief in reply and calling on his men to cease firing, went forward with six men of his regiment. A part of the garrison was anxious to surrender, and one hundred and seventy prisoners were passed out in charge of the squad. Night came on, and still the fighting was kept up. Gaining ground steadily, the troops pressed the rebels back, and the opposing forces were so close together that the shells from the Union gunboats fell with fatal effect among our own men. At half-past ten o'clock P.M. a soldier of the 169th called out "They are running," and with a wild hurrah the men followed in pursuit. This ended a conflict which may fairly be called one of the best achievements of the war. The fort was garrisoned by two thousand four hundred men. It had two sides or faces, one fronting up the tongue of land formed by the waters of the Cape Fear River and the Atlantic Ocean. This front was protected by a strong and heavy palisade of logs firmly bolted and braced together. The sea-face extended down the coast for nearly a mile. The point of land where the ocean and the river met was fortified with what was called the Mound Battery on the outer side, and by Battery Buchanan on the inner. The fort was an earthwork, with a steep slope; gun platforms, elevated about twenty-five feet about the surface-level, were protected and separated by traverses rising perhaps fifteen feet higher. A small bastion occupied the angle or end of the land-face on the riverside, and another bastion about forty feet high held the angle at the junction of the land- and seafaces. Torpedoes were planted along the front. These fortunately were not exploded, as a monitor-shell had cut the electric wires intended for that purpose. The attacking force numbered less than three thousand five hundred men, who achieved a victory of which they had just reason to be proud. Gen. Ames, commanding the division, is entitled to the highest honors for his successful management of the attack and capture. The assault was entirely under his control after it was started, and to his persistence, courage, and skill, the efforts of his staff, and the heroic daring of his command, the glorious result was due. He entered the fort with his troops, and fought them there until the end of the struggle. After the evacuation the rebels fled down to the point, about a mile distant, followed up by Abbott's brigade, which had been sent at the last moment by Gen. Terry to make a final charge, but was not called upon to engage in the fight. Gen.

Whiting and Col Lamb, the rebel commanding officers, were wounded, and surrendered with their forces to Col. Henry C. Lockwood, of Gen. Ames' staff.

The 169<sup>th</sup> lost in this assault a smaller number of men than could have been expected. Lieut. Ryan, a promising young officer, was killed, and the total killed and wounded was about fifty, Maj. Allen being among the latter. But the regiment was to be the victim of a greater calamity. It had been ordered with its brigade to take charge of the fort, and had bivouacked about one hundred feet from and in a line with the large magazine. This magazine was blown up early one the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup>, and a large portion of the regiment was covered with the earth and *débris*. Capt. Ferguson and Lieuts. Cipperly and McGregor were killed, the regiment losing eighty men by this explosion. Col. Alden, who, as commander of the brigade, was anxious to familiarize himself with the works, arose early on the 26<sup>th</sup>, and while surveying the fort was caught in the explosion. He was struck by heavy timbers and covered with sand and terribly injured. He was at first supposed to be dead, but finally rallied and remained for six weeks totally unconscious.

The regiment, under command of Lieut.-Col. Colvin, remained in garrison at the fort until February 11<sup>th</sup>. The following statement as to the Fort Fisher fight, together with the regimental reports made thereon, was published in the Troy *Times* shortly after the action:

"FORT FISHER, N. C., Jan. 20, 1865.

"In the belief that news from the 169<sup>th</sup> will be sought after, I am anxious to communicate it through your columns. It will be recollected that the regiment participated in the first expedition to this point. We returned to our old camps near Richmond about December 30<sup>th</sup>. After remaining a few days we were again ordered away, and after several days at sea arrived (January 13<sup>th</sup>) off our former point of debarkation.

"The 169<sup>th</sup> was the first regiment to land, and the writer was sent by Col. Alden in charge of the first detachment. Company G was first ashore and immediately deployed as skirmishers, and in a few minutes were engaged in slight skirmishfiring with the enemy. Company I (Nail-Factory Company), commanded by Capt. James H. Dunn, landed shortly after and advanced up the beach. They entered a redoubt and captured a thirty-two-pounder Columbiad and a quantity of ammunition. The gun was spiked, but was soon put in working order by D. F. Winters, a member of the band. It was turned on the enemy. A skirmishing party from Company I captured eighty-four head of cattle. The day was occupied in landing troops and stores.

"On the morning of the 15th the command was ordered towards Fort Fisher. It soon became evident that work was to be done. The men moved in fine spirits, and never evinced better morale. The line of battle was formed but a short distance from the fort, the navy keeping up a furious bombardment and greatly protecting the disposition of the troops. Finally the charge was ordered, and one of the fiercest assaults of the war began. The 1st Brigade led, the 2d followed, and then our own (the 3<sup>d</sup>). The rear of the fort was reached through a storm of bullets and grape. The contest was desperate. The fort was to be taken or we were all gone. There was no such thing as getting away from it in case of failure. The men knew it, and with almost unparalleled gallantry stood up to the work. Ten P.M. found the fort in our possession, the enemy doing their best to get away. The forces engaged captured many prisoners, – almost man for man. The enemy suffered terribly. While the fight was progressing, our line in the rear, which was defended by the colored troops and the 2<sup>d</sup> Brigade of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division, was attacked. Capt. E. R. Smith was in command of the picket-line at that point, and held his own until compelled to fall back under cover of the gunboats. This demonstration effected nothing, as our troops were not to be driven back. Capt. Smith re-established his line at dusk. The accounts and dispatches already

published will furnish a better idea of our victory than I can give. It is impossible to describe the extent and magnitude of this, the strongest earthwork and one of the most powerful defenses in the world. An unfortunate casualty marred our triumph. Our brigade had been placed in charge of the fort after its capture. Early the next morning a magazine exploded directly in front of and but a few rods from the brigade. The 169<sup>th</sup> was directly opposite, and many valuable officers and men were buried and lost. About one hundred of the regiment were mingled in the ruins and covered by *débris*. Col. Alden, who had been prominent for his coolness and gallantry in the assault of the preceding day, was dangerously if not fatally wounded. The cause of the explosion is a matter of doubt. Some say that a sailor carried a lighted candle into the magazine, while others attribute the disaster to the rebels. A wire was afterwards found leading from the magazine to the river, and supposed to run across to a rebel battery immediately opposite. Appended is the report of the lieutenant-colonel upon the operations of the regiment in the assault, together with a full list of casualties.

"Yours, C."

"Headquarters 169<sup>th</sup> New York Vols., "Fort Fisher, N. C., Jan 17, 1865.

"CAPT. G. W. HUCKINS, A. A. A. G. – The undersigned has the honor to report that upon the opening of the engagement of the 15th instant Col. Alonzo Alden was in command of the brigade. The undersigned took command of the regiment. It would seem almost invidious to make any special mention of officers and men, when all did their duty with unparalleled gallantry and zeal. The undersigned can bear testimony that every officer led his men, and the men vied with each other to attain the front. Col. Alonzo Alden was distinguished for his accustomed coolness and bravery. Major J. H. Alden was shot through the arm and leg, but persisted in remaining with the command. Capts. Daniel Ferguson, Jas. H. Dunn, Chas. D. Merrill, J. H. Warren, and E. W. Church were distinguished for their coolness and gallantry. Lieut. J. H. Straight, wounded, Michael Ryan, killed, Michael Russell, wounded, all in command of companies, were the right men in the right place. After the death of Lieut. Ryan, Lieut. J. B. Foote assumed command of his company and led it gallantly. Lieut. E. Van Santvoord deserves mention. Lieut. E. R. Mosher was hit by a spent ball on the 13th. He went into the fight on the 15<sup>th</sup>, being obliged to use a cane. He hopped into the fight, leading his men. Other officers distinguished themselves, and, indeed, all deserve mention. undersigned has mentioned such as came particularly under his notice. Accompanying will be found a list of enlisted men who distinguished themselves, also a full report of losses in actions.

"Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"J. A. Colvin, Lieut.-Col. Commanding 169th N. Y. V."

"Headquarters  $169^{\text{th}}$  New York Vols., "Fort Fisher, N. C., Jan 17, 1865.

"CAPT. G. W. HUCKINS, A. A. A. G. – I have the honor to report the following names of enlisted men as having distinguished themselves for gallantry in the assault on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Private John Finlay, wounded, Co. A; 1<sup>st</sup> Sergt. John Fleming, Color-Bearer Corp. Peter Osterhout, wounded; Corp. Jno. McGolrick, private Chas. Madden, private Wm. H. Freeman, who volunteered to carry the brigade flag after the bearer was wounded, B; Corp. Patrick Holley, D; Sergt. L. R. Woodcock, wounded; private Patrick Murphy, killed, E; Corps. Jno. McLoughlin, T. J. Congdon, privates John Jimjack, Patrick Curley, F; 1<sup>st</sup> Sergt. Patrick Aylmer, Sergt. Benj. G. Walker, private Jas. Lester, G; 1<sup>st</sup> Sergt. Charles H. Noyes, wounded; Corp. L. O. Dell, killed, H; 1<sup>st</sup> Sergt. Geo. Campbell, Sergts. Jas. F.

Smith, Rob't Rainsbury, wounded, I; and specially commended for bravery, in the presence of the commanding officers, Corp. Thos. Ryan, I; 1<sup>st</sup> Sergt. Jos. White, K; Sergt.-Maj. T. H. Gardner. The commanding officer desires especially to mention Frederick Close, of Co. F, who was conspicuous for his gallantry and bravery in getting a field-piece into position and firing upon the enemy after he got inside of the works. Many of the officers report that their men did so well that they could make no special mention, and the commanding officer is constrained to base his report chiefly upon circumstances within his own observation.

#### "Very respectfully,

"J. A. Colvin, Lieut.-Col. Commanding 169th N. Y. V."

The succeeding operations were directed against Wilmington, N. C. A movement was made towards Masonboro Sound, with the intention of moving on the flank of Gen. Bragg and compelling the surrender of Wilmington.

At this time Lieut.-Col. Colvin was relieved from the command of the 169<sup>th</sup> by Gen. Ames, and ordered to the command of the 2<sup>d</sup> Brigade of the division. This command he held until after the capture of Wilmington and until the regiment was detached for special service. Capt. James H. Dunn then took command of the regiment. On February 18<sup>th</sup> the regiment crossed Cape Fear River with other troops, and made a *détour* to the rear of Fort Anderson, for the purpose of cutting off the retreat of the enemy, but the enemy had about one hour start and evacuated their stronghold. Many guns and much ammunition were captured.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> the regiment crossed the river and joined in the attack on the enemy's lines defending Wilmington, causing the enemy to evacuate their works and the city. The 169<sup>th</sup> was the first regiment in the city of Wilmington, and was temporarily placed on provost duty until relieved by a regiment of the 25<sup>th</sup> Corps. The 169<sup>th</sup> occupied Wilmington on the 22<sup>th</sup>, on the 24<sup>th</sup> marched to North East and took charge of the exchanged prisoners, of which there were about fifteen thousand, until March 1<sup>st</sup>, then returned to Wilmington and did picket duty until March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Lieut.-Col. Colvin then resumed command, and the regiment remained in the vicinity of Wilmington until the first week in April, when it was ordered to rejoin the brigade at Magnolia. After three days' march, it reached that point, and reported to Col. Granger, 9th Maine Volunteers, then commanding the brigade. The regiment remained at Magnolia until April 9th, when the march was resumed to join Gen. Terry at Faison's Station, twenty-seven miles distant. Here the regiment reunited with the division from which it had been separated so long. Maj. Allen also returned at this time, having recovered from his wounds received in the assault at Fort Fisher. On the 11th the regiment marched to Bentonville, where Gen. Sherman had fought a battle. On the 12th news of Lee's surrender to Grant was received by the troops. The enthusiasm was intense; bands were playing, men were cheering, carrying their hats on bayonets, and singing patriotic songs. There were no bounds to the joy exhibited. At this point Gens. Schofield and Terry made a junction. It was arranged that Schofield's, Terry's, and Sherman's armies were to make a junction at Raleigh. Hence, on the 13th, the march was resumed to Raleigh, a distance of twenty-two miles. On the 14th the 169th encamped just outside of Raleigh, and on the 18th moved into the city and commenced doing provost duty. All the troops were reviewed by Gen. Sherman on the 19th. On the 25th Gen. Alden returned to the regiment, and being yet very feeble from his Fort Fisher wounds, served as president of a court-martial and military commission, and assumed command of the brigade and post of Raleigh, having received his commission as brevet brigadier-general, by recommendation of Gen. Terry, for gallant conduct at Fort Fisher and distinguished service at Cold Harbor. On July 6th orders from the War Department mustering out the 169th New York Volunteers, with other regiments, were received.



Surrender of General Joe Johnston, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 1865 Published by Currier & Ives Lithography Company (1865) Collection of the National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C.

The 169th N.Y. was present at the surrender of Johnston's Army of Tennessee at Durham Station, N.C., April 26, 1865.

The regiment was mustered out on July 19<sup>th</sup>, with the understanding that the muster-out would date on the day of final payment in Albany, whither it was ordered to proceed.

The following general orders from the division and brigade commanders were issued to the regiment just before leaving Raleigh, N. C.:

"Headquarters Second Division, Tenth Corps, "Raleigh, N. C., July 18, 1865.

"General Order No. 18. – The brigadier-general commanding, on his own behalf and that of a grateful country, avails himself of this most befitting occasion to thank the officers and men of the 169<sup>th</sup> Regiment, N. Y. V., for their gallant services during the past three years in suppressing a rebellion the most formidable in the annals of history. As an organization your career has been brilliant, and from records at these and superior headquarters it appears that you have participated in twenty-eight different engagements, and on every occasion your conduct has not only been unimpeachable, but such as to secure complimentary notice from your commanding generals. Your work is done, and well done; and now you return to your homes to enjoy the blessings of peace which you have conquered, and to rejoice in the consciousness that you have borne no small part in the attainment of it. You bear with you into civil life the gratitude of your country, – an honor to the 'Empire State,' and hereafter you may each be proud to say that you were members of the 169<sup>th</sup> N. Y. Vols., and as such identified with the famous 2<sup>d</sup> division, 10<sup>th</sup> Army Corps. By order of

"Brevet Brig.-Gen. J. S. Littell.

"B. N. SMITH, Capt. 169th N. Y. V., A. A. A. G."

"Headquarters Third Brigade, Second Division, Tenth A. C. "Department of Raleigh, N. C., July 19, 1865.

"General Order No. 28. – After nearly three years' military service this command is about to return to its own state for final payment and discharge. When that is accomplished and your final accounts with the government have been settled, the

169<sup>th</sup> N. Y. Vols. will cease to exist as an organization, but its memory and its enviable reputation will long be cherished. Those who have served in its ranks and survived the ordeal through which it has passed, and the friends of its honored heroes who have filled a patriot's grave, will never forget the '169<sup>th</sup>' or a single chapter of its history.

"October 6, 1862, this regiment was organized with an aggregate of nine hundred and fifteen officers and men, since which time it has gained, by recruits, transfers, and otherwise, an aggregate of nine hundred and fifty-three, making eighteen hundred and sixty-eight officers and men connected with it since its organization; and the regiment has lost by casualties in battle, disease, etc., nine hundred and sixty-three officers and men. Since its organization there have been connected with the regiment eighty-seven commissioned officers. Because of resignations, casualties in battle, and other causes, fifty-two officers have been dropped from the roll

"The 169<sup>th</sup> has participated in twenty-eight separate and distinct engagements, and in some of them has lost heavily; in all, without exception, it has acquitted itself with honor, and received the compliments of the commanding generals. We are called upon to mourn the loss of many of our brave comrades who have fallen in the storm of battle. On the bloody field of Cold Harbor our gallant Col. McConihe fell. He knew no such thing as fear; he clearly comprehended the purpose of the commanding general, and with victory for his watchword, with coolness and deliberation he led his command upon the terrible and, to him, fatal charge. Many of our brave comrades fell in this terrible conflict, which, with Petersburg, Gilmer, and Fort Fisher, charges already renowned in history, this command will have occasion long to remember.

"While we mourn with those who mourn and weep with those who weep for these our country's martyrs, we also rejoice that their final and crowning efforts were patriotic and Godly, in defense and for the restoration of their insulted and bleeding country, and for the more effectual reopening and re-establishment of God's vineyard for his people. You are about to resume your peaceful avocations. Anxiously and eagerly your families and friends wait to greet your return, and by all good citizens will you be honored as the saviors of our country. Let the same zeal and fidelity characterize your conduct in civil pursuits as have secured your success in arms, and your civil career will be attended with prosperity and success. By order of

"Col. and Brevet Brig.-Gen. Alonzo Alden.

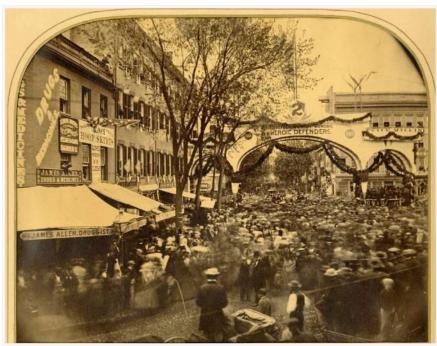
"E. W. CHURCH, Capt. and A. A. Gen."

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of July, 1865, the regiment started homeward bound, marching over the old stage-road to Petersburg, and thence proceeding by rail to City Point, thence by steamer via Fortress Monroe to Baltimore, and by rail to New York, where the regiment was received with distinguished honor, bountifully entertained at the soldiers' depot, 50 and 52 Howard Street, and on the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup> took a boat for Troy, where it arrived at six o'clock the next morning.

The following account of the reception of the 169<sup>th</sup> is taken from the Troy *Times* of July [25], 1865:

"We have had a local Fourth of July to-day in honor of the return of the 169<sup>th</sup> Regiment. They have had a reception in Troy such as was eminently due to their valor, their services, and the lustre they have shed on our city. Although the ovation was quite impromptu in its character, it was none the less successful on that account. The welcome was one that must have proved gratifying to Gen. Alden's brave boys, – showing that while absent they had not been forgotten.

"It was not known until yesterday that the 169<sup>th</sup> would arrive to-day. As soon as the fact was ascertained, Maj. Steenberg, commanding the 24<sup>th</sup>, ordered out that



"A Grateful Country Honors Its Heroic Defenders, 1861-1863" – Crowd awaiting return of the 2<sup>d</sup> N.Y., Washington Square, (now Monument Square), Troy, N.Y. (May 26, 1863)

Collection of the Rensselaer County Historical Society, Troy, N.Y.

regiment, and the response was prompt and hearty. The firemen also resolved to do honor to their returning brothers, and the result was a very respectable procession at very short notice. The local military and firemen formed on River Street, and awaited the coming of the returning soldiers. The reception line extended from Broadway to State Street, – the military being opposite the Troy House.

"Expectation was on tip-toe among the military and firemen and the crowds of spectators in the streets as the war-worn 169th filed from the transport, formed into line, and marched to the scene of the reception. Aldermen Smart and Prentice, of the Common Council Committee, were hurrying to and fro on horseback. The capital police cleared away teams; officers were giving the words of command, and windows on the bend were filled with faces. With steady tread the veterans marched along. At their head rode Alden, with well-earned stars upon his shoulders; Dr. Knowlson, the faithful surgeon, and Capt. Clark Smith doing escort duty. This triumvirate cleared the way, and close to them was Colvin, the brave lieutenant-colonel, while the efficient Maj. Allen brought up the rear and the adjutant and other officers were scattered along the line. But the central figures in the picture were the men, – bronzed, travel-stained, and dusty, yet with the erect bearing and firm tramp of veterans. Within their lines were borne the colors, riddled with shot, and torn amid the fierce onset of the foe, – the same colors that McConihe, with his last breath, told his men to defend. It was a suggestive moment as the regiment passed into the streets of its home and once more became a part of the busy current of our daily life, – soldiers no longer, but citizens again. Appropriate it was that the fine regimental band should play 'Home Again,' and that the flags should wave on every mast in honor of the soldiers' return.

"Mr. George G. Arnold, the sutler of the regiment, who followed its fortunes through all the different campaigns in which it was engaged, had caused to be painted a banner of welcome to the returning heroes. The work has been done in the most artistic manner. The banner is suspended across River Street, from the Troy House to Starkweather, Norton & Co.'s store, and has attracted great attention. It bears the names of Buel, McConihe, Alden, Colvin, Allen, and

Knowlson, and all of the officers who have been killed. On the reverse, the motto: 'Honor to the brave! Future generations will bless the preservers of the republic!' The whole design is appropriate and graceful.

"After the full summary of the regiment's deeds, published yesterday, no sketch of their organization, personnel, nor services is needed. Their heroic deeds seemed to rise before every eye as the tattered flags and the veteran forms passed in review this morning along our city's streets. They could be seen defying the swamps of Charleston, manning the trenches of Petersburg, and fighting from casemate to casemate at Fort Fisher; even the explosion that hurled them into midair could almost be pictured on those torn ensigns. Gen. Alden at the head, receiving the plaudits of grateful fellow-citizens, seemed a type of the patient valor that had brought the regiment home in triumph, – the same indomitable spirit that had wound up the Rebellion. Five hundred strong, they returned to-day.

"At Washington Square, the formal reception of the regiment took place. A large crowd had assembled, and the procession formed a triangle around the square. The exercises commenced with a fervent prayer by Rev. Dr. Baldwin. We have rarely heard a more impressive invocation.

"Alderman Smart introduced Hon. John. A. Griswold, who said that while he appeared unexpectedly on this occasion, no one could appear with feelings of deeper gratitude. Mr. Griswold pictured the sudden call to arms. The noble response. The alacrity of Troy, Rensselaer, and Washington Counties in responding to the cause of our country. We are now welcoming them back, one after another, not as regiments, but as representatives of once strong organizations. In none of these did we feel more pride than in the 169th. We know that Charleston, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Fort Fisher, and the war-scarred banners all tell of the bravery and deeds of the regiment. And the obsequies of its martyred dead from time to time reminded us of its services. Mr. Griswold paid a high tribute to the late Col. McConihe, and gave the regiment a renewed welcome to the community which would never forget the brave soldiers of the second war of independence. Three cheers were given for Mr. Griswold and three for the 'old flag.' Brig.-Gen. Alden bowed his acknowledgements, and Alderman Smart introduced Mr. William A. Merriam, of the New York Herald, and formerly a lieutenant in the regiment, who delivered a most eloquent and appropriate address, referring to the history of the regiment, its lamented dead, and its living heroes, with especial reference to Gen. Alden, which called forth three cheers for the general. The regiment then marched to Harmony Hall, where a fine collation was in waiting. At night the line of march was taken up and the regiment encamped near the barracks, about two miles from Albany, on the Troy and Albany road, and there remained until the 3<sup>d</sup> of August before it was paid off and the men sent home to their fathers and mothers, wives and sweethearts, to resume the duties of citizens."

The following is a recapitulation of the engagements in which the 169<sup>th</sup> participated:

Edenton Road, Carrsville, Blackwater Ford, Zuni, Providence Church, Nansemond, Hanover Junction, Fort Sumter, Fort Wagner, Rantoul Bridge, siege of Charleston, Cedar Creek, Walthall Junction, Chester Station, Drury's Bluff, Hatcher's Run, Foster's Plantation, No. 1, Foster's Plantation, No. 2, Cold Harbor, Petersburg Heights, June 15<sup>th</sup>, Petersburg, June 30<sup>th</sup>, Petersburg Mine, July 30<sup>th</sup>, siege of Petersburg, Dutch Gap, Deep Bottom, Malvern Hill, Chapin's Farm, Fort Gilmer, Darbytown Road, siege of Richmond, 1<sup>st</sup> Fort Fisher, 2<sup>d</sup> Fort Fisher, Wilmington, North East, Raleigh.



"The Union Line" by Krystii Melaine

#### August V. Kautz's Customs of Service, 1864.

#### **Duties of the Soldier.**

#### Deportment.

- 47. One of the first things a soldier has to learn on entering the army, is a proper military deportment towards his superiors in rank: this is nothing more than the military way of performing the courtesies required from a well-bred man in civil life, and a punctual performance of them is as much to his credit as the observance of the ordinary rules of common politeness.
- 48. "Sergeants, with swords drawn, will salute by bringing them to a present; with muskets, by bringing the left hand across the body, so as to strike the musket near the right shoulder. Corporals out of the ranks, and privates not sentries, will carry their muskets at a shoulder as sergeants, and salute in like manner." (Reg. 255.)
- 49. "When a soldier without arms, or with side arms only, meets an officer, he is to raise his hand to the right side of the visor of his cap, palm to the front, elbow raised as high as the shoulder, looking at the same time in a respectful and soldier-

like manner at the officer, who will return the compliment thus offered." (Reg. 256.)

- 50. "A non-commissioned officer or soldier being seated, and without particular occupation, will rise on the approach of an officer, and make the customary salutation. If standing, he will turn toward the officer for the same purpose. If the parties remain in the same place or on the same ground, such compliments need not be repeated." (Reg. 257.)
- 51. The foregoing regulations should be strictly observed by enlisted men; and their faithful performance will add much to the military reputation of a company or regiment.
- 52. The following customs are equally binding, though not provided for in Regulations: When soldiers are marching in the ranks, they do not salute, unless ordered at the time. If employed at any work, they are not expected to discontinue their employment to salute.
- 53. A soldier or non-commissioned officer, when he addresses an officer, or is spoken to by one, salutes; on receiving the answer or communication from the officer, he again salutes before turning to go away.
- 54. When a soldier enters an officer's quarters armed, he simply makes the required salute, and does not take off his cap; but without arms, or with side-arms only, he takes off his cap and stands in the position of a soldier, and delivers his message or communicates what he came for in as few words as possible and to the point.
- 55. A slovenly attitude, frequent changes of position, or much gesticulation, is exceedingly unmilitary, and looks bad. Say what you have to say in a prompt, courageous manner, without diffidence or hesitation; and, if always respectful, no matter what the subject, it is more likely to be considered than when delivered in a drawling hesitating, and timid manner.
- 57. When a soldier enters an officer's quarters, he remains standing in the position of a soldier until invited to sit down. When soldiers are in a room and an officer enters, they should rise and remain standing until invited to sit down.
- 58. Soldiers should bear in mind that the officer has his duties to perform, and that they are more weighty and important than any soldier can have, and that his leisure time is limited, and they should therefore avoid, as much as possible, troubling him with unimportant matters, or, at least, not be disappointed if they receive short answers.
- 59. In a company of seventy or eighty men, if each one should go only once a day to his captain with any matter, it is easily seen how annoying such a thing would soon become.
- 60. Soldiers should learn, as far as possible, to manage their own affairs; and, whilst their company commander is the legitimate person to apply to for anything needful or when in difficulty, his time should not be trespassed upon with regard to matters they should know themselves.
- 61. The company commander, through the first sergeant, is the proper person to apply to for all indulgences, such as passes, furloughs, &c., and for clothing, rations, pay, and the adjustment of all differences and difficulties in the company.
- 62. An application to any other source will most generally be answered by referring the applicant to his company commander, whose duty it is to attend to the wants of his men. Only when the company commander neglects his duty in this respect is a soldier justified in applying to his regimental or post commander.

#### Instruction.

- 63. The first duties which a newly-enlisted soldier is called upon to perform are to familiarize himself with his camp or garrison duties.
- 64. He is provided with clothing, which he is expected to adept to the best advantage to improve his military appearance, by the best means in his power. There is usually a tailor or two in the company or among the recruits, who

is excused from all duty possible, to fit soldiers' clothing for a moderate compensation.

- 65. Under the instruction of a drill-sergeant, he is taught the first principles in the "School of the Soldier." After a certain progress in the instruction without arms, his arms and accourtements are issued to him; for these he is held responsible, and, if injured or lost by any fault of his, they are charged to him on his musterroll, and their value deducted from his pay at the first subsequent payment.
- 66. Should the arms or accourtements be lost or destroyed or injured in any way not the fault of the soldier, the commanding officer may order a board of survey, who, if the facts authorize it, may relieve the soldier from the payment.
- 67. The soldier's instruction is usually completed at the depot for the recruits, before the recruit reaches his company; if not, it is continued when he joins it. After he is fully instructed in the "School of the Soldier," he is ready to be placed in the company ranks.
- 68. This is the usual course pursued with the soldier in the regular army, and, as far as possible, it should be followed with volunteers and militia. But, as they are usually called into service for special purposes and on sudden emergencies, the same thoroughness cannot be attained, and is not expected.

#### The Infantry Soldier.

- 144. In the infantry is the main strength of an army. Cavalry and artillery are the auxiliaries. The final results of a war or campaign are achieved by this arm of the service; and the foot-soldier should bear in mind the importance of his position, and seek to achieve the highest perfection of his arm. No cavalry or artillery can stand against perfect infantry properly handled.
- 145. The sharpshooters, deployed as skirmishers, and supported by the main column of infantry, out of range, will pick off the cannoneers, and silence in a short time a battery of artillery; and the best cavalry will disperse before a firm line of infantry that reserves its fire until the enemy is within short range, and shows a determination to receive them on the bayonets of their empty muskets.
- 146. The infantry soldier should bear in mind that, with whatever exultation the cavalry or artillery pass him in advancing upon the enemy, the grand result cannot be achieved without him, and that the presence of the musket and its proximity is what enables them to precede him in the fight.
- 147. A well-instructed and disciplined infantryman is always prepared for duty. His hours of leisure are devoted to preparation. His clothing is prepared and cleaned, his knapsack always packed, his arms and accoutrements are in order, and his ammunition secure.
- 148. The supply of necessary articles in the field should be limited to the smallest possible amount; and industry will make up for many a deficient article. Messes unite, and each carries an article that can be used in common.
- 149. By repeated washings and cleanings, one suit of clothes can be made to look as well as if a change were on hand. For fatigue-duties, thin cotton overalls and blouse worn over the only suit will protect it and make it last much longer, and are much lighter than an extra suit.
- 150. The shoes are the most important item of clothing to the foot-soldier. The army bootee is much the best. The soles should be broad, the heels low and broad. Woolen socks should be worn. The feet should be bathed frequently in cold water. Boots are universally impracticable for marching. If the ankles require support, the French gaiter can be worn; they are also a very good protection from mud and dust, and protect the trousers.
- 151. An hour's drill, morning and afternoon, when not marching, is a necessary exercise, no matter may be the proficiency of the regiment or company. It keeps the body in condition for service at any moment, and is conducive to health.
- 152. A good soldier makes his company and regiment his home, and never absents himself without proper permission, and then returns punctually at the expiration



Guard Mounting Inspection, Fort Wagner, Morris Island, S.C. (April 1865)

of his pass. The habit of always being absent is exceedingly pernicious; it cultivates tastes and habits that are detrimental to the soldier's best interests, and he is almost sure to be absent when most wanted, and loses, perhaps, a favorable moment to do himself a credit.

153. He should learn to wait: a soldier's life is made up in waiting for the critical moments. The times for distinction are few, and quickly pass; and, once gone, he has a long time to wait for the next opportunity. Constant training and faithful watching are necessary, so that he may see the proper moment and be in the best possible condition to perform his duty.

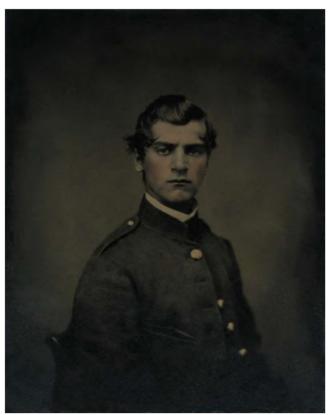
154. A soldier is dependent on his officers for pay, clothing, subsistence, and medical attendance; but his health, success, and promotion depend, in the main, upon himself. Within certain limits, he must look out for himself.

155. He must learn to make the most of his pay and allowances. His rations are abundant for his subsistence, and, if not always palatable, a little ingenuity in cooking, an little management in exchanging for the products of the country, will make his rations do him; whilst spending his pay for things to eat, and disregarding his rations, is a want of frugality that should be corrected.

156. His clothing is also sufficient; and many soldiers save from sixty to one hundred dollars of their clothing allowance, which is paid to them in money at the expiration of their enlistment. A little industry in mending and cleaning his clothes will well reward his labors in the savings of the frugal soldier. To this end, he should be provided with a little wallet, containing an assortment of thread, needles, buttons, scissors, &c., and should economize and use up faithfully his allowance of soap.

157. He can readily save all his pay, and make his spending-money by labor during leisure hours in many ways which are afforded him in the vicinity of a camp or garrison. The effort, however, to lay up money should not be carried to an extent that would interfere with his duties as a soldier.

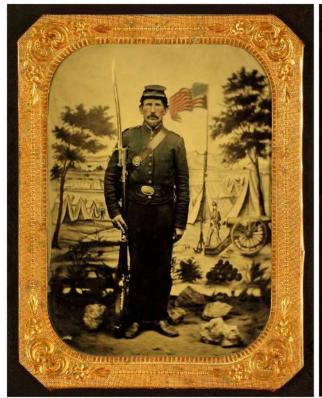
### Uniforms and Insignia of a Private Soldier in the 169th N.Y.



Priv. William H. Freeman, Co. B, 169<sup>th</sup> N.Y., wearing his N.Y.S. Militia shell jacket (ca. 1862)



N.Y.S. Pattern 1861 Militia Shell Jacket, 8-button-variant Collection of the U.S. Military Academy Museum, West Point, N.Y.





Priv. Lorenzo Stritsman, Co. H, 169th N.Y.

Priv. Leonard Brimmer, Co. H, 169th N.Y.

Collection of the New York State Military Museum, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

These soldiers from Company H were photographed while posted at Camp Abercrombie, Va. in the fall and winter of 1862-'63. Priv. Lorenzo Stritsman wears the eight-buttoned shell jacket of the New York State Militia, with matching dark trousers. He is standing with a copy of the French Model 1859 "Carbine de Vincennes" made in Liège, Belgium, known as the "Belgian" or "Chasseur de Vincennes" rifle-musket, .69 cal., equipped with an impressive sword bayonet. Priv. Leonard Brimmer is wearing new U.S. government-issued light blue trousers with his militia jacket, standing with his new U.S. Model 1861 Springfield rifle-musket, .58 cal., with socket bayonet.



U.S. Pattern 1858 Army Forage Cap Collection of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.



U.S. Pattern 1861 Army Frock Coat (Parade) Private Collection



U.S. Pattern 1858 Army Sack Coat (Fatigue) Collection of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

47



Corp. Anton Reder, Co. A, 169<sup>th</sup> N.Y., wearing his U.S. Army frock coat (ca. 1865) Collection of Chris E Fonvielle, Jr.

48



Priv. Otis B. Strong, Co. B, 169<sup>th</sup> N.Y., wearing his U.S. Army sack coat (ca. 1864)
Provided by Steven Warner



U.S. Pattern 1826 Eagle Breast Plate



N.Y.S. Militia Uniform Button



U.S. Infantry Uniform Button



N.Y.S. Militia Belt Plate



U.S. Infantry Belt Plate

### U.S. Model 1861 Springfield Rifle-Musket



U.S. Model 1861 Springfield Rifle-Musket, .58 cal., belonging to Serg't. Hugh W. Toole, Co. D, 169<sup>th</sup> N.Y.

Produced by the Springfield Armory, Springfield, Mass.

Private Collection









U.S. Pattern 1861 Infantry Cartridge Box, .58 cal.



U.S. Model 1855 .58 cal. Springfield Socket Bayonet, Scabbard and Frog

Shooting the U.S. Model 1861 Springfield Rifle-Musket



 $\underline{https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qC5QFdfhs2s}$ 

Civil War Musket Loading Drill "In-Nine-Times"



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCAYXQ1Z6q4

### **Badges and Medals**



Army Civil War Campaign Medal First-Style Ribbon, issued from 1905 to 1913



Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Veteran's Badge (Type V Membership Badge, 1886)



169<sup>th</sup> N.Y. Veteran's Reunion Badge and Ribbon. This badge was issued to surviving veterans of the 169<sup>th</sup> N.Y. at the 1889 regimental reunion. The top section features the insignia of the VII Army Corps (Siege of Suffolk, Va.); XXII Army Corps (Defenses of Washington, D.C.); and XXIII Army Corps (Campaign of the Carolinas), along with two crossed U.S. Model 1861 Springfield Rifle-Muskets and the years "1862" and "1865." The lower section features the insignia of the XVIII Army Corps (Battle of Cold Harbor, Va.) inside that of the X Army Corps (Siege of Charleston, S.C., Bermuda Hundred Campaign, and Petersburg Campaign), along with the regimental designation, "169 NYSV."



"A View of Troy" by L. F. Tantillo (b. 1946)

# The Troy Daily Whig.

July 19, 1862.

## **IMMENSE WAR MEETING** OF THE PEOPLE.



5,000 FREEMEN IN COUNCIL.

SPEECHES AND RESOLUTIONS.

A County Bounty of Fifty Dollars Recommended.

The County Mass Meeting held last evening at the Court House, called out one of the largest assemblages ever convened in the County. At an early hour it became apparent that no building in the city would accommodate the gathering masses, and preparations were made for two meetings.

The meeting inside was called to order by the Chairman of the Committee, William Kemp, who nominated Mayor Thorn as Chairman. The organization was completed as follows: –

#### VICE PRESIDENTS.

Schaghticoke – JOHN A. QUACKENBUSH.

Troy - CALVIN HAYNER.

- " JONAS C. HEARTT.
- ' THOMAS COLEMAN.
- " WILLIAM GURLEY.
- " JOHN RANKIN.
- " JOHN F. WINSLOW.
- " MICHAEL FITZGERALD.
- " CHARLES J. SAXE.
- " PATRICK REGAN.
- JOHN L. MESSER.

Lansingburgh – ALBERT E. POWERS.

Pittstown – WILLIAM NEWCOMB.

Hoosick - L. CHANDLER BALL.

Petersburgh – Dr. HIRAM MOSES.

Berlin - SCHUYLER GREENMAN.

Stephentown – THEODORE D. PLATT.

Nassau – SYLVESTER WATERBURY.

Schodack – J. V. D. WITBECK.

East Greenbush – EDWARD GREEN.

Greenbush - MARTIN MILLER.

North Greenbush – SANFORD A. TRACY.

Grafton – EBENEZER STEVENS.

Brunswick - ROBERT MORRISON.

Poestenkill – Dr. L. H. BARBER.

#### SECRETARIES.

F. B. HUBBELL.

ALEX. KIRKPATRICK.
E. S. STRAIT.

J. M. FRANCIS.

WILLIAM A. WOOD.

JONAS WHITING.

The Mayor on taking the chair addressed the meeting as follows: –

Fellow Citizens: – We are assembled this evening at this meeting for a patriotic purpose. We have come here to repeat the assurance of our fidelity to our country: to reassert our fealty to the laws of the Union – laws which have been violated for many months. It is gratifying to see so many citizens of every class, met here not merely to denounce treason but to give aid to the government. The government wants men and they will not be found wanting in old Rensselaer. I do not intend to take up the time of this meeting, but to impress upon you the importance of prosecuting this war, of the necessity of individual exertions – unless we want to exchange the best government in the world for anarchy and confusion.

The officers of the meeting having taken their seats, Mr. Kemp, on behalf of the Committee, offered the following resolutions: –

#### THE RESOLUTIONS.

The People of Rensselaer County, in Mass Convention assembled, declare themselves agreed –

First: – That the needs of the Government, the present and future well-being of all classes, and the success of Republican institutions, in which the hopes of millions throughout the world are centered, demand the instant, hearty and enthusiastic co-operation of every citizen, to the end that the civil war which rages within our borders, shall be brought to a speedy and successful termination, by compelling rebels to lay down their arms, return to their allegiance and to the performance of their obligations, as members of the Union.

Second: – That we hold the war is in no sense waged as one either of aggression or of conquest; but for preservation and defence. With earnestness and spirit, but in peace in hope, we were discussing political differences with our Southern brethren in the Spring of 1861, when Fort Moultrie in Charleston harbor, having been seized and occupied by traitors and outlaws, opened fire on Sumter, and demanded that the United States flag should be lowered on United States soil. This was more than injury or insult, it was war; and thenceforward it became the imperative duty of the Nation to vindicate its disputed authority, and preserve the Union and the Government, never successfully assailed by Foreign foes, and then for the first time struck at by a formidable band of domestic traitors. In this brief recital of a fact the world must see our complete vindication. - Mankind must acknowledge that a Nation which had preserved its form of Government for eighty years, and whose people had within that period increased its numbers from three millions to thirty-five millions; and multiplied wealth and increased the general happiness as no people ever had before – that such a Nation had a right to protect its life from the deadly assault thus made, and made too as subsequent events fully proved, by those whose treason was so deliberate as it was wicked. In the progress of the war thus forced upon us, we have been ever ready to leave wide open the door for the return of the penitent and misguided; prepared to yield everything but principle and honor, to save further strife and bloodshed. But we declare in view of the determination of the rebels to prolong and intensify the struggle; and in view too, of threatened intervention from abroad; that the time has come, when whatever rightful power the Nation has to save itself from destruction, should be used to secure loyal men in their rights; avert the dangers which now threaten us; restore peace to the people, and give permanency to the Government as our Fathers made it.

Third: – That in this hour of trial, the country has the strongest claims upon the means, the energies, the undivided support of all her citizens. That party sinks into insignificance, and schemes for individual promotion and ambition are unworthy and base in the presence of our common dangers; that we implore our fellow citizens to allow no party estrangements or prejudices to divide their counsels or efforts. He is the true friend of the country, and as such is to be honored by all men, who does his utmost to serve her in her need; and the loyalty of that man is equivocal who does less.

Fourth: – That the National Administration is entitled to the support of the whole people in all lawful efforts to serve the country.

Fifth: – That the course of Gov. Morgan, in promptly providing the means for raising a Bounty Fund on the part of the State for Volunteers, has met the wishes of the People, and happily anticipated the action of the local authorities, saving thereby time and expense, and doing a signal service towards us, in so speedily supplying the demands of an anxious Government.

Sixth: – That the counties of this Senatorial District, Washington and Rensselaer, cannot too soon put into the field their quota of men called for by the President; that each town and supervisor district should immediately set about the work, and to that end hold meetings, at which the necessities of the Government and the inducements it offers to volunteers, shall be set forth. That for this purpose we severally pledge ourselves to devote whatever of time or means that may be necessary to raise the required number of men in our several localities; that each neighborhood should at once provide a recruiting office, and the recruiting officer be everywhere welcomed, encouraged and sustained.

Seventh: — In view of the engrossing business engagements of our fellow citizens, and the pecuniary sacrifices which those who leave their honest business to respond to their country's call, are compelled to make, that our Board of Supervisors be, and they are hereby requested to offer and pay to each volunteer who shall enlist into the Regiment now to be raised at Troy, (to the number of 668,) the sum of \$50, in addition to the bounty offered by the National and State Governments.

The Resolutions were unanimously adopted.

#### MR. VAN SANTVOORD'S REMARKS.

The President introduced Hon. Geo. Van Santvoord to the audience, who spoke as follows: –

Mr. President and Gentlemen: - I had not expected that I would be called upon first to address this large assemblage, but I perceive that it is in consequence of the circumstance that I am obliged to leave in the early train for my home. – I will occupy but a few moments of your attention and leave others to express to you more fully than I am able to do, sentiments appropriate to the occasion. I esteem it a privilege to meet my fellow citizens on an occasion so full of interest as this. The war in which we are engaged calls upon every man to perform the duties which devolve upon him as an individual citizen of this country. We are now in the midst of a civil war, of a magnitude which has not been known in the history of mankind. We have seen in the past year, armies raised without an equal in your country's history. Loyal States have cheerfully contributed an army of a half a million of men. We supposed when the North – the loyal North raised this immense army, and poured out its strength like water, it would be sufficient, but it seems we have underrated the strength of our enemies. And this army, equipped in the most complete manner, nearly a month ago, we learned had been obliged to fall back from the field.

Since the raising of this vast army, time has been spent in preparation and discipline, until we had an army the equal of which has not been seen in the history of the world. That army has performed feats of valor which cannot be surpassed, and yet the cry comes up from them in agonizing tones, to "come and help us"; and the question is, whether we will see that army sacrificed for want of men.

Fellow citizens of Rensselaer county: – The Commander-in-Chief has seen fit to call for three hundred thousand volunteers to crush out the rebellion. The State of New York is called upon to contribute one-fifth of that number, and the county of Rensselaer is called upon to contribute one thousand men, and the question is, whether we shall raise that number. We have men in abundance. Shall we contribute them? In my judgment, no man is called upon to needlessly sacrifice his family. I hold it is our duty to contribute to the families of volunteers, who freely offer to shed their blood for their country. The Governor of the State has wisely, judiciously, and courageously offered a bounty of fifty dollars without waiting for the sanction of the Legislature, and the people will pay it. I think the Governor in this has shown himself to be a man of courage, and I am proud to speak of him. I know him personally, and have politically differed from him, but never until yesterday did I know that he was a man of such disinterested courage

- one of those men like Andrew Jackson who is ready to meet the emergency. I believe that the amount of the bounty to be paid besides by the general government is forty dollars. I believe that the country should offer an additional bounty.

I had the privilege yesterday of attending a mass meeting in the town of Schodack, – the first war meeting held in the country, and they unanimously resolved that the county should bestow an additional bounty of fifty dollars.

If the additional troops are raised, the government will triumph; if not, our country will be plunged into ruin. If you destroy that army the government will perish with it; but if the additional troops are raised, the country will be saved and the rebellion will be crushed forever.

I tell you that when that day shall arrive when we shall have put down the rebellion, we shall exhibit to the world a government powerful and stronger than any on the globe. It will be worth all the treasure it will cost. It will be the best guarantee for keeping peace. We shall have no more peremptory demands, as in the case of the Trent. It will bring another result, which will be worth all the blood and all the treasure it will cost to gain it; it will teach the people of this country that there is a vital strength in the country; that rebellion, whether it comes from the South or the North, or any part of the country, cannot succeed. Let us put it down, and this country will go forth to such a destiny as has not been witnessed in the history of nations.

The question is whether we will sustain the government. We hardly realize the existence of the war among us. We are called upon to decide whether we will fight the war at a distance or by our firesides.

#### JUDGE GOULD'S REMARKS.

Hon. George Gould, on being introduced, said:

Mr. President: – I believe that America is the only country where the people decide upon their own destiny. The crisis which has been forced upon us is entirely within our own hands. We hardly realize the existence of war, yet the fields of the South are drenched with blood. It is for us to say whether the war shall be kept where it is, or shall be brought to our own doors; whether the government shall be preserved with the free institutions we received from our fathers, or perish, and on its ruins we see rise a military despotism. Do you complain of the expense? Do you remember that for eighty years the government has sustained itself – gone on increasing without adding at all to your burdens? The taxes which you pay to support this war, are taxes on the comforts and enjoyments which have been secured to you in the past. You are not asked to support a doubtful cause. Is a nation containing over twenty millions of freemen unable to cope with an infamous and unscrupulous foe of but a third of its own numerical strength? Do you wish to have it said of the country that, with all its strength in men and means, it was necessary in the hour of absolute peril to resort to such means of defence as are known to and practised by monarchial governments alone? There is no danger to the government if the strength of the Nation is fairly aroused; but delay is fatal. I have, within the last ten days, conversed with three British officers who were with McClellan, who said that the soldiers of our army were equal to any in the world; that the carnage of our artillery, as the enemy's fresh divisions came up, was too sweeping, too terrible ever to be known with accuracy. Said a Connecticut officer, whose regiment had charge of McClellan's siege artillery, "we brought off safely every piece of artillery save one, the carriage of which was destroyed." This is the class of men you are called upon to support and encourage - men who know what they are fighting for, and who know how to fight; men who defeated the enemy, but unable to advance for the want of reinforcements. And now the question is, will you do your duty to these men and to your country, cheerfully, voluntarily? Do it, and we shall hear no more of intervention, nor of British arrogance. Strength we have, if we only exert it. Do you know what the government is doing while you are gathering volunteers? Do you know that there is in progress of completion a navy which will be heard from to the ends of the world? Let us do our duty here, now, and henceforth, and present clouds will disappear like the mists of the morning, and your government will continue a great and prosperous Republic.

#### PROF. LEWIS'S REMARKS.

#### Prof. C. T. LEWIS, of the University, said:

I have no speech for you to-night. I am very glad of it, for I would be out of place. I am not able, I confess it freely, to discuss the great questions now before the country. I am not able to express them satisfactorily, but I am glad to express those feelings which the present crisis must prompt in the heart of every American citizen. If we are able to judge anything of the promises of the future from the past, our country is yet destined to a glorious destiny. We have had a great war. It has been going on month after month. – While to the South it has been a struggle for life or death, it has been on our part a mere play and pastime. It has not been until the past day or month that we have become aroused to the peril of our country, and the necessity for further efforts. The question now is whether we shall have a government to honor or not. Our destiny is in our own hands, and upon our action that destiny depends. It is right that we should resolve and devise; that pecuniary inducements should be offered to volunteers. But, fellow citizens, if the war is to be put down, it must be by a higher motive. We have been told tonight that the war is not like the wars of former times; that our soldiers fight not like the soldiers of former times. – We have before us a war for humanity, not of conquest or aggrandizement. The war in which we are engaged is no ordinary war. It is not a war of the government; it is a war of the people. It is worthwhile to lay aside every pursuit to drive back the black flood of treason. Let me tell you that we are writing a page of history that our children will read with an interest that we have never felt.

#### DR. KENNEDY'S REMARKS.

#### Dr. Kennedy on being introduced spoke as follows:

Mr. President: – Deeming any occasion, the great object of which is to create or invigorate a power, moral or physical, or both, by which to encounter rebellion and annihilate treason, to be noble, elevated and worthy, I feel no compunctions of conscience in finding myself on this platform at this hour. I have just conducted another service, appropriate to my official character as a minister of Christ. I appear now a citizen, and feel that as such I am no less in the line of duty on this platform, than I was a few moments since in yonder pulpit!

For what, sir, is the object of this great gathering? What, as by one mighty impulse has called together this mass of bone, and sinew and intellect from the various parts of this surrounding community? Why, sir, it is nothing less than the cause of our country, the cause of liberty, of humanity, and of God! And can I as a citizen be out of place here? Can I as a minister of religion be soiling my robes of office in pleading for the interests of my country, the interests of civil and religious Liberty throughout the world? But this is called a war meeting, and it is presumed that I am a man of peace. Mr. President, I am a man of peace, and my heart's desire and prayer to God is that peace may speedily return to our distracted land. But I find nothing in the Gospel that requires me to tamely submit to evils which I have power to avert. If I do not use the means, I am guilty. As well ask me, because I am a man of peace, to submit to the ferocity of the serpent or tiger that spring upon me in my path, as to ask me to fold my arms and close my mouth when rebellion and treason have raised their horrid front before me. Sir, I will do nether. When I consent to be inactive in such circumstances, then let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth.

War is a terrible evil. But there are evils more terrible still; the destruction of government, the crushing of the spirit of liberty, the overturning of the Constitution of this land, the purest and the best which the God of Nations ever vouchsafed to any people.

Yes, war is a great calamity; but it is sometimes *needful*, and sometimes *unavoidable*. It is so in the natural world. Sometimes the atmosphere becomes impure – impregnated with noxious vapors and gases. And it is in mercy that God allows the war of the elements; the tempest is sent with all the magnificent heraldry of the lightning and the thunder. The hurricane sweeps over mountain and valley, the oak is riven by the bolt, and the grain is prostrate. But the atmosphere is purified and all nature revived. So in the social world; when treason threatens the life of the body politic, then war is the *terrible remedy*. So, sir, it is in individual experience. Christ says, I come not to send peace, but a sword. In the moral as well as in the political world, treason, rebellion, must be met with indomitable force. *There was war in heaven*. The first great secessionist was Satan. We have been fighting him for 6,000 years.

This is a war meeting. I glory in it! Peace! There can be no peace to the rebel, the incendiary, the traitor. It is war! to the bitter end. – Call me not bloodthirsty or cruel, when I say that I would rather see the Southern rivers tinged with blood, than that this rebellion should succeed.

And yet peace will come! *When?* I cannot fix the *time*, but I can determine the *events*. Peace will come when the insults to that banner – the glorious symbol of all we hold dear, are *avenged*. When every rebel and traitor is made to bow to authority. When this standard of our country is seen floating in majesty from every fortress and battlement, over every State, and city, and village and hamlet, not a star blotted, not a stripe moved or obscured. When the majesty of the people shall have vindicated the majesty of the Constitution, then will peace come, and prosperity prevail over all the land.

I believe that the contest in which we are now engaged, is the holiest the world has ever seen. I believe it has a more vital bearing upon the destiny of the race, than any that has ever preceded it. History will record it as the final settlement of the long-mooted question, whether a great nation can maintain free institutions under a Republican form of government. If this last, grandest attempt to establish constitutional liberty, fails, no further experiment will be made; and all the hopes and aspirations of the down-trodden masses of the world will perish forever, as they behold the magnificent star of empire in this Western World, quenched in blood, and going down into the darkness of eternal night!

This is not a struggle between the North and the South as mere men, but a struggle between despotism and liberty throughout the world. And if the Great Republic shall be found, by the blessing of God, equal to this fearful crisis of her history; if the people of the United States are found ready to make the sacrifice which the occasion demands, – if, standing at the altars of the Most High, this free, Christian nation, with uplifted hands, shall swear to transmit to posterity the sacred inheritance of their fathers; then, in the issue of this dreadful conflict will be seen and universally acknowledged, the real strength of a free government; then will it be shouted by exultant millions, from the rising to the setting sun, that the American Republic, the great representative of Constitutional Liberty, is no longer an experiment.

And I believe, sir, that this is to be the glorious result of the present struggle. The whole history of God's past dealings with this country, seems to indicate designs concerning its future, incompatible with the success of the existing rebellion. Why, sir, this rebellion is the consummation of all social and political crimes; it is a crime against liberty, against humanity, against religion, against the past and the future, a crime against the entire race in all its highest hopes and destinies, now and for all time to come. And can we doubt that eternal justice frowns upon it? That the God of Battles is on our side?

There never was a government founded by Providence with a more obvious design than this; and that design was to establish here Constitutional Liberty, Free Institutions, and to open an Asylum for the Oppressed of all Nations. And is this design, at this early stage of the experiment to fail? I cannot believe it.

From the history of the past, I gather cheering hopes for the future. I believe that the Almighty has a grand purpose to be worked out in the future of this country, answering to the glorious foreshadowings of the past. I believe it, sir, just as firmly as I believe that there is a sun shining in the heavens. And in the mighty uprising of the people now that the ark of our covenant promises is in danger, I see the rising up of God Himself in His majesty to vindicate His own right to America, and to dash in pieces the traitor power that has set itself in array against it. This country is not destroyed, and if we do our duty it never will be destroyed, till the sun shall be darkened, the stars fall from heaven, and the earth shall melt with fervent heat.

Let us rally then to the work to which we are called. Let us consecrate our arms, our brothers, our gold and silver, and our prayers, and in due time the liberties of our country shall break forth fair as the sun, clear as the moon and terrible to all traitors as an army with banners.

#### MARTIN I. TOWNSEND'S REMARKS.

#### MARTIN I. TOWNSEND said: -

There is no need of my saying that I am ready to fight out this war. Explanations are not needed of me on this occasion, and all I purpose is to discuss, however briefly, the question what shall we do? The county of Rensselaer has got about 2,500 persons in the armies of the Union – in peril at this moment, defending the country. The only question is, whether we shall sacrifice those boys or send them the aid they say they want, and which we know they want. Like others here, I bear the marks of age, and all of us cannot go succor these men - men, many of whom we personally know and not a few of them we love like brothers. But what can we do? We can pay the tax, and I call upon you, Messrs. Supervisors – men of power – to put it on to-morrow and save our 2,500 boys. And our country will raise a regiment here, if we put our hands in our pockets. Vermont has just raised a regiment under the President's last call. God works by means and so does Vermont. The boys who go from Vermont receive \$20 per month. Let us be equally liberal and we shall and deserve as much honor as Vermont has. In the land of "fanatics" - thank God I was born in the land of "fanatics" - in Massachusetts, many of the towns offer \$75 bounty. Why, over there among those "fanatics" where they meet in prayer meetings or churches, the young men are invited to enlist the same as sinners are invited to come forward and be prayed for. Hadn't we better get "fanatical" and do the same thing? To get up a regiment and pay \$30 per man will not take \$40,000. We have property in the county of Rensselaer of \$14,000,000 – more than all Massachusetts had in the Revolution. To raise a regiment will not take more than a dollar on a thousand. - Can't we afford it? How much has Rensselaer county suffered thus far in the war? Some branches of business have suffered, but as a whole, we have not felt the war at all. Generally speaking, the year now closing has been the most prosperous year the county has ever experienced.

Men we must have. If \$25 bounty won't do, make it \$50; and if \$50 won't do, make it \$75; and if \$75 won't do, make it \$100. The city of Baltimore has offered a hundred to all who shall volunteer in a certain time, and have we not as much patriotism as Baltimore? The people have just become awake to the fact that we are engaged in a war. They have been afraid of hurting the South, but the people are now in earnest, and even "fanatics" are looked upon with a little more toleration. We have now got an army of 550,000 men as good men as there ever was in the world, and if Johnny Bull should march his whole European army into

this State, we have troops enough if we bring them home, to drive John Bull into the ocean. In addition to the bounty offered by the State and County of a hundred dollars, the general government has provided for the payment of another hundred dollars. I have been in the army, and a better-clothed and fed body of men I have never seen, and with the Government bounty we are now prepared to offer volunteers two hundred dollars.

#### MR. C. R. INGALL'S REMARKS.

Mr. Chairman: - After the able addresses to which we have listened, I shall not presume to inflict upon you anything like a speech. The time for speeches is past. It is now time for action – for determined, energetic action. The war has been begun and it must be ended. It may require treasures of blood – it may require treasures of money. I believe whatever is demanded the American people are prepared to render upon the altar of their country. We are engaged in a war, not of party, but of principle. We are not discussing what shall be the flag of our country; – we are to-day discussing what shall be the Constitution under which we shall live; and it is for this alone that we are now assembled upon this occasion. While we delay in volunteering, our country may be lost. We shall find England ready to take advantage of our misfortunes. She claims that the commerce of the world is interfered with. What, England opposed to slavery? Honest England enslaving India, and forcing China to receive opium from the cannon's mouth! It is our duty in this crisis to march up like men – like American citizens, and pour out on the altar of our country whatever may be required to carry on the war. The war cannot be sustained unless our army is reinforced. Do justly by them, and they are ready to do their duty. In conclusion, I say go and do your duty as men and patriots, and by one glorious effort the Republic will be united, the Union restored, and the flag of your country will wave over a peaceful nation, and never again will we hear of foreign intervention, or domestic rebellion.

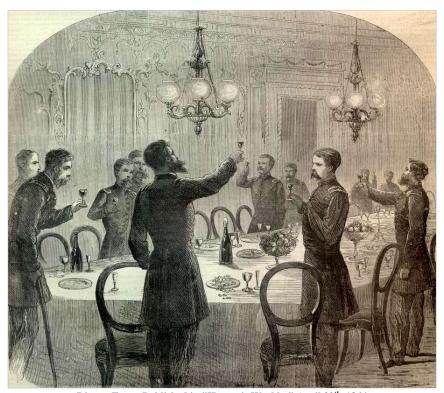
#### MR. McMANUS' REMARKS.

#### Ald. Thos. McManus spoke as follows: –

Mr. Chairman and Fellow Citizens: - The object for which we are assembled here to-night I presume you are already in possession of. What is required of you and of each of us we all understand. I have a better opinion than to think that money is alone required in this crisis. What we want is patriotism. If there is no patriotism in the people, if there is no love of country in the people, money is of no avail. The war with the South is a contest, one of the most extraordinary in the history of the world. It is not one waged for conquest or spoil, but it is waged for the preservation of the Union, for the preservation of the Constitution as he has been transmitted to us. A great deal has been said of the Army of the Potomac. But that has not been in the past history of the world. A contest of such a character as that army has undergone in the seven days' fighting, unless it be the fight between Napoleon and the Archduke, Charles of Austria. Gentlemen have talked about intervention; I have no fear of it. It would be one of the greatest aids that we could have to our cause. It would raise the patriotism of our people. Let it come from England or France, or both of them together. - But I hope that the patriotism of our country will be aroused in the hour of its emergency to enforce the constitution as it was and the laws as they should be.

- On the conclusion of Mr. McManus' address, this meeting adjourned.

[Note: A color version of the monochrome illustration found in this newspaper article has been substituted for the original, from a letter dated 1861 in the collection of Hamilton College Library, Clinton, N.Y.]



Dinner Toast, Published in "Harper's Weekly," April 30th, 1864

## The Troy Paily Times.

SEPTEMBER 22, 1862.

#### **DESIGNATION OF COMPANIES.** – On Saturday last,

several consolidations were effected by the War Committee among the skeleton companies that were in process of organization for the One Hundred and Sixtyninth Regiment. Each company received its letter, and the full complement of officers was assigned to each organization. The following is a list of the companies in their order, and the officers from Rensselaer county:

- Co. A. Captain, Colvin; First Lieutenant, Parmenter; Second Lieutenant, Smith.
- Co. B. Captain, Wood; First Lieutenant, Benson; Second Lieutenant, Holmes.
- Co. C. Captain, Allen; First Lieutenant, Tarbell; Second Lieutenant, Morey.
- Co. D. Captain, Coleman, (Washington Co.)
- Co. E. Captain, Wright, (Washington Co.)
- Co. F. Captain, Vaughn, (Washington Co.)

Co. G. - Captain, McCoun; First Lieutenant, Gager; Second Lieutenant. Eaton.

Co. H. – Captain, Wickes; First Lieutenant, Hartshorn; Second Lieutenant, Lyon.

Co. I. - Captain, Murnane; First Lieutenant, Snyder; Second Lieutenant, Cornelius.

Co. K. – Captain, Ferguson; First Lieutenant, Cary; Second Lieutenant, Smith.

# The Troy Daily Whig.

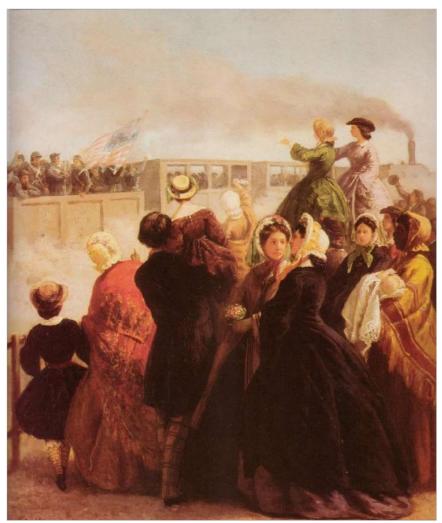
SEPTEMBER 26, 1862.

#### P DEPARTURE OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH REGIMENT -

A SAD ACCIDENT. – The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment, Col. Buel, which has been organized and quartered at Camp Corcoran, since the departure of the One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Regiment, departed for the seat of war a few minutes after six o'clock last evening, via the Hudson River Railroad. The announcement that the regiment would leave at five o'clock, of course attracted an immense crowd of persons to the camp. The friends and relatives of the soldiers were permitted to enter the camp ground up to about five o'clock, at which hour all outsiders were ordered to leave, so as to afford the officers and men an opportunity for preparing to move. – Each man was provided with five days' rations, previous to closing camp, which made the knapsacks rather cumbersome.

- It was intended to have religious services at the camp previous to leaving, but the shortness of the time did not permit it. Rev. Dr. Kennedy, together with several members of the Young Men's Christian Association, were present, but no exercises took place.
- The officers were busily engaged all day in hunting up stragglers, and bringing them to camp, but after all the efforts, a great many "stray lambs" remained behind. Lieut. Gager,\* and a number of Sergeants and Corporals, were detailed to remain behind, to forward all stragglers and deserters to the regiment.
- At a quarter past six, everything being in readiness, the gates were thrown open, and the various companies bid adieu to Camp Corcoran. Col. Buel, with the staff and line officers of the regiment, were present, and conducted the march from the camp to the cars. As each company appeared, every soldier and officer was beset with friends, all anxious to bid a last farewell. As upon similar occasions, scenes of a painful nature were to be witnessed along the entire march to the cars. The crowd was immense; the road, from River street up Oakwood Avenue to the track being lined with people, the majority of whom were females.

A train of nineteen cars had been provided for the transportation of the regiment, which afforded ample accommodation for all. The train commenced moving a little before seven o'clock, amid the cheers of the crowd,



Civilians Bid Farewell to a Trainload of Infantry Bound for the Front by G. Grato (1864) Collection of N. S. Meyer, Inc.

which had now gathered around the cars. Many were the sad "good-byes" and hearty "God bless you," uttered at parting.

- The regiment is peculiarly fortunate in the selection of field officers, all, with one exception, having seen service before, and well-fitted by experience to discharge the duties of their respective positions. The regiment will arrive at New York early this morning, and at once proceed to Washington.
- It is to be regretted, yet it is useless to conceal it, that a bad feeling, bordering on mutiny, prevailed among a large portion of men previous to leaving Camp Corcoran. Indeed, it was at one time feared that serious trouble would arise, owing to a feeling of dissatisfaction which prevailed among several of the companies in regard to non-payment of bounty, imperfect pay-rolls, &c. But Col. Buel, by his presence and conduct, arrested the storm, and with the exception of a few refractory members, who were quickly cared for, no exhibition of ill feeling was manifested. In the Union Depot, and at the various cross streets, crowds had collected, and the soldiers were enthusiastically cheered.

#### SAD ACCIDENT - A SOLDIER KILLED.

An accident, resulting in the almost instant death of a soldier named Anthony Tredo,\*\* a resident of the Nail Factory, and a member of Captain Murnane's company, occurred as the train was nearing the Union Depot. By some it is stated that Tredo, having missed the train at starting, waited in front of the ruins of the Sixth St. Presbyterian Church, and there attempted to jump on-board the cars. It is supposed he was knocked down by the concussion, and falling backwards, sustained serious injuries. In this position he was found by Mr. John Nixon, who removed him a short distance, while he proceeded for his truck to convey the injured man to a place of safety. Although alive when first discovered, he expired before Nixon returned. His body was conveyed to the Station house, where Coroner Hall commenced an inquest, which was finally adjourned until this evening.

– The deceased was about forty-five years of age, and is said to have borne an excellent character. – He was employed for seven or eight years in Winslow's iron works, and was highly esteemed by all who knew him. His son is also a member of the regiment, but of course has no knowledge of the death of his father. He leaves a large family, who reside at the Nail Factory.

[Notes: \*1st Lieut. George H. Gager, Co. G. \*\*Priv. Anthony Tredo, Co. I.]

## THE NEW YORK EVENING EXPRESS.

NEW YORK, N.Y., SEPTEMBER 26, 1862.

Arrival of the 169<sup>th</sup> Regiment, N. Y. Volunteers. – The 169<sup>th</sup> Regiment, N. Y. V., arrived at the Park Barracks, from Troy, at 6 o'clock this morning. This corps were recruited in Rensselaer and Washington counties, and are up to the minimum standard. The men are mostly native Americans, very few foreigners being among them, and are healthful and vigorous looking. The principal officers are as follows

Colonel – Hon. Clarence Buel, of Troy.

Lieut.-Col – John McConihe, Troy.

Major – Alonzo Alden, Troy.

Adjutant – Wm. Kisselburgh, Troy.

Quartermaster - Sidney M. Kinney, Melville.

Chaplain – Rev. Mr. Eaton.

Surgeons – Dr. John Knowlson, of Sand Lake, Dr. Skinner, and Dr. Reynolds.

Captains J. A. Colvin, Nathaniel Wood, J. H. Allen, Warren B. Coleman, L. M. Wright, Augustus D. Vaughn, J. T. McCoun, W. H. Wickes, Michael Murnane, and Daniel Ferguson.

Col. Buel was formerly a Captain in the Harris Cavalry, and the Lieutenant Colonel a Captain in the First Neb-



The Park and City Hall, N.Y. Collection of the New York Public Library, New York, N.Y.

raska Regiment, participated in the Western Campaign, and was wounded at the battle of Shiloh.

The men are without arms, and some have not received the whole of the state bounty. Arms will be supplied, and the bounty paid, however, before the regiment leaves for Washington. They have had six weeks drilling in camp.

## The Troy Paily Times.

OCTOBER 9, 1862.

#### From the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth.

Correspondence of the Troy Daily Times.

CAMP VAN VECHTEN, New Dorp, S. I., Oct. 7, 1862.

Dear Times: The "clouds which lowered upon our house" for so long a time, have at last been dispelled by the bright sunshine of the mustering officer's glowing countenance, and minus the deficiency in the minimum number, we have been mustered into the United States service, as a regiment. This was not done, however, without some opposition on the part of one or two companies, and from



Map of Richmond County, Staten Island, N.Y. Published by L. E. Preston & Co.

The location of Camp Van Vechten is indicated by the blue dot.

squads of men in all of the various companies, with the exception of those commanded by Capts. Allen, McCoun, and Wickes. The companies commanded by Capts. Colvin and Croff, it will be recollected, were mustered in at Troy, and were not required to go through the ceremony again. The companies being drawn up in line, open column, the mustering officer passed down the line, and after being saluted by Co. A, Capt. Colvin, (a splendid organization, and commanded

by a very prompt and efficient officer,) he passed down to Co. F, Capt. Vaughn, one of the Washington county companies. The men of this command, with a single exception, a little drummer boy, named Overocker, from Troy, refused to muster, on the ground that the town of Granville had not paid them their bounty (\$200) as per agreement. The company consequently was placed under arrest. disarmed, and sent to its quarters. The next company, (D,) Capt. Coleman, (Washington county) mustered in without objection. Six men from Co. I, Capt. Murnane, refused to muster, and were arrested – the remainder stepped forward like men and took the oath. Co. C, Capt. Allen, came out with ninety men, every one of whom took the oath, without reluctance or hesitation. Co. H, Capt. Wickes, exhibited equal patriotism, as did Co. G, Capt. McCoun. Some ten or twelve men from Co. K, Capt. Ferguson, much to the surprise and chagrin of Capt. F., a very estimable gentleman, refused to muster, and, like the rest of the malcontents, were placed under arrest. Co. B, Capt. Wood, at first refused to muster, but upon stating the cause of their complaint to the mustering officer, such explanations were made as satisfied the men, and they mustered in with great good feeling.

A heavy guard was stationed around the quarters of those who refused to muster, and after an hour or two of close confinement, signs of relenting began to develop themselves among some of the men, and it was apparent that by morning all would be willing to muster into the service. The "change of heart" came sooner than was expected; for before the shades of night had fully set in, word was sent to the Colonel's quarters that the refractory members of the regiment had repented of their rashness and would make all amends by immediate muster. Accordingly, they were all released, and this morning, under charge of Major Alden, the entire party, including Co. F, went up to New York, and I suppose by this time are constituted soldiers of the United States.

About 700 men have thus far been mustered into the service – not enough as yet to give Col. Buel a commission. Lieut.-Col. McConihe is consequently in command of the regiment, and it is possible will remain so for some time. Had the regiment remained in Troy another week, all of our subsequent troubles and difficulties would have been prevented, and we should, by this time, have been *en route* for the seat of war in good shape and with a full organization. It is possible we may get off this week, though of this I am not certain.

I am reminded of the services of one of the officers of this command – Lieut. Tarbell, of Co. C, – whose labors have been constant and arduous since we have been in camp. At first much difficulty was experienced in the commissariat – the contractor evidently supposing that Uncle Sam's soldiers were fine birds to pluck, and that he was a committee of one specially raised to provide poor and scanty rations. Lieut. Tarbell was detailed to superintend this department of the service, and so zealous and efficient has he been in the discharge of his duties, that the best feeling has developed itself among the men, and the food has steadily grown better until now it is "fit for a prince." I mention this, in view of the fact that it has been reported at his home that he had been dismissed from the service. On the contrary, he is one of our very best officers.

Yours, &c., W. E. K.

## The Troy Paily Times.

NOVEMBER 5, 1862.

From the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth.

CAMP ABERCROMBIE, NEAR CHAIN BRIDGE, October 30, 1862.

Although I sit down to continue my semi-occasional correspondence from the camp of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth, still upon reflection I find very little to write about, for thus far we have seen none of the perils and dangers of the battle-field, and few if any of the hardships of a soldier's life. Our campaign as yet has been innocent of that excitement so necessary to the successful compilation of a letter to the *Times*, such as my good friends, the editors, would care to print, and such as the majority of readers would care to see. But as there may be a few among those at home who love to think of our little command, and look with eager interest for the appearance of any intelligence from it, I sit down, with mighty effort to fulfill my self-imposed task. Away, horrid *ennui* – inevitable companion of the camp – while I a tale narrate as is a tale.

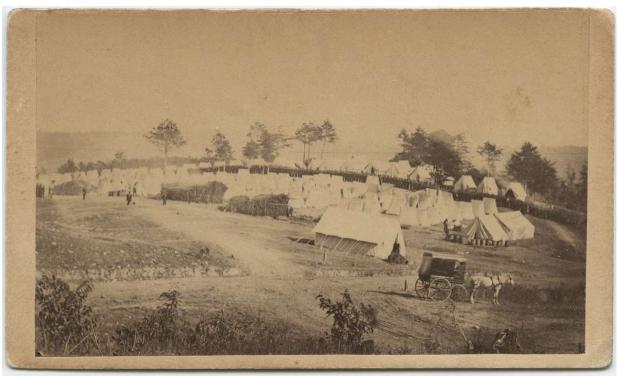
Since our arrival at Camp Abercrombie, a bleak hillside, whereon old Æolus doth often "blow his horn" in strange and mighty frenzy, regardless of the dust he raises, our regiment, by order of Gen. Abercrombie, has been engaged in the pleasant exercise of doing fatigue duty. Perhaps some unmilitary readers may not exactly know the meaning of the term, and may suppose it has relation to a general "lying around loose" of the soldiers when not engaged in the more bloody work of war. Be sure our boys look at it in quite a different light. Fatigue duty is to sling an axe, or a pick, or a shovel, over one's back, and go out in the woods, and fell the sturdy trees of the forest, or into the rifle-pit, and dig and delve with all your might. That's fatigue duty, and very fatiguing it is, too. Strange terms, we military gentlemen, give to everything we do. The immediate object of all this work is to connect Forts Ethan Allen and Marcy, by means of rifle-pits, with one another, thus enabling reënforcements to be sent from one fort to the other under cover from the enemy's fire, in case of an attack.

Last week, four of the companies, C, (Capt. Allen,) D, (Capt. Coleman,) F, (Capt. Vaughn,) and I, (Capt. Murnane,) under Lieut.-Col. McConihe, went on picket duty on the line of the Leesburg turnpike. The duty was novel to our boys, and the companies turned out with very full ranks, every man being anxious to accompany the expedition. They remained out two days, and returned to camp very highly pleased with their initiation into the mysteries of the picket. A member of Capt. Allen's company, Cyrenus Newcomb, a refugee from Virginia, driven away over a year ago for his undying love of the Union, who accompanied the picket guard, passed by his vacant domicile, and stopped for a moment to look at its old familiar face. What emotions were his as he looked upon his desolate home, I will not attempt to portray. The headquarters of the picket were at the house of a family named Hoag, former residents of Rensselaer county, with whom our officers soon succeeded in scraping a very agreeable acquaintance.

Corporal William H. Shinners, of Co. B, Capt. Wood, had a very narrow escape from instant death, day before yesterday. He was returning from fatigue duty with his company, and was passing in the vicinity of Fort Ethan Allen, when a soldier belonging to the fort fired his musket at a rabbit in line with the men. The ball struck the ground, and ricocheting, hit Corporal S. directly upon the cheek bone. The ball fortunately glanced from the cheek, doing just the slightest possible injury to Shinner's shining features. The careless soldier was at once arrested.

Rabbits and partridges abound here. The woods and undergrowth are full of them, and between the hours of duty many of the soldiers go out in quest of game, wherewith to enrich the plainer repast supplied by Uncle Sam.

My very excellent friend, Major Alden, recently had a hair-breadth escape, – one so very narrow and fortunate as to entitle it to narration. – To begin at the beginning, it is necessary to state that when Major A. left the Thirtieth [N. Y.] Regiment on sick leave, he quartered his horse at a livery stable in Washington,



169<sup>th</sup> N. Y. S. V. at Camp Abercrombie, Va. (Autumn 1862) Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Ind.

The regiment is shown lined up for inspection behind the first group of tents.

the owner of which, unknown to him, was a violent secessionist. In course of time, the stable keeper was arrested as a disloyal person, sent to Fort Lafayette, and his property confiscated, among the rest the gallant Major's horse, which was sold by Government. When the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment reached the federal capital, Major A. began a search for his animal, and like Japhet in quest of his parent on his father's side, was unable to find him. At last, he learned the shocking truth, and being a man unused to the swearing mood, he pocketed, not the cash for his horse, but the misfortune, and proceeded to buy a brand new war steed. He found one admirably suited to his purpose - a beautiful bay - and bought him. Well, of course, after having owned him two or three days, and feeling a very natural pride in having the most imposing horse in the regiment, he invited the writer to an equestrian trip over the surrounding country. Steeds were compared and mounted, and at break-neck rate of speed the two riders went uphill and downhill, until a fork in the road, with a bridge in the angle, was reached. Here, the Major's horse shied, and upon reining him in, both rider and horse were precipitated over the bridge and down to the bed of the stream, a distance of ten feet or more. How either escaped, is more than I can determine, for the horse was upon a full run, and went over the precipice in a most startling manner. I expected to find the Major a lifeless corpse, but upon calling out to him, he replied that he was not hurt, and soon presented himself, somewhat the worse for wear, but right side up nevertheless. The horse was considerably injured, but is now doing well. {Dr. Burton did *not* attend him.}

The men composing the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth are behaving splendidly, and do their duty with zeal and alacrity. Since our arrival in Virginia, everything connected with the discipline, good order and efficiency of the soldiers has been conducted in the best possible manner, and considering the inexperience of the men and of some of the officers, the difficulty attending the transition of experience from the life of a citizen to that of a soldier, I certainly must express my

admiration of the men for the manner in which they discharge their duty in camp. There has not been a single case of drunkenness in the regiment since it first pitched its tent upon the sacred soil. To-morrow the regiment will be mustered for pay, and it is hoped the paymaster will give us an early call. He will meet an affectionate reception.

Gen. Abercrombie is so highly pleased with the behavior of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth, that he has declared his intention of having it assigned permanently to his command. It is now simply an auxiliary regiment, and liable to be sent away at any moment. The General's headquarters are directly opposite our camp, and from his window I suppose he looks down with a forgiving eye upon our many imperfections and *faux pas* in the act of becoming soldiers, worthy of bearing aloft the great cause of the human race. A fine band is, as I write, serenading the General, and its sweet strains awaken many joyous recollections.

The nights are very cold here and ice on one or two mornings has been found to the thickness of an inch or more. W. E. K.

# The Troy Daily Times.

DECEMBER 4, 1862.

#### From the One Hundred and Sixty-Ninth.

Correspondence of the Troy Daily Times.

CAMP ABERCROMBIE, Nov. 29.

Supposing that a simple statement of affairs as they present themselves to the view of your friend, of the situation of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment as it exists to-day, would not be amiss in the columns of your estimable paper, and possibly might be looked at by hundreds of your readers, and especially by those that have friends in the regiment, and being myself off duty to-day, I thought I would devote a few moments for this purpose. The question has been asked and repeated by the friends of those in camp here, where is Camp Abercrombie? We have never seen it laid down on any map. When they are told that it lies about half a mile from Fort Ethan Allen, they are still in the dark. But to make it all plain, so that if perchance any of our friends should ever take it into their heads or hearts to come and see us, they could not be mistaken in the way. You can leave Willard's Hotel, and, if you have plenty of money, step into a coach, and they will take you through Pennsylvania avenue, past the White House, Georgetown, on to the stone road leading to Harper's Ferry; but if you want to go in a more economical manner, instead of taking the coach, you step into a street car, which will take you almost through Georgetown to the Long bridge, then you can find a conveyance on the Chesapeake and Ohio canal in the shape of a small boat drawn by a single horse, which, on the payment of ten cents, will convey you to the Chain bridge, (a long wooden structure with never a chain about it.) This bridge is about seven miles from the Capitol in Washington. These Virginia miles are awful long; if you don't believe it you just come and walk six of them and return in one of these short afternoons, as I have done, and I presume you will think as I do. After reaching the bridge, you cross it and immediately commence climbing a hill, and if you don't get stuck in the mud the first quarter of a mile, you will come to a road that branches off to the south, and will be assured of your

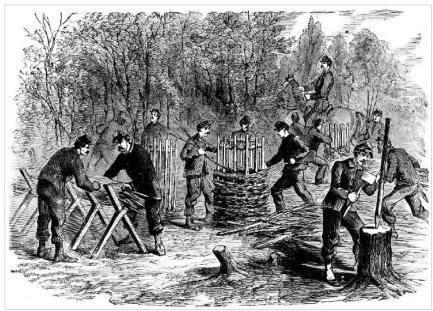


High battery at the Chain Bridge (ca. 1861-'64) Arthur Lumley (ca 1837-1912) Collection of the New York Public Library, New York, N.Y.

way by seeing a wreath of evergreens over the entrance to the road, with a smaller wreath hanging in the centre of the large one, and a sign in it, with the words "Fort Ethan Allen" on it. From there, you go up, up, and up again, until nearing the top on the North side, when you will behold the Quartermaster's department of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment. Close by it you will find tents of Co. B, and, to the northeast of them, the remaining tents of the companies comprising the regiment. By the time you get to your friend's tent, you will be on the top of as bleak a hill as you would wish to be on.

I heard Merriam blowing outside of my tent, and stepped out to see what was the matter. I found him in conversation with Capt. Allen, of Co. C, who is for the day Captain commanding the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment, by reason of the Colonel being off on court-martial – of which he is President. The Lieutenant-Colonel is in Washington, suffering with his arm since the operation on it; the Major is on court-martial; the Adjutant with his wife in Washington, and Capts. Colvin and Wood sick or indisposed. What seemed to make Merriam so very joyous was the fact that he was the Private Secretary to so big a commanding officer. The left wing of the regiment are out on fatigue duty to-day, and are putting on the finishing strokes to Fort Marcy. Co. H took up the basket-making business, as they use baskets, without top or bottom, to fill with dirt and place them in the embrasures for the cannon.<sup>2</sup> This fatigue business is a great bore to the regiment, and I shall be glad when they have some other business to do. We, in connection with two other regiments, have made a road from Fort Ethan Allen to Fort Marcy, so that reënforcements can be furnished from either fort at any time without being discovered by an enemy, provided they were within a hundred rods of it. There is quite a number on the sick list just now – arising from colds mostly. With respects, I remain your friend.

[Notes: <sup>1</sup>Fort Ethan Allen was part of the "ring of forts" that comprised the Union Army's "Defenses of Washington" during the Civil War. The fort was a bastioned earthwork built by the Union Army in September 1861 to command the approach



Captain Muller's Battery, Seventy-Seventh Penna. Reg't., Making Fascines and Gabions for Breastworks Published in "The Soldier In Our Civil War, Vol. I" by Frank Leslie (1890)

to Chain Bridge. The Fort had a perimeter of 736 yards, with emplacements for 39 guns. Several embankments still remain, including the south face, less the west bastion; an interior bombproof shelter; the magazine and guardhouse near the north face; and a part of the east face. Fort Ethan Allen has the most extensive remaining features of any of the Civil War forts left in Arlington, and is a designated Arlington County Historic District. <sup>2</sup>The baskets mentioned were gabions, or rough cylindrical wicker baskets open at both ends and employed as revetment material to retain the soil of earthwork slopes.]

# The Troy Paily Times.

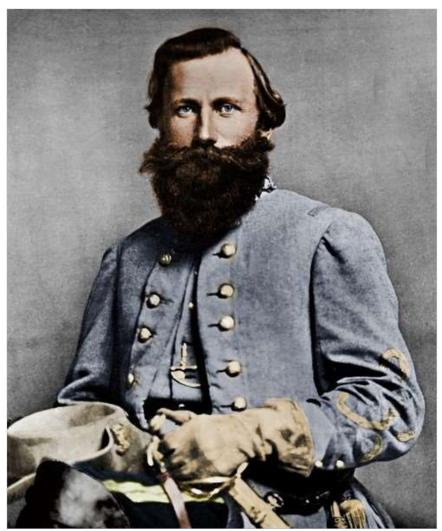
JANUARY 3, 1863.

#### From the One Hundred and Sixty-Ninth.

Correspondence of the Troy Daily Times.

CAMP ABERCROMBIE, Dec. 30.

The raid by Stuart's cavalry within our lines, and of which you have doubtless been apprised by telegraph, created no little excitement at this point, and the troops in the vicinity of Chain Bridge have been anxiously awaiting an attack from these bold and dashing marauders for two days past. On Sunday night at 11 o'clock, an orderly from Gen. Abercrombie's headquarters came into camp with dispatches from the General informing Col. Buel that the enemy were at Burke Station, a point twelve miles from here, and ordering the brigade commanded by Col. Buel under arms. In accordance with this order, the Fourth New York Artillery, One Hundred and Eighteenth, One Hundred and Fifty-second, and One



Confederate Maj.-Gen. James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart, commanding cavalry division, Army of Northern Virginia

Hundred and Sixty-ninth New York Regiments were aroused from their slumbers, and directed to occupy the rifle-pits and Forts Ethan Allen and Marcy with all possible despatch. The regiments turned out rapidly and soon occupied their appropriate stations to resist an attack that might be made. Gen. Abercrombie with another brigade started in pursuit of the rebels, but failed to come up with them in time to check their audacious advance. Col. Buel's brigade remained under arms until 7 A.M. Monday, when the troops were sent to their quarters with instructions to be ready to fall in line at a moment's notice. Various rumors, of the whereabouts of Stuart and of the numbers and character of the forces with him, reached us during the day, but no further alarm occurred until Monday night about 6 o'clock, when an old farmer from Lewinsville came within our lines, driving his cattle before him, to save them, as he said, from falling into the hands of the rebels, with whom our forces had had a fight a short distance beyond his residence. This was a startling bit of news, and possibly indicated an approach upon this point by way of the Leesburg turnpike. The brigade was at once placed under arms, and held so while Col. Buel and Capt. Vaughn<sup>1</sup> of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth, rode up in the direction of Lewinsville to ascertain more particularly the whereabouts of the enemy. They returned in about two hours, and reported the rebels retiring, when the regiments were for a second time dismissed.

To-day (Tuesday) everything is quiet at this point, and the wonted monotony of camp life has been resumed.

A fatal accident occurred in the One Hundred and Eighteenth on Sunday night while the men were turning out, to private John Hughes, of Co. E.<sup>2</sup> A careless companion accidentally discharged his gun in the ranks, the contents of which struck Hughes in the breast and passed entirely through his body. He lived only a few hours. He was from Warren county, and was regarded as one of the best soldiers in the regiment.

Col. Buel's command is composed, as I have said, of the Fourth New York Artillery, Lieut.-Col. Hall, the One Hundred and Eighteenth New York, Lieut.-Col. O. Keese, (a fine officer and gentleman, well-known in Northern New York,) the One Hundred and Fifty-second, Col. Leonard Boyer, and the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth New York, now commanded by Major Alonzo Alden. The artillery is an old organization, having been out since the commencement of the war, and the other regiments, although among the recent levies, are as fine bodies of soldiery as can be seen anywhere in the vicinity of Washington. The brigade was reviewed last Tuesday by Gen. Abercrombie at Hall's Hill, and although it was the first time the regiments had been together, they marched with the steadiness of veterans, and for their fine appearance were highly complimented by the reviewing officer. Col. Buel assumed command of the brigade on that day for the first time.

Capts. John F. Croff (Co. E) and Michael Murnane, (Co. I,) together with Lieuts. G. H. Gager, (G,)<sup>3</sup> R. O'Connor (D)<sup>4</sup> and Michael Holmes, (B,) have resigned their positions in the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth. Cause, as stated by one of the resigning officers, "an unconquerable unwillingness" to appear before the examining board.

Lieut. Parmenter, of Co. A,<sup>5</sup> is acting Adjutant of the regiment – the Adjutant officiating as Acting Adjutant-General of the brigade. Surgeon Knowlson has been appointed chief medical officer of the brigade.

Lieut.-Col. McConihe is still under charge of the surgeon at Washington, and expects soon to visit Troy on a brief furlough. His arm is rapidly improving.

Two deaths have recently occurred on the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth. Albert Keach, of Co. F,<sup>6</sup> died about ten days since, and on Saturday last John Riley, of Co. D,<sup>7</sup> after an illness of only twelve hours, followed him to a soldier's grave. Both men were from Washington county.

A deep and well-laid scheme to incite mutiny in the regiment, or at least among those disaffected by the exactions of the service, has just been discovered through the vigilance of Major Alden, and the originator of it, private Halsey Nichols, of Co. E,<sup>8</sup> has been arrested and is now in the guard-house, with a fair prospect of saving to serve the government for the term of his enlistment in some other capacity than that of a soldier. Nichols placed himself in communication with a Washington sharper or claim agent, and through him expected to work miracles in the way of breaking up the regiment. He is a very sharp and dangerous man, and when confronted with the witnesses before the Major, questioned them with all the skill of a first-class lawyer.

In a few evenings, it is expected the new brass band of the regiment will have made such progress as to enable it to appear on dress parade. The men composing it were taken from the ranks, and although they have been in practice but a few days, they play with considerable proficiency. A large building, designed for band practice, and christened the "Academy of Music," is being put up near the camp.

Christmas passed off with much *éclat*. The morning's exercises consisted of hurdle, sack and foot racing, wrestling, picking up stones, climbing a greased pole, catching a greased pig, and tumbling by private Vannorder, of Co. B. The following soldiers won the prizes: the hurdle race, B. J. Walker, Co. G;<sup>10</sup> sack race, Barney Dean, Co. E;<sup>11</sup> foot race, Herman Martenett, Co. C;<sup>12</sup> picking up fifty stones, laid three feet apart, and piling them on a heap at one end of the row,

Benjamin F. Bentley, Co. H.<sup>13</sup> He ran the whole distance, two miles and an eighth, picking the stones, in thirteen minutes and a quarter. B. F. Bennett, of Co. E,<sup>14</sup> was declared the best regimental wrestler, although a private from the artillery subsequently "threw" everybody the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth could present. In the evening, Col. Buel gave the officers a sumptuous dinner, at which Gen. Garfield was an invited guest, and made an eloquent speech.<sup>15</sup> The bill of fare on the occasion was such as would have done no discredit to the Troy House *cuisine*. "Casey" Witbeck, an old Trojan caterer, superintended the "spread." The mock dress parade was of course a feature of the day. Private Lavine, of Co. I,<sup>16</sup> acted as Colonel on the occasion, and Very Private Secretary Gulielimus Henricus Hellicarnacious Merriam officiated as Adjutant.<sup>17</sup> His orders as promulgated before the regiment were of a stunningly humorous character, entirely revolutionizing the whole system of military as laid down in the books, and they excited a stupendous smile among his auditors. I enclose, for the amusement of your readers, order No. 1000, read by the Adjutant here:

General Order No. 1000. – This regiment will be mustered for pay, without the slightest probability of its ever being paid, on Monday, July 1, 1864. The first call will be sounded fifteen minutes previous to the last similar call of this character, when it is expected that every member of the command, including Colonels, Majors, Colonels on sick leave, Adjutants, cooks, teamsters, hospital patients, and all other gorillas, will appear on the Parade Ground, with empty pocketbooks, well-dusted, and stretched to their most elaborate tension, for the purpose of testing their capacity to hold the enormous amount of Government greenbacks to be vouchsafed, to the gallant soldiers of this noble command for the first time, on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 1864. The distinguished Colonel commanding desires to express the hope that good order will continue to be maintained throughout the trying ordeal, and that the self-sacrificing soldiers will not tamper with the national astonishment by refusing to receive their pay, so munificent and so timely.

Christmas was indeed a "merry" one for the soldiers of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth, and the only regretful circumstance of the day was the non-arrival of a portion of the articles ordered by the officers for the dinner of the men.

A barrel of hospital stores, from a few ladies of Troy, reached here Christmas morning. The delicacies contained in it for the use of the sick were most welcome.

W. E. K.

[Notes: ¹Capt. Augustus D. Vaughn, Co. F. ²There is no soldier listed in the roster of the 118th N.Y.V. named John Hughes; it was probably Private James Hughes, Co. D. ³1st Lieut. George H. Gager, Co. G. ⁴1st Lieut. Robert O'Connor, Co. D. ⁵1st Lieut. Jerome B. Parmenter, Co. A. ⁶Priv. Albert Keach, Co. F. ⁶Priv. John Riley, Jr., Co. D. ⁶Priv. Halsey J. Nichols, Co. E. ⁶Priv. James Vannorder, Co. B. ¹⁰Priv. Benjamin G. Walker, Co. G. ¹¹Musician Barney Dean, Co. E. ¹²Priv. Herman L. Martenett, Co. C. ¹³Priv. Benjamin F. Bentley, Co. H. ¹⁴Serg't. Benjamin F. Bennett, Co. E. ¹⁵Brig.-Gen. James A. Garfield. ¹⁶Priv. Adolphus Lavine, Co. I. ¹¬Priv. William H. Merriam, Co. I.]

## The Troy Paily Times.

APRIL 16, 1863.

From the One Hundred and Sixty-Ninth.

Correspondence of the Troy Daily Times.



Capitol, Washington, D.C., East Front, statue of George Washington in the foreground (July 11, 1863)

Washington, April 13, 1863.

The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth has at last been ordered to "take the field," and every energy is being strained by the officers and men composing the same to enable it to "take" it. It is to be hoped some great good to the cause will result from an order so sudden and unexpected, and that besides "taking the field" we may also be the humble instruments of "taking" a few rebel prisoners and of doing sundry other things too numerous to mention. On Sunday morning at 4 o'clock, an orderly came to our headquarters, and no sooner did I hear the jangling of his sword-scabbard upon the pavement, and his loud rap upon my "chamber door," than I knew something was up, and promiscuously tumbled out of bed to learn the cause of this untimely visit. Oh, these night orderlies always bring news to move; and this night visitation, taken in connection with the fact that Paymaster Burt paid the regiment off on Saturday, was to my mind "confirmation strong as proof of holy writ" that fond hopes of a long sojourn in our present agreeable quarters were doomed to a "blarsted" blasting. A night orderly and the paymaster sent us from Camp Abercrombie; ditto Washington.

We were ordered to be ready to move Monday morning; destination unknown. It is now Monday night, but the order to go has not yet been issued, or at least not received at regimental headquarters. All the other regiments in Washington – the Tenth New Jersey, which has been here nearly a year, the One Hundred and Eighteenth and One Hundred and Fifty-second New York – have also received marching orders; and from rumor I learn a general movement of this whole army corps is in progress. At one time to-day, it was an "even thing," as the sportsmen say, whether the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth moved or not; but toward night, the premonitions grew ominous for departure, and doubtless we shall be off tomorrow. From what point I shall direct my next to you, is beyond the power of all save the "powers that be" to say.

The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth has left, or will leave, an excellent reputation behind it in Washington. The men have behaved with great propriety, and have

discharged their duties in a manner to call for signal commendation. Gen. Martindale, the Military Governor, expresses his deep regrets at its departure, and has been pleased to say that "it was an ornament to the city." The Provost Marshal, Captain Todd, is loud in his praises of it, and expresses great dissatisfaction at the changes the removal of these regiments will create in his department. The guard at the Medical Purveyor's, under command of Lieut. E. R. Smith, of Co. K, was publicly thanked by the officer in charge, and so well has Capt. Allen's Co. (C) discharged its duties at the Commissary Department that the company has been detached from the regiment, and will remain in the city, for the present at least. The dress parades of the regiment have been quite prominent features, and have been witnessed by large concourses of spectators. General Martindale – who as a commander we all greatly regret to leave - visited the parades twice, and complimented them highly. The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth certainly has no occasion to feel any other emotion than that of pride over the record it leaves behind; and when it is considered that so many opportunities and inducements are afforded soldiers in this city to overstep the proprieties of life and the discipline of the services, the friends of the regiment may feel a renewed assurance that in whatever position it may be placed it will always do its duty. The blandishment of this modern Sodom have not been sufficient to tempt it from the path of honor; may we not hope that in more dangerous fields the presence of a valiant foe will not frighten or subdue it?

Since our stay in Washington, many of the officers and men have, through the kindness of Gen. Martindale, been permitted to visit their homes and mingle once more with those whom they hold dear. Applications for leaves of absence are generally formal military documents, stating the length of time desired, and the reason upon which they are based. An officer of our regiment – an M. D. – hit upon a novel way of inditing one of these requests. I copy it for your edification:

Headquarters,  $169^{\text{th}}$  N. Y. S. V. April 2, 1863.

Lieut.-Col. J. McConihe — Sir: I hereby respectfully ask leave of absence for twenty-five days, for the following reasons: 1<sup>st</sup>. Business of importance, which, if longer neglected, will subject me to greater pecuniary losses than I can sustain. 2<sup>d</sup>. I would like exceedingly, after the transaction of the business referred to, to have sufficient time to enable me to make a journey West for the purpose of *getting married*. I am now almost forty years of age — was never married — and although I cannot exhume the happiness buried with the past, yet I trust my honest purpose to improve what is left of this life, in the marital relation, may be taken into favorable consideration.

This unique epistle of course touched a place in the heart of our bachelor Lieutenant-Colonel, and upon being approved by him was forwarded to Gen. Martindale. Here again Mars became Mollie-fied at the marital ambition of our officer, and fixed his martial seal of approval upon the document. The successful applicant at once started for his destination and his bride, supposing of course that Mollie, like Backus, was willin'. Lo, she wasn't, and although my veracity may be questioned by some, yet I here assert that said female, unlike most others of her sex, positively refused her consent to "improve what is left of the future." She said she would remain single until this "cruel war is over!" Wonderful self-denial. I hope she does not expect to out-live Methuselah.

But I must finish packing my trunk, and so bid you farewell till you hear from me again.

W. E. K.



Suffolk, Virginia Published in "Harper's Weekly," May 2<sup>d</sup>, 1863

# The Troy Daily Times.

APRIL 25, 1863.

#### From the One Hundred and Sixty-Ninth.

Correspondence of the Troy Daily Times.

Suffolk, Va., April 17.

The ball has at last opened vigorously, and with entire success to our arms. Night before last an expedition, consisting of six regiments, was sent down the Nansemond river, for the purpose of capturing a rebel battery, which had hemmed in two of our gun-boats, and which offered superior advantages to the rebels to enable them to cross the river and come in rear of the town. It failed, however, from some cause, and last night the attempt was repeated, with only two regiments, the Eighth Connecticut and Eighty-ninth New York, and was most successfully carried out. The infantry crossed the river above the battery, and prepared to storm the rebel entrenchments in the rear, whilst the gunboats shelled them in front. The boats opened vigorously, and so rapidly did they pour the deadly shot and shell upon the heads of the enemy, that it was impossible for them to work the guns, and before they were aware of the presence of troops in the rear of them, our infantry piled over the breastworks upon them, and nothing remained but a complete and unconditional surrender. It was a splendid coup de main, and in conversation with the rebel officers captured in the battery, it was so confessed by them. We took one hundred and thirty-five officers and men prisoners. The officers and men are a very intelligent and gentlemanly set; expressed themselves tired of the war, but said the South was bound to fight until its independence was recognized. They were well-clad, and exhibited pockets-full of green-backs. The men, however, were illy-clad, though they were all well supplied with shoes. About a dozen men were killed and wounded during the capture of the battery.

Our regiment, the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth, was under arms twice yesterday, expecting to go out upon an expedition, but upon the capture of this

battery, the order was countermanded. Private Merriam, for the second time in his illustrious history as a soldier, fell in the line and took a position in the front rank. He says that he intends to lay down his life way up on the very apex of his country's altar.

The enemy's lines are being gradually brought closer and closer to the town, and the bullets from the guns of their sharpshooters have killed and wounded several within our lines. To the front of Foster's brigade, of which command the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth forms a part, the firing has entirely ceased, and the pickets of the opposing forces have grown quite friendly and talkative. To-night the firing from our gunboats is very rapid and constant. The day, however, has passed very quietly.

Yesterday, I witnessed a sight which would have melted the heart of any man. It was a poor negro, wounded in the hand, and carrying in his arms a little child not more than a year old, which had been shot twice, once in the head and once in the leg, who had made his way through the enemy's lines, and had reached our camp, after escaping death at the hands of his "masters" and their sharpshooters. A little boy, five or six years of age, followed his wounded father, but had escaped entirely unharmed. The negro hugged the babe to his bosom with motherly affection, and as he passed by I saw the blood drip from its little head down upon the ground, consecrating by its innocence this cursed soil of the Old Dominion. I wish I could describe the pleased expression of the old negro's face. There was no trace of pain in it from the wound he suffered; but the thought that he had escaped from the hands of his oppressors, and the oppressors of his race, was written in every lineament of his countenance. If ever a darkey's heart beat with joy, it was the long-burdened heart of this poor negro.

W. E. K.

# The Troy Paily Times.

APRIL 28, 1863.

### The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment in Action.

The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth regiment, Col. Buel, took a prominent and honorable part in the reconnaissance in force, near Suffolk, Va., on Friday, and lost one man killed, two soldiers and two officers wounded. Among the latter, we regret to say, was Col. Clarence Buel, the brave and popular commander of the regiment, who was shot in the left hand, which was subsequently amputated. Col. Buel was expected to arrive in Troy at noon to-day, for the purpose of remaining here until his wounds should be healed, but a telegram was received this morning, stating that his physicians would not permit him to leave Washington.

A soldier named E. H. Brock, of Co. H, was killed. M. Falen, of Co. B, Lieut. Hughes, of Co. A, and Corporal Noyes, of Co. H, were wounded. Major Alonzo Alden had a narrow escape. His horse was shot through the neck – the bullet wounding the Major slightly, and tumbling him into the mud in an unceremonious manner.

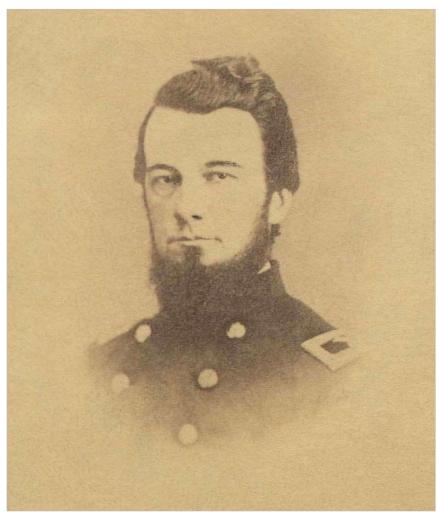
– The reconnaissance was a brilliant success. – Its results were detailed yesterday; and our gallant soldiers have "smelled gunpowder" for the first time under glorious circumstances. The *Tribune* correspondent says:



Brig.-Gen. Michael Corcoran, Corcoran Legion, commanding 1st Division, VII Army Corps

A large force under Gen. Corcoran moved out on the Edenton road, encountering the enemy in his rifle-pits, about a mile out, and, gallantly charging him at the point of the bayonet, drove him a mile or more back on his batteries – some ten or twelve rifled pieces – in a chosen position, from which he delivered a severe and accurate fire. Considering the gallantry of the advance, and the advantage of the enemy's position, our loss was very light. The wonder is, that it was not far greater. I learn that all, officers and men, conducted themselves with the greatest bravery – the infantry charge having been full of vigor and dash. The enemy's loss is unknown, but it must have been considerable. We brought in seven prisoners. The information concerning the enemy's position and intentions gained by this movement, will, I doubt not, more than pay for the loss we experienced. He is undoubtedly very strongly posted not far out, with opportunities to communicate between his various positions, and, I must think, intends to entice us into traps set with his usual craft; but I hope he will not be gratified.

We shall await further details with interest.



Col. Jeremiah C. Drake, 112<sup>th</sup> N.Y., commanding 2<sup>d</sup> Provisional Brigade, Suffolk, Va. Collection of the New York State Military Museum, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

# The Troy Paily Times.

APRIL 29, 1863.

#### From the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth.

Correspondence of the Troy Daily Times.

Suffolk, Va., April 25.

Yesterday, our little regiment had its first fight, and gallantly did it sustain itself. We were in the advance, supporting the Fourth regular battery, Capt. Follett, (brother-in-law of W. C. Buell, of Troy,) and were pushed forward in the face of a most destructive and terrible fire. Federal batteries in rear of us plied their fires over the heads of our men, and Rebel batteries in front of us swept their shot and

shell into our ranks and over our heads, and altogether it was a scene to try the souls of the stoutest and bravest men.

I will briefly detail the events of the day, at the risk of being somewhat stale to most readers, as the telegraph and official dispatches must, ere this reaches you, have been published. An expedition, consisting of about 6,000 infantry, a few squadrons of cavalry, and three or four batteries, under command of Gen. Corcoran, was sent out by Maj.-Gen. Peck, to reconnoitre the enemy on the Eden-ton road. The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth New York formed a part of this force. It was provisionally attached to Col. Drake's brigade, and was by him given the right of the line. "Col. Buel," asked Col. D., "has your regiment ever been under fire?" "No, sir," replied our Colonel. "Have you confidence in your men?" inquired the brigade commander. "Perfect confidence," was the reply, and on we were pushed to the front. After marching about six miles without encountering the enemy, the order, "Double quick, One Hundred and Sixty-ninth," was given, and with a yell our brave but untried boys pushed on, and took up a position in support of the battery above spoken of.

Two divisions, consisting of Cos. G, Capt. McCoun; E, Capt. Tarbell; I, Lieut. Snyder, (Capt. Parmenter being ill in Washington,) and F, Capt. Vaughn, formed on the right of the road, under command of Lieut.-Col. McConihe. The other two divisions, Cos. A, Capt. Colvin; B, Capt. Nat. Wood; K, Capt. Ferguson; H, Capt. Wickes, and a portion of Co. D, under command of Major Alden, supported a section of the battery on the left of the road. An incessant fire was opened upon the woods, in which the Rebels were concealed, and in a short time they were forced back, and the battery supported by Major Alden took up a position in the road, directly in the woods, and immediately in front of a Rebel battery, which swept up the road. Our two divisions crossed this road by the flank, in the midst of a galling fire, and supported the battery at the distance of only sixty yards from the enemy. Col. Buel accompanied this division, and as he was crossing the road, a shell burst over him, one piece of which struck his bridal hand, cutting off one finger, and lodging in the palm, inflicting a severe and very painful wound. He was brought a short distance to the rear, though not out of the range of the enemy's guns, and sunk down quite exhausted and faint. It was my fortune to assist him out of danger, and to hear him complimented in the highest manner by Gen. Corcoran for his bravery and efficiency. Gen. C., after the return of the expedition to camp, sent up to inquire as to the condition of Col. B., and kindly offered him the accommodations of his headquarters. For upwards of an hour our boys sustained the fire of the whole Rebel battery without flinching in the least, or showing any disposition to break their lines. During this time, our battery was completely disabled, having only two men left to work it, and both of them were wounded. The order to retreat was finally given, and the regiment fell back in excellent order and with perfect regularity. As our boys fell out of the woods, the regiments in reserve cheered them, and showed by their admiring looks that the name of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth was already dear in the hearts of all brave men. Major Alden's coolness and courage during the trying ordeal were the theme and admiration of all the men; and although struck by a shell, and knocked off his horse, he still remained with his command, and by words of encouragement and the example he afforded, gave confidence and courage to all.

The guns in rear of the advance battery, supported by Lieut.-Col. McConihe, continued the fire, and covered the retreat; and although it is impossible to tell how seriously the enemy was injured, the fact that he did not follow us up, but ceased his fire altogether, would seem to prove that the reconnaissance did him great harm.

The divisions in charge of Lieut.-Col. McConihe were not pushed out as far as the two others, and sustained only a slight fire. No one was injured in this portion of the regiment, – the casualties being confined to Major Alden's division. I cannot speak in too high terms of praise of the conduct of both officers and men

who supported the advance battery. Every man did his duty, and all stood up in the midst of the greatest danger with the courage and constancy of veterans. It would be idle to discriminate, as well as unjust; but Captains Colvin, Wood, Wickes and Ferguson, their Lieutenants and men, displayed the highest valor and patriotism. All honor to them. The other divisions, no one can doubt, would have shown no less heroism, had they been as actively engaged as were those I have enumerated.

The following is the list of killed and wounded:

Killed – Private E. H. Brock, Co. H, instantly killed.

Wounded – Col. Clarence Buel, severely; Maj. A. Alden, bruised in left thigh; First Lieutenant John H. Hughes, Co. A, struck with shell; Corporal C. H. Noyes, Co. H, contusion of scalp; Private M. Falen, Co. B, wounded in hand; Private T. Fogarty, Co. K, wounded in hand; Private J. Kenelly, Co. K, wounded in arm.

Sergeant Spaulding, of Co. B, had his accoutrements shot completely off of him, and a private from a Connecticut regiment, standing behind Capt. Wood, was blown to pieces by a shell. It is impossible to understand how it was that more of our men were not killed and wounded, except that the fire of the enemy was directed over their heads and fell to the rear of them.

I must not omit to mention that Surgeon Knowlson and Chaplain Eaton were both prominent actors in the fight – the former professionally and the latter as a *curious* spectator. The little grey of the doctor dashed through the thickest of the fight, and many a poor fellow of our own and other regiments has cause to remember the Surgeon with gratitude for his care and attention. Dr. Clark Smith, our new Assistant-Surgeon, was also "thar," and to-day is screaming mad that the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth was not ordered up to charge and capture the Rebel battery.

But where was Private W. H. Merriam? In the ranks, with his gun, double-quicking when the regiment double-quicked, laying down when the others laid down, as jovial and good-natured as when indulging in an emphatic drink at the Verandah.

The record of the first engagement of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth is before you, and no man who has the honor of belonging to this noble regiment need have cause to blush at his or its discharge of duty.

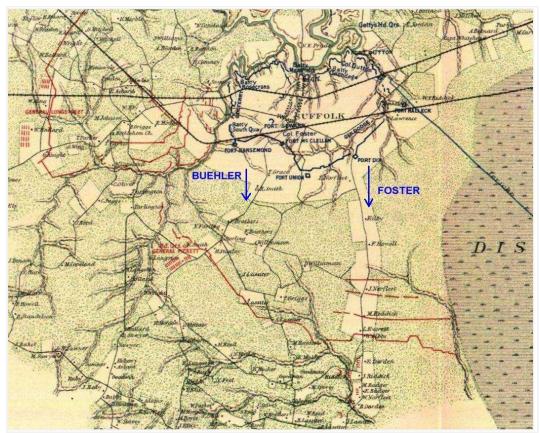
Col. Buel, since the above was written, has received leave of absence, and will return home to recruit his health and recover from the effects of his wound. I wish you could understand how greatly he is beloved by every member of the regiment, and how deeply every man sympathizes with him in his misfortune. Many a Rebel, I opine, will have to answer for that unlucky shot, if the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth ever gets another chance at them. His bravery on the field was conspicuous and his bearing undaunted. God bless him, – for as a patriot and soldier there are none more devoted to our country's cause, or more fearless on the field of battle.

The following order from Col. Drake, our brigade commander in the fight of yesterday, has just been received at regimental headquarters, and I send it to you:

Headquarters Second Prov. Brigade, Suffolk, Va., April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1863.

Special Order. – The Colonel commanding the Second Provisional Brigade, desires to present his thanks to the One Hundred and Sixtyninth regiment, New York volunteers, for their good behavior and gallantry in the action of yesterday, and his sympathy with those who sustained injuries. By command of

J. C. Drake, Colonel Com'g. Second Prov. Brigade.



Detail from "Military Map of Suffolk & Vicinity for Maj.-Gen. J. A. Dix – Fort Nansemond" (1863)

2<sup>d</sup> Lieut. Oscar Soederquist, 99<sup>th</sup> N.Y.

Collection of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

The 169<sup>th</sup> N.Y. was part of the demonstration under Col. Robert S. Foster, commanding 2<sup>d</sup> Brigade, Corcoran's Division.

# The Troy Daily Whig.

APRIL 29, 1863.

### From the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment – Full Particulars of the Late Skirmish.

Camp of Col. Buel's Command, Near Suffolk, Va., April 24, 1863, Evening.

This has been truly an historic day in the annals of the One Hundred and Sixtyninth Regiment, being the first upon which Colonel Buel led his command to face the foe; and the sequel will show that the liberal confidence reposed in the regiment not only at home, but more especially among those who have been in authority over it since its advent at the seat of active operations, has been fully justified by its noble bearing beneath a really prolonged and terrific fire by an able and unscrupulous enemy.

The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth, under command of Colonel Buel, left its camp this forenoon at about half-past eleven o'clock, in accordance with orders issued by Colonel J. C. Drake, commanding the Second Provisional Brigade, and reported at Fort Dix, at one P.M. This being done, an order was at once given to move out on the Edenton Road, leading directly to North Carolina. Soon after passing our old picket post, the first two divisions of the regiment moved to the right, and the two last divisions to the left of the road, in support of sections of the Fourth United States Artillery, (regular) commanded by Captain Follet, U.S.A., and a son of Hon. Frederick Follet, Ex-Canal Commissioner of our State. The left division, which sustained the brunt of the day, was composed of companies A, B, H, K, and D, under command of Major Alonzo Alden. Major Alden's command supported the left flank of Company D, Fourth Regular Heavy Artillery, and occupied the extreme front of our entire force, and was there throughout the entire day under a concentrated and terrific fire of four pieces of rebel artillery. – Major Alden displayed the utmost bravery, moving everywhere upon his horse beneath an almost complete canopy of canister and grape, especially directed to his devoted and gallant band, who, without exception, acted with the most daring coolness and exemplary fortitude under a galling fire. It was impossible that the battery entrusted to its support should fall into the hands of the enemy. It was at this point that the bright and glowing services of Lieuts. Cary, B. M. Smith, E. R. Smith, and Lyon, were especially noticeable and valuable. Of the company commanders on the left, Senior Captain James A. Colvin, of Company A, Captain Nat. Wood, commanding Company B, and Captain Ferguson and Wickes were remarked for their coolness, intrepidity, and determination in their new positions. Private Alexander Bell, of Company D, lately commanded by Captain Warren H. Coleman, now by First Lieutenant Walter Scott Birdsall, the commission of Lieutenant Snyder as its Captain not having yet arrived, exhibited marked bravery, as did, in fact, all the men of the wing, the woods over whose heads, and the railfences surrounding whom were literally riddled with the thickly delivered shells of the enemy, not a man flinched in the face of that awful and concentrated fire.

Shortly after the action commenced, Colonel Buel's riderless horse was seen furiously dashing up the road, and a deep consternation became prevalent. Agonizing fears were entertained that our gallant and really beloved commander, who was known to be in the vicinity of the extreme front, in the discharge of his duty, might have fallen another victim of this insatiate rebellion. Lieutenant-Colonel McConihe, who commanded the right wing, immediately rode over to learn the nature and extent of the casualty that had befallen Col. Buel. - On his returning, we learned that he had been painfully and annoyingly wounded in the left hand, and had been borne to the rear, whence he was tenderly conveyed to camp. While the deepest and most affectionate regret was experienced at the casualty, there was a universal feeling of joy that Colonel Buel was yet spared to us, to lead us in other conflicts. He is delirious to-night, and it is probable that he will be detained from command for some time. Major Alden was slightly wounded in the thigh, and his horse was shot directly through the more fleshy part of the neck. Adjutant Kisselburgh was calm and collected throughout the trying ordeal, and was remarked for his energy, in the conveyance of orders. The right wing of the regiment, composed of companies E, G, I, and F, were stationed on the extreme, in support of two, and part of the time three sections of battery, and was, as above stated, in command of Lieutenant-Colonel McConihe, who several times during the day was in consultation with General Corcoran. Colonel McConihe's bearing in front of the enemy was that of one familiar with such scenes. While the balls whistled all around him, he sat upon his horse, cool, and seemingly anxious for a closer contact with the foe. When we remember the gallantry displayed by Colonel McConihe on the memorable field of Shiloh,

which he fully sanctified in the action of to-day, there is no room to doubt where he will be found in the hours of tribulation and conflict yet in store for the noble regiment which he, in part, commands. And this leads me to remark that the regiment is everywhere conceded to be highly favored in the character and ability of its field and staff. I shall speak more at length, however, upon this point, in my military notes, a liberal transcript of which I hope to send you in a few days.

The first division supporting the right section of Follet's Battery, was in command of Capt. John T. McCoun, who, upon hearing of Colonel Buel's wound, eagerly besought Colonel McConihe to allow that portion of the battalion to charge into the woods. This was not considered feasible, but the suggestion does equal credit to the head and heart of the young Captain so earnestly making it. -Lieutenant T. B. Eaton was here honorably conspicuous. The second division of the same support was ably commanded by Captain A. D. Vaughn, assisted by Lieutenant Snyder, Lieut. Birdsall, and Lieuts. Patrick Connors, Scriven and Jellico, all of whom acted well, and fully deserve this honorable mention. Among the many instances of noble daring displayed by the privates, I may mention the capture of a rebel rifle by private William M. Swartwout of Company G. Private S. met a rebel who had wandered from the rebel lines armed with an English rifle. Private S. immediately presented his pistol and said to him – "here Mr. Rebel, dance this way, I want that rifle." - There were no two ways in the matter, and the seedy secesh "wilted" nolens volens, under the sturdy glance of the gallant "Swarty." He is proud of his capture.

The severe cannonading of this never-to-be-forgotten artillery duel lasted three hours, when our forces retired after a sharp and favorably decisive contest. I close with subjoining a complete list of the casualties of the day, in the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth, which I may here state were kindly and attentively cared for by Senior Surgeon Knowlson, and his assistant, Dr. Clark Smith, the new Assistant Surgeon of the command.

#### THE WOUNDED.

Col. Clarence Buel, severely in the left hand. – One finger has been amputated. Major Alonzo Alden, slightly in the left thigh, and horse shot under him.

First Lieutenant John H. Hughes, Company A, injury from shell in leg, both above and below knee.

Corporal Charles H. Noyes, Co. H, contusion of scalp.

Michael Falen, Co. B, wound in hand.

E. H. Brock, Co. H, killed.

John Kenneley, Co. K, slightly in arm.

Thomas Fogarty, Co. K, slightly in hand.

Among the noteworthy incidents, I may mention that a shell struck Sergeant Spalding of Capt. Wood's company, and completely divested him of his equipments without doing him other injury.

I cannot forebear mentioning that Sergeant-Major Van Santvoord, a brother of the late lamented scholar and jurist of our city, was in the thickest of the fray, throughout the day, nobly doing his duty.

APRIL 25, 1863.

Colonel Buel is much better this morning, though not entirely free from pain. He leaves for home this noon.

I must not forget, under this head, the manly and patriotic bearing of Company I, mostly from the Nail Works, and in the ranks of which your correspondent saw his first duty in the field, directly in front of belching cannon, and air flying shrapnel, I am proud of Company I.

During the shrapnel storm, Major Alden discovered a gun upon the field without its caisson, and from which all the gunners had been shot save two, and which promised to fall into the possession of the enemy. The gallant Major thought to

bear it away with his men. Addressing the Chief of Artillery, the Major asked – "Shall I carry off that gun?" The two survivors said, before the Chief of Artillery could respond, "There is only two of us left, and we mean to stick to the gun." This incident is illustrative both of Major Alden's foresight and coolness upon the field, and the unselfish devotedness of the gallant gunners.

Thus has the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth had its first experience in the glory of arms and the dashing and honorable advance.

W. H. M.

#### COL. BUEL'S CONDITION.

A despatch was received yesterday, stating that Col. B.'s physician would not permit him to leave Washington at present. Mr. H. C. Lockwood, brother-in-law of Col. B., left for Washington last evening.

# The Troy Paily Times.

May 1, 1863.

### One Hundred and Sixty-Ninth Regiment - Congratulatory Orders.

HEADQUARTERS, 169<sup>TH</sup> REGIMENT, CAMP GRISWOLD, SUFFOLK, Va., April 25.

General Order. - The Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth takes pride in commending the coolness and gallantry of the regiment during the action of yesterday on the Edenton road and while in the presence of the enemy. Although the first instance in which the command has been face to face with its foes, yet the noble conduct of all removes any doubt that might have existed, as to the undaunted courage and true heroism of the now truly gallant One Hundred and Sixty-ninth. You have nobly borne and fearlessly sustained the Flag of Liberty in the very front and heat of battle. You have unflinchingly met and driven back those who are in arms to overthrow and destroy our rights, our liberties and our government. Soldiers of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth, you are deserving of the good opinion of friends at home, who have entrusted to you the undying honor of upholding their liberties and protecting their rights. You are now true soldiers of the Republic. Yet the fight is not over, nor the victory won. There is much more to be endured, greater sacrifices to be made before our just and righteous cause is triumphant and peace restored to our land. Our cause is just and God will sustain us. Let us in the future as in the past be ever ready to do and die for our country, the home of the free and the asylum of the oppressed.

Your brave and beloved Colonel, who was so seriously wounded that he has been compelled temporarily to withdraw from the command, but let us hope, his absence will be of but short duration. His gallantry in the fight is in the mouths of all, and none gainsay his ability, bravery or goodness. There is none but that would willingly endure the pain to wear his honorable scars.

Private E. H. Brock, of Co. H, gave up his life on the altar of his country, and though dead to us, he now enjoys peaceful rest in the army of the Lord. Brave men never die, and his hero spirit still hovers around and over us, clothed in light and crowned with a diadem of glory. See, he beckons to us to join the happy



Lieut.-Col. John McConihe, commanding 169th N.Y. (November 4, 1862) Collection of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

throng of gallant braves. His remains were tenderly laid in the cemetery near this city, and his sorrowful companions paid the last honors at his grave. Others were wounded in this action, and their names have been embodied in my report to the Commanding General, and proper notice taken of them.

Major Alden, commanding the left flank of the battalion, in support of a section of battery "D," Fourth United States artillery, (the other sections being supported by the right flank of the regiment under my immediate command and all being commanded by Col. Buel,) and which was separated from the right divisions by the Edenton road, reports to me as follows:

It is with pleasure and pride that I am able to bear record of the bravery and gallantry that characterizes the conduct of both men and officers under my command, while facing the continuous and unabating shower of shell, grape and canister from the well-directed fire of the enemy. Every order was cheerfully and promptly obeyed however imminent the danger involved.

Such, soldiers, are the unanimous opinions of all, and the Major himself rode his horse fearlessly through that same shower of shell, grape and canister, being once unhorsed and the animal severely wounded in the neck by a piece of shell. The Adjutant, Surgeons, Acting Quartermaster C. E. Morey, and Chaplain were

omnipresent and undaunted. But where all were brave I will congratulate all, thereby making honorable mention of each.

The following congratulatory order has been received at these headquarters from Col. J. C. Drake, acting Brigadier-General commanding the Second Provisional Brigade, to which the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth was attached, and was placed on the right thereof during the action:

HEADQUARTERS, 2<sup>D</sup> PROVISIONAL BRIGADE, SUFFOLK, Va., April 25, 1863.

Special Order. – The Colonel commanding the Second Provisional Brigade, desires to present his thanks to the One Hundred and Sixtyninth Regiment New York Volunteers, for their good behavior in the action of yesterday, and his sympathy to those who sustained injuries. By command of

J. C. DRAKE, Col. com'd'g, Second Provis. Brigade. By order, JOHN McConihe, Lieut.-Col. com'd'g.

# The Troy Paily Times.

May 9, 1863.

#### From the One Hundred and Sixty-Ninth.

Correspondence of the Troy Daily Times.

Headquarters, 169<sup>th</sup> N. Y. V., Suffolk, Va., May 5.

The siege of Suffolk has at last been raised, and the enemy has taken to his legs and run away. The interesting event came off Sunday evening, after a strong demonstration of our forces across the Nansemond, and a brisk engagement with the rebel sharpshooters and pickets. In this affair our forces lost upwards of 100 killed and wounded, among the former, Col. Ringold, of the One Hundred and Third New York, a very brave and gallant officer, who fought at Antietam, where with his own hands he despatched, a rebel Colonel, and performed such other feats of daring as to endear him to all in the army. The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth New York and the Thirteenth Indiana – one of the very best fighting regiments in the service – acted as reserve on this occasion, and was not brought under fire at all. After the object of the reconnaissance had been gained, the troops re-crossed the river at about 10 o'clock at night; little expecting that before the dawn of the following day the rebels would beat a hasty and disgraceful retreat. The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth lay in the rifle-pits all the night, and at 4 A. M. was ordered with three days' rations to march at 6 A.M. The rations were prepared and orders awaited; but in consideration, I suppose, of the fact that our regiment had been constantly under arms for thirty-six hours, we were permitted to return to camp and enjoy a season of repose. Other troops, however, were sent out after the retreating rebels, and all day long prisoners kept coming in by scores and singles, until upwards of 200 greybacks had been sent in. From officers who accompanied the expedition I learn that only the cavalry came up with the rear guard of the enemy, capturing that, and such others as had straggled behind or

deserted from the rebel ranks. A good many deserters came in. The rebel fortifications are described as elegant and elaborate defences, – the one on the Edenton road, in the attack on which Col. Buel was wounded, being particularly strong and well-built.

To-day, several of the regiments temporarily sent here for the defence of the place are being ordered away, and it is possible that ere long the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth will receive marching orders, though of course our future movements are all uncertain.

Since our regiment has been here, in addition to its duties on picket, in the trenches and in the field, our men have built a very large earthwork in the centre of the town, capable of covering 7,000 troops, and mounting several very large guns. It is not quite finished, but when completed will serve as a tower of strength for this post during the war. It is called Fort Seward, and was christened on the day of the visit of the Secretary of State to Suffolk. Lieut. McCardel, engineerin-chief on Gen. Peck's staff, - a Trojan - has charge of the erection of the fortifications, and may well be proud of the engineering skill displayed by him in its construction. Nearly all of the works in this section were built under the superintendence of Lieut. McC. When the rebels first made the demonstration on Suffolk, they planted a battery of seven guns a short distance below the town on the opposite bank of the Nansemond. General Getty suspected the fact and sent for Lieut. McCardle. The Lieutenant reported to him, and together they rode down and made a personal and dangerous reconnaissance of the battery. It was planted in a most commanding position, and to suffer it to remain there would be little less than madness. Lieut. McCardle determined to plant a battery opposite the rebel work that night, and shell it in the morning. Spades were trumps that night, and when the morning sun arose a terrible and destructive fire was opened upon the rebel battery. Thick as hail fell our shot and shell upon the garrison; sharpshooters picked off their gunners, and after a brief firing, the rebels took to their heels and ran away. The work was totally destroyed, and no attempt was ever after made to reoccupy. This feat gave Lieut. McC. increased favor in the eyes of his superiors.

I observe that you announce the restoration of Lieut. E. R. Smith, of this regiment, to his rank, after having been dismissed [from] the service. Lieut. S. never was dismissed, but was erroneously reported at the Provost Marshal's office, in Washington, to the War Department, and ordered before the Military Commission or stand dismissed. The whole affair grew out of a mistake by a clerk in the Provost Marshal's office, and is to be regretted only as it brought Lieut. S.'s name into unenviable notoriety. He is one of the very best officers in the regiment, and the last man in the army to be dismissed through any act of his own.

W. E. K.

# The Troy Daily Whig.

May 9, 1863.

From the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment.

Camp Griswold, near Suffolk, Va. May  $4^{th}$ , 1863-5 A.M.

Another dashing and successful – though in respect to the number of dead and wounded, sad – reconnaissance took place in this department yesterday (Sunday) under the general supervision of Major-General Peck, and the more immediate auspices of General Getty and General Dodge. At a point just below Suffolk, Gen. Dodge crossed the Nansemond River early in the morning with a force amounting to nine thousand men, while Gen. Getty with six thousand men crossed at a point immediately in front of the city, and in the long range of woods literally belting Suffolk, the rebels in large numbers were believed to be encamped and more or less intrenched. The gallant Thirteenth Indiana, so renowned for its dash and invincible pluck, and Col. Buel's Regiment, the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth New York, under command of Col. McConihe, both commanded by Col. Dobbs, were held as a reserve force on this side of the Nansemond. The rebels, as Captain McA. would say when he wanted to make a novel (?) quotation, were "as thick as leaves in Vallambrosia." The affair was a serious one - the killed and wounded amounting to one hundred and twenty-five – the former predominating. During the day Dr. Smith, one of the associate Surgeons of the general hospital in Suffolk, not Dr. Clark Smith of our regiment, was mortally shot by a Major, said to be under the influence of delirium tremens. - As is its custom, the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth came speedily and willingly under arms, and though in reserve its bearing was patient, affable and gentle, and its reputation here fully warrants the belief that it would have considered it a favor to cross the river with its gallant confrères from noble Indiana. All day long, in company with Capt. Nat. Wood, Lieutenants Cary and Charles Douglas Merrill, I have been sitting in my easy chair, just outside of my "A" tent, looking at the rebel prisoners brought in by our gallant captors. Former reports at their wasted and destitute appearance do not belie them. Just at this point of my letter, Sergeant Robert Rainsbury, of Company I, informs me that five hundred additional prisoners are in sight on the main road. Concerning the future of our regiment, we know of course little, but whatever

Concerning the future of our regiment, we know of course little, but whatever destiny may be in store for it, God grant that its career of effort may be honorable, and followed by a safe and speedy return to the homes we all so dearly love, and pointedly remember. I had almost omitted to say, certainly in its proper place, that all accounts agree in representing the rebel loss as being very large. We know of three hundred killed and wounded in Princeton Church, five miles from Suffolk.

You may look for the first installment of my military notes in a few days, in which I shall endeavor to picture to the readers of the *Whig* some of the more salient features of the daily life of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth in camp. I need not add that I will, through the medium of brief letters, keep up the thread of current events with the journal.

W. H. M.

# The Troy Daily Whig.

May 12, 1863.

FROM THE 169TH REGIMENT.

[Correspondence of the Whig.]



Maj.-Gen. Peck's Headquarters at Suffolk, Va. (1863) Collection of the Riddick's Folly House Museum, Suffolk, Va.

CAMP GRISWOLD, SUFFOLK, VA. May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1863.

Editor Whig: – Since our identification with the 7<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, and brief sojourn in this beleaguered city, we have cultivated rather an unenviable companionship with rebel bullets, and other spherical and conical missiles, which have rendered the air hereabout quite vocal with a peculiar "zip, zip, ze e" music, which "hath no charms to sooth," but is invariably accompanied by a general and sudden depression of such prominent appendages of the human anatomy, as the caput, yclept head, which sometimes, impelled by a sense of the impending danger, perform the most profound salams, the humbleness of the obsequious obeisance often bringing the os frontis in contact with the dust. This intuitive homage, paid to the enemy's leaden pellets, has, no doubt, preserved many a valuable life, and will be continued so long as he sees fit to dispense these peculiar admonitory messengers, among ze denizens of ze besieged Suffolk.

There are now the most palpable signs, however, that Longstreet is evacuating his position about this place, and making the tallest kind of track across the sandy bottom in the direction of Richmond, closely pursued by our cavalry and infantry. Yesterday (Sunday), forces were thrown over the Nansemond in front of and below Suffolk. Those below crossed on pontoons, while those in front were passed over the bridge opposite this place, which, though partially destroyed, had been so far repaired that an hour's work sufficed to render it staunch and safe for the passage of our artillery and infantry. Only two or three regiments and a few pieces of artillery engaged the enemy, who was strongly posted in rifle pits and in the woods, his sharp-shooters occupying the front, and ensconced in tree-tops and

cunningly-devised pits, annoyed our skirmishers, and succeeded in killing and

wounding many before they could be dislodged.

The 169<sup>th</sup> was called out, provided with two days' rations. The boys responded promptly to the summons, and evinced an eager disposition to have another brush with the rebels. The affair on the Edenton road, although it proved a severe ordeal for their first experience under fire, had in no wise dampened their ardor, and their commendable conduct on the 3<sup>d</sup> inst., must have been a source of the highest gratification to the officers, who have now the most indubitable proof that their men can be relied upon. This regiment, however, in conjunction with the 13<sup>th</sup> Indiana, known here as the "fighting regiment," were held in reserve on this side

of the Nansemond. Desultory fighting continued all day on the opposite side of the river, resulting decidedly in our favor, our forces driving the rebels from their fastnesses in the woods, ascertaining their position and probable intention of offering us battle. But they evinced no disposition to come out and fight us manfully, and at night-fall our troops were withdrawn, in front, and the plank again removed from the bridge, while the 169<sup>th</sup>, or a portion of them, were posted in rifle-pits to the left of the bridge, and the remainder lay down in the open air to await the events of the night.

Nothing transpired during the night, however, and we were all looking forward to the morrow, in expectation that a severe battle would be fought. In this we were disappointed. Everything looked unusually quiet and serene in the morning – not a reb to be seen, not a gun fired.

In the meantime, Gens. Peck, Corcoran, Foster, and other distinguished officers in this department, had not been idle; and, of course, their secret sources of information being as varied as they were unknown to "lesser lights," revealed something of the plans of the rebels, and at 3 o'clock Gen. Corcoran, with a large force of cavalry, artillery and infantry started out on the Somerton road, after the retreating rebels.

Had this force been advanced an hour or two earlier, the results would have been almost incalculable in their effect upon the enemy. As it is we are doing them immense damage, capturing their stores, burning the houses and barns, which have so long furnished a friendly covert for their sharp-shooters, while a continuous stream of prisoners is passing our camp, in squads of from four to twenty. Some three or four hundred have already been brought in, and a more ragged, dirty, uncouth, forlorn set of mortals, I never beheld. Those who evince a disposition to be communicative, complain that for the last three days no rations whatever have been issued to them, and that the entire army which has been threatening our front for the past three or four weeks, was reduced to the verge of starvation. I am induced to doubt the sincerity of these assertions somewhat, for it is known that the whole section of the country through which Longstreet passed, in his attempt to capture Suffolk and Norfolk, was richly stored with produce of all kinds – the Federal Army, since its occupation of this country, having afforded to the rebel sympathizers that protection and immunity from loss, which has ever characterized its possession of rebel territory; and, as a consequence of this policy, the enemy has reaped the benefits of last year's harvest.

Every conceivable species of property is being brought in this afternoon. Secesh horses, wagons, carts, mules, &c. Some of the returned cavalrymen have chairs attached to their saddles; others exhibit specimens of crockery, bed blankets, and other what-nots. I noticed one lieutenant of infantry driving in a good-looking donkey, to which was attached a sort of nondescript vehicle. We, at North would style a "go-cart," captured from some luckless rebel, and his singular turnout excited bursts of laughter, as he came into town on the Somerton road, plying a stout cudgel to his not over-ambitious steed.

Yours truly, T. S.

# The Troy Daily Whig.

May 16, 1863.

### From the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment.

[Correspondence of the Whig.]

Suffolk, Va., May 12.

Editor Whig: – The barren results accruing to the rebels by a three weeks' investment of this place, and their inglorious withdrawal, after the loss of some fifteen hundred men in killed, wounded, prisoners and desertions, must have proved a very disastrous and discouraging denouement to their expectations and the high-sounding terms in which Gen. Longstreet's demand for the surrender of this city was couched, when his formidable army first presented its imposing front before Suffolk.



Confederate Lieut.-Gen. James Longstreet, commanding First Corps, Army of Northern Virginia (ca. 1862)

Since the rebel retreat from this vicinity, we have learned that their stay here was characterized by the most untiring diligence and industry. They have left some really wonderful monuments of their tact, skill, and assiduity in the construction of field fortifications. On the Edenton, Somerton, South Quay and Providence Church roads, their works were not only of the strongest nature, but considerable attention had been given to the smallest details incident to the presumed perfection of such fortifications – as in the wicker work for the embrasures, the abatis in front, detached rifle-pits, &c. It was evidently their intention, if possible, to draw us out, to be mown down before these almost impregnable works of imaginary skill, as grass before the husbandman's scythe. And I have no doubt if the enemy's retreat had not commenced at the hour it did, we should have gratified their desire in this respect, as it is now known that on Monday morning, we were to make a combined attack upon the rebel front, by the four roads above-named, and it is a very fair presumption that we should have been terribly cut up before carrying the four strong positions they occupied on three sides of us.

Large numbers of men are daily detailed from the different regiments encamped here, for the destruction and razure of the rebel's handiwork, and their imposing lines of offensive and defensive works are fast melting away before the fire, axe and spade employed by our brave boys in effecting their demolition.

As usual, the rebs left behind, affixed to trees and in other prominent places, many taunting messages and characteristic eruptions in the shape of braggadocio, for the perusal and meditation of our Generals, officers and privates, some of which are as follows, and of similar purport: "To the General commanding at Suffolk: – Follow us if you dare!" "Receive our Legacy – *Lice*." "You shall see us again soon." "How do you like the Louisiana Tigers?" etc., etc.

Among the scraps of correspondence was found a letter from a lady resident of Richmond, addressed to her husband, whose command was attached to Kemper's Brigade, before Suffolk. - She appears to be a very cogent reasoner, and propounds to her "other half," Capt. Bond, some knotty questions, and I regret, exceedingly, that I cannot furnish his solution of them. Mrs. Bond complains of the "awful scarcity of provisions," the almost total absence of every luxury, and the fabulous prices asked for them, and inquires why she can buy these things almost one hundred percent cheaper with "greenbacks" than she can with "Confederate notes?" and that too, in the rebel Capital, under the very windows of its Congressional halls. She asks, "if the Confederacy is bound to be a permanent institution, acknowledged as an independent nation by the world, why it takes nearly one hundred dollars of its notes to buy fifty of its enemy's promises to pay? If they - the Confederates - are gaining such great victories, from Charleston to Vicksburg, capturing Union stores and provisions by thousands of tons, why their benefits are not manifest, and starvation driven from the doors of their suffering families?"

This letter sufficiently demonstrates the position of affairs in Richmond and requires no additional comment by your correspondent.

T. S.

[Note: <sup>1</sup>Capt. Antrobus Bond, 3<sup>d</sup> Va. Infantry.]

# The Troy Daily Whig.

JUNE 15, 1863.

#### From the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment.

Our indefatigable correspondent with the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth, "W. H. M.," writes us a long and somewhat interesting epistle, from which we make a few extracts – regretting that the crowded state of our columns compels us to be brief. The letter is dated –

CAMP FOSTER, 169<sup>TH</sup> REGIMENT, NEAR SUFFOLK, VA., June 10.

Lieutenant E. R. Smith, of Co. K, Captain Ferguson commanding, has just now the heartfelt sympathies of the regiment, in the recent loss of his only son, Frederick Chauncy Smith, at Lansingburgh village, a few days since. This severe affliction comes home to the estimable Lieutenant all the more poignantly; from the fact the exigencies of the services will not permit his visiting his bereaved wife and surviving children.

I have just been honored by a call in my quarters from Lieut.-Col. Patton, Capt. Masten, Capt. Gray, and Lieut. Owen Hale, of the First N. Y. Mounted Rifles, and

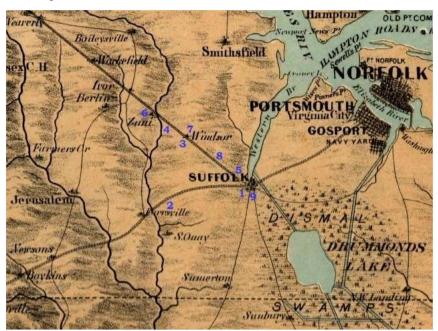
Capt. W. H. Wickes, regimental officer of the day, and Lieut. W. H. Lyon of my own regiment. Col. Patton and Lieut. Hale have very recently received their promotions. Lieut. Hale was promoted from Sergeant-Major to be Second Lieut. He is a most promising soldier.

#### ON LEAVES OF ABSENCE.

Lieut. Clark Smith, of the 169<sup>th</sup> N. Y., leaves at noon to-day for his home at Schodack, Rensselaer County, on a brief leave of absence. Illness contracted in the discharge of his duty, which he always fully and acceptably discharges, has necessitated this brief relaxation.

#### PROMOTION OF LIEUT. T. B. EATON.

I could not be happier than in announcing that Lieut. Thos. B. Eaton, of Capt. John T. McCoun's company, G, has been promoted to the responsible position of Assistant-Inspector General of the United States forces, with rank on the staff of Brig.-Gen. R. S. Foster, commanding the brigade. The various promotions of Inspector-General Eaton have been rapid, but have not exceeded either his fitness or ability. A competent and efficient officer never seeks promotion. As in this instance promotion seeks him.



Detail from "Bird's-Eye View of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia"
Drawn and Engineered by J. Schedler, N.Y.
Published by Sarony, Major & Knapp, Lithographers, N.Y. (ca. 1861)
Collection of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Route of march, May 13-27, 1863. Franklin, located on the west bank of the Blackwater, is mistakenly labeled as Carrsville in this map.

Carrsville is located 6 miles to the east.

I have nowhere seen a full account of the recent, intensely-interesting and prolonged expedition to the Blackwater, in which the 169<sup>th</sup> took part. I shall make it the subject of a separate letter. — Twelve thousand troops composed the expedition.

The regimental health is good. The weather, contrary to all expectation is deliciously cool, and the learned and industrious Surgeons of the command, ever vigilant, ward off disease. I regret to say that the Surgeon-in-chief, Dr. John

Knowlson, is prostrated by a severe attack of quinsy.\* He is not dangerous, however. Drs. Reynolds and Smith are "old Mr. Bloom," himself.

The Troy *Times* gives currency to a statement that the famed and pugnacious William Mercey, "the Fifth Ward statesman," had again broken his arrest and fled from the stringent precincts of military discipline and rule. "The many friends" of this adept eluder of his oath, and his obligations to the government, will feel interested to know that he is safely ensconced in our Regimental Guard House, plethoric, subdued, and easy in his honors. I saw him but yesterday on my way to the sutler's, and he appeared as though he would answer every reasonable expectation of an indignant court martial, in the exercise of its function of interpreting outraged military law. If he flees again, it will be towards the skyey altitudes. He will not walk the earth again, at least, until after his trial.

#### RESIGNATIONS.

It is understood that several of the Line Officers have tendered their resignations. If this be a fact, it has not reached the surface outside of "the Palace" in which the regimental headquarters are situated.

#### FORMIDABLE (?) DISEASES.

There are two diseases now prevalent in camp not mentioned in the *Medico Chirurgical Review* so extensively patronized by the doctors as long ago as I was daily wont to read medicine. These are what are called "Drill on the Brain," and "Euthanasy [euthanasia], or night recitations" after taps. The symptoms of the former are to be discerned in six hours drill each day – four hours company drill and two hours battalion drill. It is a very annoying, though not necessarily fatal disease. The latter is more prevalent among the line officers, and would doubtless prove more fatal, were it not for the fact that it attacks the patient by night, lasting two hours, unless the skill and professional fidelity of the *œsculapii* [the god of medicine] in attendance, the Colonel commanding, and the Major.

Capt. John T. McCoun and Lieut. Merrill of company G, have been slightly ill for two days. – All the officers and men are well-nigh acclimated.

The many friends in this regiment of Capt. E. P. Jones of the 125<sup>th</sup> N. Y. were glad to learn, and sorry to see contradicted, the statement that that gallant soldier had been accorded a leave of absence. Permit your correspondent to say, that of all sublimely things, for him to meet Capt. Jones upon the old Trojan heath, would be the most felicitous. The great pleasure may be among my future vouch-safements. A very general regret is felt in the regiment at the continued illness of Captain Parmenter. He is among the regimental idols. W. H. M.

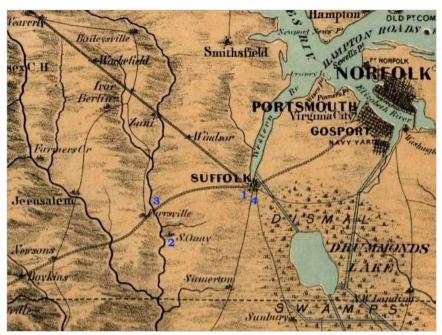
[Note: \*A quinsy, also known as a peritonsillar abscess, is an abscess between the back of the tonsil and the adjoining wall of the throat. It occurs when infection spreads from the tonsillar bed to the surrounding tissues, usually following a severe attack of tonsillitis.]

# The Troy Paily Times.

June 23, 1863.

From the One Hundred and Sixty-Ninth.

Correspondence of the Troy Daily Times.



Detail from "Bird's-Eye View of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia"

Route of march, June 11-20, 1863.

Suffolk, Va., June 18, 1863.

The regiment about an hour since returned to camp from a six days' excursion or pic nic to the Blackwater River. We visited Franklin, South Quay, and Blackwater Bridge, shelled the rebels at each place, but received no reply except from an occasional sharpshooter. Our forces lost six or seven killed and wounded, but none from the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth. We marched upwards of one hundred miles during the six days of our absence, the second day making twenty-five miles, and to-day (from 4 A. M. to 1 P. M.) marching twenty miles. At Franklin, we tried to cross; but the rebs "didn't see it," and as the object was only to burn a little railroad bridge, Gen. Foster thought it would not pay to lose the number of men that must necessarily fall if the attempt was persisted in; so he came back. The trip was very fatiguing, as we did some tall marching. Lieut.-Col. McConihe and Major Alden both say they never experienced anything like it.

Suffolk is to be evacuated. I do not know where we shall go; but it is reported we are to 'hang out' for a while at or near Portsmouth, Va. However, letters are still to be directed to this place until further notice.

### The Troy Paily Times.

JUNE 26, 1863.

A letter from Suffolk, Va., published in to-day's New York *Times*, awards high praise to the 169<sup>th</sup>, Lieut.-Col. McConihe, which occupied the post of honor on the recent expedition to the Blackwater under Genl. Corcoran, who directed the regimental commanders to discourage pillaging upon the



An officer of infantry, U. S. V. (ca. 1862-'64)
Edwin Austin Forbes (1839-1895)
Collection of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

enemy or wantonly destroying private property. The remarks of Lt.-Col. McConihe to his regiment, near which the writer happened to be standing at the time, will serve to shadow forth the intent of Gen. Corcoran in this regard. Col. McConihe, as the regiment was drawn up in line, very impressively said,

An order just received from the General Commanding requires regimental Commandants to caution their commands against the many improprieties which too often occur while troops are marching through the country. Although I believe you fully understand your duties and responsibilities as soldiers of the Republic, yet there are always some unauthorized persons who straggle from the different regiments, and by their outrageous acts disgrace the army and our cause. Let it not be said there is one such in this regiment, but if there is, let him not do these things with impunity, and cast opprobrium upon us all. The officers must know him, and he must be properly punished and dealt with. Private property will be taken possession of and destroyed through the proper authorities, whenever the exigencies of the service demand it, and no one is allowed to otherwise interfere

with it. This is just and right, and by always observing this rule the regiment will never cast discredit upon itself or our cause.



Charleston, S.C., November 1864. Showing Union and Rebel Defences, 1863-4. From the Journal of Priv. Robert Knox Sneden, 40<sup>th</sup> N.Y., Topographical Engineer of the III Army Corps, Vol. 5, 1863 November 9 - 1864 August 10 Collection of the Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Va.

# The Troy Paily Times.

SEPTEMBER 1, 1863.

#### From the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment – The Siege of Charleston.

Correspondence of the Troy Daily Times.

FOLLY ISLAND, S. C., Aug. 21, 1863.

As the mail leaves this point for Hilton Head and the North to-morrow, I cannot resist the inclination to offer you a few notes on the progress of the siege of Charleston, although I must confess, that to a person of my indolence, the enervating and dispiriting atmosphere of this hot morning is little-conducive to free writing or happy thought. The weather is terribly hot. Scarcely a breath of air is stirring; and the sun pours his sweltering rays upon a sandy beach that reflects them back with double force. – Everything is sluggish and enervated. The siege goes on slowly, and at my present "base of operations" only the reports of occasional guns are heard. They do not this morning appall the ear or frighten the

sense, by their frequency. But this partial suspension of the cannonading is not due to the weather. Hot or cold, in rain or in sunshine, the siege is destined to go on until Charleston falls and the fangs of the serpent are destroyed. Yet I hardly know how the poor gunners have the ability to work the guns in this sweltering heat. Even the ocean undulates lazily this morning, and with difficulty seems to roll its waves of foaming surf upon the beach. But an hour hence all this will be changed. Then the breeze that will be wafted to the shore from the ocean will give to every animate object new life and strength, and revive to a marvelous degree the wasted energies of humanity. It is so every day. The mornings are the "heated term"; the noon-day cooling, and the evenings as witching and delightful as a dark-eyed Peri. I suppose Peris are delightful – I never saw one. [Note: From a Persian myth, Peris are imaginary beings, male or female, like an elf or fairy, represented as a descendant of fallen angels, excluded from paradise till penance is accomplished.]

Gen. Gillmore has issued a very stringent order on the subject of correspondence relating to the siege, and has strictly enjoined all officers, soldiers and correspondents not to divulge to anxious friends the particulars of operations now going on. But I suppose it will not be contraband to state that the bombardment of Sumter commenced on Tuesday, the 18th, and with some slight intermission, has continued ever since. Yesterday the flag-staff was shot away twice, and was each time replaced by the rebels. This morning it was again shot down, but has not been reërected. The south front of the fort is terribly riddled, and several embrasures, not dreamt of by the engineers in the construction of the fort, have been added to it by our shots. No doubt exists that the rebels have vacated the fort, or have only a very small force left within it. Scarcely a gun has been fired from Sumter since the bombardment commenced; and the fact that the rebels closed up the port-holes or embrasures several days since, and removed the guns therefrom, leaving only those mounted *en barbette* for the benefit of the monitors, gives more than the color of probability to the suspicion of evacuation. Only enough men were left to man the barbette guns, whose plunging shots would soon have disposed of our iron-clads, had they been foolish enough to get within their range. But thanks to science and heavy guns, the monitors are able to lay out of harm's way, and with their ponderous weapons send in their affectionate remembrances to the rebels without opposition. This morning the appearances denote the complete evacuation of Sumter, and if so, the monitors will doubtless soon run up farther into the harbor, and with the land batteries, give Wagner its coup de grace. Sumter ours, Wagner must soon succumb, for our iron-clads can entirely cut off its communications with James Island and the mainland. Fort Johnson, on James Island, appears to be a very formidable work, mounting the heaviest kind of guns. It is so situated as to send in an enfilading fire, and as its guns are well-served, far better than those of any of the other rebel works, it annoys us considerably. Its two hundred-pound shells are dreadful things, and the roar of one passing through the air is very much like the clatter of a railway train at full speed. One feels very much like "getting off the track" when he hears one of them coming along with a velocity of three or four miles a minute. Yet, after all, it is very exciting to be in the advanced trenches during a vigorous cannonade. The look-out, standing behind a little aperture in the works, takes in at a glance the whole range of rebel works, and his quick eye detects the first flash of a gun from any of their forts. Sumter opens; "Sumter," he cries; "cover." And down into hundreds of splinter-proofs, rush the soldiers, officers and men, huddled together promiscuously. Shoulder-straps give the wearer little consideration now. The shell explodes – perhaps in the air, or perhaps in the very midst of our works; but so well are our men protected by the splinter-proofs that it seldom happens anyone is hurt. On Tuesday, however, a shell struck directly on the top of one of the proofs, and of course sent the roof flying. The inmates, a Colonel, a telegraph operator, and another, were all seriously injured, though none of them were killed.

So, when Wagner or any of the other rebel works fire, the look-out indicates the one, and the principal business on hand just then is to seek a cover from the flying fragments of the exploding missile. No one is hurt; everybody laughs, looks at it as a good joke, and until the next shot, everything goes "merry as a marriage bell." Speaking of the look-out, reminds me that the rebels have on duty in Wagner a company of splendid sharpshooters, one of whom, a negro, has gained an enviable reputation as a crack shot. Woe to the person, who exposes even the tip of his nose to this sable son of Africa, for if he has not made his peace with Heaven he has forever lost the opportunity of doing so. The other day the look-out approached the aperture, but had no sooner put his face to the opening than he was shot through the head by this negro. It is needless to say a new aperture was soon made, a range of which the rebs have not as yet been able to find.

Whilst I cannot even indicate in a general way what is going on here to render success certain, I can at least assure the readers of the *Times* that everything is being done, both by the Government and Gen. Gillmore, to accomplish the results aimed at and so anxiously awaited by the people of the North. The task is a stupendous one, and the work will require days and weeks of toil and hardships. You can form no idea of the amount of work already done, nor of that which is to follow before Charleston falls. But success is certain. No one doubts here, for no one can look around and witness the evidences of military science as applied to the reduction of an enemy's stronghold, without feeling that perseverance under such leadership must surely give us the victory.

The day the bombardment opened, our brigade was sent up as a support to the artillery. – It lay along the beach, under cover of a sandy bluff washed up by the ocean at high tide, quite secure from the main fire of the enemy and exposed only to chance shots, but the men would persist in crowding upon the high ground for the purpose of obtaining a better view of the interesting scene around them. Gen. Foster and other officers took to a high knoll that afforded a splendid view of the field of operations. Gen. Gillmore observed this needless but almost pardonable exposure of life, (most anyone would risk a stray shot to witness a bombardment,) and despatched an orderly with instructions to restrain the sight-seeing propensities of the troops. Gen. F. smiled as the orders were given him, and naively remarking to the subordinates around him that "after all, it was not as cool on the hill as he thought it might be," proceeded with the others to beat a hasty retreat. Gen. Gillmore does not intend to waste a single life needlessly in the attack on Charleston.

Our casualties are less than a dozen a day, and so long as the fighting is confined to artillery, this number will not be very largely increased. From the upper end of Morris Island one can look into the streets of Charleston, and observe men and women very leisurely strolling along the walks of the pestilent city. I hope soon to have a nearer view of the "lads and lassies, oh," of Charleston.

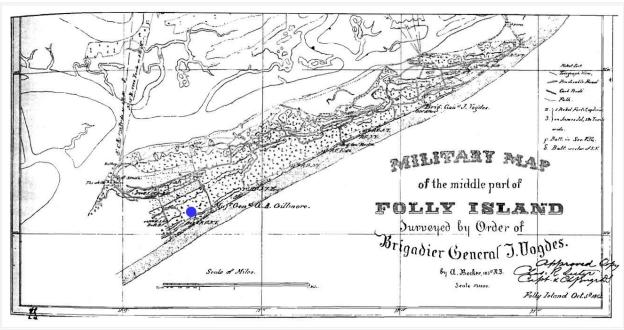
W. E. K.

## The Troy Daily Press.

SEPTEMBER 14, 1863.

From the One Hundred and Sixty-Ninth Regiment.

FOLLY ISLAND, S. C., Sept. 4, 1863.



Military Map of the middle part of Folly Island, Surveyed by Order of Brigadier General J. Vogdes (October 5, 1863)
A. Becker, 103<sup>d</sup> N.Y.
Collection of the National Archives, Washington, D.C.

The location of the camp of the 169th N.Y. on Folly Island, aka "Head-quarters, 169th N.Y. Vols.," is indicated by the blue dot.

Editors Daily Press: Listening as I am to the heavy boom of an occasional gun from Morris Island or one of the many rebel batteries which send their screaming missiles after our poor boys crouched in the shallow parallels just in front of Wagner. I can well apprehend and appreciate the acute feelings of anxiety, and the throes of doubt and fear which are crowding the minds of our Northern friends. Fearful, indeed, is the struggle now in progress here for possession of the "rookery" of treason, and the severance of the main head and artery of that accursed hydra which had developed so many heads in the blooming partners of Liberty, and had well-nigh poisoned the fountain which watered its luxuriant growth. Terrible are the means employed for the reduction of this den of vipers, whose venom, slowly but surely, has worked its way into thousands of unsuspecting hearts. I call the means terrible, because they are sure, certain, and strike terror and dismay into the souls of a traitorous community, now writhing in agony within the stuccoed walls and upon the paved streets of Charleston. I say "terrible," because the work, apart from the thunder of our great guns, is carried on so silently, so steadily, so stealthily. There is no clash of small arms, except now and then a sortie by the rebs or ourselves – no charge of bayonets – no shouts of victory – no yells of defiance. To be sure, there is noise enough at times – when Wagner opens upon us with grape and canister, case and shrapnel, interspersed with mortar and rifled shells, and our own guns in position behind us, return the compliment to W., sending their missiles three feet over our heads - the air and trenches are filled with shrieking monitors, and we shrink still closer to the ground by an intuition too potent to be resisted – natural instinct.

We relieve each other in the trenches every night. At what hour, precisely, I dare not say, even to you; but Wagner has argus eyes – if not she is singularly good at guessing, and it is at such times she is particularly to be feared. There are many exposed places in the long lines of parallels through which we must pass that are swept by her fire. Across these points we make as fast time as possible; but we

cannot all pass in two ranks at the same moment. It takes some time for even a hundred men to get by on the double-quick; but we have a brave army of men here, and some even scorn to take the double-quick, but leisurely follow-up and take their positions in good time, with their comrades; very, very close under the sand-bags of Wagner — so close that we dare not speak much louder than in a whisper for fear of eaves-droppers among the rebels over the next bank. For neighbors engaged in such a quarrel as ourselves, the proximity is certainly unenviable.

At nearly right angles with the parallels are dug small pits, say eight feet in length, four in breadth, and two and a half in depth, making them, with the earth thrown on top, nearly five feet deep. – There is no covering over these, and they are, at best, a precarious means of protection. Into these "holes" we manage to stow our persons to the number of from seven to nine into each, packing ourselves with head, feet, legs and arms promiscuously "mixed," the latter of which members soon become so perfectly numb and comatose, by reason of non-circulation of the blood, that it is difficult to identify one's leg from that of his neighbor, unless specially remembered by some peculiarity of clothing.

Silently and patiently we sit in these shallow pits, through the long, weary hours of night, and the tedious, scorching ones of day. Bam! a dull, heavy roar far away to the west of us. It is night. Someone whispers, "Johnson!" (we dislike Johnson) and instantly we raise our heads and turn them towards Johnson. We see something that resembles a burning star, mount high, very high in the air, until it is nearly over us, when it suddenly commences to descend. The thought then strikes us – will it fall into our pit and explode, or into our neighbors'; or will it explode in the air, and crush us with its pieces; or will it fall short, or fall beyond us? But there is very little time to speculate. We hear the rushing noise and sputtering of the fuse, and we know its mission, for harm or otherwise will be known in another second, and we shut our eyes, or hug still closer the sides and bottom of our pit. A terrible explosion follows, and we draw a breath of relief. We are safe, but not all. We thought that with the explosion we heard a cry of pain, and groans following. Five minutes after a stretcher passes us with the form of a man upon it. That form is motionless, and to an inquiry, one of the bearers answers - "dead!" Another form is carried by in a blanket, and then another, another, another, and another. The last seven are only wounded, however. Only wounded! one poor fellow had his arm blown off above the elbow, which is equivalent to death in this climate. Brave boys! not one of them groaned or whimpered, as they were borne to headquarters, some two hundred yards in the rear, but preserved the injunction of silence, even in the throes of mortal agony. Yes they are brave boys, and their country should feel proud of them, and honor them, dead or alive. They belong to the 100th New York, and on this occasion, in conjunction with the 169th, occupied an extremely dangerous position in the advanced parallels, close to Wagner. And a single shell made all this havoc – that shell from Johnson. - Why shouldn't we fear Johnson? Why not watch that blazing fuse, as it cleaves the air like some meteor of the sky, through the dim haze of night, with lips compressed and suspended breath? Is life so cheap, or dear ones at home so indifferent, that even the bravest should not fear? The bravest of men the world ever saw, are those who experience every phase of fear, yet who, by their powers of mind and superior intellect, can command sufficient moral force to crush the rising legions of instinctive dictates, and calmly contemplate the most imminent peril.

The rebels have opened another battery just alongside, or very near Johnson, but thus far it has not proved very effective. Battery Gregg also hurls destruction among us, and mans some powerful guns.

But where is Fort Sumter? When we performed our first pilgrimage to the trenches from this Island, Sumter was our greatest dread – her range was so accurate, her monster shell scattered such fearful missiles about us, Sumter, to use

one of the choice phrases of this country, is "done, gone for." She stands there dismantled, a distorted pile of brick and mortar; great irregular breaches through and through her sides are plainly visible to the naked eye. The obstructions will soon be removed that prevent our monitors from passing up the channel, and then once more that flag, struck down by the ingrate hands for whose protection this mighty structure was reared, shall once more proudly float over its disgraced battlements, and from it battered ruins our monster guns will thunder the death knell of Charleston.

God grant that this moment will not be long delayed. Our lives and health are fast wearing out here. The climate is bad, the water is bad, the service is hard, the exposure constant. I doubt whether we have three hundred effective men in the regiment, or nine hundred in the entire brigade. This is a sad admission, but nevertheless true.

There is much of interest connected with operations here, which I could furnish if its publication would not be considered contraband by the Government. A special order has been issued upon this subject, and we have to be very guarded in writing to our nearest relatives.

Col. Clarence Buel, our able and brave commander, wounded on the Edenton road during the siege of Suffolk, rejoined the regiment last Saturday. It was a most gratifying and happy event to every officer and member of the regiment, and congratulations poured in upon him from every side.

Col. Buel looks decidedly well, and he returns to us, apparently, in the best possible health, with a renewed and vigorous constitution, and takes a deep interest in the work in hand. Believe me, himself and regiment will play no mean part in the operations before Charleston.

On the occasion of the first dress parade since the Colonel's arrival, which occurred last night, the following congratulatory and complimentary order was published:

HEADQUARTERS 169<sup>TH</sup> REG'T. N. Y. S. V., FOLLY ISLAND, S. C., Sept. 3, 1863.

General Order: -

The Colonel commanding embraces the earliest opportunity of expressing to the regiment his grateful acknowledgements for the cordial reception with which he was greeted on his recent return to duty. It is exceedingly gratifying to find that four months of absence have not, in any degree, weakened the mutual ties of interest and sympathy which previously existed. During this period the regiment has performed a vast amount of arduous service, and has gained a reputation for courage and efficiency of which, as soldiers, we have all just reason to be proud. And it cannot but gratify you to know that your labors and services have gained for you an honorable reputation throughout the country, and especially in that portion of it which most of you call home. - Had it been in his power, the Colonel commanding would gladly have shared with you all the experiences of your recent honorable campaign; but his inability to do so, has not prevented him from taking the most lively interest in all that has concerned you, and he has had the satisfaction of knowing that, during his absence, you have been under the command of a most faithful and competent commander, whose plan, as well as that of his associate officers, has been to promote your best interests. To him and to them, the Colonel commanding tenders his cordial thanks for their efforts in behalf of the regiment, as well as for their kind expressions of regard to himself. In his command, at this point of operations, the most prominent in the whole theatre of the war, the Colonel commanding can only assure you that it shall ever be his purpose to promote your success, and to unite with you in endeavoring to secure the success of the glorious enterprise in which we are engaged. Trusting in God, and wish in firm faith in the justice of our cause, let us all do and endure manfully whatever may fall to our lot and look with hope and faith to the achievement of the glorious results which we all so ardently desire.

By order, Clarence Buel, Col. Com'dg. Clark Smith, Acting Adjutant.

Lieut. William H. Merriam, of Gen. Foster's staff, also returned with Col. Buel, and was received with lively demonstrations of the satisfaction every individual member of the regiment experienced, by a promotion so worthily bestowed. Lieut. Merriam is a fine looking officer and wears his honors with becoming dignity.

And yet another mark of distinguished favor has been conferred upon the editorial fraternity by Gen. Foster. William E. Kisselburgh, our brave and dashing Adjutant, has also been appointed upon the General's staff. This is a good appointment, and shows the sagacity and discrimination of the General in selecting his staff officers. None will be found more efficient, prompt and competent to discharge the important duties of this post, amid the trying scenes we are passing through, when a clear head, undoubted courage, and unshaken nerve are among the prerequisites, than Adjutant Kisselburgh.

Lieut. Clark Smith, of Co. A, will act as Adjutant until Adjutant K. shall be returned to his regiment. Lieut. Smith is well qualified for the position and will fill the office with honor to himself and credit to the regiment.

I am sorry to notice that several of our officers are about tendering their resignations, or have already resigned. The regiment is already quite deficient in the number of officers.

Capts. Parmenter, of Co. I, and Wood, of Co. B, also returned with Col. Buel, much to the gratifications of their companies. It is but justice to Lieut.-Col. McConihe, to say that during Col. Buel's absence, he has administered the affairs of the regiment in the most satisfactory manner to all concerned, sharing our long marches and privations like a true soldier, and setting an example that will never be lost upon the men. And the same will apply to Major Alden. Long may they survive to wear the honors which must inevitably attach to their names at the termination of their careers at the close of the war.

Last Thursday, while in the pits under Wagner, Corporal Frisbie, of Co. A, who stood next to your correspondent in the ranks, was shot dead by one of the rebel sharpshooters. He was a brave soldier, and enlisted from Brainard with his only son, a boy of seventeen. The son died in Suffolk, of pneumonia; and now the father follows. Such is war.

I consign this letter to the mercies of the mail who occasionally visits this latitude, and trust you will get it betimes.

Yours truly, T. S.

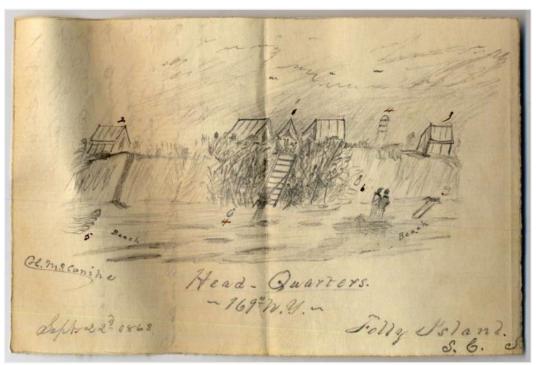
# The Troy Daily Whig.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1863.

#### THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH AT CHARLESTON. - The

following letter from an officer of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth, before Charleston, will be read with interest by all Trojans, especially those who have relatives and friends in the besieging army. The writer was one of the number of officers who recently visited Troy on special duty; –

Headquarters 169<sup>th</sup> Regiment, N.Y.V., Folly Island, Sept. 6, 1863.



Headquarters 169<sup>th</sup> N.Y., Folly Island, S.C. (September 22, 1863) Bvt. Brig.-Gen. and Col. John McConihe (1834-1864) Collection of the Albany Institute of History & Art, Albany, N.Y.

MR. F.: – We started in the staunch ship *Fulton* for this place on the 24<sup>th</sup> of last month, arriving safe, – but, as far as myself was concerned, not very sound, – on the 28th. What a fine thing it is to be a landsman and write glowingly of the "glorious sea!" and what another "fine thing" it is for that same landsman to be tossed about on the ocean he has so often admired, with no land in sight, no solid foundation under foot, and nothing but the fearfully treacherous water as far as the eye can reach. One travels under such circumstances much faster than fifteen knots an hour through the labyrinthian trenches of the past. The skeletons of his former eccentric actions become perfect, living, and uncommonly lively bodies, and cling to him so unpleasantly that he feels very much like the man in the play who was comically anxious to get back under the roof of his "paternal parent." He is like the man in Pickwick, who said he could skate, and yet suddenly remembered that he had a coat at home which would just fit Samuel Veller, who was kindly holding him up. I know such a one, who, by the way, is in my tent at present – and remember, painfully well, of his sitting on the deck of the vessel in New York harbor, humming the tune of that rare old song –

"A life on the ocean wave."

The day following he was rolling in his bunk dismally thinking, that

"The man who wrote it was green, He had never been to sea, And a storm he had never seen."

A sea voyage, like many other calamities, *stirs up* the fine feelings of a man's nature and makes him more kindly disposed towards life and the living. I think I do not flatter myself, or speak unwisely, when I say this was true in my case, and in the strictest sense. Three times each day I crept from my state-room to the table, but after having eaten a little I suddenly bethought me of the myriads of famishing fishes, who were hunting through the waters for the means of sustaining life, and the impulse to mitigate their miseries and fill their stomachs was so strong

upon me that I would spring from the table, and reaching the deck, would project my head dreamily over the vessel's side and wonder how many fishes and what their names, who were then and there feeding at my expense far down in the deep blue sea. The passengers soon informed themselves of this peculiarity of mine, and cheered me on with hilarious shouts each time I started for the table. Need I add that Lieutenant Merriam appreciated this part of the voyage most fully, and always applauded longer and louder than the rest? And now, as the surf rolls up almost to the very door of my tent, I think of the voyage, and the three daily meals, and the hungry fishes.

We arrived at Port Royal on the noon of the 28<sup>th</sup>, and took a tug for the island (which is, say, sixty miles from Port Royal) at midnight, reaching the landing at early morning. I had a fine view of the Sumter ruins from this point, but concluded to defer my taking of Charleston until I had visited the regiment.

I need not attempt the description of the island here; your readers well know its white sand would make any Troy grocer rich. The shade of its largest trees would burn any man up, the "grub" hereabouts would starve any man, and the mysterious sand flies, fleas, and other horrible and carnivorous insects, drive to desperation every man who comes here, and makes a heavy remark or so, regarding their stings, and eyes, and bills, and "souls" a positive luxury. The government has wisely furnished each soldier in this lively department with mosquito bars, and it is a pleasant study, indeed, to lie and watch the mosquitoes as they light upon the threads of the meshes, look sharply around, and then come down on you for the blood you have, with so much labor, distilled out of "hard tack" and "salt horse." But the "bars" would do very well, as they keep out everything which does not measure more than five inches from tip to tip – were it not for huge horned bugs which come from the ground at night and crawl over you and make horrid noises in your ears. But these fleas and things cannot interest you as much as though they were in your ears, and I will leave them (I wish they would leave me) and give you a night and day in the trenches, right under the banks of Wagner. I say the "banks," as a huge shapeless mass of sand cannot be dignified by the name of walls.

On the second of this month, our regiment occupied the fifth or advanced trench in front of Wagner. The getting out and into the trenches, is far more dangerous than remaining there after once in, and most of the casualties occur at dusk, when the "relief" comes in and the relieved go out. At that time Wagner pours in grape and canister, and Johnson and Gregg shell the beach. We pay not so much attention to the order of our going, as we do to going, and the boys dance in and out pretty lively. It was so dark when we reached our position in front, that I could see nothing, but laying down in the sand, watched the shells, with their burning fuses, course through the air and explode away behind us. No description can convey an idea of the hissing, horrible noise of the shells tearing through the air, and of the thunder of their bursting. Take the scale of fearful noises, run the gamut through in a few shrieks and screams, and you have it.

As soon as morning broke I was looking around, of course. Through a hole in our wall I could see the whole thing, as it lay before me. Wagner was directly in our front, not a hundred yards from us; and there, a little to our left, was the *in*-famous Charleston. We could see people on the docks and walking the streets. It is an easy matter to shell the thing to the ground, but that is not yet a part of the play. Sumter, or what is left of it, is just across the bay from Wagner and says never a word. The *Ironsides* and the monitors were lying lazily in the harbor close to Sumter, "throwing things" at Wagner. Wagner didn't like it much, and threw back, but soon got weary and remained quiet. Johnson, further yet to our left, fired often and wonderfully accurate, making the sand and soldiers fly in all directions. And so the affair continued, and we started for home at night very dirty, very hungry, and arrived there, after wading through the surf, very wet and weary. I forgot to mention that we must have marched over seven miles from our

camp to the trenches, including the crossing of [Lighthouse] Inlet, which is only a stone throw across, and were consequently pretty tired when we reached camp at midnight.

Of course you want to know the present state of affairs. To-night, or to-morrow morning, Wagner is to be assaulted and without doubt taken. – We have run our "sap" so close to it that our men to-day have been throwing hard tack and onions into the fort, and the old stars and stripes are planted on the *very corner of the rebel stronghold!* The storming brigade was received this afternoon. To-morrow night the place will be ours unless the General countermands the order. I think Massachusetts and Illinois troops are to make the attack. To-day we fired several experimental shots into Charleston, setting it on fire in several places. The ball is moving, and as rapidly as we who are *here*, can desire or expect. Those wiseacres who sit at home in their easy chairs, and take Charleston daily, are wanted here now, if things are not going on fast enough to suit them.

N. W

September 7 – Morning. – Morris Island was taken last night. Wagner and Gregg are ours. – No particulars.

N. W.

## The Troy Paily Times.

SEPTEMBER 16, 1863.

#### Life on Folly Island.

The following description of the mysteries and miseries of bombarding Charleston is given in a letter from our correspondent W. E. K.:

Sand! Sand everywhere – in my eyes, in my ears, in my mouth, throat and lungs, in the roots of my hair, all over my body, pricking, tickling, teasing the life out of me. To be more explicit, yesterday (Sunday,) we moved camp, settling down in the midst of a sand-hill. Up went the tents in a jiffy, and with hammer and nails I soon erected for myself a comfortable couch, upon which to stretch my weary limbs and beguile with sweet repose the long hours of night. Very tired, I was soon lulled to sleep by the roar of old ocean, which ten feet down the sandy bluff rolls in awful majesty before me. The fatigue of moving had worn me out; and when at night the winds arose, and picking up the tiny particles of which this island is composed, wafted them like so many snowflakes through the half-open tent, covering the floor and even the bed on which I slept, I little dreamed of the unpleasant predicament in which the morning was to find me, and in fact everyone else in camp. Literally, I was buried alive, with just enough of my nose protruding to enable me to breathe and give to the sleeping victim the appearance of life. Well, believe me, when I awoke, and had partially cleared my mouth and throat, I was somewhat disgusted. To swear, though I felt very much like it, would have been useless, and so I simply contented myself by going through the camp and taking observations of the condition of the tents and their inmates. Everybody was in the same plight as myself, and all at once jumped to the conclusion that there was no further use for jails or penitentiaries at the North, – only send your criminals and rioters down here to Folly Island, and let them enjoy just one sandstorm on this barren waste. No punishment could be greater.



Folly Island, S.C. (ca. 1863)

The sand has blown all day. My internal improvements are thoroughly McAdamized [like a gravel road]. The paper on which I write is covered with the gritty substance, and thus I am spared the trouble of using the blotter when I wish to turn over the sheet. There is no ill without some corresponding gain, but in this case the gain is far from compensating. The Lieut.-Col. says "it is horrible;" the Major varies the expression to "awful," and the Doctor allows it is worse than one of his No. 4 pills. To be terse, my private opinion is that it is damnable Sand! I say this very much as the old lady says "seat!" to a pestilent mouser, that has just tumbled over her best jar of preserves.

# The Troy Daily Whig.

OCTOBER 1, 1863.

#### OUR TROY BOYS IN FRONT OF CHARLESTON - LIFE ON FOLLY

Island. – A detachment of half a dozen non-commissioned officers and privates, members of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth regiment, came in yesterday morning, for recuperation or business, among them John R. Wethey, of Co. G, (on thirty days' furlough) formerly a printer with D. H. Jones & Co.; Sergeant Robert Rainsbury, Co. I; Sergeant Charles O'Reilly, Co. B; Corporal Murphy, Co. D, and Private Charles H. Myers, Co. I, discharged for disability. From a correspondent on Folly Island, who is



General View of the Bombardment of Battery Gregg and Fort Wagner (September 5, 1863)
William T. Crane (1830-1878)
The Becker Collection, Boston College, Boston, Mass.

an officer of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth, we have letters down to the 22<sup>d</sup>, which we give below:

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH REGIMENT, FOLLY ISLAND, S. C., Sept. 13, 1863.

Mr. F.: - Nothing on this surf-bound heap of sand, so forcibly reminds one of his great distance from the Verandah saloon, as the almost complete impossibility of procuring anything drinkable. – When this statement is coupled with the fact that these islands are the grounds where Quarantine corpses have been buried for a century, and that consequently the naturally villainous water is hardly endurable, does it seem strange that the distance to us is almost fabulous? Saratoga has its mineral waters, and Clarendon its sulpher springs; but the fountains of the islands of Charleston harbor are greater than those, for they are stronger to the nostrils, ranker to the palate, and more weakening to man, than are the waters of either Saratoga or Clarendon. A glass of cream headed ale, glowing like liquid amber in its crystal prison, would be to us a more tempting incentive to deeds of valor, than a golden cross of honor, and a dozen Wagners or Greggs would be daily stormed for a foaming goblet of milk punch with its miniature icebergs, snow crested and mottled with spicy nutmeg, fragrant and yellow. – Besides the water, we have sometimes issued by the Quartermaster, something under the dignified name of whiskey. Luckily it is seldom issued, and in such small quantities that few men die immediately from its effects. One is not aware of the immense length and superfine windings of the tube leading from the mouth to the stomach, until he has surveyed the premises with a gill of government "tangle foot."

The 9<sup>th</sup> of this month was a red letter day in the annals of the regiment. The Sanitary schooner, *Amy Chase*, sailed into Stono Inlet, with a cargo of ice, and the troops rejoiced. A barrel of water, generously seasoned with ice, was soon at the disposal of the men, and whoever thirsted might come and drink. As the soldiers came up under the hot sun and through the burning sand, and filling their cups drank eagerly, I could imagine the cool spring in the shade of an old tree by a Northern home, from whose crystal wave one less drank than in days of langsyne, and I saw one sad face gazing down into its mirror-like depths where *two* had gazed before, and time and space were annihilated; the sad face grew joyful, for another brown and bearded soldier was beside it, and then a hot southern gust shivered the mirror, and there stood the barrel with its fast decreasing supply and the brown and bearded soldiers coming and going. Blessed be the Sanitary Commission and its supporters, and may "Amy Chase," with her heart of ice,

which melted at the prayers of our soldiers, be long spared for the good deed she has done them.

You are now, probably, rejoicing over the fall of Wagner and Gregg. To us it is an old thing. We have plenty to do until James' Island is taken, and no time for congratulation. The incidents connected with our operations, few ludicrous but many more sad – so occupy our thoughts that we have little time to realize or rejoice. Our regiment, although losing but two men, has had its full share of the glories and dangers of the campaign. Private Frisbie of company "A" fell a victim of his own carelessness. He was shot through the heart, while sitting unconcernedly on our advance trenches. Two days before we took Wagner, our "sap" was so close to the walls of the fort, that we planted the stars and stripes over the very heads of the enemy on the outer ramparts of the fort, and our men amused themselves by throwing "hard tack" and onions over the wall, accompanying each article with "how are YOU, grey back?" "We're coming over to call on you." "How do you like the spoon victuals our monitors feed you on?" etc., etc. That night we arranged several Calcium lights so that while we remained in total eclipse, Wagner was completely flooded with light. The enemy could not work his guns, for the moment a head appeared, bang! up went a pair of rebellion's arms and down dropped a very dead rebel. About nine o'clock corporal John W. Guyer, of company "B," was standing with several others in our advanced parallel, watching operations, when the alarm was given by the look-out, "cover, Johnson!" All covered except Sergeant Chas. O'Reilly and Corporal Guyer. They both stood watching the shell, thinking it would fall short, but soon the death-bearing star came nearer and nearer, and with a shriek it buried itself in the ground between the feet of Corporal Guyer, bursting at the same time, mangling his limbs terribly, and making a frightful wound in the abdomen. He fell, exclaiming, "My poor wife and mother!" He died the next morning at three o'clock, and was buried on the Island with military honors. He was an exemplary man and soldier, and died regretted by every officer and enlisted man in the regiment. Sergeant O'Reilly escaped by throwing himself on his face. He was buried in the sand, but exhumed himself with wonderful rapidity, unhurt, but with nostrils, eyes, ears and mouth filled with dirt. Lieut.-Col. McConihe had a narrow escape the next night. A piece of shell weighing some fifteen pounds, came tearing through the air and his coat, gouging a hole in the sand into which his foot slipped, almost upsetting him. His escape with only a bruised foot, is almost miraculous.

The taking of Wagner is an indisputable proof of the brilliant engineering skill of Gen. Gillmore. The bomb-proofs were capable of holding 900 men and so strong that we might have continued on bombardment until the death of our antediluvial friend Hagadorn, and accomplished nothing. — Gillmore dug them out, and so skillfully, that our "sap" was under their very noses before they knew it. We rushed in and found them — absent, with the exception of two, who were lying asleep among the fragment of shell and gun carriages. They were reminded of the presence of interested parties by insinuating caresses from the toe of a Government "gunboat" — sometimes called a shoe. — On learning that the "Yanks" were in possession they said they "didn't care a Continental d----n, they would have some coffee now."

We secured much valuable ordnance. Many of the guns were dismounted, but enough were in order to supply grape and canister liberally. I would like to write more about operations here, but cannot disobey orders. I think Capt. Parmenter will be obliged to return home on sick leave. He rejoined the regiment before fully recovering from his severe illness, and against the advice of his physician. He is now suffering from a relapse, caused by exposure and overwork in the trenches in front of Wagner. He has persistently refused to accept a leave of absence, but the surgeons insist upon his returning home for a season, knowing that he cannot recover here.

FOLLY ISLAND, Sept. 22.

Since my previous letter nothing of note has occurred in regard to the progress of the siege that it would be proper for me to write. Since the 17<sup>th</sup> the following deaths from disease, in the regiment, have occurred, and on this point your readers may be assured I will keep you fully posted: Albert S. Hall, Co. I, died Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, Grafton; Thomas Kiernan, Co. I, died Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, Troy; James Colden, Co. D, died Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, Fort Edward; William McKelvy, Co. F, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. The cause of their death was by prostration from their fatiguing marches on the Peninsula, on Gen. Dix's July "feint," at and from the "White House," and the Pamunkey.

N. W.

# The Troy Daily Whig.

OCTOBER 17, 1863.

FROM THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH. – The following letter is from our regular correspondent:

HEADQUARTERS 169<sup>TH</sup> REGIMENT, N. Y. V. FOLLY ISLAND, S. C., Oct. 9, 1863.

As a friend is about returning to Troy, I cannot resist the opportunity afforded me of sending a line. We are doing simply nothing at all, at present, if drilling four hours a day, laying in the marsh at Stono every other night, running a hill at the Sutler's "Cheap Cash Store," and entertaining bugs and "things," may be considered as doing nothing. Sometimes, in our insane moments, we almost wish in our nightly marches of seven miles through surf and sand, back again, and sigh for other Greggs and Wagners, with their disconcerting protests of shot and shell – to conquer. We strive, however, to relieve the monotony of our lives by gathering shells and watching for the transports which are to bring the conscripted members of the gallant Twenty-fourth. This last remark, is, I understand, contraband; but, as I am aware you will say nothing about it, I give it to you in all confidence. We are greatly cheered at the prospect of those deeply laden transports, and will give a heart-felt welcome to the dauntless heroes, who were so effective during the riot, of the 15th of July.

The minds of the regimental philosophers have, of late, been deeply agitated on the bug question, and their researches have resulted in the discouraging fact, that there are over 9,000,000 classes of those animals on this island, the individual members of each class being furnished with bills from two and a half to five inches in length, steel pointed and ingeniously arranged for the purpose of tapping and drawing blood from the patriotic bodies of Uncle Samuel's chosen. Each individual has a name, the utility of which the sages have not as yet discovered. The following are the names of those most generally known and highly appreciated:

Wood-Tick. Bed-Bug, (ancient house). Mus-Key-Toe, (very old family). Thing.
Jigger.
Sand-Fly-Flea.
Sand-Fiddler.
Head-Louse, (imported).
"Crumb," (imported).

Some, you will see by the names, are as familiar as "household words," or old friends; but the greater portion are indigenous. It is wonderful how soon these last named accommodate themselves to circumstances. We had no sooner landed and encamped than they swarmed in upon us, perfectly willing to share our indifferent beds, or form parts of our meals, and we have now become so accustomed to their peculiarities, that a piece of meat, without palpable evidence of animation, or dried apples, minus active life, would make our meals perfectly lonesome, and I verily believe there is not a soldier in camp who could eat his rations without the accompaniment of the ubiquitous maggot sandwich, (this last named article is generally known by the name of "hard tack," and is supposed by imaginative persons to be a good substitute for bread). Although there seems to be a perfect willingness in the minds of our big bug friends to remain with us, and at present a christian-like resignation on ours to submit, I fear that sooner or later a falling out will take place, and then look out for civil war and a recognition of the South.

We find a slight difference between the duties imposed on us now, and those we performed during the Morris Island controversy. Here, we may ramble over the beach for hours and hunt shells; there, the shells were in the habit of rambling over the beach for hours to hunt *us*, and we are, in regard to the change, what many officers in the service would like to be in regard to their positions – *resigned!* I suppose the time will come, and soon enough for most of us, when even a very deep mud hole will again command a premium, with shot and shell fluctuating with a downward tendency.

The call for drill has just been sounded, and is, like the fabled voice of Justice, inexorable. Therefore, I must close by performing the chirographical feat of subscribing myself.

N. W.

### The Troy Daily Press.

NOVEMBER 16, 1863.

Interesting Letter from the One Hundred and Sixty-Ninth – Presentation of the Sword to Lieutenant-Colonel McConihe.

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Camp 169$^{th} Regiment,} \\ \text{Folly Island, Near Charleston, S. C.,} \\ \text{Nov. } 11^{th}, 1863. \end{array}$ 

#### AN AGREEABLE INCIDENT - HONOR TO THE BRAVE.

Editors Daily Press:

One of the most agreeable incidents in the history of this regiment occurred on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> inst. It was one, too, that will be cherished in the memory of every member of the 169<sup>th</sup> with feelings of just pride, in view of the substantial tribute of honor it paid to one of our commanding officers. It was the occasion of a sword



Presentation sword awarded to Lieutenant-Colonel John McConihe at Folly Island, S.C., on November 7th, 1863, by Colonel Clarence Buel on behalf of the citizens of Troy, N.Y.

Manufactured by Messrs. Ball & Black of New York

Collection of the Rensselaer County Historical Society, Troy, N.Y.

presentation, in which Lieut.-Col. John McConihe bore the conspicuous honor of being the recipient. The presentation speech was made by Col. Buel, and was a most happy effort, eliciting the spontaneous plaudits of the highly distinguished auditory present.

#### THE HOUR FOR THE PRESENTATION.

was fixed at four o'clock, P.M., after the regiment had been drawn up in line for dress parade. Accordingly, at that hour the line was formed, as usual, with the regimental band of the 103<sup>d</sup> N. Y. V. resting on the right, whose services had been secured for the occasion, from the fact that our own band is at present without a leader, and is hardly up to the standard once accorded it for excellence while the regiment was quartered at Washington.

#### APPEARANCE OF THE REGIMENT.

The line, as thus formed, with the men at support arms, presented a splendid appearance, and must have made a most favorable impression upon the minds of the high military notables who honored the occasion with their presence. Cols. Buel and McConihe soon made their appearance upon the ground, accompanied by some fifty or more invited and voluntary guests and spectators.

#### THE SWORD,

shrined in a handsome black walnut case, was borne by a guard of honor, consisting of a Sergeant and four privates, detailed from the ranks of Company A for that purpose, who took position with their valuable charge upon the right of the regiment until the command "In place, rest," was given by Col. Buel, when they advanced and took position on the Colonel's right, and awaited the given moment to deliver the magnificent gift into the hands for which it was intended. As the sword has already been minutely described by the Troy PRESS, it would be useless to essay a description at this time.

Col. Buel at once took his position in front of the regiment, which, after the order of "Guide post," was brought to the position of open order by Acting Adjutant Clark Smith, when the

#### PRESENTATION CEREMONY

was immediately commenced, Col. McConihe taking his position in front of Col. Buel, and with uncovered head, listened with feelings of lively interest and evident emotion, to the reading of the letter accompanying the sword, and the eloquent speech of our Colonel.

#### THE LETTER,

which contains over one hundred signatures, comprising the names of our most eminent citizens at home, is as follows:

TROY, N. Y., Oct. 10, 1863.

LIEUT.-COL. JOHN McCONIHE -

DEAR SIR – You will please accept from us, your fellow townsmen, the sword, sash, belt, and passants accompanying this letter, as a token of our personal friendship and esteem; of our admiration of your noble qualities, both of the head and heart; of our appreciation of your fortitude and endurance, as displayed in the long and fatiguing marches during the campaign in Missouri in 1861; of the alacrity with which you left a sick bed to participate in the bloody field of Shiloh, of your courage and ability, as displayed on that fiercely contested field, where you were severely wounded; and of those continual evidences of courage and high military capacity, evinced by you at the action on the Edenton Road, and during the pending siege of Charleston.

We trust this sword to you, feeling confident that it will never be drawn in an unjust cause, and that it will never be sheathed until the glory and power of our country shall be fully vindicated in this contest for the suppression of an unholy rebellion.

Yours very sincerely, &c.

#### SPEECH OF COL. BUEL.

The presentation speech of Col. Buel was as follows, and prompted demonstrative marks of approbation from the highly enlightened and patriotic auditors in attendance:

LIEUT.-COL. MCCONIHE – SIR: – The agreeable duty has been assigned to me of confiding to you on behalf of your fellow-townsmen, a most elegant testimonial of their friendship and esteem for yourself personally, and of their admiration of your high soldierly qualities; and I accept the trust with more unalloyed satisfaction, for the reason that my close association with you in duty for more than a year past, has assured me that you are well worthy of this noble tribute, and of the gratifying sentiments with which it is accompanied.

This beautiful sword, with its accompanying insignia, are the spontaneous offering of your friends and fellow townsmen of Troy, New York, your native city where your character and services are best known and appreciated, and where your career is watched with most cordial interest and friendly pride. And here, in passing, I may be allowed to say that it is a peculiar honor to be the recipient of any meritorious token from the citizens of Troy, a city of which it is only a modest enconium to say that it has been surpassed by none other, in the proportion of men and means which it has contributed to the country during the existing rebellion – a city from which no less than five complete regiments have gone forth since the commencement of the war, and which must have sent almost an equal number in the way of recruits to these and other regiments in the field, and one, which, alone in the State of New York, has, by voluntary enlistments, obtained a total exemption from the operation of the recent draft.

The letter which accompanies this splendid testimonial, is signed by more than a hundred names, among which I recognize those of many of the oldest, most honorable and influential citizens of Troy. And when you take home to your heart the sentiments which that letter expresses, you will, I know, cherish it as a treasure not even secondary to the elegant token which it so fittingly accompanies.

With your permission, I will read it, not only as expressing the most gratifying sentiments on the part of the donors, but as affording the most appropriate terms in which I can discharge the grateful duty they have assigned to me: (Here Col. Buel read the letter,)

And here, sir, I might very well bring my remarks to a close, for I can add nothing to the appropriateness of the language I have just read. You will allow me to say, however, that the feelings it breathes forth are cordially shared by myself, and by the officers and men of the regiment in which you hold an honorable command.

It is surely unnecessary to direct attention to the beauty and exquisite finish of the sword itself, or to the elegance and completeness of the insignia with which it is accompanied. They speak for themselves, and are all as they should be – chaste, elegant and substantial – alike fitted to shine in the gay tournament and to do good service on the field of glory – the useful and the beautiful harmoniously blended in the form most agreeable to the eye of the soldier. Its inscriptions, too, are equally appropriate – one of them your own cheering cry to your brave men on the bloody battle field of Shiloh, "Come on boys!" and the residue a modest mention of some of your services during the past three years.

And now, sir, I present to you, in the names and on the behalf of the donors, your former fellow townsmen, this magnificent sword and these elegant trappings, adding, in conclusion, a single sentiment taken from one of the choicest gems of poetry, which I heartily apply to the sword now entrusted to your keeping:

"The sword – a name of dread; yet when Upon the Freeman's thigh 'tis bound – While for his altar and his hearth, While for the land that gave him birth, The War drums roll, the trumpets sound, How sacred is it then!"

"Whenever for the truth and right It flashes in the van of fight."

"Still, where'er the battle cry Is Liberty – when men do stand For justice and their native land. Then Heaven bless the SWORD!"

#### LIEUT.-COL. McCONIHE'S RESPONSE.

Colonel and Fellow Soldiers. - I am indeed overwhelmed at the reception of this magnificent testimonial in recognition of my humble services, freely rendered in the cause of my country since the outbreak of this rebellion. I have not adequate speech to properly express my great gratitude for this mark of esteem from my friends at home. – Through you, sir, I thank them; and here, in the presence of this assembled concourse of our Republic's Defenders, with my hand upon this jeweled hilt, I pledge myself, I swear, never to draw my sword but to uphold the glorious fabric of our Government, as handed down to us by our fathers, and never to sheath it, so long as my country accepts my services, and until this war discloses an honorable peace, based upon free institutions, reunited sovereignties, and an entirety of States. - Although, sir, I would much prefer to grasp the hand of friendship in my native city, yet this generous gift of those whose familiar names you have just read, many of whom have been my intimate associates through life, and all of whom I have delighted to esteem and honor, points to another duty. Such incidents as this in a soldier's life, nerve and cheer him in his many trials, and I acknowledge to a sense of pride at being the recipient of so proud and generous a testimonial. It shall be my only aim to preserve its bright blade unsullied, and I trust my course in the future, as in the past, will receive the approbation and sanction of its generous donors and my friends generally.

I cannot conclude these few remarks of appreciative gratitude without expressing my unfaltering belief in the complete preservation of this Union, and an honorable and successful termination of the war. Last Spring, while this regiment was doing duty in the city of Washington, I often had occasion to admire the stateliness and grandeur of the Capitol Buildings. As I looked upon the magnificent proportions of the unfinished dome surmounting that house of marble, alive with busy artisans working the massive blocks of marble, piece by piece, to its completion, while the corridors and halls below were swarming with the wisdom of the Republic, assembled and engaged in devising means to carry on the war and preserve the life of the Republic, I felt reassured of the completion of our liberties and the preservation of our country. You, my, fellow soldiers, are the artisans

at work upon the dome of our country's liberties, and beneath that starry banner your valiant arms shall cement these States, State by State, until the fabric of our Government shall spread over all our people the mantle of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

At the conclusion of this most happy response, Lieut.-Col. McConihe assumed his position as commander of the regiment (as I stated in my previous letter, Col. Buel being temporarily detached as presiding officer of a General Court Martial,) having, however, first donned the sword and its appurtenances, when the ceremonies of the Dress Parade were concluded, the 103<sup>d</sup> performing its *role* most admirably, discoursing euphony of the first order, and to which hundreds of grateful ears listened, as with martial step it marched down and up the line.

#### THE DISTINGUISHED PERSONAGES PRESENT.

Among the distinguished officers who honored the occasion with their presence, I noticed the following: Brig.-Gen. Vogdes, commanding Division, and north end of Folly Island; Brig.-Gen. Foster, commanding Brigade; Brig.-Gen. John W. Turner, Gen. Gillmore's Chief of Staff; Act. Brig.-Gen. L. H. S. Fairchild, 89<sup>th</sup> N. Y. V., and their brilliant staff; Col. C. J. Dobbs, and Lieut.-Col. Wilson, 13<sup>th</sup> Ind.; Capt. McHenry, A. A. Gen. Vogdes' staff; Capt. P. A. Davis, A. A. Gen. Foster's staff, and many others, to your correspondent unknown.

The press was represented by Osbern and Lawyer, of the N. Y. *Herald;* Whitmore, of the N. Y. *Times;* Crane, (artist), of Frank Leslie's *Illustrated,* and Shepard, of the N. Y. *Tribune.* 

#### GOOD CHEER AND GOOD FEELING.

Immediately after the dismissal of the parade, such of the officers and spectators as felt inclined, adjourned to Lieut.-Col. McConihe's quarters, where the best of good cheer had been provided for all who chose to partake of the Colonel's liberal hospitalities and eminent good feeling, and the interchange of friendly sentiment characterized the evening's intercourse.

#### THE EXCELLENT BAND

of the 103<sup>d</sup> in the meantime collected in front of the Colonel's quarters, and gave full scope to their talent as first-class musicians, keeping the whole regiment, as well as large bodies of eager listeners from other regiments, spellbound, as it were, for an hour and a half.

#### THE PRIVATES NOT FORGOTTEN.

During the evening whiskey rations were issued to all hands, and cheers for the Lieut.-Colonel, as well as the Colonel, were given on every side.

#### ENTHUSIASM AND SONG-SINGING.

Enthusiasm and the best of feeling prevailed, throughout the regiment. Songsinging, cheering, and other demonstrations of an enthusiastic character, were indulged in until "tap," when the camp again assumed its garb of wonted quiet.

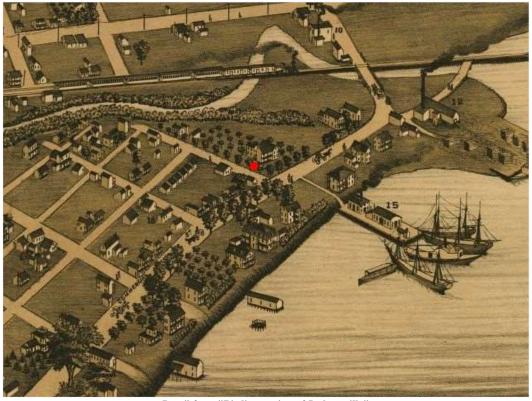
#### THE OCCASION

was one long to be remembered by all who witnessed the presentation, and more especially by the officers and privates of the 169<sup>th</sup>.

#### THE BOMBARDMENT.

The bombardment of Sumter and the other Rebel works still continues. Little progress is being made, however. I hope to have something to chronicle in the way of news in my next letter.

Yours, truly, T. S.



Detail from "Bird's-eye view of Jacksonville"
Drawn by Augustus Koch (1840 - ?)
Published by Alvord, Kellogg & Campbell, Jacksonville, Fla. (1876)
Collection of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

The Winter Mansion, at McCoy and Winter Streets in Jacksonville, site of the headquarters of the 169th N.Y., is indicated by the red dot.

### The Troy Daily Press.

APRIL 28, 1864.

From the 169th.

Camp  $169^{\text{th}}$  Regiment, N. Y. S. V. Jacksonville, Fla., April 15, 1864.

Editors Daily Press: – No great events will probably signalize the historic annals of this department during the approaching campaign. An occasional reconnaissance and skirmishing by our advanced pickets, will, unless our fortified positions are attacked, constitutes the material fighting for the summer. In the absence, then, of any military movement of importance in this latitude, this letter must of necessity prove characteristically local in all its details, but not totally devoid of interest, I hope, to the friends of the regiment at home. Among the arrivals by the steamer Fulton, due at Hilton Head on the 9<sup>th</sup>, was that of our new commander, Col. John McConihe, who safely arrived at Jacksonville on Monday, the 11<sup>th</sup>. Col. McConihe was accompanied by the following named officers of the

regiment, all of whom with the exception of Lieut. W. H. Merriam, were attached to the recruiting detail which left Folly Island for Troy in December last: Capts. D. J. Cary, S. W. Snyder, Augustus Vaughn, Lieut. Wm. H. Merriam, and Lieut. and Acting Adjutant Clark Smith.

Immediately it was announced the Colonel had returned a *furore* of almost wild excitement seized the entire camp, and all other thoughts of prospective duties for the day, and preparations for drill and parade, became instantly subservient to the overshadowing entity that our popular commander had been elevated, and deservedly, to the highest position the regiment could confer, was about to appear among us again, and assume the duties of his responsible office. An eager throng soon surrounded the house occupied by Lieut.-Col. Alden and the staff officers, and lined the avenue by which the Colonel was obliged to make his approach to the building.

The band, not a whit behind this spontaneous eruption of our devoted soldiers, made a contemporaneous demonstration, with their instruments, in front of headquarters, and as soon as the Colonel's black charger, bestrode by his well known rider, appeared, the band first touched the inspiring notes of welcome, which were seconded by a storm of applause from the men. The Colonel did not then and there make a speech; his heart was too full for that, but he bowed his acknowledgments, and, after greeting, in accordance with the usages of etiquette, Lt.-Col. Alden and Major Colvin, a scene of lively hand shaking and congratulatory exchanges on all sides ensued.

No Colonel in the army enjoys more fully the love and respect of the officers and men of his command, than Col. John McConihe. Possessing every requisite qualification of heart and mind, essential for so important a command, he is also the soldier's true friend, and the humblest private in the ranks can approach him with the same ease and assurance for counsel and advice, as the line officer. With that stamina of character that can enforce the strictest discipline, while it develops a keen discernment of the soldiers' impulses and weaknesses, order and proficiency, neatness, confidence, and a laudable spirit of emulation, evidence the presence of a master mind to direct in one peaceful channel, such a heterogeneous mass of conflicting mental predilection, passion and sentiment, as is contained in a regiment numbering eight hundred and fifty souls.

I need not say that the interests of the regiment were consigned into able and most efficient hands, during the absence of Col. McConihe. Lieut.-Col. Alonzo Alden is an officer qualified by education and experience to maintain that enviable status hitherto attained by the regiment for its proficiency in drill, gallantry under fire, endurance on the march, and popular reputation for cleanliness, good conduct, and thorough discipline.

The following congratulatory order was published on dress parade on Tuesday afternoon, 12<sup>th</sup> inst.:

HEADQUARTERS 169<sup>TH</sup> N. Y. V., JACKSONVILLE, FLA., April 12, 1864.

General Order No. 20:

Assuming command as your Colonel, it becomes my pleasing duty to acknowledge the cordial greeting which you all extended to me on my return from the North. It has always been gratifying to me to be present with you, and I can assure you that nothing but a sense of duty has, for the past three months, separated me from the regiment. The efforts which, during that time, have been put forth to recruit the regiment, are evidenced to you by your refilled ranks.

The Colonel commanding takes this opportunity to compliment the regiment upon its discipline, soldierly bearing, and fine appearance. Of you all, both officers and men, nothing but the best reports have been made; and, at your homes, it is now, and I trust ever will be, an honor to belong to the gallant 169<sup>th</sup>. Your country will honor you for the part which you have taken in this great struggle for National Life and Constitutional Liberty, and the sacrifices which you have made and the hardships which you have endured will long be remembered by a generous and grateful people to your immortal credit.

The Colonel commanding reassures you that it will be his aim and pride in the future, as in the past, to serve you and to advance the collective and individual interests of the regiment.

II. All existing orders will continue in force until countermanded by competent authority. III. Lieut. Clark Smith is announced as the Acting Adjutant of the regiment, and will be observed as such.

IV. Major James A. Colvin is hereby appointed Regimental Referee, and each morning, immediately after guard mounting, all prisoners will be brought before him by the Officer of the Day.

By order,

JOHN McConihe, Col., 169th N. Y. V.

On Tuesday, having received their commissions by the *Fulton*, Major Alden and Captain Colvin were re-mustered into the service as Lt.-Colonel and Major, respectively. Lt.-Colonel Alonzo Alden is too well known at home, to require any praise from the pen of your correspondent. – Major James A. Colvin, who came out with the regiment as Captain of Co. A, is a fine drillmaster, thorough disciplinarian, and in every respect qualified to fill the responsible position this promotion accords him.

First Lieutenant James F. Thompson, of Co. F, has also received his commission and succeeds to the Captaincy of Co. A. Captain Thompson is an officer of tried courage and efficiency, and was selected by Gen. Vogdes to take charge of the many perilous scouting expeditions about the enemy's works on James Island and Charleston, while the regiment was at Folly Island, and it was thought his energetic efforts and daring ventures in that dangerous service that revealed to Gen. Gillmore the strength and number of the enemy's works about that Gomorrah of the South.

Two weeks ago, the *Maple Leaf*, a fine steamboat in the government service, was blown up by a torpedo between this place and Palatka. She had just returned from Folly Island, and had on board a large amount of baggage, Quartermaster's stores, &c., belonging to the 169<sup>th</sup>. An attack upon Palatka being hourly apprehended, and the *Maple Leaf* being the only available boat on hand, no time was given to unload her, and she was immediately started up the river with reinforcements. It was on her return, and when about fourteen miles above this city, that she came in contact with the torpedo, by which four men were killed, and the boat and freight will probably prove an almost total loss.

Notwithstanding this terrible catastrophe, which should have taught the most extreme caution in the future navigation of the St. Johns river, the *Gen. Hunter* and this fine boat, was blown up within a few feet of the scene of the former accident on Saturday morning, 16<sup>th</sup> inst. Fortunately only one man, as I understand, was killed by this explosion, although the boat will probably prove a total loss.

The following order which was published on Dress Parade last night explains itself:

HEADQUARTERS, PROVISIONAL BRIGADE, Jacksonville, Fla., April 17, 1864.

C. J. Dobbs, 13<sup>th</sup> Ind. Vols., is hereby relieved from command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade. – Col. John McConihe, 169<sup>th</sup> N. Y. Vols., will assume command of the same.

Col. J. C. DRAKE.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Ind., Col. Dobbs, left Jacksonville by steamer yesterday – point of destination not known. It is rumored that the 169<sup>th</sup> will soon follow. Palatka has been evacuated, and it appears by present indications, that *concentration* has been inaugurated as a new policy into the government's conduct of the war. This is as it should be, and there is not a soldier of the army in this department but rejoices at this indication of sound sense on the part of the heads of the War Department.

A glee club is now in process of organization in this regiment. No better material for this laudable object can be found, perhaps, than exists in the 169<sup>th</sup>; and as the boys who have taken this matter in hand are thorough going and competent, I hope to be able to give a good account of this new institution in my next. The health of the regiment never was better, if so good, as at present.

Yours truly, T. S.

### The Troy Paily Times.

May 16, 1864.

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH. – A capital letter

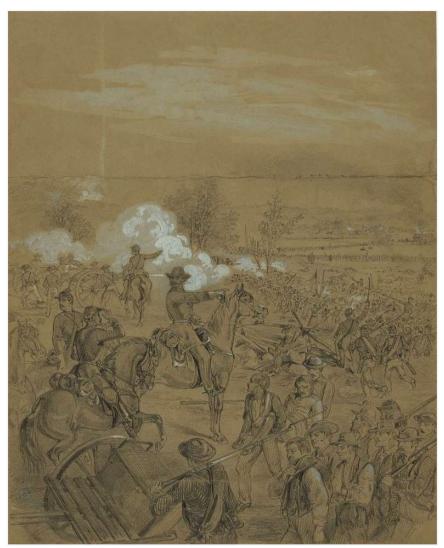
from this regiment, written by Lieut. Wm. H. Merriam, will be found on our first page. Troy has a great interest in Col. McConihe's regiment, and the battle of Chester in which they participated, was a severe and successful one. The list of casualties includes Theodore Schutt, a well-known Troy printer, wounded and a prisoner in Richmond. Lieut. Merriam's graphic letter will attract attention.

#### From the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth.

Correspondence of the Troy Daily Times.

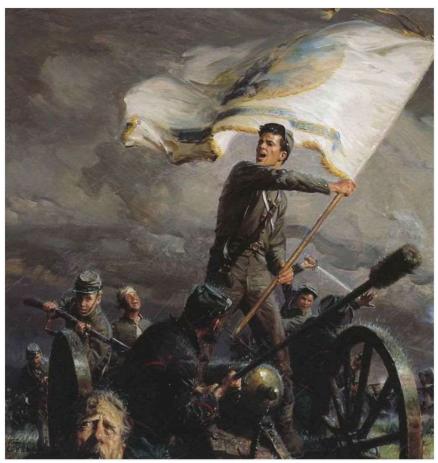
NEAR PETERSBURG, VA., May 10.

The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth regiment has again witnessed and participated in the scene of a day marked by carnage and blood, and to-night some of its brave men sleep in death on this Virginia soil, others are wounded and prisoners in the hands of the enemy, while yet others languish in the hospitals, all having nobly borne up the honor of the flag on the desperately contested field of Chester. The battle of Chester, on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1864, will fill up its page in history, and will long be remembered for the severity of its incidents, and the bloody results upon which night closed in. I shall simply recount the part Col. McConihe's command so nobly sustained in the heat of the day, feeling assured that such recital will best attest the matured character of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth for courage, coolness and well-disciplined military ability. In respect of these attributes, the regiment is already well-nigh prepared to take the place of the tried and gallant Thirteenth Indiana volunteers, Col. Dobbs, who go out of the service on the 19th of June proximo, after a magnificent career of usefulness in the armies of the Union, crowned with those exalted laurels of a lofty and unselfish patriotism that will ever constitute questionless passports to the choicest affections of their countrymen. In all the events of to-day, which I am about to recite, no regiment enacted a more glorious and truly heroic part than the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth, as the noble support it gave Howell's menaced brigade at the front will witness.



An officer directing his troops into battle (ca. 1861-'65) John R. Chapin (1823-1907) Collection of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

In accordance with orders that portions of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth regiment not doing picket duty, left camp, at Foster's Plantation, eight miles above City Point, Va., about 3 o'clock A.M. on the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup> of May, 1864, and in junction with the Thirteenth Indiana volunteers, Col. C. J. Dobbs, proceeded to a point on the Richmond and Petersburg Turnpike, near Chester Station, - arriving there about daylight, and duly reporting to Col. Voris, of the Sixty-seventh Ohio. Co. H, Lieutenant Wm. H. Lyon, commanding, was ordered forward on the right, and Capt. Daniel Ferguson, Co. K, on the left of the Turnpike, in support of the Fourth New Jersey battery. Co. C, Capt. Joseph H. Allen; Co. D, Capt. Spencer W. Snyder; and Co. F, Capt. Augustus D. Vaughn, moved, all under command of Lieut.-Col. Alden, out on the right side road leading to Henry Friend's House, deploying as skirmishers from the route to the Turnpike. Soon thereafter, the enemy were discovered in force on the right and in front, manœuvring to advance, and passing around our right flank, Lieut.-Col. Alden found this flank movement in time to change the line of skirmishers, so that our right might connect with Col. Howell's brigade. Col. Alden had but just accomplished this when the enemy made the general attack. The first shots were exchanged at 6½ A.M. At 9 o'clock A.M., Co. G, Lieut. C. D. Merrill; Co. I, Capt. D. J. Cary; Co. A, Capt. J. F. Thomp-



Youth's Hour of Glory (1989) Tom Lovell (1909-1997) Private Collection

son; Co. E, Lieut. H. Mulhall, and Co. B, Lieut. J. H. Dunn, rejoined the regiment - having been relieved from picket duty. Cos. A and I moved out on the right to strengthen the line of skirmishers, while Co. B took position on the left – Co. E and C being on the right in support of the battery. A desultory firing and skirmishing was maintained until about 11 o'clock in the forenoon, at which hour the enemy made a general attack with one brigade upon our right flank, and another with cavalry and artillery upon our centre and left. The advance of the enemy was made in columns of four ranks. They were received with a terrific fire, both from the regiment and the battery. Both the officers and men stood to their respective posts with great courage and nobleness, and the quick discharge of grape and canister made most perceptible openings in their ranks. Not until the enemy were fairly upon the guns did the line fall back, and then the regiment fell back, firing, but a short distance to our line on the right, on the crossroads, for the purpose of checking a flank movement of the enemy on our right. The two companies on the right (E and G) and the two companies on the left of the battery remained in their respective positions and did not fall back until the gun on the right of the road had limbered up, and the caisson without the gun on the left was moving to the rear. The companies then retired by orders. This position was held nobly against a very superior force, the lieutenant commanding the battery behaving with distinguished gallantry; yet Col. McConihe could not account for the caisson going to the rear without the gun. Every effort was made to halt the caisson, the lieutenant commanding the battery discharging his revolver at the driver. There are some few incidents of the day worth relating as favorably

affecting the character of the officers of the regiment for bravery and intelligent military discretion. During the heat of the fight, while Col. McConihe was in front of his command, directing the various movements of his regiment, he was made the target of a terrible bullet hail, none of which, in the good Providence of God, struck him; but his escape from falling, pierced again and again, was, under the circumstances, truly miraculous. His horse, familiarly known in the regiment as "Old Dick," and formerly owned by Col. Clarence Buel, when that young prelate commanded the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth, fell, while the Colonel was mounted upon him, with sixteen bullets in his equine body. The horse fell with Colonel McConihe, who was with much difficulty extricated from beneath the carcass. - The part enacted in the battle by Lieut.-Col. Alonzo Alden was conspicuously creditable and able. Colonel Voris, of the Sixty-seventh Ohio volunteers, who had command of the brigade, under the general direction of Gen. Howell, of the Thirty-ninth Illinois volunteers, directed Colonel Alden to extend his deployed line until he could connect with the left of Col. Howell's brigade. In compliance with these orders the line was extended about three-fourths of a mile, when a large force of the enemy was discovered about six hundred yards to our right. Col. Alden immediately made a hazardous reconnaissance, in person, for the purpose of effecting a junction of the picket lines. At this point Col. Alden discovered that a large force, at least one brigade, of the enemy was already far advanced in closing upon our rear. With the assistance of Major Butler of the Sixty-seventh Ohio, and the gallant Lieut. Smith, acting Adjutant of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth, Col. Alden, with great difficulty, effected a change of front, by which strategical manœuvre the enemy were prevented from attacking our rear. No sooner had Col. Alden effected this change of front than a vigorous attack was made upon our entire line, by a force of at least three brigades. - At this moment Major Butler of the Sixty-seventh Ohio assumed command of the right deployed line, by order of Col. Alden, with explicit directions to check any flank movement of the enemy. Col. Alden, accompanied by Adjutant Smith, then left to join Colonel McConihe, who was in immediate command of the forces on the Petersburg and Richmond turnpike. At this point the attack was vigorously pressed, and a continuous and heavy fire of artillery and musketry from the solid ranks of the enemy, was most sharply returned by the One Hundred and Sixtyninth New York, the Sixty-seventh Ohio, the noble old Thirteenth Indiana, and a section of the Fourth New Jersey Light Artillery, whereby the enemy were severely punished – as was afterwards confessed by them, under flag of truce they sent in when general defeat was settling down upon them. At this moment it was discovered that large forces of the enemy were being massed upon our right and left flanks. A rear change of front was effected under a galling fire. In this manœuvre a little incident occurred worthy of mention. Colonel Alden, while rallying his men around the colors upon the new line of battle, received the announcement from Lieut. D. S. Durbin, of Gen. Ames' staff, confirmed by a staff officer of Gen. Gillmore's, that Gen. Grant had accomplished a glorious victory over Gen. Lee, who was fast falling within the entrenched lines around Richmond. In making this announcement to the men, Col. Alden proposed three cheers for Gen. Grant and his army. The response was truly electrifying, the cheers of the men vying with the roar of the cannon, the bursting of shell and the whistling of bullets. As soon as the cheering had subsided, the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth moved to a point farther to the right and rear, and successfully checked a renewed effort of the enemy to get to our rear, and at the same time effecting a junction with Col. Howell's brigade. The enemy having been effectually repulsed and punished at all points, suffering most severely in killed and wounded, discontinued the attack, and by flag of truce were permitted to enter our lines and bury their dead. Thus ended the hotly contested battle of Chester Station, twelve miles from Richmond – the losses of the enemy being unexaggeratedly triple

those of the Union forces engaged. The following is a list of the casualties in the regiment:

Killed – Wm. S. Hand, Theodore Sheldon, Co. A; John Mallery, B; Oliver Gilchrist, J. W. Taylor, E; Leonard Fish, F; Wm. Wilbrand, Wm. Campbell, K.

Wounded – Privates Daniel Osborn, E. A. Prouty, W. H. Shufelt, Jonathan Hoag, Co. A; First Sergeant M. Ryan, privates Robert Anderson, Edward Clary, John Moran, Patrick O'Brien, Owen Tanzey (badly), George Roarbock, John Barlow, Jeremiah Cahill, Co. B; Corporal Hugh Toole (slightly), Co. D; privates G. C. Edgerton (leg amputated), John H. Bligh, George D. Bennett, H. J. Nichols, Charles Peer, Co. E; private S. B. Keech (badly wounded in the abdomen), Co. F; Corporal Louis Winkler (mortally), privates Valentine Rheinholtz (badly), John Beckstein (slightly), John Leach (severely), Co. G; privates H. E. Stuart, Peter Quinlan, Daniel Odell, King Goodell, Co. H; privates Jeremiah Murphy (mortally), Nathaniel Harris, Oliver Santos, Co. I; privates Alfred J. Moss (severely), J. H. Mower, George Burgess, Wm. E. Griggs, Co. K.

Sergeant Jaques, and private Theodore Schutt, Co. A, and several others are wounded and prisoners in Richmond, making the whole number of killed, wounded and missing fifty-six.

Lieuts. Mulhall and Van Santvoord had narrow escapes from bullets which perforated their clothes. I ought not to omit mention of the fact, that at one time during the day, a large portion of Co. A were completely surrounded by the enemy, including Capt. Thompson and Lieut. Alexander R. Bell, who bravely and literally cut their way out, each killing several fierce greybacks with their sabres, while many of the surrounded privates beat rebel brains out with the butts of their muskets. All the officers and men, I may properly repeat, did their whole duty, and did it in a manner to reflect the highest credit upon themselves and the command. This is so true that to individualize would be invidious. Col. McConihe in his report to Gen. Gillmore, speaks in high terms of the services rendered throughout the day, by Lieut.-Col. Alden, the accomplished, energetic, and disciplinary Major James A. Colvin, and Chaplain Chapman, as well as all of the line officers. The Brigade is at present under command of Col. J. C. Drake, of the One Hundred and Twelfth New York volunteers, Gen. Foster having been relieved and made Chief of Staff with Gillmore. Col. Drake is a most hardy, intelligent, efficient and active commander, and in my humble judgment really among those who should grace that "star" by Presidential promotion.

I close with saying that inasmuch as the compositors havocked the *nom de plume* attached to my last letter, I announce this dispatch as being written by

W. H. M.

## The Troy Paily Times.

May 17, 1864.

"MAJOR COLVIN SAFE. – The death of Major Jas. A. Colvin, of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth regiment, has been reported. We are glad to learn that he is safe. In a letter dated May 11<sup>th</sup> he says:

'Dear Father, We had a fight yesterday, and, to my astonishment, I came out safe. Our regiment and the Thirteenth Indiana and Sixtyseventh Ohio fought from 6 or 7 A.M. until 3 P.M. We had skirmishing until about noon, and then came the heavy work. These three regiments fought six brigades of the rebels. The One Hundred and Sixtyninth lost fifty-six killed, wounded and missing. Out of this, Co. A



The Bloody Angle (1912) N. C. Wyeth (1882-1945) Private Collection

lost twenty. Edward Jaques is wounded and a prisoner. I am nine miles from camp. We were under an awful fire. Co. A at one time fought hand-to-hand, using their clubbed muskets. Love to all."

# The Troy Daily Times.

May 24, 1864.

#### From the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth.

Correspondence of the Troy Daily Times.

FOSTER'S PLANTATION, Va., May 18, 8 P.M.

My last dispatch was suddenly terminated yesterday morning by the opening of fire from the enemy on our front. Since that moment, we have known no cessation from such active duty as belongs to a large army operating immediately upon the enemy, and I now snatch an instant to mail you a list of our killed and wounded on and since the 16th inst., inclusive up to this hour. For the past thirty-six hours, we have been engaged constantly with the enemy, Col. Drake's, formerly Gen. Foster's brigade, to which the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth has been assigned, doing by far the largest share of the duty. The fighting to-day, which has been both with infantry and light and heavy artillery, has been most intense, prolonged and terribly bitter, and the results have been correspondingly sanguinary. Our brigade suffers less than it otherwise would, were it not for the coolness, sagacity, hard work and effective heroism of the distinguished Colonel commanding. He is a safe man, and works his brigade to the end that it may do its whole duty with the least possible impairment of its individual and collective strength beyond what is absolutely necessary for the public good. He is recognized by all the commanding Generals as a most accomplished and able officer. I have said this much of Col. Drake for the reason that I am anxious that the friends of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth may rest assured that the regiment is brigaded under an honest and competent commander, who like Gen. Foster, its beloved chief, will not sacrifice his troops for the object of advancing his own military ambition or forwarding selfish interests at the expense of precious blood. The results of today's contest are best set forth in the list of casualties occurring in the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth, herewith appended:

Killed – First Sergeant Frederick French and private Richard Kearney, Co. D. Wounded – Capt. Spencer W. Snyder, commanding D Co.; privates James Boyce, Patrick Murphy, Ed. Connor, L. Woodcock, Co. E; Corporal Patrick Holly, privates Jeremiah Wallar, John Dillon, D; privates George Woodruff, Jas. Hever, Edward Smith, B; Corporal Conrad Albert, privates Nicholas O'Brien, Louis Braxmarer, G; privates Jere. Robollard, Thomas Plunkett, Peter Riley, Thomas Abbey, I; private Jas. W. Hummell, C; Sergeants Thomas Jessup and McGregor, privates John H. Grose, William Messenger (badly), A.

I am gratified to be able to state that Capt. Snyder is but very slightly wounded, and is in the corps hospital. He was wounded while gallantly operating against the enemy. In my dispatch of the day before yesterday, I sent you a list of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth killed in the battle of the 16<sup>th</sup> inst. I now append a list of the wounded in the regiment on that day. My full account of the battle of that day I am compelled to defer for another mail, owing to the excitements in the field:

Sergeant Dennis Corbett, Corporals William Donegan and Samuel Harris, private Joseph Hillis, Co. D; private M. S. Knowlton, H; private Adanson Lewis, C; private John McMahon, B; private Jerry McCarty, F; Sergeant John Quinn, privates F. H. Smith, Thomas Kane, K; Corporal Thomas Tilley, private B. G. Walker, G; Corporal Adolph Lavine, privates M. Fitzpatrick, James Haley, Patrick Smith (said to be dead), Lewis La Duke, M. O'Brien, I; Sergeant H. A. Slack, A; private C. Varney, E.

The preliminaries of the flag of truce to which I alluded in my last are fast approaching settlement. Col. McConihe is making every effort, with some prospect of success, to induce Gen. Butler to earnestly ask for information touching the disposition by the rebels of the body of the deeply lamented Lieut. Birdsall. The campaign is so active and bloody that but little attention can be paid to these distressing features of the casualties on either side, and therefore we may not hope to recover the body of the fallen young hero, but we have a right to expect that the enemy will tell us what became of the remains.

Col. Alden, who is in chief command to-night of the grand picket line, — a most responsible and hazardous duty, to the discharge of which he is fully equal, — narrowly escaped instant death this noon from one of the enemy's solid shots. The Colonel was just leaving his tent for the extreme front, where the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth was doing some fighting, when a heavy solid shot from the enemy landed at his feet and rolled from him. The imperturbable Colonel walked on as though nothing had happened. Had I been in his position, I should have at least regarded it as an approach to a solemn call for [Note: The article suddenly ends at this point].

W. H. M.

### The Troy Paily Times.

May 27, 1864.

admirable letter of Lieut. W. H. Merriam, from the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment, on our first page to-day, will be read with attention and interest. We scarcely recollect its superior in the way of correspondence from a home regiment to a local newspaper.

#### From the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth.

Correspondence of the Troy Daily Times.

FOSTER'S PLANTATION, VA., May 20.

Now that the dense smoke of an awful scene of carnage, such as Gen. R. S. Foster promised us, in a stirring speech addressed to a party of officers and musicians who called to pay their respects to him in a serenade just before we left Gloucester Point, has cleared away, I am enabled to send you a definite account of the operations of the memorable sixteenth and twentieth days of May, 1864, and the exciting scenes that marked their opening and waning hours, so far as this brigade is concerned. I shall furnish your readers with some account of the participancy of Col. Drake's brigade in the battle of Drewry's Bluff and Port Walthall Station, which will necessarily include the noble and patriotic part enacted by our own One Hundred and Sixty-ninth, under the honored lead of Col. McConihe and his associates in the field, Lieut.-Col. Alonzo Alden and Major James A. Colvin, thus rendering complete without loss of time my somewhat hurried, but in the main, correct dispatches of the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> in this army corps.

#### THE BRIGADE

of which the able, cool, cautious and reliant Colonel J. C. Drake, of the One Hundred and Twelfth New York volunteers is the commander, is the one from which the gallant Gen. R. S. Foster, of Indiana, was recently relieved to become Chief of Staff in the military family of Maj.-Gen. Quincy A. Gillmore, commanding the Tenth army corps. It is known as the Second brigade, Third

division, of that army corps, and consists of the following named regiments, who will in all probability compose it during this eventful campaign in Virginia: The Thirteenth Indiana volunteers, Col. Cyrus J. Dobbs; the One Hundred and Twelfth New York volunteers, Col. Drake being in command of brigade, Lieut.-Col. Carpenter, mortally wounded; and Major Smith, Provost Marshal, is now commanded by senior Captain Chaddock; the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth New York volunteers, Col. John McConihe; and the Ninth Maine volunteers, commanded by Lieut.-Col. Z. H. Robinson.

#### THE MORNING OF THE 16TH

dawned upon a heavy and impenetrable fog, which lasted until 10 o'clock, and which constituted the greatest advantage of the rebels during the day. At a very early hour an exceedingly heavy musketry firing was heard at the front. Colonel Drake at once received a verbal and hasty order through General Ames to instantly send a regiment to the right of our line, (thus dividing the brigade for the day into two brigades,) as the enemy had suddenly emerged from the fog and were making a desperate effort to turn that flank. This order found Colonel Drake's command just set down to breakfast. The matutinal meal was most precipitately abandoned, which in the end amounted to a great hardship, as neither officers nor men had anything to eat until late in the evening. In compliance with this order, the One Hundred and Twelfth New York, and subsequently the Ninth Maine volunteers, were sent to our right, at the time resting on the James River, near Spring Hill. The One Hundred and Twelfth regiment proceeded to Gen. Heckman's headquarters. At this point, the lamented Colonel Carpenter halted the column, and ascertained that Gen. Heckman had gone to the front. – Sending his Adjutant, Lieut. Hedges, to the front to report to Gen. Heckman, he was captured by the enemy, and Col. Carpenter following him, was mortally wounded after finding himself on account of the fog within the enemy's lines, and refusing to surrender. At this juncture the gallant Colonel Drake moved up with the balance of his command, and immediately forming them in line, most successfully resisted all further advance of the foe. At this point, Gen. Weitzel, commanding division, ordered Col. Drake to retire his brigade to what he deemed a more favorable position. The brigade supported Follett's battery several hours, and finally made a most able and gallant charge, driving the enemy clear into the rifle-pits, and repossessing themselves of all the ground lost in the morning by reason of the fog. The conduct of Col. Drake and his staff, consisting of Lieut. George L. Pierce, One Hundred and Twelfth New York; Lieut. Thomas B. Eaton, One Hundred and Sixty-ninth New York, and Lieut. William Lincoln Hughes, of the Ninth Maine, was of the most questionless and soldierly character throughout the entire day.

#### WHY THE BRIGADE WAS DIVIDED.

So much by way of showing cause why Col. Drake's command was made the subject of a military necessity suddenly arising, and temporarily divided into two brigades. The controlling reason for the division is a most flattering one, and is to be found, by common consent, in the efficiency and solid character of the organization. Two important points were to be held, and it was justly deemed that the Second brigade, Third division, Tenth army corps, separated into *two brigades* could more satisfactorily accomplish the difficult military *roles* to be enacted than any other two whole brigades in the corps. The result fully justified the honorable confidence reposed.

#### COLONEL M'CONIHE'S COMMAND, AND WHAT IT DID THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth, in conjunction with its bosom companions, the good old Thirteenth Indiana volunteers, under command of Lieut.-Col. Wilson, the two forming a Provisional brigade, and the whole commanded by the

veteran and long-tried Col. Cyrus J. Dobbs, were charged with the arduous duty of protecting a front of at least two miles in extent – thereby protecting the left flank of Major-Gen. Butler's heavy and main force operating against the rebel stronghold, Fort Darling. For a period of three days, anterior to the 16th inst., the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth and the Thirteenth Indiana had been thrown out as skirmishers on the portion of the railroad running for a considerable distance beyond Walthall Junction. All of a sudden on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup>, during the heavy fog already alluded to, the enemy advanced in solid column, with a line of skirmishers in front and in greatly superior force directly upon the two regiments, the section of artillery, and the two hundred colored cavalry in support. The line was splendidly held to the moment when the enemy in vastly greater numbers appeared on our flanks, compelling an absolute withdrawal. The regiment fell back slowly in admirable skirmishing order to a distance of six hundred yards, when an advance was again made towards the junction. At the end of this advance, the enemy were found to be in such force and strong position that it was tantamount to a sacrifice of the command, without hope of success to attempt to dislodge them. The regiment returned inside the entrenchments, having experienced a day of uninterrupted skirmishing and fighting through dense underbrush, and almost impenetrable thicket from daylight to dusk. And all this after having been on duty incessantly at the front for a period of four days and nights. I propose herewith to add some account of the part taken by the several companies of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth in the tedious, trying and arduous duties of this new calendar day in the career of Colonel McConihe's command. I will begin with

#### COMPANY C, CAPT. JOSEPH H. ALLEN, COMMANDING.

This company, when the regiment was attacked by the enemy, was in reserve with Co. F, (Capt. Vaughn's). The company was immediately ordered forward and advanced at "double quick" to a small stream in rear of the picket line. The enemy opened with artillery on our forces, havocking them. During this firing, Co. C laid by the creek, and suffered in the loss of one man killed and two wounded. The men, however, held their ground stubbornly throughout the entire action. Capt. Allen, Lieut. Morey and Orderly Jonas H. Warren were actively efficient all the day, and were ever in the thickest doing their whole duty to themselves, the company and the country.

### COMPANY G, LIEUT. CHARLES DOUGLAS MERRILL, COMMANDING,

held a position in front of the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad, on the turnpike and in the woods on a side hill, when the firing, which quickly ran through the whole line, commenced. Lieut. Merrill's orders were to hold the turnpike, which he did against the enemy's skirmishers and sharpshooters until the rebels moved a large column in and deployed them in his front, when he had orders to fall back, which he did, covering the retreat on the turnpike, and at the same time stoutly contesting the ground inch by inch – during all which time he lost but three men. Lieut. Merrill, on reaching the grove in the rear, rallied his men, faced them to the foe, and gallantly joined a destructive volley of musketry into their threatening front, when he withdrew and joined the regiment in obedience to Col. McConihe's orders. Upon the division of the regiment, Lieut. Merrill, with Co. I, Capt. Cary, were ordered as a reserve to support a line of skirmishers commanded by Capt. James Thompson, commanding Co. A, which duty occupied the remainder of the day – devolving on the entire reserve a vast deal of tiresome marching from point to point through the woods, beating back the enemy. The company, thus fatigued, was under fire a number of times at different points of the field of battle.

#### COMPANY K, CAPT. DANIEL FERGUSON, COMMANDING.



Satellite view of Ashton Creek, Chester, Va., site of the battles at Port Walthall Junction, west of Woods Edge Road.

Firing commenced on the left of the picket line commanded by the now immortal Lieut. W. S. Birdsall. At about 6 o'clock in the morning, they were forced to fall back upon Co. A, thence on the reserve on the centre of the picket line. Capt. Ferguson commanded at this time but a portion of his company. Shortly after, the balance were brought up by Lieuts. E. R. Smith and Eugene Van Santvoord, brother of the late Hon. George Van Santvoord, from the right and left. Here the enemy's fire became so intense that the company was forced to fall back on the way, passing, unavoidably, an open field, where they were exposed to a deadly fire from at least two regiments and three pieces of artillery. Lieut. Van Santvoord again nobly rallied the men, who did their best in a return fire. The company had rejoined the regiment, when Lieut. Birdsall was killed. It is thought that the brave Lieutenant was the victim of a sharpshooter, as they were seen posted in the tops of trees. Capt. Ferguson was frequently shot at by them, but the only injury he sustained was a shot through the hat.

#### COMPANY F, (WHITEHALL,) CAPT. A. D. VAUGHN, COMMANDING,

was deployed on the left, early in the morning, under Col. McConihe. Co. F, with Co. C, was ordered to hold the hill on the extreme left of the turnpike. This they did until ordered to fall back. Subsequent to this, a part of our line was ordered up to the rebel batteries under a heavy fire. Proceeded thence and back, accomplishing their mission, and falling back under a galling fire, both companies losing their knapsacks and rations.

### COMPANY E, (FORT EDWARD,) LIEUT. H. MULHALL, COMMANDING.

did nobly. This company occupied a position on the right of the turnpike, and on top of the railroad bank, where there was a deep cut through a rise of ground. The attack commenced on the left by the enemy's skirmishers, Co. E fully participating and doing so to its credit throughout the day. Lieut. Mulhall was conspicuous for his bravery, dash and soldierly bearing. At one time the order to fall back was given, but did not reach Lieut. Mulhall, who, in consequence, continued to hold his position for some time after the rest of the line had fallen back. The company were subjected to a flank fire. Lieut. Mulhall made a stand at this sharp fire, pouring back several volleys. He was driven back by numbers involving ten to one.



Satellite view of Ashton Creek, (top), east of Woods Edge Road.

#### COMPANY D, CAPT. SPENCER W. SNYDER, COMMANDING.

The company raised at Sandy Hill by Col. William Coleman and his patriotic son, Capt. Warren B. Coleman, was remarked throughout the day for its pertinacious bravery and daring. Upon reaching the railroad the company was divided, Lieut. Birdsall taking command of the second platoon, on the extreme left, and Capt. Snyder the first, on the extreme right, supported by a reserve from the Thirteenth Indiana. The attack beginning at the left, Lieut. Birdsall's portion of the command was the first engaged. They fought splendidly, and held their position until the sainted Birdsall fell mortally wounded, and all his men, save two or three, were bullet-pierced, when they fell back to the reserve, having done their duty magnificently. Falling back, Capt. Snyder gave the command to fire vigorously upon the enemy as they fell back. This splendid set of soldiers occupied several other positions during the day, receiving at one time subsequent to the above events a heavy fire of grape and canister from the "greybacks." Capt. Snyder was at the front all day.

#### COMPANY I, (NAIL FACTORY,) CAPT. D. J. CARY, COMMANDING,

was proudly grand during the battle, for massive endurance, unyielding defiance to the enemy, and a cool and lofty courage that had its origin and basis in Nail Factory bone and sinew. It was a grand sight to watch their movements during the day. Always so correct, so forcible and marked by sterling results. It is the hardy, plucky, physically enduring company of the stalwart old One Hundred and Sixty-ninth. Its position was on the left of the turnpike, and in advance of the skirmish line. Company I aided materially to hold portions of the enemy in check when they advanced in force on the front and flank. The company only fell back when absolutely compelled to by superior numbers.

#### COMPANY B, COMMANDED BY LIEUT. J. H. DUNN,

acted in cooperation with Co. E, Lieut. Mulhall commanding, during the day. The action of the company was energetic, bold and useful.

#### COMPANY H, LIEUT. WM. H. LYON, COMMANDING,

was stationed in a most important position at the right of the railroad, connecting with Co. D on its right. When the massed column of the desperate enemy came pouring down the hill, Lieut. Lyon and his brave and devoted men were the last

to leave the road to the rebels. Lieut. Lyon promoted on the spot private Phineas W. Holt and Minturn S. Knowlton, to be Corporals in Co. H, for marked bravery in full presence of the enemy on the field of battle. In the fight of Chester Station, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May, Lieut. Lyon, let it be remembered to his immortal credit, was ordered by Col. McConihe to support a battery with his company, and being subsequently reënforced by Lieut. Mulhall, of Co. E, and Lieut. Merrill, of Co. G, with additional orders to hold the battery at all hazards, held it beyond hope of capture, rallying his men three times in front of hundreds of rebels, whom he checked and drove back. All this accomplished, Lieut. Lyon very coolly reported to Col. McConihe, "Colonel, I have obeyed orders; the battery, thank God, is saved." During all the firing that marked this incident of that severe day, Lieut. Lyon was shouting to his men in a noble and pardonable excess of patriotic ardor, "Give it to 'em, d----n it boys, give it to 'em. They need it, d----n 'em." And thus it was he did his duty, and is now Capt. William H. Lyon, an idol in the regiment.

#### COMPANY A, CAPTAIN JAMES F. THOMPSON, COMMANDING,

was posted as pickets along the railroad (Richmond and Petersburg) between Walthall station and the turnpike. Capt. Thompson's orders were to hold his position at all events, until he should receive orders to fall back. Capt. Thompson was cordially sustained and ably seconded by Lieut. Alexander R. Bell, a most accomplished, tenacious, fearless and energetic officer, who were inspired by the heroic courage of this brave and idolized young soldier of the Republic. Lieut. Bell has been personally congratulated by Col. McConihe, Lieut.-Col. Alden and his Captain (Thompson) for his grand qualities in battle. I have heretofore sent you a list of the killed and wounded in this engagement; had I not done so, the list would have terminated this branch of my letter.

### COLONEL McCONIHE'S REGIMENT IN THE ACTION OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY, 1864.

On the night of May 17<sup>th</sup>, three Co's. of the regiment, E, H, and D, went to the front on picket duty. Early in the morning the picket line was attacked. This was so stoutly done that Co's. A, I, B and G were sent out as supports, at once deploying as skirmishers. The enemy had broken the original picket line, and the pickets about eight hundred strong were falling back. The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth went at the rebels with a yell that I apprehend neither party will soon forget. A grand charge was made by the command. The "rebs" ran like sheep, our boys driving them and gallantly re-taking the original picket line. The fight lasted all day; the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth being relieved at night. The entire loss of the regiment was twenty-eight. It was in this action that Capt. Snyder received his wound. I have already sent you the list, numbering twenty-seven in killed and wounded.

#### **ON THE 19TH**

heavy fighting was going on immediately in front of our intrenchments, all day; the One Hundred and Twelfth and Thirteenth Indiana, operating against the enemy outside the rifle pits; the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth, and Ninth Maine, of Col. Drake's brigade, manning the works. The enemy suffered severely on this as on the subsequent day, by reason of attempting to approach our fortifications.

#### OPERATIONS OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY.

Just before 8 o'clock, A.M., on the 20<sup>th</sup>, the enemy made two stout assaults upon the picket line, on Gen. Ames' division, and Colonel Drake's brigade fronts. The first advance was most vigorously repulsed amid musketry and cheering of our troops. The enemy immediately advanced again in force, and made a truly tremendous effort to successfully storm and carry our works. They succeeded in driving in our pickets, and owing to the ignorant treachery of a federal Lieutenant,

who was at once reduced to the ranks by Major-Gen. Butler, succeeded in taking our entrenched picket line. Colonel Dobbs with the Thirteenth Indiana, made a gallant charge upon the enemy, in the hope of retaking the line, but was repulsed - his regiment suffering terribly, in the loss of seventy men. The enemy were entrenched behind rail fences and earthworks. Another charge was subsequently made by Major Pennypacker, and the Ninety-seventh Pennsylvania volunteers, who were literally decimated by artillery and musketry. It was awful standing as I did, on top of our entrenchments, with Cols. McConihe and Alden, to see those noble Keystones fall, decade after decade, within a space of eight hundred yards. The assaulted foe was yet in possession of the line. The artillery then opened, and after a short duel night "threw its opaque mantle" over the scene. The enemy worked industriously during the night, improving upon the line of works. Last night (the 21st) the enemy advanced upon our entire line and were met by a terrific fire of artillery and musketry along Terry and Ames' fronts, doing them immense damage – blowing up one of their caissons, and driving them back – it must have been with great slaughter. A decisive blow will have to be dealt the foe in the course of a few hours, and when it comes it will cause them to reel back towards their so-called capital – let us hope entirely discomfited.

#### INCIDENTS AND PERSONAL.

The preparation of this dispatch covering a period of several days, has been frequently interrupted by engagements of the contending parties, and these headquarters being in direct range of a convergent fire usually directed upon three of our defenses, by the enemy, may account for the somewhat incoherent nature of this letter. I beg to assure you that I write in the field, crouched beneath a shelter tent, instead of sitting upright at a spacious table in the cool recesses of the *Times* office, not knowing the moment when a shell or a bullet may strike my capacious *omentum*, and send *all* this mortality *ad astra dulce et decorum est pro patria mori*, even though one is required to depart suddenly while catering to the public in the way of a newspaper dispatch.

Gen. Ames yesterday waited on Major Colvin, of the One Hundred and Sixtyninth, who had command of the outer picket line on the 19<sup>th</sup>, and thanked him for the cool and useful part he enacted on that day amid so many doubts and perplexities.

All through the various operations in which the brigade has been engaged since the 17<sup>th</sup>, the Colonels and all other officers could not fail to note the prompt and facile manner, added to the energy and discretion, with which Col. Drake, commanding the brigade, encountered and overcame every emergency that presented itself to his cool judgment and dispassionate nature. – These urgent and trying times directly in front of the enemy, where we are compelled to contest his pretensions more or less stubbornly every successive day, imperatively bring to the surface a man's character and capacity. This tremendous ordeal through which we are now passing, has in Col. Drake one of the few men capable of eliminating it, by force of ability, energy and elevated military character, and a comprehensive knowledge of this fact inspires the entire command.

#### THE DEAD.

The common grief in the regiment, occasioned by the death of Lieut. Birdsall, is not yet assuaged, notwithstanding the rapid and ceaseless march of events. Col. McConihe, in his official report to the commanding Colonel of the part the regiment took in the operations of the 16<sup>th</sup>, says of the brave fallen: "Lieut. Birdsall was a true soldier and gallant officer, whose loss falls heavily upon the regiment, and whom, among all others, we had learned to love and respect. Feeling sad at his loss, yet we are consoled to know that he died bravely in the intelligent discharge of his duties."

Among the dead is announced Theodore Schutt, private of Co. A. Private Schutt will be remembered as the accomplished correspondent in the field of Pease's *Press*. He was a genial, companionable man, always prompt to duty, and fell nobly doing it. He lies buried in the enemy's country and lines.

Orderly Sergeant Frederick French, of Co. D, (the Sandy Hill company,) is also among the dead, and buried beyond the lines. He was an efficient First Sergeant, modest and retiring, and respected by his comrades. He had been favorably, though ineffectually, recommended to Gov. Seymour by a large body of his friends in Washington county for promotion to a Lieutenancy.

There are no other casualties in the regiment since my last list, save that of private [Patrick] Devin, of Co. E, who was shot through the head inside the entrenchments while talking with Lieut. Mulhall. I am now up to the 22<sup>d</sup> of May. We give the following inclusive list of casualties in Co. A, One Hundred and Sixty-ninth New York volunteers, since May 10, 1864, at the request of Major James A. Colvin:

Sergeants Edward P. Jaques, wounded and prisoner; Henry A. Slack, killed by windage of shell; Thomas Jessop, wounded; Thomas H. McGregor, wounded; Corporals Calvin Champlin, wounded and prisoner; Jas. Brown, Geo. Cain, Elijah G. Bradway, prisoners; privates Theodore Schutt, Theodore Sheldon, Wm. S. Hand, Edward Barrett, Darius Morris, killed; George W. Bailey, wounded and died; Wm. H. Shufelt, E. A. Prouty, Daniel Osborn, wounded; Paul Roberts, Lyman Ostrom, wounded and prisoners; Jonathan Hoag, Edward Stickles, Loren Teator, Asbury Bacchus, Abram C. Folmsbee, prisoners; John H. Grose, Geo. H. Sheldon, Henry Andrus, wounded slightly; Wm. F. Messenger, wounded, since dead.

W. H. M.



May 23, 1864.

#### LATEST FROM GEN. BUTLER.

He is Having a Rough Time.

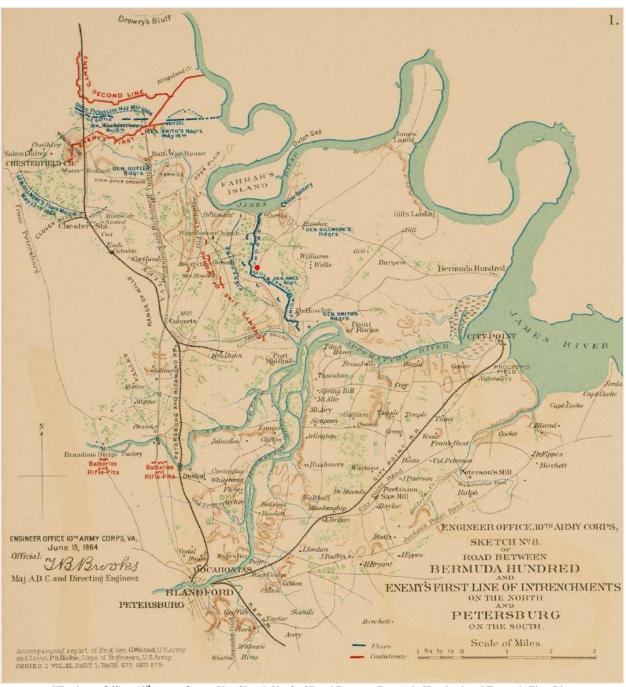
#### BUT HE HOLDS HIS POSITION.

Appearance of the Rebels in Front of the Intrenchments – Skirmishing – Gen. Ames's Division Engaged – Rebel Earthwork on the Opposite Bank of the James – Beauregard's Force.

From Our Special Correspondent.

TENTH ARMY CORPS, NEAR CITY POINT, WEDNESDAY EVENING, May 18, 1864.

My last letters left the army safely returned to its intrenched line across the Peninsula; to-day the Rebels are lying before us. At one this morning, the word was passed that the enemy was firing on our pickets. A considerable force, apparently, was seen, and there was a brisk running fire for an hour, with an



"Engineer Office, 10th Army Corps, Va., Sketch No. 8 of Road Between Bermuda Hundred and Enemy's First Line of Intrenchments on the North and Petersburg on the South." (June 15, 1864).

Accompanying report of Brig. Gen. G. Weitzel, U.S. Army, and Lieut. P. S. Michie, Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army, Series I, Vol. XL, Part I, Page 675 and 679.

United States Topographical Bureau. Atlas to accompany the official records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 1861-1865, Plate LXV., Map, [1891-1895].

The position of the 169<sup>th</sup> N.Y. at Foster's Plantation on the Union Line of Works is indicated by the red dot.

occasional discharge of artillery. The moon was setting when I groped my way back to camp, and though it seemed probable that the Rebels might seek to take advantage of the fog, no further disturbance came.



Study of Three Union Soldiers (1899) William B. T. Trego (1859-1909) Private Collection

At nine, the firing was renewed, and it now proved that the Rebels were advancing on the front in force.

In front of Gen. Ames's division has been nearly all the fighting of to-day. Two strips of wood are about a fourth of a mile in front of this, on right and left, with a ravine between them further back; on the right, nearer us and overlooking the guns, is a long strip, already slashed to thinness; directly in front is a burned spot covered with fallen trees, and just beyond, open field. The Rebels engaged our pickets, drove them into the burned stubble, but the guns opened with shell, and they were gallantly charged upon by the 169<sup>th</sup> New-York, and fell back to the shelter of the woods and the ravine, from which they have not since emerged.

The day passed without anything of special moment, but the excitement was intense. Firing on the skirmish line was incessant, and probably our wounded of the day will not fall short of 150. The Rebels managed to get a gun or two in the yard of an abandoned house near the river, partially covered by a fall on the ground, and they shelled the woods on the right of this front all the afternoon, at very short range, only throwing two or three shells and round shot at the tier of guns which faced them from the front. Our own guns only fired a few shots. On the bank of the James I looked down upon Admiral Lee's flagship, in company with other gunboats and monitors. An incessant shelling was kept up from the wooden gunboats upon a Rebel work which was commenced on the bank, further north, the previous day.

Toward dusk, when our relief skirmishers went out, the Rebels made a vigorous attempt to force them from the woods, but apparently without effect. Our defenses have been greatly strengthened during the day, and the woods, which I have anxiously watched all day, have narrowed under the blows of axmen. The men are in good spirits, though fatigued, and will fight with bravery if the fight comes.

Rebel deserters of to-day represent a force of 20,000 to 30,000 in front of us, under Beauregard, and some tell the curious story that Grant is in Richmond, and Lee falling back here. It is probable that the force which opposed us at Petersburg and Fort Darling is largely here, and that our further raiding will be delayed; but

the prevalent impression is that this is designed to cover the repairs of the railroad and the transportation of supplies.

There is grounds for fear that the Rebels may get batteries in the woods during the night and open upon us in the morning at the front of Ames's position, which I have described, where the fight will be, if anywhere. As I retire to-night, our old enemy, the fog, begins to collect, and there may be an attack before morning.

Thursday, 6 a.m. – The night has passed quietly, but a rapid artillery fire has just begun at the position I referred to. The ball may be already opened, and as I close these lines I am about to ride on to ascertain the facts.

P.S. – The firing has ceased, at least temporarily. I find it to proceed from the Rebel batteries in the hollow and the ravine in front, where is the "Howlett House" I spoke of, which have probably been strengthened during the night. They are pounding away at the woods on the right of them, dropping a shell or two also inside the works, but nothing except the smoke is visible. Next house is a Rebel nest, and yesterday was filled with sharpshooters. Two guns went over to shell it yesterday, and it has been well riddled.

There will probably be some fighting done to-day, for besides using their force as a cover, the Rebels perhaps hope to take this position.

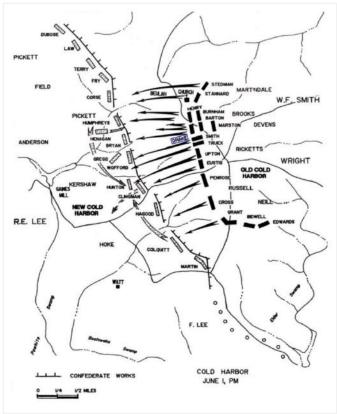
## The Troy Paily Times.

JUNE 6, 1864.

#### The Virginia Campaign.

#### FIGHTING ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1.

We have details of the severe fighting on Wednesday. An attempt was made with rebel infantry, early in the day, to drive our cavalry from Cold Harbor, but it resulted in their repulse, killing and wounding a large number, and taking a number of prisoners. The rebels were reënforced for another attack, but Wright coming up enabled us to hold the place and take more prisoners. Wright followed up his success and brought on an engagement, which lasted till an hour after dark. At that time we had carried the rebel line of rifle-pits and driven the enemy to the Chickahominy river. The enemy then made furious assaults late in the evening upon our right and centre. They marched in three lines upon Warren, determined to pierce the centre and throw the line into confusion. Attempt after attempt was made, and the rebels hurled to certain destruction. The battle raged fully three hours in front of this corps. Our losses at this point can only be a tithe of what the enemy sustained. The attack on Hancock, who occupied a position on the Mechanicsville road, in the rifle-pits wrested from the enemy two days before, was most formidable. He not only repulsed the enemy, but pressed them back so far that he was drawn into a bad position, and compelled to make a hasty retreat and resume the ground he occupied at the outset. The object of Hancock's advance, however, was apparently a ruse, as he was immediately ordered to abandon his position and move his corps from the



Map of the assault at Cold Harbor, Va., June 1, 1864

right to the extreme left of the line. – A correspondent with the Eighteenth Corps, says of the fighting at Cold Harbor:

The enemy were in heavy force between Cold Harbor and Gaines' Mill, and strongly entrenched on the edge of a dense wood. They had rifle-pits and other earthworks thrown up. At half-past 4, the troops were in position in three lines of battle, and at 5, skirmishing commenced. A battery of twenty-pounders opened fire on the rebels, and the roar of its guns completely swallowed all sounds from the skirmish line. At half-past 5 o'clock, an order was received for both corps, the Sixth and Eighteenth, to charge the rebel works in our front. Brooks and Devens pushed through the woods in their front, and poured like a tornado over the open field. The enemy opened, with grape and canister and a heavy musketry fire, and the First line was badly cut up. The Second mingled with it, and then the Third, and almost immediately after, a wild, inspiring cheer rang out above every other sound, as the rebels were driven pell-mell from their works and through the woods. The rebels were rallied behind their reserves, and attempted to capture their lost position. They rushed forward, but were received with so close and murderous a fire of artillery and musketry, that they broke and fled in confusion. Again and again they were rallied and returned to the charge, but only returned to be driven back with greater slaughter.

A Fort Monroe dispatch of the 3<sup>d</sup>, to the *Herald*, says: "A dispatch received from 'Baldy' Smith states that the rebels attacked his force with three columns, but were driven off after a desperate fight. Smith is reported to have captured six hundred rebels. Heavy firing is going on. Grant is pursuing the enemy at every fatigue." – Another correspondent says:



Union Troops at Cold Harbor (The Skirmish Line) (1883) William Gilbert Gaul (1855-1919) Collection of the U.S. Military Academy Museum, West Point, N.Y.

In the fight on Wednesday, near Cold Harbor, Gen. Smith's command took an active part on the right of the Sixth Corps, driving in the enemy with considerable loss. The command lost about fourteen hundred killed and wounded. The fight between the Fifth Corps and the enemy, on the same day, was much severer than was first reported. Gen. Ayres' Division got so far in advance that it was flanked by a heavy force of rebels, and was forced to fight the way back three-fourths of a mile through a thick woods, rejoining the corps with considerable loss. Here they took position, and repulsed an attack which was made afterwards, the enemy losing three thousand killed and wounded, being nearly twice as large as ours.

#### A correspondent writes:

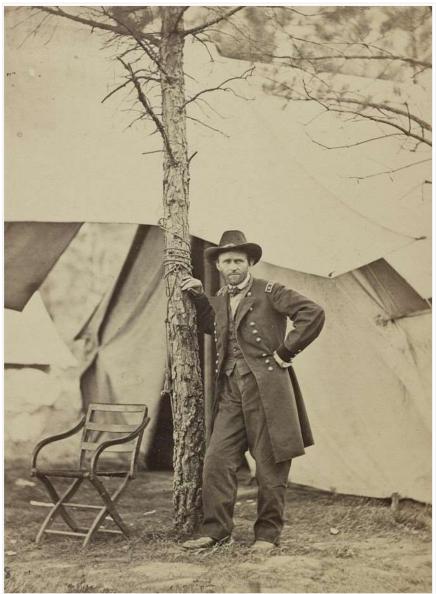
In the fight on Wednesday, between the Sixth Corps and the enemy, at Cold Harbor, the gallantry of our men was a theme of praise yesterday by all. Rickett's Division charged a line of breastworks, sustaining a heavy loss, but inflicting a severe punishment on the foe, and taking about six hundred prisoners. Gen. Meade sent Gen. Rickett an order thanking him and his command for the manner in which they carried the position. Gen. Upton's Brigade, of Gen. Russell's Division, was on the left of Rickett's, and also charged a line at the same time. The Second Connecticut Heavy Artillery, getting within a few yards of the entrenchments, were received with such a terrible fire as to cause them to fall back about a hundred yards, where they halted, and moving a little to the right, flanked and gained possession of a portion of the line, which they held all night until relieved. Their loss was very heavy, being about three hundred and eighty-five, among whom were the following: Col. Kellogg, killed, and Capt. L. Wadhams, killed. The Second Connecticut is a new regiment, and had never been in a fight before, but they acted like veterans.

The *Herald's* correspondent, giving an account of Wednesday's battle, says:

Our loss is rather heavy. Over five hundred wounded are in the corps hospitals, and two or three hundred more are not yet brought in. The total loss it is at present

impossible to give. The loss of the enemy is far greater, as they lost heavily in each ineffectual attempt they made to recapture their works. Among our killed is Col. John McConihe, One Hundred and Sixty-ninth New York; Lieut.-Col. H. Anderson, jr., Ninety-second New York, and Col. J. C. Drake, One Hundred and Twelfth New York, wounded; Lieut.-Col. Alden, One Hundred and Sixty-ninth, wounded.

Five hundred and ten rebel soldiers, belonging to the Sixteenth and Eighteenth Georgia Volunteers, came into our lines (Smith's Corps) at daybreak, June 2. They say they are tired of fighting, and do not want any more of it. They advised our men to go in and fight it out, as this was the last fight for Richmond, and we could take it this time. They represent the rebel army as becoming each day more and more demoralized with their constant reverses.



Lieut.-Gen. U. S. Grant at his headquarters, Cold Harbor, Va. (June 1864)

OPERATIONS ON THURSDAY, JUNE 2.

There was skirmishing at different points during the afternoon, and Burnside, withdrawing from the right, the enemy followed up and made

an attempt to turn Warren's right; but they were compelled to give it up, as our opposition was too strong. A general attack was to have been made during the day, but it was postponed on account of the storm.

#### TERRIFIC FIGHTING ON FRIDAY, JUNE 3.

The fighting on Friday was terrific along the whole line. Secretary Stanton, under date of June 5<sup>th</sup>, telegraphs:

A dispatch from Gen. Grant's headquarters, dated half-past eight, Saturday night, has been received. It states that about 7 P. M., yesterday, (June 3,) the enemy suddenly attacked Smith's Brigade of Rickett's Division. The battle lasted with great fury for half an hour. The attack was unwaveringly repulsed. Smith's losses are inconsiderable. At 6 P. M., Wilson, with his cavalry, fell upon the rear of the brigade of Heth's Division, which Lee had thrown around to his left, apparently with the intention of enveloping Burnside. After a sharp but short conflict, Wilson drove them from their rifle-pits in confusion. He took a few prisoners. He had previously fought and routed Gordon's Brigade of rebel cavalry. During these fights, he lost several officers, among them Col. Preston, of the First Vermont Cavalry, killed; Col. Benjamin, Eighth New York Cavalry, seriously wounded; Gen. Stannard, serving in the Eighteenth Corps, was severely wounded on Friday. Our entire loss in killed, wounded and missing during the three days operations around Cold Harbor, will not exceed, according to the Adjutant-General's report, twenty-five hundred. This morning, (Saturday,) the enemy's left wing in front of Burnside, was found to have been drawn in during the night. Col. Cessnola, in command of five thousand men, arrived here yesterday, having marched from Port Royal. Telegraphic communication between Cherry Stone and Fort Monroe continues uninterrupted.

#### The following details are given by correspondents:

Barlow's Division of Hancock's Corps charged the line of breastworks early in the morning, capturing about two hundred and fifty prisoners, the colors, arms, and so forth, and it is reported, two guns. Gen. Smith's command also took a line of works, this morning, but was forced to fall back afterwards. Gen. Tyler was shot in the leg, the ball passing through his horse's hip. Colonel Morris, Sixtysixth New York, killed. Colonel Haskell, of Gen. Gibbon's staff, is killed. Fighting has been going on nearly all day along the line, principally with artillery. The casualties have been quite large. Barlow's Division charged the enemy's works, this morning. He succeeded in getting possession of seventeen guns and two hundred and fifty prisoners, but not being supported, he was exposed to an enfilading fire and compelled to evacuate the works which he had so gallantly captured and had also to abandon the guns. His loss amounted to about eight hundred. Gen. Warren's Corps on the right was attacked this afternoon by a heavy force of the enemy, but they were repulsed with severe loss. The Eighteenth Corps were engaged in skirmishing most of the day, and made a charge on the line in their front, but being unable to hold it they fell back to their former position. The Sixth Corps, on the left of the Eighteenth, have been engaged more or less all day, and have suffered a good deal the past two days. An attack on the left of the Second Corps, supposed for the purpose of feeling our left, was made an hour ago, but the enemy were soon driven off. A captain was captured a day or two ago while rallying his men. He was greatly excited and cursed his men at a terrible rate, saying the whole Southern cavalry was worthless, and that there was no use trying to fight the Yankee cavalry. Their horses, he said, were all played out. Our losses in the last two days, at Cold Harbor, will number five thousand killed and wounded, while the enemy's loss will be nearly the same.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

The rebels continue to waste gunpowder on Butler's formidable works. – Gen. Kautz was to have started out again on an important mission, on the night of the 2<sup>d</sup>. Its destination was to a point of the most vital importance to the enemy, and will assist Gen. Grant most materially. – A Northern machinist came into our lines on the 1st instant, from Richmond. He reports Lee to have fallen back into the Richmond entrenchments. [This proved true.] The Mayor had been arrested and placed in Castle Thunder, for proposing to surrender the city, instead of burning it as was proposed. Every man and boy, and even foreign subjects, were pressed into service. Rebel papers complain of Joe Johnston and say he is whipped. He also says Gen. Lee is sick and confined to his bed in Richmond. Grant has kept him so busy for the past month, that even his iron frame had to succumb to the great fatigue. - Immense clouds of smoke were seen at the White House on Thursday, proceeding from Richmond, leaving the impression that a serious fire was going on in the rebel capital. The fact of Gen. Lee's sickness is confirmed by the reports of the wounded prisoners, who state that the rebel General is in Richmond, and that the army is commanded by General Ewell. The opinion prevails among these prisoners that this is to be the last fight for Richmond; and they are not far astray in the opinion. Rebel prisoners and deserters tell a woeful story of the great destitution of the poor classes in Richmond. They state that hundreds of poor families are anxiously awaiting our coming. Wheat flour is now worth three hundred and fifty dollars per barrel, and ginger snaps, sold in New York four or five for a penny, are sold in Richmond at one dollar each. – A correspondent of the *Herald* thus notices the enthusiasm among our brave soldier:

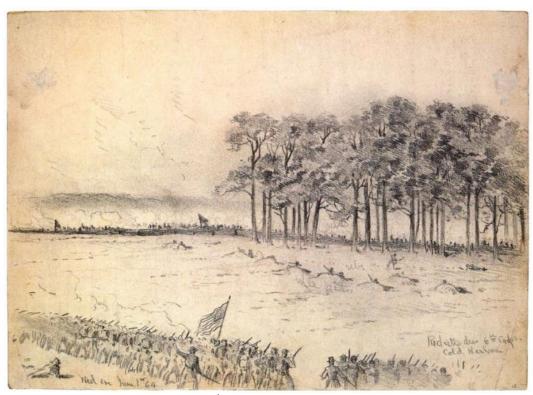
Their confidence and enthusiasm for Gens. Grant and Meade occasionally break over the strict letter of discipline. They rush to the roadsides as the Generals and staffs ride by, and raise the echoes for miles around with hearty Anglo-Saxon cheers for the heroes of Vicksburg and Gettysburg. Yesterday was remarkable for this. Wherever they rode men came rushing from every direction to obtain a nearer view. Nothing is more contagious in an army than shouting and yelling, and on this occasion the cheering was taken up along the line, till the country reverberated with the roar of thousands of voices.

The destruction of the railroad leading from Richmond through Hanover Junction and Gordonsville to the Westward, is among the most important of Gen. Grant's operations. The rebels fought hard to maintain this line, but they have failed, and this important road can no longer be available to them.

### The Troy Paily Times.

JUNE 8, 1864.

Wednesday's Battle.



Rickett's Division, 6<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, Cold Harbor (June 1, 1864) Edwin Austin Forbes (1839-1895) Collection of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

The battle of Wednesday, in which Col. McConihe fell, is described as follows by the correspondent of the New York *Times*:

The fight began at 4½ o'clock in the afternoon, with sharp artillery firing. Wright's Corps (the Sixth) was on the extreme left, having marched up on the Hanover Court House road. The Eighteenth Corps (Smith's) reached the battlefield and "went in," after a wearying march of twenty-five miles from Newcastle over the dustiest of roads, without having had time to refresh themselves with coffee. The Sixth Corps was formed in four lines of battle under cover of woods, the left flank being protected with artillery. The Eighteenth Corps was spread out in a single line, connecting with the Sixth, with Devens' Division on the left, Brooks' in the centre, and Martindale's on the right, and in front of our line of battle was a plowed field, 1,250 yards, or about two-thirds of a mile in width, beyond which, in a strip of pine forest, the enemy was in strong force behind rifle-pits. The order was given to assault this line and carry it. To accomplish such a thing, a charge was necessary across this field. Gen. Smith ordered the charge to be made by Col. Drake's Brigade, supported by Col. Barton's, both of Devens' Division. The order was gallantly obeyed. Drake urged his troops across at double-quick, and they did not waver, although shocking gaps were made in the line by the heavy cross-fire of the enemy's artillery. On gaining the edge of the woods, the rebel infantry were found to have fallen back a hundred yards to their rifle-pits, which were strongly protected by slashings and entanglements. The survivors of this desperate charge found themselves unable to cope with the force in front of them. Drake, their gallant leader, had fallen, mortally wounded. Col. McConihe, of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth New York, was shot dead. Lieut.-Col. Alden, of the same regiment, was wounded, and there were symptoms of breaking and coming back again apparent. Barton's Brigade here threw itself into the breach. Emerging from the woods on our side

of the field in as straight a line as though formed for dress parade, the word was given to "charge" at double-quick. The men went forward splendidly, preserving their alignment perfectly as they skipped over the furrowed ground, closing up the vacancies made by the sweeping cross-fire, gaining the woods, opening their ranks for the partially exhausted fellows of Drake's Brigade to pass rearward, and with a fierce hurrah, dashing unshrinkingly into the rifle-pits, over entanglements and pitfalls, taking two hundred and fifty prisoners. These prisoners were sent to the Sixth Corps for safekeeping. As they passed me going to the rear, I heard one of them say significantly, "We always attacked during McClellan's time, now you Yankees do that altogether." Gen. Ricketts' Division of the Sixth Corps, on the left of Devens', also rushed into the line thus brilliantly carried, and aided in holding it, sending several hundred prisoners to the rear.

The enemy still kept his position on the right of our line, and poured a destructive musketry fire on our troops in the pits. An effort was made to dislodge him. Gen. Smith ordered forward Col. Henry's Brigade of Brooks' Division, Eighteenth Corps. Henry also made a gallant charge upon the enemy's lines and carried them. The struggle was short and severe. The brave fellows, however, could not hold what their valor had won. A strong redoubt behind the rifle-pits, which our men had taken, commanded them perfectly. Henry was forced to come back. As he retired, the enemy charged to the edge of the woods, delivering a heavy musketry fire, which marvelously spared Gen. Smith and his staff. Two horses in the group near the General were struck by the minié balls. During the movement, Gen. Martindale's Division of two brigades, excepting two regiments which were temporarily detached for service with Gen. Wright, held the right. While Henry was in the pits, Martindale was ordered to sweep down into the rear and support him. Darkness supervened before the necessary disposition of the troops could be made, and the order was countermanded. There was little firing during the night. All along the line of our works the Pioneer Corps were engaged in the ghastly work of interring the slain. The rebels left many hundred dead and wounded in our lines.

# The Troy Paily Times.

JUNE 21, 1864.

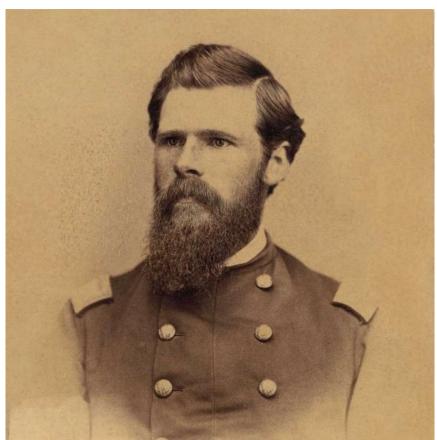
#### Army Letters.

#### FROM THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH.

[From Hospital Steward B. Blair.]

In Camp, June 8, 1864.

I believe the last letter I wrote home was from Bermuda Hundred. Since then what scenes I have been through. We left Bermuda Hundred on May 25<sup>th</sup> in transports, down the James River to Fortress Monroe, and waited here for orders, were ordered to West Point on the York River. Our brigade having disembarked, the rest of the fleet received a dispatch from Grant ordering them to keep on up the Pamunkey (which comes in there) to White House, to which place we were obliged to march, as it would waste time to re-embark, so for fifteen weary miles on a torn-up railway and under a hot sun, we plodded along, arriving opposite White House at six o'clock in the evening. We found the railroad bridge over which we expected to pass had been burned. Here was a dilemma. The other



Maj. Alonzo Alden, 169<sup>th</sup> N.Y. (ca. 1863) Collection of the New York State Military Museum, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

transports had come up and were disembarking on the other side. The men were set to work and laid logs across sleepers of the bridge that still remained standing, out to the channel of the river, where two ferry boats were moored, upon which we were transported to the other side, which was not till noon the next day. As soon as we were formed, our corps (the Eighteenth, Baldy Smith commanding) started, marched all night and part of the next day, resting only to make coffee, until we came up with the army of the Potomac. On our arrival at Cold Harbor, we filed down past our rifle pits, formed in line of battle and charged on the rebs. Then commenced a terrible fire, both of musketry, shell, grape and canister, which poured into our boys with tremendous effect. In ten minutes time from the commencement of the charge, Col. McConihe was brought in killed from a musket ball through the heart, Lieut.-Col. Alden severely wounded in the head, Capt. Allen, Lieut. Morey, Lieut. Smith, Capt. Ferguson and men innumerable; and there was Dr. K., the assistant and myself down outside the inner line of entrenchments dressing wounds as fast as we could fly around. Soon an orderly rode up and told us that we had better get farther back, as the rebs were coming in on that side. As soon as we got our wounded started for the rear, we picked up our things and followed to where the Medical Director had established the corps hospital – which consisted of a side hill opposite the fire of the enemy, on which the men were laid in rows as fast as they were brought in. We worked all the afternoon, night and part of the next morning before we got through with the dressing. Rough amputating tables were erected, over which the bowers of green boughs were arranged so as to protect from the sun as much as possible. The cries and groans of the wounded during the night were heart-rending. As fast as they could be got off to White House they were sent, and the few now remaining

slightly wounded have tents over them. After being driven back three times, our boys took and now hold the rebel pits. The rebels charged twenty or thirty times but were in every instance driven back. Chaplain Chapman started for home with the Colonel's body the next day, and ere you receive this will probably be with you. Our loss in killed and wounded is very heavy, and there are many missing. Our boys are in excellent spirits, but are pretty well played out. We are on the ground now upon which, two years since, McClellan was flanked. All around us are his old earthworks. There is no mistake about his doing all he knew how while here. We are building great fortifications to fall back on and as a base of operations. General Grant is making sure of this place, and does not mean to fall back from here. We have made no advance in the last three days. The enemy have charged a good many times, but have always been repulsed. It is probable that offensive operations will be resumed in a day or two, when you may expect to hear of big things from the army of the Potomac. We are annoyed a great deal by shell from the enemy, which burst all around us. Five men were wounded within a hundred yards of our quarters, yesterday. We have put up a kind of bombproof and feel pretty safe.

### Lansingburgh Weekly Chronicle.

Lansingburgh, N. Y., June 25, 1864.

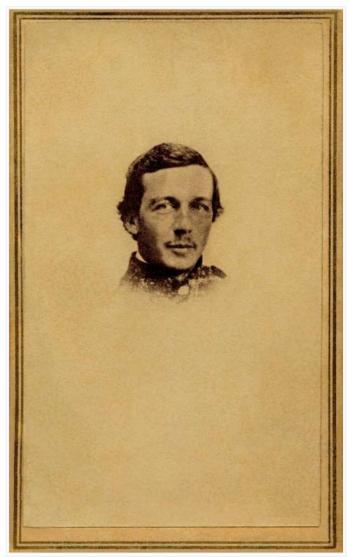
We invite attention to the long and interesting letter to be found elsewhere in this paper, from James H. Straight, of the 169<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Capt. Ferguson's Company. His many friends will be glad to know that he is "master of the situation."

#### Army Correspondence.

Gains Farm, Va., In the Field, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

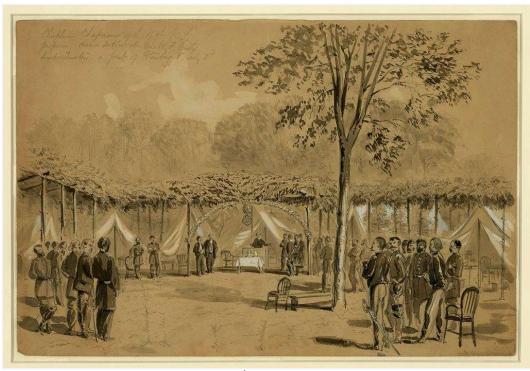
Friend Nolan: -

Yours bearing date, May 25<sup>th</sup>, came to hand yesterday, the 9<sup>th</sup>. By the tone of your letter I see you are not aware of our present position. We left Bermuda Hundred May 19<sup>th</sup> on transports for White House Landing, but our brigade, (now alas it scarcely deserves the name of a brigade,) was landed at West Point, 17 miles from White House where there was supposed to exist a band of Bush Whackers; the day was extremely warm and the troops in heavy marching orders. Our regiment and the 13<sup>th</sup> Indiana were deployed as skirmishers and at the command advance, continued the march in the direction of White House Landing, scouring the woods, swamps and rivers, from the river's edge to a mile or two in the interior of the country. Finding but a few Johnny farmers and some dozen niggers, all of whom of course were Union folks, but they were sent to the rear. In this manner we reached White House sometime in the night, tired enough I assure you. The 30<sup>th</sup> was spent in drawing rations, and on the afternoon of the



Bvt. Brig.-Gen. and Col. John McConihe, 169<sup>th</sup> N.Y. (1862) Collection of the Albany Institute of History & Art, Albany, N.Y.

next day, the 31st, we marched towards Cold Harbor. Long and weary was that march, all night marching until 3 o'clock A.M. of the 1st. We rested for two hours and then continued the march onward until we reached this farm, which is two miles from Gains Mills (where McClellan retreated). Our brigade here halted in a piece of wood. Cos. I and A were thrown out as skirmishers from our regiment, the troops drawn up in line of battle to await the result. Between the woods in which we lay and the one opposite to us was an open field, the breadth of three village blocks; this field, slightly sloping towards the woods opposite, the batteries shelling the woods for some time, failed to dislodge the Rebs. Col. Drake drew up his line, altering the position of its front so as to conform with the direct line of the woods, where lay our rebellious brothers in two lines of rifle pits secured by the density of the timber, the deep voice of Colonel Drake, (now stilled in death,) ordered the bayonets fixed for a charge. Col. McConihe imparted a few words of cheer and confidence to his idolized 169th, telling them that the charge to be made would require cool but desperate fighting and how much he relied on our well-known valor (these were his last words to us as a regiment). The charge was ordered, and with one wild shout, away at double-quick flew the little brigade. All the weary march was forgotten, across the open field we felt volley after volley



Chaplain Chapman of the 169<sup>th</sup> N.Y. performing Divine Service at Gen. Smith's HQ in front of Petersburg, Va. (July 3, 1864) William Waud (1832-1878) Collection of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

thinning our ranks. High above the roar of battle sounded the voice of Col. Alden; the brave, the gallant Alden, "Forward, keep close up, victory is ours, keep together my good men, do or die now or never!" cheered us on to the jaws of death. We reached the wood and with one almost super-human effort the whole line plunged into the Rebs' first line of pits, scattering death to all opposing the onward course. The foe broke and ran for their second line. "Don't stop to load, charge them," cries Baldy Smith, "charge them boys, damn them, charge them!" Here the right of the line took the second pit, the left and center still hotly engaged. Fresh troops came up and we gave way to them. Gradually they inspired with success and soon held the entire line. The second line was ours, but what it cost! Great God, look down in pity on the hundreds of widows and orphans made in that short time! The right was rallied again. O, what a remnant of the once lucky figure stood there. Three times that night did the Rebs charge to regain their lost position, but were repulsed. I was wounded in the shoulder, (a deep flesh wound,) on first entering the open field, but continued in the charge until the right took the second line, when our noble Col. Alden was wounded. Lieut. V. Sanford begged my assistance to get him off the field. I rendered all the assistance. The regiment fell back to the original woods after leaving Alden. Maj. Colvin reformed the regiment in an orchard to the rear of the woods, and I was sent to rally the men to the position indicated. While on this duty I was met by Lieut. T. B. Eaton of Drake's staff, who told me Col. McConihe's body was yet on the field. I started to get it off, but found some men from the battery engaged in bringing it. After they had got it into the woods, Lieut. Eaton charged me with the body, to get it further to the rear at all hazards. This I promised to do let follow what might, and I should have stuck to his corpse under the fire of the whole cursed Confederacy. It was now quite dark, for the charge commenced at 6 o'clock P.M., but with what assistance I could command I got a stretcher and proceeded to the hospital. Dr. Knowlson in his grief did not forget his duty. "Sergeant," says he,

"poor John is dead but the living require my attention." I took him to the Chaplain, who, after his sorrowing surprise had ended, requested me to assist him (I should here mention that as I was going out of the woods I saw our right in line of battle again, moving across the field for the bloody conflict). This made me anxious to get back as I had left my gun with the company, but sacred to my dead charge I could not in honor leave him then; so after a short time the Chaplain got assistance and I went with him as far as the 6<sup>th</sup> Army Corps Hospital. There he, Rev. Mr. Chapman, got permission to take the body past the rear guard to the wagon trains. This being done, and the Chaplain promising to remain with him, I left for the regiment. My wound now, as the excitement had subsided, began to be very painful. I stopped at the hospital and Dr. Knowlson dressed it, assuring me that it would want much care, or it would give me much trouble. He ordered me to go to the hospital quarters, and would not listen to my going again to the regiment, so I took his advice and a drink of whiskey, and was soon in the land of dreams. The next morning the doctor dressed my wound, now growing very troublesome, and I started to find my regiment and my gun, one of which I found, the regiment, just as Capt. Ferguson was wounded. I then proceeded to the hospital with him. His wound was found to be but a contusion, a buckshot striking the buttons on his coat and inflicting a sore bruise on his back, near the hip. The skin was not broken. He is at present at hospital at Fortress Monroe.

I remained at hospital which is but one and a half miles from the front, until an order came to send all that were slightly wounded to the Landing, which is sixteen miles distant in a direct road. They have established a convalescent camp, the Medical Director ordered me off, but I dodged him and went to the woods, and for three days I had to watch him and the Post Surgeon, for I wished to join my company, which had no one to command it but Sergt. Tompkins, who was not very well at the time of our engagement, but went in like a hero as he is. Sitser was poisoned on the road and his eyes swelled shut, so there was no one to relieve poor Tompkins. My wound now getting better, I reported for duty the 8<sup>th</sup>, but was reprimanded severely for my imprudence and ordered to keep still for ten days or a fortnight, but I still remain with my company doing what I can, such as making details and the like. I am in hopes to be able to load and fire my gun by the time the regiment is engaged again.

Please read this to my father, as my shoulder will not permit me to write again to-day, but will as soon as possible.

Yours affectionately,

Jas. H. Straight.



JULY 4, 1864.

### Proposed Assault on the Rebel Works at Petersburg – The Enemy on the Alert – The Assault Abandoned.

NEAR PETERSBURG, July 1, a. m.

About 6 o'clock yesterday morning the  $18^{\rm th}$  Corps was expected to charge the enemy's works in their front. Martindale and Turner had advanced their fortified line in the night to the place previously occupied by the skirmishers.



At the time the contemplated assault was to be made, Barton's brigade, on the left of the 18<sup>th</sup> Corps, lying along the Prince George Country road, began to move from their breastworks to the rifle-pits.

The enemy seemed to understand that the intention was to advance our line by the occupation of his intrenchments. A storm of shot and shell from rifled guns and mortars was poured into our troops before they had formed. Two or three volleys of musketry were exchanged. Soon the firing over the breastworks became heavy and regular, but few men were injured.

The Rebels showed themselves too strong at this point to warrant an assault. The 2<sup>d</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Corps had each made two attempts to take these very works when the army first arrived here. Mortars were freely used on both sides, and the Rebels, with unusual success, dropped their shells directly in our midst. Lieut. Ludlow of Barton's brigade, worked his mortars admirably, and annoyed the enemy very much by the correctness of his aim. The battery of 32-pounders at Gen. Smith's headquarters fired at regular intervals into the Rebel works and town.

Capt. Butler and Lieut. Fleming, aides to Gen. Butler, were wounded, the former in the knee, and the latter slightly in the breast.

All through the night the cannonading was heavy, especially on the right. A red glare overhung the city of Petersburg, and it is thought that some of our shells set fire to the buildings, and caused a conflagration.

# The New-York Times.

JULY 8, 1864.

**Unsuccessful Attempt at a Surprise** 

#### **A Colonel Blunders**

From Our Own Correspondent.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, July 2, 1864.

The attempt on the part of Gen. SMITH to carry one of the enemy's salients in his front on Thursday night, resulted in more casualties than was at first believed. Not less than 150 men were wounded, principally by shells, and, with scarcely an exception, the injuries were of a most terrible character.

The officer upon whom the blame is thrown for the miscarriage of the plan, is Col. Wm. B. Barton, of the Forty-eighth New-York, commanding Second Brigade, Turner's division, Tenth Corps, which is on duty before Petersburgh. The attack was intended as a surprise, and orders were issued to the brigade commanders to move cautiously forward, one company at a time, under cover of a piece of woods on the left of the line. Instead of obeying these orders, Col. BARTON is charged with having moved his brigade directly out over the breastworks in a field, fully exposed to the view of the enemy. This singular action, of course, showed the rebels that some movement was afoot, and they immediately opened a heavy-artillery fire from their batteries on the left bank of the Appomattox. Gen. Smith immediately ordered the troops to withdraw and abandon for the time the effort to advance his lines. Col. Barton, I understand, has been placed under arrest, and his conduct will be inquired into. Many are inclined to believe that he will be able to give a satisfactory explanation of his course on this occasion, as his career hitherto has won him a good reputation for soldierly conduct. He handled his brigade very gallantly at Cold Harbor, and was officially complimented therefor by Gen. SMITH, while his services for more than two years in the Department of the South, at Fort Wagner, Olustee and elsewhere, were quite creditable. At Wagner he was wounded very seriously.

In the affair Gen. Smith narrowly escaped being a victim to sharpshooters. Capt. Butler, one of the General's aids, was badly wounded in the knee while standing by his side in conversation with him. Capt. Fleming, another member of Gen. Smith's staff, was seriously bruised by a fragment of shell, which hit him in the chest and caused him to fall from his horse.

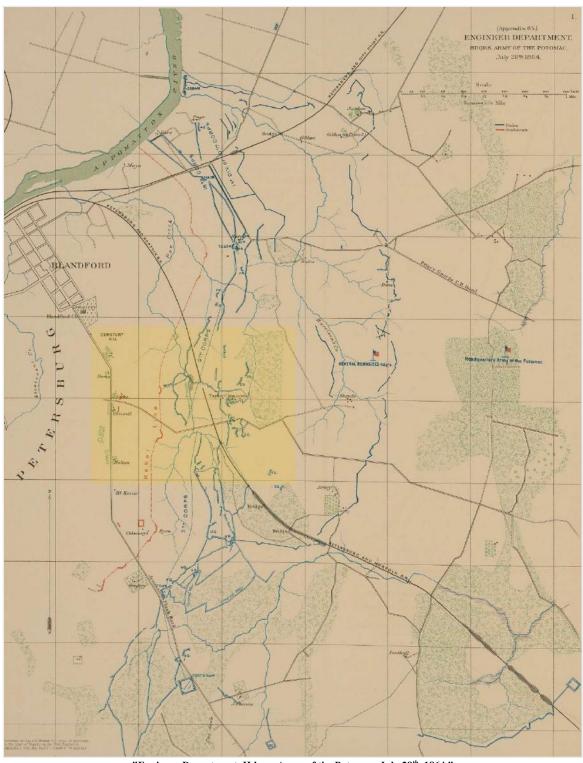
### The Troy Paily Times.

JULY 8, 1864.

#### From the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth.

This regiment had a severe engagement on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, and met with a heavy loss. From a recent letter received by Col. Alonzo Alden, we are permitted to make extracts:

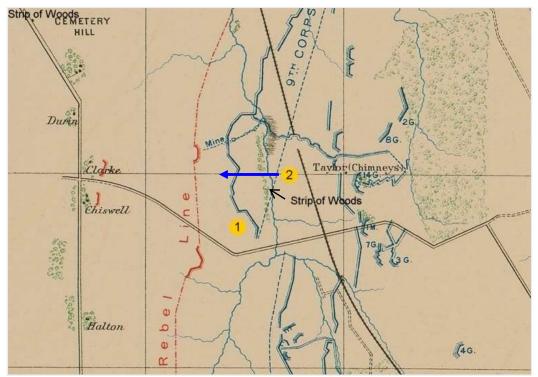
We have moved around from Bermuda to Petersburg and Petersburg to Bermuda. We have lain for nine days in the front, with the rebel works not many yards from us, and a continual popping of guns and cannonading going on. An assault was ordered on the  $30^{\rm th}$  – our brigade to make a diversion – Barton and Curtis to charge. We made our demonstration; the charge failed to come off. The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth was posted on the left of the line as a support and to prevent a flank attack. We went into position nearly at right angles with our main line. The rebs attempted a flank movement in two lines of battle. The One



"Engineer Department, Hdqrs. Army of the Potomac, July 28th, 1864."

Submitted by Maj. J. C. Duane, U.S. Corps of Engineers to the Court of Inquiry on the Mine Explosion.

United States Topographical Bureau. Atlas to accompany the official records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 1861-1865, Plate LXIV., Map 1, [1891-1895].



Detail from "Engineer Department, Hdgrs. Army of the Potomac, July 28th, 1864."

The lack of any maps depicting the assault on June 30<sup>th</sup> and discrepancies of accounts makes the task of determining the positions of Federal forces at the outset one of some conjecture. Barton's brigade is shown at position 1, to the left of the strip of woods, and Bell's brigade, (including the 169<sup>th</sup> N.Y.), is shown at position 2. The opposing lines are shown as they were on July 28<sup>th</sup>, and may have changed over the intervening period.

Hundred and Sixty-ninth lay in a ravine. We were ordered to advance, and moved in line on top of the bank, and met the enemy, and caught —— . In less than ten minutes we met with nearly our entire loss and fell back to the cover of the edge of the ravine. We kept up the fire from there, and as Col. Bell tells me, prevented the flanking movement – saving the regiments on our right and piling the rebs in heaps. Our regiment paid the enemy off badly; but our loss, as you see, is seventy, while the other four regiments together lost only eighty. The regiments of our brigade are the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth New York, Thirteenth Indiana, Ninth Maine, Fourth New Hampshire and Ninety-seventh Pennsylvania, under command of Col. Bell – Third Brigade, Second Division (Gen. Turner), Tenth Corps (Gen. Brooks).

We are indebted to Col. Alden for the following complete and official list of the casualties in the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth:

Killed – Sergeant Nathan C. Simmons, Co. B; privates Clement Carr, E; Horace Chamberlain, Joseph Neddo, Patrick McConkey, F; Archy Graham, G; Barney Marvin, H; Nathan Martin, I.

Wounded – Co. A – Sergeant Henry A. Slack, Corporal Anton Reeder, privates John H. Miller, John L. Sheldon, Peter Roberts. Co. B – Sergeants John Sullivan, Peter Roche; Corporal Wm. D. Wager, privates John G. McTominy, Peter Sloan, Aaron Bremer, Otis Strong. Co. C – Sergeant Chas. S. Phillips, Corporal James Johnson, privates John Hofmeister, John Snow, Aaron B. Davis, Joseph Rogers, Jacob Coons. Co. D – Privates Sylvester Madden, Geo. Brown. Co. E – Capt. Frank W. Tarbell, Sergeants Rollin Jenkins, C. F. Harrington; Corporals George



Point of Rocks (center) in the distance, with the X Army Corps' U.S. General Hospital to the left of the bluff (1864)

Point of Rocks is on the north side of the Appomattox River, about 12 miles from Petersburg via City Point, Va.

White, Seymour Carr; privates Geo. W. Mead, Wm. Godfrey, Michael Quinn, L. R. Woodcock, Geo. Price, Eugene Kelly. Co. F – Sergeant J. S. McFaddin, privates John Gannon, Geo. Williams, Alex. McKelvy, Virgil Jackson, Robert Taggart. Co. G – Privates John R. Wethey, Jas. Flynn, D. B. Farrell. Co. H – Privates Nelson Clemmence, Edward Alipaw, Dagobert Zeiser. Co. I – Corporal Leonard Ducharme, privates Edward Corron, John Niles, John Tavis, David Clancy, Michael O'Brien. Co. K – Sergeants Ezra Crannell, Albert Tompkins; Corporal E. T. Penny, privates John Kennelly, Lewis Byron, Frank Gillispie, Robert Martin, James Keller, Jos. Powlett, Louis Shaffer, Ernest Burnman. Sergeant-Major Edgar Vanderzee.

– Col. Alden intends to return to his regiment about the latter part of next week, and will carry to the officers and soldiers any letters that may be left with him, corner of Third and State streets.

### The Troy Paily Times.

JULY 9, 1864.

### Casualties in the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment.

In a list of casualties in the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment, during the engagement of June 30<sup>th</sup>, published yesterday, we did not give the nature of the wounds. We therefore repeat the list, with these additions – so important to the friends of the sufferers:

Killed – Sergeant Nathan C. Simmons, Co. B; privates Clement Carr, E; Horace Chamberlain, Joseph Neddo, Patrick McConkey, F; Archy Graham, G; Barney Marvin, H; Nathan Martin, I.

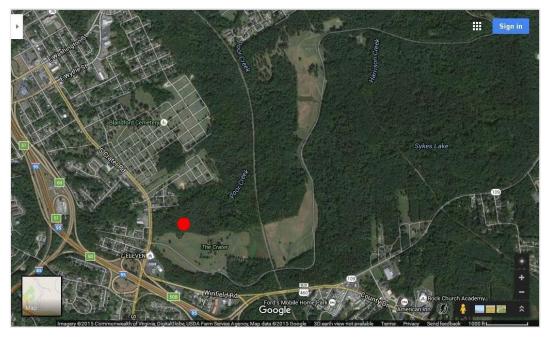


"In the trenches, Petersburg"
From the Journal of Private Robert Knox Sneden, 40<sup>th</sup> N.Y.V., Topographical Engineer of the III Army Corps, Vol. 6, September 1, 1864 - May 1865
Collection of the Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia

Wounded - Co. A - Sergeant Henry A. Slack, right arm; Corporal Anton Reeder, left shoulder; privates John H. Miller, elbow joint amputated; John L. Sheldon, left hand; Peter Roberts, fracture right arm with flesh wound in side. Co. B -Sergeant John Sullivan, neck and lung; Sergeant Peter Roche, contusion ant. tibia, right leg; Corporal Wm. D. Wager, contusion right lumbar; privates John G. McTominy, right side, slight; Peter Sloan, fractured radius, left arm; Aaron Bremer, thigh, flesh wound; Otis Strong, left hand. Co. C – Sergeant Chas. S. Phillips, chest, severe; Corporal James Johnson, left foot; privates John Hofmeister, neck and lower jaw; John Snow, fracture left leg; Aaron B. Davis, contusion right arm; Joseph Rogers, contusion left shoulder; Jacob Coons, head, slight. Co. D – Privates Sylvester Madden, right thigh, flesh wound; Geo. Brown, finger. Co. E - Capt. Frank W. Tarbell, condyle inj. maxillary, exit mouth; Sergeant Rollin Jenkins, contusion right arm; Sergeant C. F. Harrington; Corporal George White, elbow, flesh wound; Corporal Seymour Carr, face and tongue, since dead; privates Geo. W. Mead, left scapula; Wm. Godfrey, elbow joint amputated; Michael Quinn, L. R. Woodcock, shoulder; Geo. Price, neck, slight; Eugene Kelly, left arm. Co. F – Sergeant J. S. McFaddin, thigh, flesh wound; privates John Gannon, neck and head, severe; Geo. Williams, ulna left arm; Alex. McKelvy, fractured tibia near ankle, left foot, two toes of right foot; Virgil Jackson, slight; Robert Taggart, slight. Co. G – Privates John R. Wethey, leg; Jas. Flynn, D. B. Farrell, left groin. Co. H – Privates Nelson Clemmence, abdomen, penetrating; Edward Alipaw, contusion left side; Dagobert Zeiser, inj. maxillary, fracture. Co. I - Corporal Leonard Ducharme, privates Edward Corron, side, penetrating, mortal; John Niles, right forearm, flesh wound; John Tavis, thigh, flesh wound; David Clancy, flesh wound left hip; Michael O'Brien, left forearm, flesh wound. Co. K – Sergeant Ezra Crannell, right shoulder, arm and left hand; Sergeant Albert Tompkins, right shoulder, slight; Corporal E. T. Penny, left arm, fractured radius; privates John Kennelly, left hand, two fingers; Lewis Byron, left lung and arm; Frank Gillispie, gluteus, flesh wound; Robert Martin, contusion

right shoulder; James Keller, gluteus, flesh wound; Jos. Powlett, right arm, flesh wound; Louis Shaffer, shoulder and scapula; Ernest Burnman, contusion left forearm. Sergeant-Major Edgar Vanderzee, contusion inj. maxillary.

#### Satellite Views of Cemetery Hill, the Crater, and Siege Road



Cemetery Hill (aka Blandford Hill) is indicated by the red dot, and the approximate location of Bell's Brigade during the assault on June 30, 1864 is indicated by the ellipse.



### The Troy Paily Times.

AUGUST 2, 1864.

#### BY TELEGRAPH.

THE CAMPAIGN IN VIRGINIA.

GEN. GRANT'S LATE MOVEMENT.

FULL AND GRAPHIC DETAILS.

THE ARMY IN ITS OLD POSITION.

THE STATEMENT OF OUR LOSSES.

REBELS REFUSE FLAGS OF TRUCE.

Full Details of the late Movement before Petersburg – Brilliant but Bloody Affair – The Negro Regiments Terribly cut up.

NEW YORK, Aug. 2.

The *Tribune* gives the following account of the repulse before Petersburg: Within a few minutes after the explosion, the two brigades of the First division – the Second, Col. Marshall, of the Fourteenth New York heavy artillery, commanding, in the lead, followed by the First, under command of Brig.-Gen. Bartlett, of Massachusetts – jumped over the breastworks forming our main line, and advanced at a charging pace. They were hardly in motion before they received a volley from the enemy, who, although they were surprised by the explosion, were evidently prepared against attack, owing to the noise inevitably made by the concentration of troops and the movement of trains, artillery, &c., for hours, close to their front. The explosion, although it destroyed the battery, had not affected the abatis and other obstructions in its front. The attacking column experienced considerable trouble in working their way over them. Part of our line passed into the fort and part to the right of it, upon curtain-like entrenchments connecting the right with the line of breastworks beyond it. The Interior of the exploded work was a confused mass of earth, broken guns, camp equipage and human bodies. It had been occupied by a battery of artillery, manning six rifled field pieces, with part of the Eighteenth and Twenty-second South Carolina regiments. Over two hundred men were blown up with the work. They were buried among the ruins. About twenty of them, more or less mutilated,

Scenes from "Cold Mountain" (2003) Directed by Anthony Minghella (1954-2008)



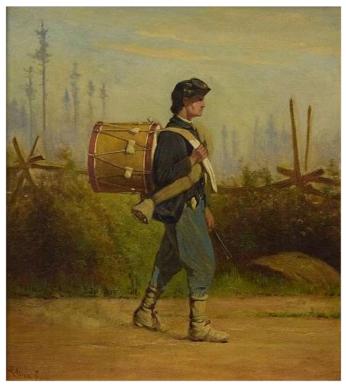


were dug out by our men. The rifle-pits and entrenchments at the right of the works were occupied by several hundred of the enemy, two hundred of whom were captured and sent to the rear. As soon as the First division had moved, the Second and Third followed it to the right and left, and closed up with it at the work. The enemy meanwhile had opened a vigorous musketry and artillery fire from their entrenchments that enclosed the work in the form of an angle, giving them an enfilading fire. Several attempts were made by our troops to continue the advance toward Cemetery Hill, but they failed under the severity of the fire. About 6 o'clock, the colored division, Gen. Ferrero commanding, was ordered to take up the attack and push to the right of the other regiments for Cemetery Hill, distant four hundred yards beyond. It advanced in line with great steadiness until it came up in line with the other divisions, and received a severe fire, when the column turned to the left, whether by command or without, I am unable to say, and the mass of it became mixed up with troops in and about the work. About one thousand of the colored troops rushed over the parapet into the interior of the work which the explosion had caused to make of a pit-like form, and was already crowded to overflowing with officers and men. The negroes tumbled headlong down the sloping sides, when a scene of inextricable confusion ensued. Efforts were made by officers to get them out of the work, and form outside, but they failed, and the strangely, mingled mass of human beings continued to crowd the pit, the upper portion of which was about one hundred feet in diameter. When the attack commenced, all our heavy and light batteries in position, over one hundred pieces in all, opened and kept up a tremendous fire, mostly with shell, on the enemy's lines, but the rebel fire increased in severity. The enemy could be plainly seen from our main line moving his troops from the right and left to the point of attack, and it was evident that they were massing their whole available force to the attack. – Between 7 and 9 o'clock, three attempts were made by our troops to charge, but each of them was checked by the enemy's fire. Squads of men during that time were continually trying to make their way back to the main line, but the intervening space of open ground, about one hundred and fifty yards in width, was so thoroughly swept by the enemy's fire that many were shot down in the attempt. About 9 o'clock, the fire from our batteries slackened, and soon afterward the enemy rushed out of his entrenchments and charged upon the position held by our troops. They were first repulsed, but finally succeeded in gaining most of the ground between the work and their line, and came within a short distance of our troops. More and more of the latter attempted to get back to our line from the work and rifle pits and minor entrenchments, and many succeeded, but many were killed and wounded. About 10 o'clock, the enemy made another charge, when a great swarm of men, estimated by some at one thousand, mostly black, broke out of the fort, and attempt to escape to our lines. Hundreds of them never reached it. What was left of our troops in the works now became completely hemmed in – the rebel standards being planted close to the parapet west of the works, and the rebel fire causing retreat impossible. They continued in that predicament for nearly an hour, when an order was issued, by whom I have not definitely ascertained, directing the whole army to fall back to its original position. Whether it ever reached those still outside of our lines is not definitely known. About 2 o'clock, Gen. Bartlett was left in the fort – being unable to move owing to the breaking of his artificial leg, and sent in a note by a private, stating that being out of ammunition, he and those with him, if not speedily relieved, would soon have to surrender. Shortly afterwards, the rebels were heard to make another charge, to which the party doubtless surrendered. The Fifth corps was under fire all the morning, but did not join the attack. The Second corps was entirely passive. The cavalry corps crossed the rear of our lines before noon, under Sheridan's original orders, which were afterwards modified and the further

movement of his command stopped. Our loss has not been fully reported, but will be several thousand. At the time of writing, the army occupies its old position along the whole line.

### The Troy Daily Press.

OCTOBER 6, 1864.



Union Drummer Edwin Austin Forbes (1839-1895) Private Collection

#### FROM A "DRUMMER BOY" OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND

SIXTY-NINTH REGIMENT. – We are permitted to make the following extract from a letter from a bright, intelligent "drummer boy" in the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment, to his mother, a resident of this city. It states more, perhaps, than letters from older, but not better soldiers, who may have their particular prejudices. After stating that the regiment is reduced to less than fifty effective men, he says: "the soldiers are in high glee to-night over the nomination of Gen. McClellan for President, and I think he will be elected. You dare not say anything against him down here for there is a fight right off."



Federal Fleet departing Hampton Roads for Cape Fear, N.C. (December 1864)

## The Troy Paily Times.

DECEMBER 16, 1864.

#### OUR ARMY CORRESPONDENCE.

#### From the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth.

Correspondence of the Troy Daily Times.

Portsmouth, Va., Dec. 12.

The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment is again on the move, destination unknown. Day before yesterday, it came down the James river on board the transport *Sedgwick*, which proved un-seaworthy, and put into this port, to enable the regiment to be transferred to another and better vessel. The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth is now on the old Collins steamer *Baltic*, and, with other troops, will probably leave to-day for the scene of new and important operations. You will doubtless soon hear from "the boys" as bearing a hand in an enterprise at once successful and fruitful in good results to the cause of the country.

I had not seen the regiment previous to yesterday since last May, and it was therefore almost as a stranger that I met my old comrades. This long absence, in the discharge of duties distant from the regiment, enables me to judge impartially of the effectiveness of the organization, its condition and discipline, while at the same time I may be permitted to indulge a laudable pride in the record of its achievements during the last seven months. I do not think the regiment ever was

in a more effective state. It is now completely officered, its ranks are tolerably well filled up, considering the losses of the campaign, and as both officers and men have been tempered by the fire and storm of battle on too many fields to doubt them now, I can scarcely conceive of a position in which it may yet be placed where it will not, by the valor of the men and the gallantry of its officers, win new honors and do good service for the old flag. To Col. Alden, who is justly regarded as one of the best disciplinarians, as well as fighters in the service, is to be awarded most special commendation for bringing the regiment up to its present efficient standard. In the regiment, he is known as "old Casey," a complimentary recognition of his tactical knowledge and proficiency.

The following is a brief summary of the fighting record of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth, with the number of killed, wounded and missing in each engagement: Siege of Suffolk, Va., May, 1863, 7; siege of Charleston, S. C., Summer of 1863, 2; Rantoul Bridge, S. C., January, '64, 0; Cedar Creek, Fla., April 3, 0; Chester Station, May 10, 56; Drury's Bluff, May 16, 28; Foster's Plantation, May 18, 30; same, May 20, 5; Cold Harbor, June 1, 102; Petersburg Heights, June 15 and 16, 9; Petersburg, June 30, 74; Petersburg, (explosion of mine,) July 30, 13; siege of Petersburg, from June 23 to Aug. 1, 63; Dutch Gap, Aug. 13, 22; siege of Petersburg, Aug. 28 to Sept. 23, 1; New Market road, Sept. 29, 20; Fort Gilmer, Sept. 29, 17.

The officers killed and wounded were as follows:

Killed – Col. John McConihe, Capt. Vaughn, Lieuts. Birdsall and Crippen – 4. Wounded – Cols. Buel and Alden, Maj. Allen, Capts. Tarbell, E. R. Smith, Ferguson and Snyder, Lieuts. Morey, Van Alstyne, C. Smith, Mulhall, Swartwout, Mandeville, Vanderzee (twice), Straight (twice), Hughes, Ryan, Russell, Jaques, Jenkins (twice), and Cipperly – 21.

Few regiments can show a more honorable record of service, or a more extended list of casualties, nearly all of the above being actual casualties, and not the result of captures by the enemy. In this latter respect the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth has been singularly fortunate, the number of those lost by capture probably not reaching twenty-five. At the battle of Chester Station, Co. A, of the regiment, lost twelve men by capture, six of whom have died in Southern prisons. As their names have not been published, I forward the list for publication, and this will probably be the first intimation the relatives of some of the deceased will have received of their fate: A. Bacchus, J. Hoag, A. C. Folmsbee, W. S. Hand, Ed. Stickles, Theo. Schutt, D. Morris, C. M. C. Varney, of Co. E, who was captured May 16, died in prison Aug. 31.

The old flags of the regiment, tattered and torn by shot and shell, wind and storm, have been sent by Col. Alden to his brother Charles L., and will, during the next session of the Legislature be presented to the State, for preservation in the military bureau. The blue or regimental flag is now home, on a staff captured at Petersburg, by the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth from the enemy, and replaces one shot away during one of the battles in which the regiment was engaged. The flags are now probably in Troy, in possession of Mr. Alden.

In thus briefly summarizing the battle record of one regiment whose term of service has not expired, leaving much yet to be written, I wish to add one word about Rensselaer county soldiers. I do not believe there is a county in the State that has sent into the field better soldiers in any respect than those who have gone from old Rensselaer. The record of the organizations that have gone from Rensselaer cannot be beaten. One Colonel from Troy (Carr) has been made a Brigadier, and will yet, I hope, attain higher honors; another (Tibbets) has recently won the brevet rank of a general officer; two have been killed, (Willard and McConihe;) four have been wounded, (Park, Crandell, Buel and Alden;) one

Lieut.-Colonel has been killed, (Myer;) and one Major (Allen) wounded. In the grade of line officers, the list of casualties have been proportionately larger. I believe in the aggregate of casualties the One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Regiment is ahead of any of the other organizations from the county, and in addition the members can boast of having been once captured in a body. Very fortunately, that was before the rebels set up their hell at Andersonville, or I very much fear few even of the survivors of that gallant regiment would now be left to tell the story of their misfortune at Harper's Ferry. Every Rensselaer county regiment has acquitted itself nobly in the field, and not a few companies, such as Landon's, King's and Brintnall's, in the Thirtieth, and McCarthy's in the One Hundred and Seventy-fifth, have been sufficient to leaven other organizations with a little Rensselaer county pluck and patriotism. And when the war is over, the historian who shall undertake the task of writing the record old Rensselaer has made in this war, through the valor and courage of her sons, may justly claim for her a preëminent place among her sister counties of the State, and award to her people the meed of praise which is their due. Someone should do this, and prepare for the task now, by "gathering up the fragments that nothing is lost."

W. E. K.

### The Troy Daily Press.

JANUARY 14, 1865.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY.

#### TROY, SATURDAY EVENING, JAN. 14, 1865.

### The Expedition Against Fort Fisher – Gen. Butler's Official Report.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE U. S., CITY POINT, January 7, 1865.

Hon. E. M. Stanton, Sir: — Herewith I have the honor to forward Maj.-Gen. Benjamin F. Butler's and subordinates, reports of the expedition against Fort Fisher, N. C. As the report of Rear Admiral D. D. Porter has been published in the papers, I would respectfully request that Gen. Butler's report, with all the papers accompanying it, be also given to the public.

Very Respectfully, your Obd't. Serv't. U. S. Grant, Lieut.-General.

HEADQUARTERS OF VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA, ARMY OF THE JAMES,

In the field, Jan. 3<sup>d</sup>, 1865.

Lieut.-General U. S. Grant, Commanding Armies of the United States – General: On the 7<sup>th</sup> of December last, in obedience to your orders, I moved a force of about 6,500 effective men, consisting of Gen. Paine's division of the 25<sup>th</sup> Corps, under



Maj.-Gen. Benjamin F. Butler, commanding Army of the James

command of Maj.-Gen. Weitzel, to an encampment near Bermuda. On the  $8^{th}$ , the troops embarked for Fortress Monroe.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> (Friday) I reported to Rear Admiral Porter, that the army portion of the conjoint expedition, directed against Wilmington, was ready to proceed. We waited there Saturday, the 10<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, the 11<sup>th</sup> and Monday, the 12<sup>th</sup>.

On the 12<sup>th</sup>, Rear-Admiral Porter informed me that the fleet would sail on the 13<sup>th</sup>, but would be obliged to put in at Beaufort, to take on board ammunition for the Monitors.

The expedition having become the subject of remark, fearing that lest its destination should get to the enemy, in order to detract from it all attention, on the morning of Tuesday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, at 3 o'clock, I ordered the transport fleet to proceed up the Potomac during the day to Mathias' Point, so as to be plainly visible to the scouts and signal men of the enemy on the northern neck, and to retrace their course at night, and anchor under the lea of Cape Charles.

Having given the Navy thirty-six hours' start, at 12 M., of the 14<sup>th</sup>, (Wednesday,) I joined the transport fleet off Cape Henry, and put to sea, arriving at the place of rendezvous, off New Inlet, near Fort Fisher, on the evening of the 15<sup>th</sup> (Thursday.) We there waited the Navy through Friday, the 16<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, the 17<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, the 18<sup>th</sup>, during which days we had the finest possible weather, and the smoothest sea.

On the evening of the 18<sup>th</sup>, Admiral Porter came from Beaufort to the place of rendezvous. That evening, the sea became rough, and on Monday, the 19<sup>th</sup>, the wind sprang up freshly, so that it was impossible to land troops, and, by the advice of Admiral Porter, communicated to me by letter, I directed the transport fleet to rendezvous at Beaufort.

This was a matter of necessity, because the transports being coaled and watered for ten days, had already waited that time, *viz*: from the 9<sup>th</sup>, the day on which we were ready to sail, to the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Thursday, the 23<sup>d</sup>, (Friday,) it blew a gale. I was occupied in coaling and watering the transport fleet at Beaufort.

The *Baltic*, having a large supply of coal, was enabled to remain at the place of rendezvous, with a brigade on board, of 2000 men, and Gen. Ames reported to Admiral Porter, that he would co-operate with him.



Storm on Sea (1899) Hovhannes Aivazovsky (1817-1900) Private Collection

Gen. Alden of the 169<sup>th</sup> N.Y. wrote in his memoirs: "On the 12<sup>th</sup> of December, 1864, the 169<sup>th</sup> was quartered on board the steamer 'Baltic,' which was about ready to weigh anchor and proceed down the coast to Fort Fisher. This was doubtless one of the most momentous undertakings, certainly as a measure of importance, that will have occurred in the history of the regiment up to the date of this expedition...

"... We have been transferred from the propeller 'Sedgwick' to the side-wheel ocean steamer named the 'Baltic' of the old line, in which we are now luxuriously quartered. Our steamer is very heavily laden, being weighted with our whole brigade of troops, with the exception of the 9<sup>th</sup> Maine, Colonel Granger, which has been retained in its camp near Chaffin's Farm with other troops to constitute an army of occupation, that position being regarded as strategic because it is so near the front door entrance to Richmond, and because also we desired to avoid the appearance of weakening our old lines, or creating a suspicion that we had sent out some expeditionary forces."

"The Atlantic," May 1871, *The Capture of Fort Fisher*: "By the 20<sup>th</sup> the dreadful storm had burst upon the vessels with all its fury. Nearly all the transports were sent into Beaufort, N. C., for a safe harbor and for supplies; but the stanch old 'Baltic' pointed her prow to the sea, and nobly rode out the violence of the elements."

On the 23<sup>d</sup>, I sent Captain Clark, of my staff, from Beaufort, on the fast sailing, armed steamer *Chamberlin*, to Admiral Porter, to inform him that on the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup>, I would again be at the rendezvous, with the transport fleet, for the purpose of commencing the attack, if the weather permitted.



Sea face of Fort Fisher, near the Northeast Bastion (1865)

At 4 o'clock, on the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup>, I came in sight of Fort Fisher, and found a naval fleet engaged in bombarding it, the powder vessel having been exploded on the morning previous, about one o'clock.

Through Gen. Weitzel I arranged with Admiral Porter to commence the landing under cover of the gunboats, as earl as eight o'clock the next morning, if possible, as soon as the fire of the Half-Moon and Flagpond Hill batteries had been silenced.

- These are up the shore some two or three miles above Fort Fisher.

Admiral Porter was quite sanguine that he had silenced the guns of Fort Fisher. He was then urged, if that was so, to run by the fort into Cape Fear River, and then the troops could land and hold the beach without the liability of being shelled by the enemy's gunboats, the *Tallahassee* being seen in the river.

It is to be remarked that Admiral Farragut, even, had never taken a fort except by running by and cutting it off from all prospect of reinforcement, as Fort Jackson and Fort Morgan, and that no casemated fort had been silenced by a naval fire during the war. It was thought that, if the Admiral would put his ships in the river, the army could supply him across the beach as we had proposed to do; and with Farragut at Fort St. Phillip, that at least the blockade at Wilmington would be effectual, even if we did not capture the fort.

To that the Admiral replied that he should probably lose a boat by torpedoes if he attempted to run by. He was reminded that the army might lose five hundred by the assault, and that his boat would not weigh in the balance, even in a money point of view, for a moment with the lives of these men.

The Admiral declined going by, and the expedition was deprived of that essential element of success.

At 12 M. of the 25<sup>th</sup>, (Sunday,) Capt. Glisson, commanding the covering division of the fleet, reported the battery silenced, and his vessels in position to cover our landing.

The transport fleet, following my flagship, stood in within 800 yards of the beach and at once commenced debarking. The landing was successfully effected.

Finding that the reconnoitering party just landed, could hold the shore, I determined to land a force with which an assault might be attempted.

Brevet Brigadier-Gen. Curtis, immediately pushed up his brigade within a few hundred yards of Fort Fisher, capturing the Half-Moon battery and its men, who were taken off by the boats of the Navy. The skirmish line advanced to within



Land face of Fort Fisher, exterior view (1865)

This photograph shows the right of the land-face and Wilmington road, where the 169th N.Y. entered the fort though the "Bloody Gate" on January 15, 1865.

seventy-five yards of the fort, protected by the glacis which had been thrown up in such a way as to give cover, the garrison being kept completely in their bomb-proofs by the fire of the Navy, which was very rapid and continuous, their shells bursting over the work with very considerable accuracy.

At this time we lost ten men, wounded, on the skirmish line, by the shells from the fleet.

Quitting my flagship I went on board the *Chamberlin* and ran in within a few hundred yards of the fort, so that it was plainly visible. It appeared to be a square, bastioned work of very high relief, say fifteen feet, surrounded by a wet ditch some fifteen feet wide. It was protected from being attacked by an assaulting force by a stockade which extended from the fort to the sea on the one side and from the marshes of the Cape Fear River to the salient points on the other.

No material damage to the fort as a defensive work had been done.

Seventeen heavy guns bore up the beach, protected from the fire of the Navy, by traverses, eight or ten feet high, which were undoubtedly bomb-proof.

It was easy to maintain this position, but the shells of the Navy, which kept the enemy in the bomb-proofs, would keep my troops out.

When those ceased firing, the parapets were fairly mounted. Lieut. Walling, of the 142<sup>d</sup> New York, passed up to the edge of a ditch and captured a rebel flag which had been cut down by a shell from the navy.

It is a mistake, as was at first reported to me, that any soldier entered the fort. An orderly was killed about one-third of a mile from the fort and his horse taken. In the meantime, I learned that Kirkland's and Hagood's Brigades of Hoke's Division had left the front of the Army of the James, near Richmond, and were within two miles of the rear of my forces and their skirmishers were then actually engaged, and that the remainder of Hoke's Division had come the night before to Wilmington, and were then on the march. I also learned that these troops left Richmond on Tuesday, the  $20^{\rm th}$ .

Knowing the strength of Hoke's Division, I concluded that a force was opposed to me outside the works larger than my own.

In the meantime the weather assumed a threatening aspect. The surf began to roll in so that the landing became difficult. At this time Gen. Weitzel reported to me that to assault the work, in his judgment, was impossible.

This opinion coincided with my own, and much as I regretted the necessity of abandoning the attempt, yet the duty was plain.

Not so strong a work as Fort Fisher had been taken by assault during this war, and I had to guide me, my own experience of Port Hudson, with its slaughtered thousands, and in the repulsed assault of Fort Wagner, where thousands were sacrificed in the attempt to take the work, less strong than Fisher.

I, therefore, ordered that no assault should be made, and that the troops should re-embark.

While superintending the preparations of this movement the firing of the Navy ceased. Instantly the guns of the fort were fully manned, and a sharp fire of musketry, grape, and canister swept the place over which the column must have advanced and the skirmish line was returning.

Working with what diligence we could, it was impossible to get the troops aboard before the sea ran so high as to render further embarkation, or even sending supplies, impossible.

I lay by the shore until 11 o'clock the next day, (Monday,) the 26<sup>th</sup>, when, having made all proper dispositions for getting the troops on board, I gave the order to the transport fleet, as fast as ready, to sail for Fort Monroe, in obedience to my instructions from the Lieut.-General.

The delay of three days of good weather, the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>, waiting for the arrival of the Navy, and the further delay of the terrible storm of the 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>d</sup>, and 23<sup>d</sup>, gave time for troops to be brought from Richmond, three divisions of which were either there or on the road.

The instructions of the Lieut.-General to me did not contemplate a siege. I had neither siege trains nor supplies for such a contingency.

The exigency of possible delay for which the armies had provided, had arisen, *viz*: the large re-enforcement of the garrison, with the fact that the Navy had exhausted their supply of ammunition in the bombardment, left me no alternative but to return with my army to the Army of the James.

The loss of Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> of December, was the immediate cause of the failure of the expedition.

It is not my province to even suggest blame to the Navy for their delay, four days at Beaufort. I know none of the reasons which do or do not justify it. It is to be presumed they are sufficient.

I am happy to bring to the attention of the Lieut.-General, the excellent behavior of the troops, officers and men, which was all that could be desired.

Trusting my action will meet with the approval of the Lieut.-General, this report is respectfully submitted.

(Signed)

Benj. F. Butler, Maj.-General.

### The Troy Daily Press.

JANUARY 17, 1865.

#### FIRST EDITION.

THREE O'CLOCK.

# HIGHLY IMPORTANT NEWS FORT FISHER CAPTURED.

#### TWELVE HUNDRED PRISONERS TAKEN

INCLUDING GEN'L WHITING.

**ALSO SEVENTY-TWO GUNS** 

**UNION LOSS SEVERE** 

SALUTE ORDERED BY GEN. GRANT.

Official from the War Department.

Washington, Jan. 17. – The following official dispatches have just been received at this Department:

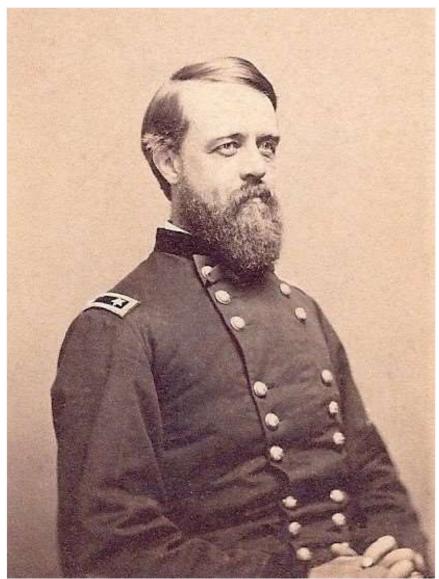
#### **DISPATCH FROM GEN. TERRY.**

 $\label{thm:equality} Headquarters~United~States~Forces,\\ on~Federal~Point,~N.~C.,~Jan.~15,~via~Fort~Monroe,~Jan.~17.$ 

Brig.-Gen. J. A. Rawlings – GENERAL: I have the honor to report that Fort Fisher was carried by assault this afternoon and evening, by Gen. Ames' division and the second brigade of the first division of the Twenty-fourth Army Corps, gallantly aided by a battalion of marines and seamen from the navy.

The assault was preceded by a heavy bombardment from the federal fleet and was made at 3:30 P.M., where the First brigade (Curtis') of Ames' division effected a lodgment upon the parapet, but full possession of the work was not obtained until ten P.M. The bravery of both officers and men was most admirable.

All the works of Fort Fisher are now occupied by our troops.



Bvt. Maj.-Gen. Alfred H. Terry, Commanding Expedition Corps at Fort Fisher, N.C.

We have not less than 1,200 prisoner, including Gen. Whiting and Col. Lamb, the commandant of the fort.

I regret to say that our loss is severe, especially in officers. I am not yet able to form any correct estimate of the number of casualties.

A. H. Terry, Brev. Maj.-Gen., Commanding the expedition.

Fort Fisher, Jan. 16-2 A.M. – After a careful reconnaissance the  $14^{th}$  inst., it was decided to risk an assault on Fort Fisher.

Col. Paine's with Col. Abbott's brigade to hold our line, already strong across the peninsula, and facing Wilmington against Hoke, while Ames' division should assault on the west end.

After three hours of heavy navy firing, a heavy assault was made at 3 P.M., on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Curtis' brigade led, and as soon as it was on the west end of the land front, it was followed by Pennypacker's, and the latter by Bell's.

After desperate fighting, gaining foot by foot, and severe loss, at 5 P.M. we had possession of about half the land front.

Abbott's brigade was then taken from our line facing Wilmington, and put into Fort Fisher, and, on pushing it forward, at 10 P.M., it took the rest of the work with little resistance, the garrison falling back to the extreme of the peninsula, where they were followed and captured; among others, Gen. Whiting and Col. Lamb, both wounded.

I think we have quite one thousand prisoners.

I hope our own loss may not exceed over five hundred, but it is impossible to judge in the right.

Among the brigade commanders of the three leading brigades, General Curtis was wounded, not seriously, but Cols. Pennypacker and Bell, dangerously.

The land front was a formidable one. The parapets in places were 14 or fifteen feet high, but the men went at it nobly under a severe musketry fire.

The marines and sailors went up gallantly, but the musketry from the east end of the land front was so severe they did not succeed in entering the work.

The navy fire on the work, judging from the holes, must have been terrific. Many of the guns were injured. How many there were on the point I cannot say. Perhaps thirty or forty.

C. B. COMSTOCK, Lt.-Col., A. D. C. and Ch. En.

Another dispatch estimates the number of prisoners captured at 2,500 and the number of guns at seventy-two.

Gen. Grant telegraphs to this Department that in honor of this great triumph achieved by the united valor of the Army and Navy, has ordered a salute of one hundred guns to be fired by each of the armies operating against Richmond.

C. A. Dana, Assistant Secretary of War.

### The Troy Daily Press.

JANUARY 18, 1865.

#### CAPTURE OF FORT FISHER.

#### **DETAILED ACCOUNTS**

BALTIMORE, Jan. 17. – A correspondent of the *American* gives the following detailed account of the capture of Fort Fisher:

OFF FORT FISHER, Jan. 13. – At 4 o'clock this morning we were aroused from our slumbers by a gun from the flagship, and the burning of the preparatory signal of red and green, as an indication that it was time to be up and stirring, preparing breakfast and getting through with the routine of morning duty, so as to be in readiness at dawn to commence the serious work of the day.

The moon was still shining brightly in a cloudless sky, brilliant with stars. The throng of vessels were resting calmly on the sea, the wind being too light to even ripple its surface. We were, it should be remembered, just out of cannon shot of the dreaded coast of North Carolina. Truly, the elements promised to favor this great enterprise.

At 5 o'clock the second signal was given by the flagship, "get underway," when the work of weighing anchors commenced, and at half past five the signals of the divisional commanders to move forward were given and responded to, causing a brilliant pyrotechnic display.

The gunboat *Tacony* was sent ahead last night to anchor off Flag Pond Battery, and, the day not having yet dawned, her lights could be seen as the steering point of the fleet in shore, about three miles ahead of us. The three frigates, *Wabash, Minnesota* and *Colorado*, moved off first, led by Admiral Porter's flagship. They were followed by the *New Ironsides* and monitor fleet.

The signals from the army transports added to the scenic display. At the first dawn of day the whole *armada* was in motion. The wind had changed to due west during the night, and coming off shore tended to render the landing of troops comparatively easy.

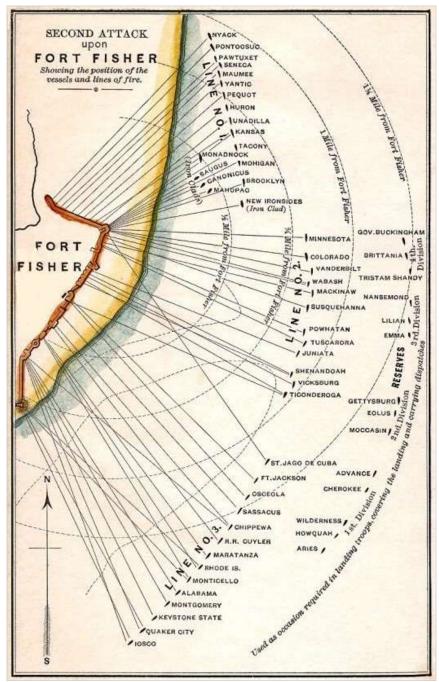
At a quarter to seven, the Admiral signalized "form in line of battle," whereupon the *Brooklyn*, with her line of vessels, moved along close to the beach, in the following order: *Brooklyn*, 26 guns; *Mohican*, 7 guns; *Tacony*, 10 guns; *Kansas*, 8 guns; *Unadilla*, 7 guns; *Huron*, 4 guns; *Maumee*, 5 guns; *Pawtuxet*, 10 guns; *Seneca*, 4 guns; *Pontoosuc*, 10 guns; *Pequot*, 7 guns; *Yantic*, 7 guns, *Nereus*, 11 guns. Total, 116 guns.

This division was ordered to prepare for action, and move close to the beach to shell the woods at the point decided upon for the landing of the troops, about 3½ miles from Fort Fisher, near the deserted Half Moon Battery.

In a few minutes the whole division was in position, throwing shells into the narrow strip of woods separating the seashore from Cape Fear River, about a mile inland parallel with the beach. In the meantime the ironclads moved into position directly in front of Fort Fisher, the *Ironsides* about three-fourths of a mile, and the monitors about half a mile off, in the following order:

New Ironsides, Com. Radford, 20 guns; Monadnock, Com. E. G. Parrott, 4 guns; Saugus, Com. E. R. Colhoun, 2 guns; Canonicus, Lieut. Com. Geo. E. Belknap, 2 guns; Mahopac, Lieut. Com. E. E. Potter, 2 guns.

Before they got into position the fort opened on them, but they heeded it not until they had secured their anchorage, when, at 8:30, the *Ironsides* opened on the fort, and was followed by the monitors, with their tremendous shells. Every shot struck in the embrasures, and, exploding, threw clouds of sand high into the air.

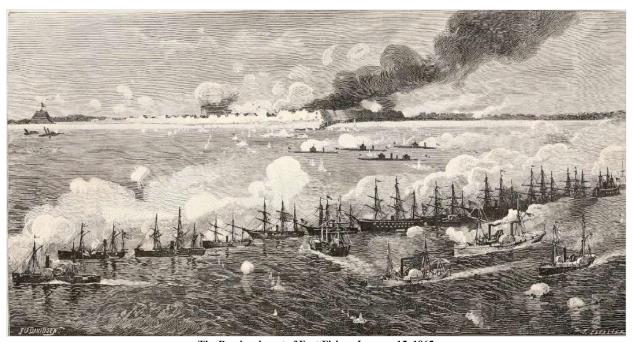


Map of the Naval Bombardment of Fort Fisher (1881)

The fort occasionally responded, but did not send more than one shot every ten minutes; and at times so rapid was our firing they found it impossible to work their guns.

At 9 o'clock the boats of the fleet were called away to assist in the landing of troops.

The woods had, in the meantime, been thoroughly shelled, and no enemy had appeared. The transports were enabled to go within half a mile of the shore, and they were soon surrounded by 200 boats, supplied from all the vessels of the fleet.



The Bombardment of Fort Fisher, January 15, 1865 Julian Oliver Davidson (1853-1894) Published in "Battles and Leaders of the Civil War," Vol. 4 (1888)

– Several tugs also joined in the work, and carried the soldiers to within 100 yards of the beach, where they were transferred to small boats.

The tents and camp equipage were also landed, with several days' provisions for the entire force, which was 8,000 strong. At 9 o'clock boats from all the transports moved simultaneously for the shore, and in a few minutes the first 500 men stepped on the beach and planted their regimental flag on one of the highest sand hills, amid cheering from the transports and the fleet.

The men were overjoyed to again get from shipboard and in a few minutes had cut down cedars sufficient to make a rousing fire to dry their clothes, some of them having got wet to their knees in getting through the surf.

The bands of music soon commenced playing, while the men could be seen running about and rolling in the warm sand, like schoolchildren enjoying a holiday.

Not a sign of any enemy could be seen at this time in any direction. At ten o'clock about 4,000 soldiers, having been landed, a skirmish line was sent forward on the beach.

Admiral Porter signaled to Capt. Glisson, commanding the *Santiago de Cuba*, to move with his gunboat division inside of the line of the frigates, and shell the beach in advance of the skirmishers. The division moved in the following order: *Santiago de Cuba*, 11 guns; *Fort Jackson*, 7; *Osceola*, 10; *Sassacus*, 10; *Chippewa*, 4; *R. R. Cuyler*, 10; *Maratanza*, 6; *Rhode Island*, 12; *Monticello*, 6; *Alabama*, 10; *Montgomery*, 6; *Keystone State*, 18; *Quaker City*, 7; *Iosco*, 10; Total guns, 127.

The woods, in advance of the pickets, were thoroughly shelled up to within a mile and a half of Fort Fisher, where we dropped anchor, about a mile in the rear of the ironclad fleet, and fully two miles in advance of all the balance of the fleet, which were in the vicinity of the landing of the troops, where they remained up to 4 P.M.



Bombardment of Fort Fisher (ca. 1865)
James Madison Alden (1834-1922)
Published by William Endicott & Co., N.Y.
Collection of the U.S. Naval Academy Museum, Annapolis, Md.

The subtitle for the lithograph reads: "Bombardment of Fort Fisher by U.S. Naval Forces under command of Rear Admiral D. D. Porter just previous to the assault of the Military and Naval forces under the command of Major General A. H. Terry, January 15, 1865. To the Gallant Officers and Men with valor and skill that secured the Victory, the Print is respectfully dedicated by the Publisher."

From our advanced position I had a splendid view of the work of the ironclads, which was the main business, though some of the shells from Fort Fisher, fired at the monitors, came in rather close proximity.

The firing on the fort from the monitors and *New Ironsides* was a magnificent sight. From eight o'clock in the morning up to four o'clock in the afternoon, the monitors poured in their tremendous shells at the rate of four per minute, the whole number thrown in that time being not less than two thousand. Every shot struck the embrasures or parapet of the fort, and the gunnery exhibited was never surpassed.

During this time the fort probably threw three hundred shells in return, but the difficulty they had in managing their guns amid the explosion of our shells and the clouds of sand that constantly enveloped the work from our well-directed shots, doubtless marred their gunnery, as most of the shells struck beyond or short of the mark.

All of our vessels, however, received honorable scars in the fight, and we could see that several of their smokestacks had been perforated and their armor bruised.

The damage to the fort by outward appearance was most distinct. What the internal damage may be, is, of course, not yet known.

About four o'clock a dense and continued smoke from the inside of the fort indicated that some of the rebel huts had been fired.

At four o'clock the Admiral signaled to the vessels in line of battle No. 2 to take the positions marked out for them in the chart, and join in the bombardment. They moved forward in the following order, presenting an array of the largest vessels in the service, a magnificent spectacle of old wooden walls, with their ponderous armaments: *Minnesota*, 52 guns; *Wabash*, 48; *Powhatan*, 21; *Susquehanna*, 16; *Juniata*, 9; *Shenandoah*, 10; *Ticonderoga*, 20; Total, 176.

At twenty minutes to five o'clock these three immense divisions, carrying 419 guns, in addition to the ironclads, joined in the grand and awful, yet terribly brilliant cannonade, a spectacle that will probably never be witnessed again during the present age.

The number of shots fired while this great bombardment lasted, one hour and a half, closing at ten minutes past 6 o'clock, could not have been less than four per second, broadside after broadside being poured in, without the slightest interruption, occasionally interspersed with the [discharge] of the 15-inch guns of the monitors.

Four shots per second during this time counts up 21,600 shots. Indeed, I have no doubt that up to the withdrawal of the wooden walls this evening, not less than 25,000 shells were fired into Ft. Fisher.

After the general bombardment commenced, but one shot was fired by the fort in return, consequently none of the wooden vessels were injured.



Detail from "Final Assault Upon Fort Fisher, N. C." (1872) Xanthus Russell Smith (1839-1929) Collection of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, Penn.

In this detail of Smith's painting we see the U.S. Monitors "Canonicus" and "Mahopac," the U.S.S. "New Ironsides," and the U.S.S. "Brooklyn" firing upon Fort Fisher.

The *Ironsides* and the monitors did not withdraw when the signal was given for the vessels to cease firing, but kept at work throughout the night, throwing one shell every ten minutes into the fort, to prevent the repairing of damage by the garrison.

The camp fires of our troops on the shore, together with the burning of signals and the display of white and green lanterns by the fleet, presented a grand spectacle.

To-night the troops have advanced up to within about a mile and a half of Fort Fisher, their camp fires extending down the beach for more than a mile.

An order has been received from the Admiral, it being impossible to bring our division into the fight, the anchoring room being too contracted, to proceed in shore to cover the encampment of the troops from any assault by Bragg from Wilmington. The troops, as I learn from officers who assisted in landing them, are in high spirits and anxious to be led forward to the assault of the fort. They wish to wipe out the stain cast upon them by the withdrawal of Gen. Butler, and to prove to the country they did not believe the fort could not be taken.

The announcement received to-day that Gen. Butler had been relieved from the command of the Army of the James, caused great rejoicing throughout the fleet.

I regret to learn that one of the 15-inch guns on the *Mahopac*, bursted to-day, but am pleased to add that none of her ironclad crew were injured by the explosion. She remained in the fight throughout the day.

Some good shooting was made by the rebels, and all the ironclads have numerous indentations of their armor and perforations of their smokestacks.

January 14, 1865. – Another bright and beautiful day has dawned, being the second since we left Beaufort, scarcely a cloud dimming the heavens. The night was magnificently brilliant, the first quarter of a waning moon shedding its silvery rays over land and water, while a light southwestern wind, which seemed hardly to cause a ripple, made everything particularly pleasant. This morning the sun has risen in splendor and beauty. Not a cloud is perceptible in the sky. The cheering rays of Old Sol have already driven off the chillness of the morning atmosphere.

The monitors and the *Ironsides* have continued all night to throw a shell every ten minutes into the fort, discontinuing their work only as daylight approached. The troops on shore are having a fine time, and are in the most splendid spirits.

A foraging party has just returned to camp, with nearly 100 head of cattle and horses, which they succeeded in picking up during the night.

A number of the troops advanced during the night to the abandoned Fort Anderson, and held possession of the whole breadth of the peninsula to Cape Fear river. The advanced pickets are already within a mile of Fort Fisher, preparing to storm it when the proper moment arrives. The *Santiago*, with the division of Capt. Glisson, consisting of fourteen gunboats, is anchored this morning, close into the beach, with instructions to protect the troops as they advance and follow them as they move forward.

Our position for witnessing operations to-day is, if possible, more favorable than that of yesterday.

FLAGSHIP MALVERN, Saturday, 11 A.M. – I am just informed that the *Gettysburg* will start in a few minutes for Fort Monroe, and I close hastily. Up to this hour nothing has been done this morning. The monitors are lying quietly with the *Ironsides*, under the guns of Fort Fisher. Not a shot has been exchanged since four o'clock.

One o'clock P.M. – The *Ironsides* and monitors have just opened again on Fisher. Two o'clock P.M. – The division of wooden vessels are in short range of the fort, and are firing rapidly upon it, but eliciting no reply. I must close here, as the *R. R. Cuyler* is just about to leave with dispatches for Fort Monroe.

Baltimore, Jan. 17. – The *American* has the following from its special correspondent with the Wilmington expedition who has just arrived at Fortress Monroe: –

FORTRESS MONROE, Jan. 17. – 6:30 P.M. – After three days and nights of bombardment, Fort Fisher is ours, with all the contiguous works commanding New Inlet.

The assault was made by the army and the naval brigade, at 3 o'clock on Sunday, P.M. One corner of the fort was secured in half an hour, but we had hand-to-hand fight with the garrison which lasted till 9 o'clock at night. It was a very stubborn

and bloody resistance, and the fort and approaches were strewn with dead. The garrison had been heavily reinforced. The number of guns captured was seventy-two.

All the forts, including Mound and Oak Island batteries, surrendered.

The rebel loss in the assault is 500 dead, besides the wounded. Our loss, army and navy, is about 900, in killed and wounded.

The magazine in the fort exploded by accident on Monday morning, killing and wounding 200 of our men.

### **Dispatch from Admiral Porter.**

Washington, Jan. 17. – The following has been received at the Navy Department, from Admiral Porter: –

FLAGSHIP *MALVERN*, OFF FORT FISHER, Jan. 14. – I have the honor to inform you that operations have been initiated against the fortifications of Cape Fear river. Since the first attack on this place and the subsequent withdrawal of the troops, I have been employed in filling the ships with ammunition and coal. The difficulties we have encountered no one can conceive. All our work had to be done with the larger vessels anchored on the coast, exposed, you may almost say, to sea, to the violent gales that blow here almost incessantly. On these gales the enemy depended to break up our preparations. We will see. – We have gone through the worst of it, and have held on through gales heavy enough to drive anything to sea, and we sustained no damage whatever.

After the troops arrived the weather set in bad, and the gale was very heavy. As soon as it was over I got underway, on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst., and forming the vessels in three lines, with the transports in company, I steamed for Fort Fisher.

On the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> the fleet took its station in three lines close to the beach, and the boats were sent at once to take off the troops. These were landed, with about twelve days' provisions, at about two o'clock P.M. This time I pursued a different plan in attacking the rebel works. I sent in the *New Ironsides*, Com. Radford, leading the monitors *Sassacus*, *Monadnock* and *Mahopac*.

At 7:30 A.M., the forts opened on them as they approached, but they quickly took up their old position within one thousand yards of Fort Fisher, and when ready they opened their batteries in this way.

I tempted the enemy to engage the monitors, that we might see what guns they had and see where they were, and be able to dislodge them by fire. Quite a spirited engagement went on between the fort, the *Ironsides* and the monitors. It was soon apparent that the iron vessels had the best of it. Traverses began to disappear, and the northern angle of Fort Fisher commenced to look very dilapidated. The guns were silenced one after the other, and only one heavy gun in the southern angle kept up its fire. The fire of this gun wasn't at all accurate, as it inflicted no damage on the iron vessels. They were hit, though, several times.

By way of letting the enemy know we had some shells left on board the wooden ships, and did not intend to take any unfair advantage of him by using iron vessels alone, I ordered line No. 1, on plan, led by Capt. Alden of the *Brooklyn*, and line No. 2, led by the commander of the *Colorado*, to go and attack the batteries. This was done in the handsomest manner; not a mistake was committed, except firing too rapidly and making too much smoke. The fire of the large vessels shot up the enemy's guns at once, and after firing all, after dark the wooden vessels dropped out to their anchorage.



Rear-Admiral David D. Porter, commanding Federal Fleet off Fort Fisher, N.C.

The *Ironsides* and monitors maintained their position through the night, firing a shell now and then. They are now lying within 1,000 yards of the fort, and the monitors within 700 yards, and the fort does not fire a gun at them, thinking, no doubt, that it is a waste of powder.

The firing from the fleet will commence as soon as we get breakfast, and will be kept up as long as the Ordinance Department provides us with shells and guns.

There is a perfect understanding between Gen. Terry and myself. I believe everything has been done to suit him.

I have heard no complaints, and know that we have felt every disposition to help the army along. A detailed report of our operations here will be sent in when we get through. I see no reason to doubt our success.

We have a respectable force landed on a strip of land which our naval guns completely command, and a place of defence which would enable us to hold out against a very large army. I will report to you at every opportunity.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DAVID D. PORTER, Rear Admiral.

### ADDITIONAL FROM FORT FISHER.

### OFFICIAL FROM SEC'Y STANTON.

### THE FLAG OF FORT FISHER.

#### Official from Secretary Stanton.

FORTRESS MONROE, Jan. 17, 10 P.M. – *To the President:* The rebel flag of Fort Fisher was delivered to me, on board the steamer *Spaulding*, off that place, yesterday morning, January 16, by Maj.-Gen. Terry.

An acknowledgment and thanks for that gallant achievement was given in your name to Admiral Porter and General Terry, from whom the following particulars were obtained:

The troops arrived off Fort Fisher Thursday night. Friday they were all landed under a heavy fire from the squadron. A reconnaissance was made by Gen. Terry on Saturday. A strong defensive line against any of the enemy's forces coming from Wilmington was established on Saturday and held by 4,000 men, chiefly colored troops. An assault was determined on. The assault was made on Sunday afternoon at half-past three. The sea front of the fort has been greatly damaged and broken by a continuous and terrible fire from the fleet for three days, and the fort was assaulted, at the hour mentioned, by a column of seamen and marines, 1,800 strong, under command of Captain Breese. They reached the parapet, but after a short conflict, this column was checked and driven back in disorder, and afterwards proceeded on the defensive line, taking the place of a brigade that was brought up to reinforce the assaulting column of troops. Although the assault on the sea front failed, it performed a useful part in diverting the attention of the enemy and lessening the resistance to the attack by the troops on the other side. The assault on the other and most difficult side of the fort was made by three thousand troops of the old Tenth Corps, Col. Curtis, under the immediate supervision of Gen. Terry. The forces of the enemy in the fort was over twenty-two hundred. The conflict lasted over seven hours. Admiral Porter contributed to the success of the assaulting column, by signals between himself and Gen. Terry, at brief intervals. This fire was so well managed as to damage the enemy without injury to our own troops. At about ten o'clock at night the enemy were entirely driven from the fort, and forced down towards Federal Point, followed by a brigade of our troops. About twelve o'clock at night Gen. Whiting surrendered himself and his command to Gen. Terry, "unconditionally" as prisoners of war, which amounted to about eighteen hundred, the remainder of his force being killed and wounded. Our loss was not accurately ascertained on Monday afternoon, but was estimated at between seven and eight hundred in killed and wounded, besides the naval loss, which was slight, not exceeding 100 in killed and wounded. Not a ship nor a transport was lost. Col. Curtis was severely but not mortally wounded.

Col. Bell died of his wounds Monday morning. Col. J. W. Moore and Lieut.-Col. Lyman were killed. Col. Pennypacker was badly wounded, also Lieut.-Col. Coan.

A complete list of the killed and wounded will be forwarded as soon as it can be procured. They will be sent North to their respective states as fast as they can be placed on transports, of which there was an ample supply.

On Monday morning, between six and seven o'clock, the magazine of Fort Fisher exploded, killing and wounding between three and four hundred persons. After the capture of the fort all the troops were withdrawn, except one brigade left in charge of the works. How the explosion occurred is not known, and Gen. T. believed it was occasioned by accident or neglect.

Gen. Hoke's division, reported at 5,000, was at Wilmington. A portion of it was thrown into the fort not long before the assault, and while that was going on a demonstration was made by Gen. Hoke against our defensive line, but it was found too strong for them for more than a skirmish attack.



U.S. Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton

On Monday morning a heavy cloud of smoke was observed over Fort Caswell, south side of New Inlet. The naval officers commanding that station reported that the enemy had fired their barracks and evacuated that post.

You will be pleased to know that perfect harmony and concert of action existed between the land and naval forces, and their respective commanders. Admiral Porter and Gen. Terry in their commendation each vied with the other.

On Monday everything was quiet as a Sabbath day. The dead were being buried, and the wounded collected and placed in transports and field hospitals.

Gen. Sherman renewed the movement of his forces from Savannah last week. The Fifteenth and Seventeenth Corps went in transports to Branchville.

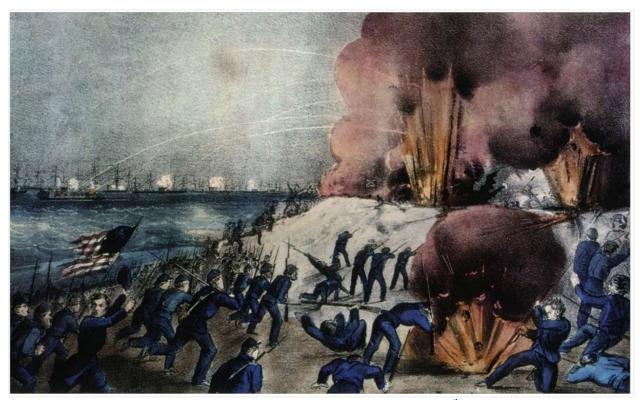
Gen. Howard, commanding that wing of the army, reported on Sunday that the enemy abandoned his strong works in our front during Saturday night.

Gen. Blair's corps now occupy a strong position across the railroad, covering all the approaches eastward to Pocotaligo.

All the sick of Gen. Sherman are in good hospitals at Beaufort and Hilton Head, where the genial climate affords advantages for recovery superior to any other place.

(Signed)

E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War.



The Bombardment and Capture of Fort Fisher, N. C., January 15<sup>th</sup>, 1865 Published by Currier & Ives, New York, N.Y. Collection of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

# The Troy Paily Times.

JANUARY 18, 1865.

### Capture of Fort Fisher.

We do not deem it an exaggeration to say that the capture of Fort Fisher by our forces is one of the most important successes of the war. The intelligence of its fall startled the country yesterday, and made the victory doubly acceptable and exciting in that it was quite unexpected. Fort Fisher was one of the largest earthworks of its style in the Confederacy. Its armament, unequalled in range and efficiency, mounted about seventy guns – many of them the heaviest Blakely rifles. The fort was probably garrisoned by about two thousand men, most of whom fell into our hands prisoners. Near Fort Fisher were a number of small works, called water batteries, all mounting guns of heavy calibre. Similar works exist opposite Fort Fisher – the guns of which mingled their fire with that of the fort. Together, these works command a distance of six miles – three in each direction. All these obstacles had to be overcome by our gallant soldiers and sailors, but they went at the work with determination and zeal, and won the glorious success which always follows persistent and well-managed efforts.

The bombardment of Fort Fisher began on Friday morning last, and continued incessantly up to Sunday evening, when our efforts were crowned with success. On Sunday morning a combined assault was made by the land and naval brigades, and it was in this endeavor, doubtless, that we sustained our severest loss in men. There seems, as Admiral Porter says, to have been a perfect understanding between the commanders of the land and naval forces, and to this fact is to be attributed much of our subsequent success. The bombardment by the fleet was so arranged that it did not interfere with the land operations, and at the same time did efficient service in driving the enemy from the woods and silencing the small batteries that lined the shore. A rough estimate places our losses at nine hundred, and that of the enemy at five hundred killed and many wounded. We captured about two thousand prisoners and some seventy cannon.

The capture of Fort Fisher seals the post of Wilmington. The last rathole of the Confederacy is closed. Ever since the rebellion began, the enemy have received more than half the supplies for their armies through this port. English speculators and secesh sympathisers have been engaged in this illicit trade, and have reaped untold fortunes for their risk. All this must stop, now that we hold Fort Fisher, and command the breadth of Cape Fear river. With the exception of Charleston, — and that port is quite thoroughly blockaded, — the rebels have now no port of entry left, through which to carry on their illicit trade with the outside world.

We incline to the belief that no attempt will be made to capture Wilmington at present. The policy that has been pursued at Mobile will probably be adopted in the case of Wilmington. The closing of the port to all blockade runners renders the mere possession of the city of little value. As a strategic point, Wilmington amounts to nothing. If, by threatening the place from the coast, a force of ten or fifteen thousand men can be kept there, it will greatly facilitate the movements of Gen. Sherman, who will soon be on a new war path through the Carolinas.

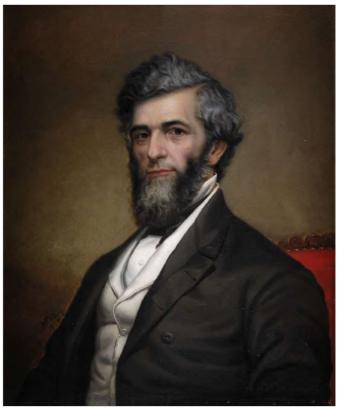
Of course the works in the vicinity of Fort Fisher are virtually in our possession, now that we hold the principal obstacle to the entrance of our fleet by the New Inlet passage. On Zeek's Island, and opposite Fort Fisher, there is said to exist a small water battery mounting nine guns. By the Western bar entrance the first works to be encountered are situated on Oak Island, near the lighthouse. On Bald Head, the Southern extremity of Smith's Island, is situated a small work, whose guns throw their missiles across the channel. Next comes Fort Caswell, built by the United States

before the war. It is a work with five sides, three of them mounting guns, about sixty all told. This work has been strengthened recently, and is undoubtedly a very formidable affair. Possibly the iron-clads may operate against this work. Just above Fort Caswell is a small work, located on Battery Island. On the right hand side of the river, coming down, is Fort Johnson, situated at Smithville, and about one and a half miles from Fort Caswell. Above this, at various points on the river, are said to be batteries of various sizes, but mostly small and of little importance.

The operations of the army and navy will not be suspended, we think, until all these works are in our possession. The resolution and bravery by which Fort Fisher was captured will be fully equal to any new emergencies, now that the most formidable obstacle is removed, and the key to the rebel position is in our possession.

## FROM ALBANY. FORT FISHER.

Regular Correspondence of the Troy Daily Times.



Gov. Reuben E. Fenton (1819-1885) Asa Twitchell (1820-1904) Collection of the N.Y. State Capitol, Albany, N.Y.

ALBANY, Jan. 17, 1865.

Another message from the Governor, and a most welcome one, announced official intelligence of the fall of Fort Fisher. It was received with tumultuous rejoicing. "Grave and reverend Senators" forgot for a nonce the "imperial dignity of the State," and burst forth in tumults of patriotic levity. In the Senate, Mr. Murphy, a Democrat, who was making a speech when the message was received, proposed three cheers for the triumph, which were given with a will, – the burly Fields joining in like a very Stentor. Thus we shall all shout together, and forget our partisan differences, over a fallen rebellion, and a Union reconstructed – Republican and Democrat vying in the invocation, "God save, God bless, God shield the flag." The news here is very generally regarded as a settler for "Picayune" Butler (as he is generally called,) – most successful diplomatist and most unfortunate General - whose virtual charge in his farewell order that he was removed for refusing to throw away the lives of his men in a foolhardy venture, has deprived him of sympathy among many who have clung to him hitherto through evil and through good report; – as a vindication of Porter – and as a new proof of the indomitable "stick-to-it-evness" of Grant, so admirably demonstrated in his Vicksburg campaign. Secession finds its last ocean avenue closed – having now only the insignificant port of Galveston, in Texas, out of which an oyster shallop can hardly escape.

THE gallant One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment, Col. Alden, took part in the capture of Fort Fisher.

## THE GREAT VICTORY

### **NEWS FROM FORT FISHER.**

[From Yesterday's Second Edition.]

#### News from Fort Fisher.

Washington, Jan. 17.

The Navy department has received the following from off Fort Fisher, Jan. 15, 1865, telegraphed from Fort Monroe, Jan. 17:

Hon. G. Welles, Secretary of the Navy – Sir: Fort Fisher is ours. I send a bearer of dispatches with a brief account of the affair. Gen. Terry is entitled to the highest praise and the gratitude of his country, for the manner in which he has conducted his part of the operations. He is my beau ideal of a soldier and a General. – Our coöperation has been most cordial. The result is victory, which will always be ours when the army and navy go hand in hand. The navy loss in the assault was heavy. The army loss was also heavy.

D. D. PORTER, Rear-Admiral Commanding.

#### WHAT WE HAVE GAINED.

NEW YORK, Jan. 17.

The *Commercial*, in an article on the defenses of Wilmington, says: Fort Fisher has 72 guns; Fort Caswell 87; Fort Johnson 10; Fort St. Philip 9; other works estimated at 30. Total number of guns, 208. We may now consider the capture of all these works a foregone conclusion. Those South of Fort Fisher are cut off, and must surrender upon demand, while those above cannot hope to resist upon the approach of our fleet and army.

### Rejoicing in Albany.

Special Dispatch to the Troy Daily Times.

ALBANY, Jan. 17.

The announcement of the great victory in the capture of Fort Fisher was made to both Houses of the Legislature soon after the news was received, and such a scene of enthusiasm has been rarely witnessed in Legislative bodies.

A salute was soon fired, and the popular heart responded in joyous exclamations as the big guns proclaimed another great victory for the Union cause.

#### From Washington.

New York, Jan. 17.

The Commercial's Washington special says that many Congressmen regard the finance bill with apprehension, fearing to trust the Secretary of the Treasury with power to inflate the currency at his discretion.

Gen. Butler is now before the committee on the conduct of the war, testifying as to why he did not take Fort Fisher.

### Rejoicing in Washington.

Washington, Jan. 17.

A grand salute is now being fired in the Northern part of the city, in honor of the capture of Fort Fisher by the land forces under Gen. Terry, and the naval forces under Rear-Admiral Porter.

### Gold Tumbling.

New York, Jan. 17.

The gold market is weak, and prices lower. Some of the larger operators had information of the capture of Fort Fisher, which steadily put down the price, until it touched 214½.

### Salute in New York.

New York, Jan. 17.

Salutes in honor of the capture of Fort Fisher were to-day fired from the Park battery and New England rooms.



Landing at Fort Fisher (1865)
Frances Flora Bond (Fanny) Palmer (ca 1812-1876)
Collection of the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Triangle, Va.

## The Troy Daily Press.

JANUARY 19, 1865.

#### THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH AROUND. -

The first troops landed at the Fort Fisher fight were in charge of Lieut.-Col. Colvin, of the 169<sup>th</sup>. Two other boats from the same regiment, one of them having Col. Alden with the colors of the 169<sup>th</sup> and the national flag also, reached the shore shortly afterward. Troy is always represented when "big things" are going on.



Capture of Fort Fisher, January 15, 1865 Published by Kurz and Allison, Chicago, Ill. (1890) Collection of the U.S. Naval Academy Museum, Annapolis, Md.

## The Troy Paily Times.

JANUARY 19, 1865.

### Our Triumph on the Coast.

The correspondent of the Baltimore *American* gives some additional details of the assault on Fort Fisher and our subsequent success. On the third day (Sunday), it was learned from the shore that Gen. Terry's artillery had some hard work during Saturday night with the rebel gun-boats *Tallahassee* and *Chickamauga*. Our batteries were planted to command a wharf to which was moored a rebel steamer, captured by us. The rebel

gunboats would run up and shell the steamer occasionally, when our artillery would open upon them. The rebel gunboats were struck several times, but when the fort fell, they escaped to Wilmington. Meanwhile, our storming party, three thousand strong, were in the woods within a mile of Fort Fisher. They reported that the fort had been reënforced Saturday night by eight hundred men from Fort Caswell. At 11 o'clock A. M., two thousand sailors and marines joined the land force, effecting a landing without difficulty. The bombardment was progressing meantime most furiously, the only response being from a portion of the water batteries. At 3 P. M., a signal from the Admiral directed the vessels to change their fire from Fort Fisher to the water batteries, and in an instant the naval brigade on the beach were observed moving forward toward the fort. They had about a mile to go to reach the abatis. They had scarcely got in motion before shells from the water and mound batteries were poured upon them. Numbers were seen to fall and scores of others to start back limping or crawling on their hands and knees. Onward, however, the main body pressed at a double-quick, the fire momentarily increasing in its fatal effects, until the whole line of beach over which they had traveled was strewn with dead and wounded. The ditch and abatis were about one hundred yards from the ramparts, and into this they poured until it was filled to overflowing, when two guns opened upon them with grape and canister from the ramparts. In half an hour, three American flags appeared on the rear wall of Fort Fisher, showing that the assault by Gen. Terry on that side had been at least partially successful. The firing of musketry in and around the fort continued up to 7.30 P. M., with constantly increasing evidence that a tremendous struggle was progressing in Fort Fisher. At 9 o'clock, Gen. Curtis, who led the assaulting party, determined to make one more charge on the enemy, and, if that failed, to hold on to the ground that was in his possession until morning. Just as he was about to make the charge, the white flag was raised by the garrison, and possession given of the entire work. Loud and enthusiastic cheering was heard issuing from Fort Fisher, but doubts were expressed whether they were rebel cheers or loyal rejoicings. All doubts were soon removed by the appearance on the ramparts of the fort of one of Gen. Terry's signal officers with his flaming torches, and communicating with Admiral Porter's flagship. In a few minutes lights flickered all over the fort, and cheers were repeated with a heartiness that left no doubt that it had changed owners. At 10 o'clock the Admiral commenced to throw up rockets from the flagship, which was instantly understood as evidence of the character of the glorious news that had been communicated to him. Every vessel in the fleet immediately responded by the burning of Roman candles, flashing of castors, signals, and throwing up rockets. Amid the rejoicing over the downfall, a tremendous explosion took place in the fort, sounding louder than the report of a 15-inch gun. A volume of smoke and sand rose fifty feet in the air, enveloping and hiding from view the whole of the immense work for four or five minutes. It was at once apparent that the magazine had exploded, and it must have been accompanied with great loss of life. It was soon after learned that the destruction of life was not less than two hundred, including many sailors from the fleet, who had not yet returned to their ships. The explosion was occasioned by the carelessness of some of the colored troops. The magazine that exploded was in the very centre of the parade, and it has "scooped" out earth to a great depth for fifty feet around, and added to the desolation that reigns in this past monument of engineering ability. Quite a number of sailors from the fleet and some of the officers, also suffered from the explosion. They had gone ashore to examine the works and fell victims to their excusable curiosity. The losses of the Naval brigade were not less than one hundred and fifty. Our forces captured seventy-four cannon, and two thousand living prisoners. Seven hundred dead rebels fell into our hands. During Monday our gunboats drove the pirates *Tallahassee* and *Chickamauga* up Cape Fear river, thus effectually closing it to blockade running.

– Immediately on the reception of the glorious news from Fort Fisher, Secretary Welles issued a congratulatory order to Admiral Porter and his gallant sailors, and Gen. Terry and his brave comrades. He also issued an order to the commandants of the different navy yards to fire a salute.

#### THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH REGIMENT AT

FORT FISHER. – The New York papers give accounts of the conspicuous bravery of the One Hundred and Sixtyninth Regiment, Col. Alonzo Alden. Its men were the first to land – Troy being ahead as usual. In to-day's New York *Herald* it is said that "Col. Alonzo Alden is reported killed – probably mortally wounded." No further tidings have come to hand, and we have every reason to believe that our gallant townsman is alive.

The following casualties in the One Hundred and Sixtyninth are reported in to-day's *Herald*:

Noel Thomas, Co. H, left wrist; H. A. Ellis, groin, severely; Sergeant Rainsbury, side; Sergeant-Major T. Gardner, head, seriously; Major J. H. Allen, shoulder; Color Sergeant Keller, shoulder, slightly.

Correspondent Merriam, in his full and admirable account of the operations of Sunday, pays the following tribute to the late Lieut. Ryan:

Lieut. Ryan, commanding Company B, of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth New York Volunteers, Colonel Alden, fell mortally wounded early in the charge. Lieut. Ryan, who commanded a noble company, had risen from the ranks, and was a brave and efficient officer. He was a credit to his command while living, from the first moment of entering the service, and he died bravely, in the enjoyment of a full meed of the respect of his brother officers and the soldiers serving under him, no less than of the entire regiment. Lieut. Ryan was from Troy, N. Y.

## The Troy Paily Times.

JANUARY 23, 1865.

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH. — We fear that the brave boys of this noble regiment, after having escaped the bullets of the enemy, at Fort Fisher, suffered severely from the results of an accident. In the *Herald* of yesterday is the following paragraph:

At about eight o'clock this morning, we were startled by a loud report proceeding from Fort Fisher. It proved to be an explosion of the principal magazine. It is impossible as yet to learn the cause of the accident. The casualties in the late Col. Bell's brigade – composed of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth New York, One Hundred and Fifteenth New York and the Fourth New Hampshire Volunteers – who were in the fort at the time of the explosion, and near the magazine, were quite severe. Large working parties are now engaged extracting the bodies of their unfortunate comrades from the debris. The number of lives lost is variously estimated at from one to two hundred.

- Since the above was written, the death of Capt. Ferguson, and the casualties to Capt. Merrill and Lieut. Van Santvoord, are announced by telegraph. Capt. Daniel Ferguson joined the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment at its organization in this city, in the summer and autumn of 1862, having command of the Lansingburgh Company. He was mustered into the service of the United States on the 6th of October, 1862, at New Dorp, Staten Island. Capt. Ferguson, who was one of the best, and hard working line officers of his brigade, during his term of service, did but little if any detached duty. He was one of the several officers of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth appointed early last year to proceed to Hart's Island for the purpose of filling up his command with conscripts, since which time he has not been absent from the command of Company K, of the regiment, for a single day. He was a brave and untiring officer, and his loss will be long and severely felt by both the regiment and his company, to both of which he was greatly attached, and to share whose fortunes was his proudest desire.

Lieutenant Eugene Van Santvoord, mentioned in the list of casualties as among the severely wounded, is a half brother of the late Hon. Geo. Van Santvoord. Lieut. Van S. entered the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth at its organization as chief of its corps of musicians, and was subsequently promoted to be Sergeant-Major, Second Lieutenant and First Lieutenant, which rank he now holds. For some time he has been Acting Adjutant of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth, but in the assault on Fort Fisher was in command of Company G, in place of Capt. John T. McCoun, sick in hospital. Lieut. Van Santvoord bore himself nobly in the assault, and is a brave and impetuous officer.

Capt. Charles D. Merrill, also reported wounded, joined the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth as a private at its organization in 1862. His attention to his duties, united to his qualities as an earnest soldier, early won for him promotion through the several gradations, until he was made Captain, in which position he was among the heroes of the assault on Fort Fisher. The death of Col. Alden makes Capt. McCoun Major and Capt. Bernard N. Smith senior Captain of the regiment.

The loss of life in the regiment by the explosion is reported at the fearful number of thirty killed and seventy-five wounded. Among the latter are Amos Rowe, contusion; George Broker, hand; Jas. Neales; Thos. Plunkett, arm; Sergeant Jas. Smith, shoulder; Sergeant Thos. Jessup, William Gardinere, Sergeant L. B. Woodcock, slight; Peter Osterhoudt, head; R. Van Guilder, Geo. Brier, foot; Albert Moon, hand and thigh; Chas. Larkin, A. V. Traver, head; N. Marvin, Isaac Jackson, leg; W. S. Parsons, head; N. Thomas, arm; John Kenelly, back; H. Ellis, flesh wound right thigh; C. Olivar, arm; John White, foot; Wm. Kavanaugh, thigh; R. Rainsbury, arm; K. Goodell, shoulder; Irving W. Rose, contusion; F. S. Greene, Jas. Fay, Andrew Prescott, Jonas Clickner. Lieut. McGregor, also reported killed, resided at Petersburgh.

## The Troy Daily Press.

JANUARY 24, 1865.

FROM THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH. – The following were among the casualties of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment, by the Fort Fisher affair:

Capt. Ferguson, killed; Lieut. McGregor, killed; Lieutenant Van Santvoord, wounded; Capt. Charles D. Merrill, badly wounded; Lieut. Faulkner, slightly.

The following are wounded: Amos Rowe, contusion; George Broker, hand; James Neales, Thos. Plunkett, arm; Sergeant Jas. Smith, shoulder; Sergeant Thos. Jessup, Daniel Gardner, Sergeant L. B. Woodcock, slightly; Peter Osterhoudt, head; R. Vangilder, Geo. Brier, foot; Albert Moon, hand and thigh; Charles Larkin, A. V. Traver, head; N. Marvin, Isaac Jackson, leg; W. S. Parsons, head; N. Thomas, arm; John Kenelly, back; H. Ellis, flesh wound, right thigh; C. Olivar, arm; John Wall, foot; Wm. Kavanaugh, thigh; R. Rainsbury, arm; K. Goodell, shoulder; Irving W. Rose, contusions; F. S. Greene, James Fay, Andrew Prescott, Jonas Clickner.

Lieut. McGregor, also reported killed, resided at Petersburgh. It is altogether probable that the bodies of the officers named will be sent home for interment.

## The Troy Paily Times.

JANUARY 24, 1865.



Col. Alonzo Alden, commanding 169<sup>th</sup> N.Y. (ca. 1864) Collection of Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr.

### TONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH REGIMENT. - In

Gen. Ames' official report, Col. Alonzo Alden and Lieut.-Col. Colvin are highly complimented for their conduct in the assault on Fort Fisher. No further tidings are given in reference to the late Col. Alden's death. In to-day's *Herald* the following list of casualties is given in the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth. They probably occurred in the assault:

Killed – Lieut. M. Ryan, Sergeant E. Alipaw, Corporal J. E. Downs, J. Haywood, T. Fitzgerald, A. McNevin, Lieuts. T. H. D. McGregor, S. L. Cipperly; Capt. D. Ferguson, Corporals F. C. Martenett, J. D. Warren; W. D. Allen, C. N. Remington, F. H. Smith, J. Perrigo, F. Hope, Sergeant D. S. Cruikshank, Corporal L. E. Odell, P. Murphy, J. Hilton, P. Farrell, J. McGinnis, J. Anglam, J. Acker, C. Farley, J. Kimble.

Wounded - Lieuts. J. H. Straight, M. Russell; Major J. H. Allen, Sergeant-Major T. H. Gardner, Sergeants R. Rainsbury, J. Smith, C. Albert, J. Whitney; Corporal W. Kavanaugh, J. Finlay, A. Moon, J. Wallace, J. Clickner, G. Broker, C. H. Welch, W. Boyles, Corporal E. Sweet, P. Brennan, L. Gardner, L. Woodcock, Corporal T. Rann, F. Close, J. Dezell, C. Brummer, H. Ellis, H. Lee, J. White, N. J. Thomas, N. D. Marvin, C. Larkin, Corporal W. F. Hakes, T. Plunkett, J. Murphy, Corporal S. H. Rowley, Col. A. Alden, Capt. J. H. Warren, Lieut. E. Van Santvoord, Sergeants J. White, C. H. Noyes, P. J. Aylmer, A. Searles, G. C. Wagner, G. A. Willis, T. Jessop; Corporals Wm. H. Flaherty, D. Keller, J. Nelson, L. Winkler, W. S. Parsons, W. Riley, E. Crannell, M. Finn; D. Osborn, Wm. Gardinere, I. W. Rose, J. Gaffeney, C. Madden, J. McTominy, F. W. Thayer, C. H. Tracey, D. Leary, W. C. Dymond, A. P. Hill, G. D. Bennett, G. R. Brier, E. T. Jackson, B. Dean, D. McNeil, R. Van Guilder, R. Taggart, J. McLaughlin, E. P. Carr, R. Carr, A. V. Traver, P. Shoemaker, K. Goodell, A. Rowe, J. Neales, F. S. Greene, J. Keeler, J. Kenelly, A. Prescott, J. Fay, P. Heffney, W. Quinn.

*Missing* – Corporals M. E. Campbell, J. Conly; A. Blowers, W. Glover, T. Ross, Henry Hughes.

## The Troy Daily Press.

JANUARY 25, 1865.

CASUALTIES IN THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-

NINTH REGIMENT. – Yesterday's New York *Herald* contained the following list of casualties in the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment:

Killed. – Lieut. M. Ryan, Sergeant E. Alipaw, Corporal J. E. Downs, J. Haywood, T. Fitzgerald, A. McNevin, Lieuts. Thomas H. D. McGregor, S. L. Cipperly; Capt. D. Ferguson, Corporals F. C. Martenett, J. D. Warren; W. D. Allen, C. N. Remington, F. H. Smith, J. Perrigo, F. Hope, Sergeant D. S. Cruikshank, Corporal L. E. Odell, P. Murphy, J. Hilton, P. Farrell, J. McGiniss, J. Anglam, J. Acker, C. Farley, J. Kimble.

Wounded. – Lieuts. J. H. Straight, M. Russell; Major J. H. Allen, Sergeant-Major T. H. Gardner, Sergeants R. Rainsbury, J. Smith; C. Elwell, Sergeant J. Whitney, Corporal W. Kavanaugh, J. Finlay, A. Moon, J. Wallace, J. Clickner, G. Broker, C. H. Welch, W. Boyles, Corporal E. Sweet, P. Brennan, L. Gardner, L. Woodcock, Corporal T. Rann, F. Close, J. Dezell, C. Brummer, H. Ellis, H. Lee, J. White, N. J. Thomas, N. D. Marvin, C. Larkin, Corporal W. F. Hakes, T. Plunkett, J. Murphy, Corporal S. H. Rowley, Col. A. Alden,

Capt. J. H. Warren, Lieuts. C. Dumary, J. Faulkner, E. Van Santvoord; Sergeants J. White, C. H. Noyes, P. J. Aylmer, A. Searles, G. C. Wagner, G. A. Willis, T. Jessop; Corporals Wm. H. Flaherty, D. Keller, W. S. Parsons; D. Osborn, Wm. Gardinere, I. W. Rose, J. Gaffeney, C. Madden, J. McTominy, F. W. Thayer, C. H. Tracy, D. Leary, W. C. Dymond, A. P. Hill, G. D. Bennett, G. R. Brier, E. T. Jackson, B. Dean, D. McNeil, R. Van Guilder, R. Taggart, J. McLaughlin, E. P. Carr, R. Carr, A. V. Traver, P. Shoemaker, K. Goodell, A. Rowe, J. Neales, F. S. Greene, J. Keeler, J. Kenelly, A. Prescott, J. Fay, P. Heffney, W. Quinn.

*Missing.* – Corporal M. E. Campbell, J. Conly; A. Blowers, W. Glover, T. Ross, H. Hughes.

## The Troy Paily Times.

JANUARY 26, 1865.

#### © COMPLETE LIST OF CASUALTIES IN COL. ALDEN'S

**REGIMENT.** – The following is a complete list of the casualties in the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth regiment:

#### JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>, IN ACTION.

Killed – Lieut. M. Ryan, Corporal Wm. Kavanaugh, Co. D; Corporal J. E. Downs, private J. Haywood, E; private T. Fitzgerald, G; Sergeant E. Alipaw, H; private A. McNevin, I. Wounded – Privates J. Finley, A. Moon, Co. A; Sergeant J. Whitney, privates J. Wallace, J. Clickner, George Broker, C. H. Welch, Wm. Boyle, C; Sergeant L. Woodcock, Corporal E. Sweet, privates P. Brennan, L. Gardner, E; Lieut. J. H. Straight, Corporal T. Rann, privates F. Close, J. Dezell, Carl Brinner, F; Sergeant C. Albert, privates H. Ellis, H. Orr, J. Milligan, J. White, G; Corporal W. F. Hakes, privates Noel J. Thomas, N. D. Marvin, C. Larkin, H; Lieut. M. Russell, Sergeants R. Rainsbury, J. Smith, privates T. Plunkett, J. Murphy, I. Missing – Corporal S. Rowley, Co. K.

#### JANUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>, BY EXPLOSION OF MAGAZINE.

Killed – Lieut. T. H. D. McGregor, private J. Kimble, Co. A; Corporal W. H. Flaherty, B; Lieut. S. Cipperly, Corporal F. C. Martenett, privates C. Farley, J. Acker, J. Angler, C; privates J. McGinnis, P. Farrell, D; privates J. Hilton, P. Murphy, E; Corporal L. E. Odell, private D. Cruikshank, H; privates F. Hope, J. Perago, I; Capt. D. Ferguson, privates F. H. Smith, W. D. Allen, C. N. Remington, K.

Wounded – Col. Alonzo Alden, Maj. J. H. Allen (slightly), Sergeant-Major T. H. Gardner; Sergeant T. Jessup, private D. Osborn, Co. A; privates W. Gardinere, I. W. Rose, J. Gaffeney, C. Madden, J. McTominy, F. W. Thayer, B; Capt. J. H. Warren, Lieut, C. Dummary, Sergeant G. A. Willis, Corporal D. Keller, private C. H. Tracey, C; Capt. C. D. Merrill, privates D. Leary, W. C. Dymond, A. P. Hill, D; privates Geo. D. Bennett, Geo. R. Breer, E. T. Jackson, Barney Dean, D. McNeil, E; Sergeants G. C. Wagner, A. Searles, Corporals J. Nelson, J. D. Warren, privates R. Van Guilder, R. Taggart, J. McLaughlin, F; Lieut. J. Faulkner, Sergeant P. J. Aylmer, Corporal L. Winkler, G; Sergeant C. H. Noyes, Corporals W. S. Parsons, M. E. Campbell, privates E. P. Carr, R. Carr, A. V. Traver, P. Shoemaker, K. Goodell, H; privates A. Rowe, J. Neales, F. S. Green, I; Lieut. E. Van Santvoord, Sergeant J. White, Corporals Wm. Riley, E. Crannell, privates M. Finn, J. Keller, J. Kenneley, A. Prescott, J. Fay, P. Heffney, Wm. Quinn, K. Missing – Private H. Hughes, Co. B; privates T. Ross, W. Glover, A. P. Blowers, F; Corporal J. Conly, G.

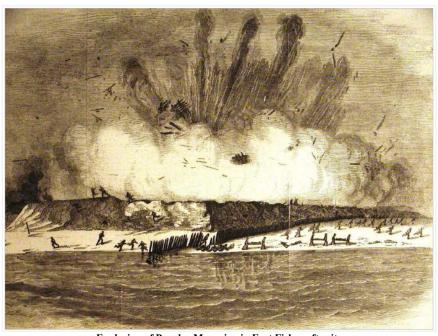
- For the above list we are indebted to Chaplain Chapman.

## The Troy Paily Times.

JANUARY 27, 1865.

#### THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH REGIMENT AT THE FORT

FISHER EXPLOSION. – The account given by Chaplain Chapman of the victory at Fort Fisher and the subsequent explosion of the magazine, in which so many Trojans suffered, is interesting in the extreme. Mr. Chapman landed with the troops, and witnessed the assault on the fort from an old earthwork nearby, which he and the surgeons reached with some difficulty and danger. As is already known, each traverse was a fort in itself, requiring a separate assault, and the wounded who crept back reported from time to time the progress that our men had made. At last a faint cheer indicated our final victory; the surgeons were ordered into the fort, and Mr. Chapman went with them. It was a bright, moonlight night, and the spectacle of the pale, ghastly corpses strewn around the immense area was perfectly appalling. Such a scene, he says, he never before witnessed. The fort was captured about 10 o'clock, P. M., and the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth did not get established in a bomb-proof until 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning. Mr. Chapman then had a few hours' sleep, but he thinks that Col. Alden did not lie down at all during the night. The next morning the Colonel was in excellent spirits - in fact, was, as Mr. Chapman describes it, jolly, compared with his usual quiet manner. He felt so much rejoiced that, as he thought, the danger was all over and his men had escaped with so little loss. He was dealing out sugar and other captured stores to the regiment - standing near a mound, and about one



Explosion of Powder Magazine in Fort Fisher after its Capture by the Federal Forces, January 15, 1865 Published in "Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper" (February 11, 1865)

hundred feet from the magazine. During the previous night a captured rebel said to the Chaplain, "Some of your men will blow you up," but he apprehended no danger. Sailors, who when on shore, are perfectly lawless, were wandering about without any control, going all around the magazine, and probably within it. During the whole night and part of the morning, guns and shells were exploding, and men were firing off their pieces by accident or wantonness. There was a whizzing of bullets all around, and no place was safe except a bomb-proof. The Chaplain was about to make a tour of the fort in the direction of the magazine, when two brother officers insisted that he should go the other way and look at the captured Armstrong gun, mounted in mahogany, and, as they told him, "such a gun as you never saw before." His compliance with their invitation saved his life – for, before they had really got out of danger, the explosion took place. They thought at first that it was simply the bursting of an immense shell; but on dropping down and looking back, they saw what seemed to be a gigantic umbrella spread out in the Heavens, with fire and smoke beneath it. Even as the fragments fell, they preserved their umbrella form. As soon as the roar subsided, there was the silence of death. Not a sound was heard – not a groan came from the living tomb. Mr. Chapman and his friends turned back, of course. The first man they saw was speechless, and could only point towards the scene. "Is anyone hurt?" said the Chaplain to an officer. "Hurt?" he replied, "why your whole regiment is buried." Mr. Chapman overtook the men bearing Col. Alden to the hospital. His eyes, nose and mouth were full of sand, and it was literally plastered all over his body. Supposing that he would not survive, Mr. Chapman asked him the name of his brother in Troy. He replied, but did not speak again till late at night. Whether the Colonel was thrown into the air and fell some



Captured English Armstrong Gun, Fort Fisher, N.C. (January 1865)

distance, or whether he was whirled around suddenly and buried by the sand is not known. During the voyage to New York, he was conscious at times, and joined in the prayers read by the Chaplain. Then, again, his mind would wander, and he would fight his battles over again in imagination. Several members of the regiment were buried alive. Some were suffocated; others escaped. Lieut. Van Santvoord was covered, with the exception of his left hand. Using that, he dug himself out. Capt. Ferguson was lying down, fondling a dog captured in the fort, which was found at his feet when his body was reached. Lieut.-Col. Colvin was outside a bomb-proof, washing, but jumped under cover and escaped. He commanded the regiment, as Col. Alden had a brigade. Lieut. McGregor's head was jammed by a piece of timber, which killed him.

– Chaplain Chapman, who is stopping at Rev. Dr. Coit's, has been asked many questions by anxious friends and relatives – all of which it affords him pleasure to answer. For a visit to our office, in which he narrated the thrilling story that we have imperfectly repeated, we are under many obligations to him.

## The Troy Paily Times.

FEBRUARY 3, 1865.



Maj. James A. Colvin, commanding 169<sup>th</sup> N.Y. Collection of the New York State Military Museum, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

#### ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH - THEIR ROLL

of Honor. – On our first page we publish a spirited letter from the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment. It gives Lieut.-Col. Colvin's report, and praises many officers and men. Their names are given, and the friends of both living and dead will read the record with gratification and preserve it with pride. We would invite particular attention to it. Lieut.-Col. Colvin we learn from many sources conducted himself with coolness and bravery, and led his regiment in a most admirable style. Although he is not a Trojan, Rensselaer county claims with pride so excellent a soldier. His reports are concise and, we doubt not, eminently just.

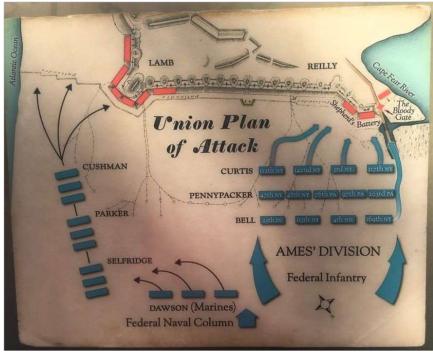
### The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth.

Correspondence of the Troy Daily Times.

FORT FISHER, N. C., Jan. 26, 1865.

In the belief that news from the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth will be sought after, I am anxious to communicate it through your columns.

It will be recollected that the regiment participated in the first expedition to this point. We returned to our old camp near Richmond about Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>. After remaining a few days, we were again ordered away, and after several days at sea, arrived (Jan. 13) off our former point of debarkation. The One Hundred and Sixty-



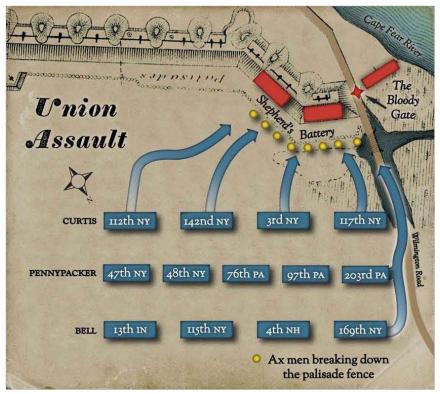
Union Plan of Attack, Fort Fisher State Historic Site Museum, Kure Beach, N.C.

ninth was the first regiment to land, and the writer was sent by Col. Alden in charge of the first detachment. Co. G was first ashore and immediately deployed as skirmishers, and in a few minutes were engaged in slight skirmish firing with the enemy. Co. I, (Nail Factory Co.,) commanded by Capt. Jas. H. Dunn, landed shortly after and advanced up the beach. They entered a redoubt and captured a 32-pounder Columbiad and a quantity of ammunition. The gun was spiked, but was soon put in working order by D. F. Winters, a member of the band. It was turned on the enemy. A skirmishing party from Co. I captured eighty-four head of cattle. The day was occupied landing troops and stores.

On the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup>, the command was ordered towards Fort Fisher. It soon became evident that work was to be done. The men moved in fine spirits, and never evinced better *morale*. The line of battle was formed but a short distance from the fort, the navy keeping up a furious bombardment, and greatly protecting the disposition of the troops.

Finally, the charge was ordered, and one of the fiercest assaults of the war began. The First brigade led. The Second followed, and then our own (the Third). The rear of the fort was reached through a storm of bullets and grape. The contest was desperate. The fort was to be taken or we were *all* gone. There was no such thing as getting away from it in case of failure. The men knew it, and with almost unparalleled gallantry, stood up to the work. 10 P.M. found the fort in our posession, the enemy doing their best to get away. The forces engaged captured many prisoners – almost man for man. The enemy suffered terribly. While the fight was progressing, our line in the rear, which was defended by the colored troops and the Second brigade of the First division, was attacked. Capt. E. R. Smith was in command of the picket line at that point, and held his own until compelled to fall back under cover of the gunboats. This demonstration effected nothing, as our troops were not to be driven back. Capt. Smith reestablished his line at dusk.

The accounts and dispatches already published will furnish a better idea of our victory than any I can give. It is impossible to describe the extent and magnitude of this, the strongest earthwork, and one of the most powerful defenses in the



Union Assault, Fort Fisher State Historic Site Museum, Kure Beach, N.C.

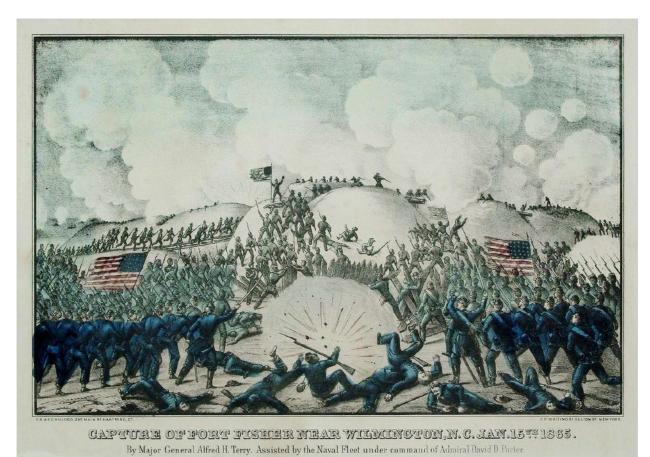
world. An unfortunate casualty marred our triumph. Our brigade had been placed in charge of the fort after its capture. Early the next morning, a magazine exploded directly in front of, and but a few rods from the brigade. The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth was immediately opposite, and many valuable officers and men were buried and lost. About one hundred of the regiment were mingled in the ruins and covered by the debris. Col. Alden, who had been prominent for his coolness and gallantry in the assault of the preceding day, was dangerously if not fatally wounded. Capt. Daniel Ferguson and Lieuts. Cipperly and McGregor were killed, and others wounded. The cause of the explosion is a matter of doubt. Some say that a sailor carried a lighted candle into the magazine, while others attribute the disaster to the rebels. A wire was afterwards found leading from the magazine to the river, and supposed to run across to a rebel battery immediately opposite. Appended is the report of the Lieutenant-Colonel upon the operations of the regiment in the assault, together with a full list of casualties.

Yours, c.

[The casualties have already been published in the *Times*.]

HEADQUARTERS 169<sup>TH</sup> New York Vols., Fort Fisher, N. C., Jan. 17, 1865.

Capt. G. W. Huckins, A. A. A. A. G.: The undersigned has the honor to report that upon the opening of the engagement of the 15<sup>th</sup> inst., Colonel Alonzo Alden was in command of the regiment, but on reaching the enemy's works assumed command of the brigade, (Colonel Bell being wounded.) The undersigned then took command of the regiment. It would seem almost invidious to make any special mention of officers and men when all did their duty with unparalleled gallantry and zeal. The undersigned can bear testimony that every officer led his men and the men vied with each other to attain the front. Colonel Alonzo Alden



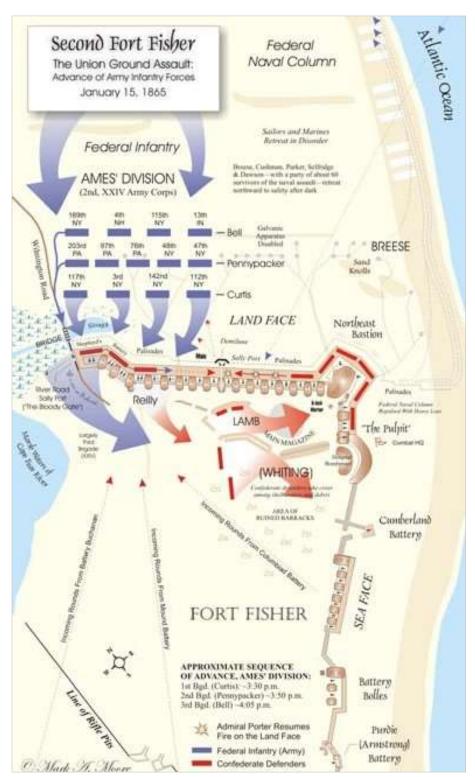
Capture of Fort Fisher Near Wilmington, N.C., Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>, 1865 Published by F. P. Whiting, New York, N.Y. (ca. 1865) Lithograph by E. B. & E. C. Kellogg, Hartford, Conn.

was distinguished for his accustomed coolness and bravery. Major J. H. Allen was shot through the arm and leg, but persisted in remaining with the command. Capts. Daniel Ferguson, Jas. H. Dunn, Chas. D. Merrill, J. H. Warren and E. W. Church, were distinguished for their coolness and gallantry. Lieuts. J. H. Straight, wounded; Michael Ryan, killed; Michael Russell, wounded; all in command of companies, were the right men in the right place. After the death of Lieut. Ryan, Lieut. J. B. Foot assumed command of his company and led it gallantly. Lieut. E. Van Santvoord deserves mention. Lieut. E. R. Mosher was hit by a spent ball on the 13<sup>th</sup>. He went into action on the 15<sup>th</sup> being obliged to use a cane. He hopped into the fight, leading his men. Other officers distinguished themselves, and indeed all deserve mention. The undersigned has mentioned such as came particularly under his notice. Accompanying will be found a list of enlisted men who distinguished themselves; also a full report of losses in action. Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

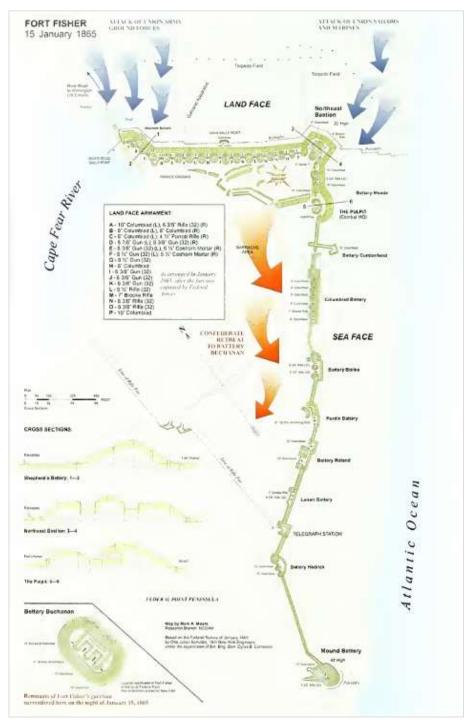
J. A. COLVIN, Lieut.-Colonel, Commanding 169<sup>th</sup> New York Vols.

> HEADQUARTERS 169<sup>TH</sup> New York Vols., Fort Fisher, N. C., Jan. 17, 1865.

Capt. Geo. W. Huckins, A. A. A. G.: I have the honor to report the following names of enlisted men as having distinguished themselves for gallantry in the



Second Fort Fisher – The Union Ground Assault: Advance of Army Infantry Forces, January 15, 1865 Mark A. Moore Collection of the American Battlefield Trust, Washington, D.C.



Second Fort Fisher – The Confederate Retreat, January 15, 1865 Mark A. Moore Collection of the North Carolina Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources, Raleigh, N.C.

assault on the 15<sup>th</sup>: Private John Finlay, Co. A., wounded; First Sergeant John Fleming, Color bearer; Corporal Peter Osterhoudt, wounded; Corporal John McGolrick; Private Chas. Madden, B.; Private Wm. H. Freeman, B., who volunteered to carry the brigade flag after the bearer was wounded; Corporal

Patrick Holley, D; Sergeant L. R. Woodcock, wounded; Private Patrick Murphy, E, killed; Corporals John McLoughlin, T. J. Congden, Privates John Jenyack, Patrick Curley, F; First Sergeant Chas. H. Noyes, wounded, Corporal L. Odell, H., killed; First Sergeant Patrick Aylmer, Sergeant Benj. G. Walker, Private James Lester, G.; First Sergeant Geo. Campbell, Sergeants Jas. F. Smith, Robert Rainsbury, wounded, I; and specially commended for bravery in the presence of the commanding officer — Corporal Thomas Ryan, I.; First Sergeant Joseph White, K.; Sergeant Major T. H. Gardner. The commanding officer desires especially to mention Frederick Close, of Co. F., who was conspicuous for his gallantry and bravery in getting a field piece into position and firing upon the enemy after we had got inside the works. Many of the officers report that their men did so well that they could make no special mention, and the commanding officer is constrained to base his report chiefly upon circumstances within his own observation.

Very respectfully, James A. Colvin, Lieut.-Colonel Commanding 169<sup>th</sup> N. Y. V.

## The Troy Paily Times.

February 7, 1865.

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH. - The Albany

Express publishes extracts from a letter written by Lieut.-Col. Colvin, of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment, to his father. He says:

The way I came to get hold of the rebel flag was this: After we had taken possession of the casemates, I was engaged in taking the surrender of some rebel officers, and about two hundred men called to me, "Colonel, there is a flag in here!" I made a dive for it, and on examination it proved to be the big rebel flag of the fort – the real stars and bars – and about sixteen feet long. I took it out of Col. Lamb's quarters and carried it to the General. I turned it over to the Provost-Marshal and took a receipt for it. I have not had a letter for several weeks. All our mail goes to our old camp near Richmond, where most of our corps and a detachment of all our regiments remain. We cannot get the New York papers.

- A friend has shown us an interesting letter from a sailor on the gunboat *Quaker City*. Its statements have been mainly given by other writers. "Henry" says:

The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth was in the fight, and they fought very bravely; but I did not get a chance to see any of the boys, for I had to help get the wounded on board of the ship.

# The Troy Daily Whig.

MARCH 6, 1865.

#### FUNERAL OBSEQUES OF CAPT. FERGUSON AND PRIVATES ROWLEY

AND REMINGTON. - The funeral obsequies of Capt. Ferguson and Privates Rowley and Remington, late of the 169th Regiment N. Y. S. V., who were killed by the explosion at Fort Fisher, took place in Lansingburgh yesterday afternoon. Pursuant to an order of Col. I. McConihe, a detachment of the Twenty-fourth Regiment, under command of Major George T. Steenberg, went up from this city. The detachment consisted of Company G, under command of First Lieutenant G. G. Wolfe; Company H, commanded by Capt. W. F. Calder; and Company C, commanded by Capt. E. A. Ives; also the Twenty-fourth Regiment Drum Corps, commanded by Drum Major Henry Perkins. Döring's full band and a large number of the Masonic Fraternity also accompanied the military. Six horse cars were provided and sent down by Mr. John McMurray, of Lansingburgh, for the purpose of conveying the military and Masons up to the village, which arrived there at about one o'clock. Upon arriving, an escort was formed by Major Steenberg and sent to the late residences of privates Rowley and Remington, to escort their remains to the residence of John G. McMurray, where the funeral ceremonies over Capt. Ferguson's remains took place. After the ceremonies were over, the procession was formed in line as follows:

> Chief of Police and Detachment of Police. Drum Corps. Döring's Band. Major G. T. Steenberg. Company H, commanded by Capt. W. F. Calder. Company C, commanded by Capt. E. A. Ives. Company G, (Capt. Cusack's) commanded by Lieut. G. G. Wolfe. Hearse, containing the Bearers remains of Capt. Ferguson. Mourners. Drum Corps. Escort of Eight Men, commanded by Corp. Felton, of Co. G. Hearse, containing the remains of Private Remington. Mourners. Drum Corps.

Escort of Eight Men, commanded by Corporal
House, of Co. H.
Hearse, containing the remains of Private Rowley.
Mourners.

After being formed in line, the procession took up the line of march down State street to the Lansingburgh Cemetery, where the column wheeled into line, and the remains of private Rowley, preceded by the escort and followed by the mourners, in carriages, was conveyed to his last resting place, the battalion presenting arms as the cortege passed by. After the usual services, three volleys were fired over the grave by the escort. The procession then took up its line of march for Oakwood Cemetery. Upon arriving at Oakwood, the solemn and imposing burial ceremonies of the Free Masons were performed over the remains of Capt. Ferguson, after which three volleys were fired by Company C, under the direction of Capt. E. A. Ives. Each volley resembled a single discharge. The funeral services were then read over the remains of private Remington, when his escort fired a salute of three volleys. Thus ended the solemnities over the fallen braves who had lost their lives in their country's service. The names of Capt. Ferguson and Privates Silas H. Rowley and Charles N. Remington are added to the Nation's roll of honor. Unlike the larger number of the brave soldiers who have fallen, they are decently interred at home, far away from the noisy din of battle and the tramp of marching armies. After the funeral services at Oakwood were over, the military formed in line and returned to Troy, marching down River to King street, down King to North Second, down North Second to Fifth, down Fifth to Broadway, down Broadway to Third, and down Third to Fulton street Armory. The entire details necessary to perfect the formation of the procession, &c., were arranged by Major Steenberg, and were, of course, faultless in every The soldiers never marched or looked better, and their manœuvres were executed with great promptness and precision. Capt. Cusack did not command his company, on account of indisposition added to his recent bereavement in the death of a member of his family. The command of his company, therefore, devolved upon Lieut. G. G. Wolfe.



EXECUTIVE MANSION, February 10, 1865.

Brevet Major-General Alfred H. Terry, U. S. Army:

SIR: It is made my agreeable duty to enclose herewith the joint resolution approved 24<sup>th</sup> January, 1865, tendering the thanks of Congress to yourself, the officers and men under your command, for their gallantry and good conduct in the capture of Fort Fisher, and through you to all who participated in that brilliant and decisive victory under your command.

Very respectfully,

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.



## CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 24, 1865.

Resolution to Present the Thanks of Congress to Brevet Major-General Alfred H. Terry, and the Officers and Men Under His Command.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the thanks of Congress are hereby presented to Brevet Major-General Alfred H. Terry, and to the officers and men under his command, for the unsurpassed gallantry and skill exhibited by them in the attack upon Fort Fisher, and the brilliant and decisive victory by which that important work has been captured from the rebel forces and placed in the possession and under the authority of the United States; and for their long and faithful services and unwavering devotion to the cause of the country, in the midst of the greatest difficulties and dangers.

SEC. 2. And be it further resolved, That the President of the United States be, and he hereby is, requested to communicate this resolution to General Terry, and through him to the officers and soldiers under his command.



State of New York, Executive Department, *Albany, February 11, 1865.* 

Brevet Major-General Alfred H. Terry, U. S. Army:

SIR: In compliance with the request of the legislature of the State I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of a resolution of thanks passed by that body on the 9<sup>th</sup> instant, for the skill and gallantry displayed by yourself and associates in the bombardment and capture of Fort Fisher. At the same time I must, in my own behalf, add my cordial endorsement of the resolution, as well as my testimony in honor of your conduct and the invaluable service then rendered to your country by that splendid achievement.

Respectfully, yours,

R. E. FENTON.



#### LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

ALBANY, NEW YORK

February 9, 1865.

Concurrent Resolution to Present the Thanks of the Legislature to Rear-Admiral David D. Porter, and Brevet Major-General Alfred H. Terry, and the Officers and Men Under Their Command.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Legislature, representing the people of the State of New York, are hereby tendered to Rear-Admiral David D. Porter, and to Major-General Alfred H. Terry, and the officers and men of their respective commands, for the skill and gallantry displayed in the bombardment and capture of Fort Fisher; an achievement which adds to the renown already won by both branches of the service, and administers a heavy blow to the already staggering rebellion.

*Resolved*, That his Excellency the Governor is hereby respectfully requested to transmit a copy of the above resolution to each of the officers named therein.



STATE OF NEW YORK, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, Albany, April 5, 1865.

Brigadier-General N. MARTIN CURTIS:

General, – I herewith transmit a copy of the concurrent resolutions recently adopted by the Legislature of this State.

Allow me to join in the expression of grateful appreciation, so justly stated therein. Your bravery has become historic, and your native State will treasure the name and exploits of so gallant a son, and with returning peace will proudly regard you as the true exponent of the American soldier.

Very Respectfully, yours,

R. E. FENTON.



#### LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

ALBANY, NEW YORK

APRIL 5, 1865.

Concurrent Resolution to Present the Thanks of the Legislature to Brigadier-General N. Martin Curtis, and Troops Under His Command, for Gallant Achievements.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Legislature, representing the people of the State of New York, are hereby tendered to Brigadier-General N. Martin Curtis, and troops under his command, to wit: The 3<sup>d</sup> regiment New York volunteers, Capt. James Reeves, commanding; the 112<sup>th</sup> regiment, Col. John F. Smith; the 117<sup>th</sup> regiment, Lieut.-Col. Francis H. Meyer; the 142<sup>d</sup>, Col. Albert W. Barney, for their gallant achievements in their assault upon the capture of Fort Fisher, demonstrating by their courage and determined perseverance, under a most galling and destructive fire, that New York troops, so ably commanded, are capable (as they ever will be,) of sustaining the flag of our country.

Also to the officers and members of the 47<sup>th</sup> regiment, Col. Christopher McDonald; the 48<sup>th</sup> regiment, Lieut.-Col. Wm. B. Coan; the 115<sup>th</sup> regiment, Lieut.-Col. Nathan Johnson; the 169<sup>th</sup> regiment, Col. Alonzo Alden, and the 16<sup>th</sup> heavy artillery, Maj. Chas. E. Pierce, commanding, for their consummate skill and undaunted bravery in sustaining and aiding the troops under command of Gen. Curtis in wresting from the enemies of our Government their last stronghold on the Atlantic coast.

*Resolved*, That his Excellency the Governor, is hereby respectfully requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing resolution to Brigadier-General Curtis, and to the officers and men under his command.

## Steamer S. R. Spaulding, Off Fort Fisher, January 16, 1865.

Major-General TERRY,

Commanding, &c.:

The Secretary of War, in the name of the President, congratulates you and the gallant officers and soldiers of your command, and tenders you thanks for the valor and skill displayed in your part of the great achievement in the operations against Fort Fisher and in its assault and capture. The combined operations of the squadron under command of Rear-Admiral Porter and your forces deserve and will receive the thanks of the nation, and will be held in admiration throughout the world as a proof of the naval and military prowess of the United States.

EDWIN M. STANTON,

Secretary of War

CITY POINT, VA., January 17, 1865.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,

Secretary of War:

The following official dispatch from Bvt. Maj.-Gen. A. H. Terry, commanding the land forces operating against Fort Fisher, announcing its capture by the united valor of the army and navy, is just received. I have ordered a salute of 100 guns to be fired by each army here in honor of their great triumph.

U. S. Grant,

Lieutenant-General

"Fort Fisher was the strongest fort in the South. Now for the first time is a really formidable earthwork carried by a direct assault, and in a military view, therefore, the storming of Fort Fisher is probably entitled to be reckoned the most brilliant, as it surely is the most remarkable, victory of the war."

- New York Tribune, January 18, 1865.

"The assault made on the  $15^{th}$  and the five hours' fight hand-to-hand with the garrison of the fort is not surpassed in the annals of warfare... This success is of first importance."

- Harper's Weekly, January 28, 1865.

"Such fighting was never seen before, I believe. It surpassed all that I had ever seen or thought that men were capable of doing. There they fought, from parapet to parapet, through traverse and bombproof, outside and in, the Navy in the meantime throwing shells just ahead of our soldiers. We could see them advance by the glorious old Stars and Stripes, which our people planted upon each successive parapet as they took them."

- Report of a Federal officer, National Archives

# THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH N. Y. INFANTRY AT FORT FISHER, N. C.

Commissioned Officers who Most Distinguished Themselves for Gallantry in the Assault on January 15, 1865.

HEADQUARTERS ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH N. Y. VOLS., FORT FISHER, N. C., January 17, 1865.

Capt. GEORGE W. HUCKINS,

Acting Assistant Adjutant General:

The undersigned has the honor to report that upon the opening of the engagement of the 15<sup>th</sup> instant, Col. Alonzo Alden was in command of the regiment, but on reaching the enemy's works assumed command of the brigade, Colonel Louis Bell being wounded. The undersigned then took command of the regiment.

It would seem almost invidious to make any special mention of officers and men, when all did their duty with unparalleled gallantry and zeal. The undersigned can bear testimony that every officer led his men, and the men vied with each other to attain the front.

Colonel Alonzo Alden was distinguished for his accustomed coolness and bravery.

Major J. (Joseph\*) H. Allen was shot through the arm and leg, but persisted in remaining with the command.

Captains Daniel Ferguson, James H. Dunn, Charles D. Merrell, J. (Jonas) H. Warren, and E. (Emory) W. Church were distinguished for their coolness and gallantry.

Lieutenants J. (James) H. Straight, wounded, Michael Ryan, killed, Michael Russell, wounded, all in command of companies, were the right men in the right places. After the death of Lieutenant Ryan, Lieutenant J. (John) B. Foote assumed command of his company and led it gallantly.

Lieutenant Eugene Van Santvoord also deserves mention.

Lieutenant E. (Erastus) R. Mosher was hit by a spent ball on the 13<sup>th</sup> instant. He went into action on the 15<sup>th</sup>, being obliged to use a cane; he hopped into the fight leading his men.

Other officers distinguished themselves; indeed, all deserve mention. The undersigned has mentioned such as came particularly under his notice.

Accompanying will be found a list of the enlisted men who distinguished themselves; also a full report of losses in action.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

James A. Colvin, Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding 169<sup>th</sup> N. Y. V.

# THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH N. Y. INFANTRY AT FORT FISHER, N. C.

### Enlisted Men who Most Distinguished Themselves for Gallantry in the Assault on January 15, 1865.

HEADQUARTERS ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH N. Y. VOLS., FORT FISHER, N. C., *January 17, 1865*.

Capt. George W. Huckins, A.A.A.G.:

I have the honor to report the following names of enlisted men as having distinguished themselves for gallantry in the assault on the 15<sup>th</sup>:

Private John Finlay (Finley) Company "A", wounded;

First Sergeant John Fleming (Flemming); Color Bearer Corporal Peter Osterhout (Osterhoudt), wounded; Corporal John McGolrick; Private Charles Madden "B";

Private William H. Freeman, "B", who volunteered to carry the brigade flag after the bearer was wounded;

Corporal Patrick Holley – "D";

Sergeant L. R. Woodcock (Loucien R. Woodcock) wounded; Private Patrick Murphy – "E" – killed;

Corporals John McLoughlin (McLaughlin), T. J. Congden (Thomas J. Congden), Privates John Jimjack (John Jenyack), Patrick Curley – "F";

First Sergeant Patrick Aylmer (Patrick J. Aylmer); Sergeant Benjamin G. Walker; Private James Lester – "G";

First Sergeant Charles H. Noyes, wounded; Corporal L. Odell (Lewis E. Odell) – "H" – killed;

First Sergeant George Campbell; Sergeants James F. Smith, Robert Rainsbury, wounded – "I".

And specially commended for bravery in the presence of the commanding officer:

Corporal Thomas Ryan, "I"; First Sergeant Joseph White, "K"; Sergeant Major T. H. Gardner (Thomas H. Gardner).

The commanding officer desires especially to mention Frederick Close of Company F, who was conspicuous for his gallantry and bravery in getting a field piece into position and firing upon the enemy after we had got inside the works. Many of the officers report that their men did so well that they could make no special mention, and the commanding officer is constrained to base his report chiefly upon circumstances within his own observation.

Very respectfully,

James A. Colvin, Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding 169<sup>th</sup> N. Y. V. The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Vol. XLVI, Part I – Reports: Capture of Fort Fisher, N. C., Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1894, pp. 425-431.



Court-Martial.
Published in "Harper's Weekly," January 3<sup>d</sup>, 1863

#### No. 20.

Proceedings of a Court of Inquiry constituted to examine into the cause of the explosion of the powder magazine.

Special Orders, No. 9. Headquarters U. S. Forces, Fort Fisher, N. C., January 20, 1865.

I. A board of inquiry, to consist of the officers named below, is constituted to examine into the cause of the explosion of the magazine of Fort Fisher on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> instant. The board will meet at these headquarters at 3 P.M. this day, and will render their report as soon as possible, consistently with a full investigation of the circumstances.

Detail for the court: Bvt. Brig.-Gen. J. C. Abbott, commanding Second Brigade, First Division, Twenty-fourth Army Corps; Lieut.-Col. A. M. Barney, One hundred and forty-second New York Volunteers; Capt. George F. Towle, Fourth New Hampshire Volunteers, acting assistant inspector-general.

The board will sit without regard to hours.

By order of Maj.-Gen. A. H. Terry:

#### ADRIAN TERRY,

Captain and Assistant Adjutant-General.

#### FIRST DAY.

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES, Fort Fisher, N. C., January 21, 1865.

Pursuant to the foregoing order, the court assembled, and, all the members being present, was duly organized.

The prescribed oath was administered to the court by the recorder, and the recorder was sworn by the president.

Lieut.-Col. Samuel M. Zent, Thirteenth Indiana Volunteers, being duly sworn, deposed as follows:

I do not know of my own knowledge, but was told by Private Elisha L. Powers, Company C, Thirteenth Indiana Volunteers, that just previous to the explosion men were seen going into the magazine. As soon as the fort was captured I was ordered by Colonel Alden, One hundred and sixtyninth New York Volunteers, commanding Third Brigade, to guard all the magazines; but this one, being inside, escaped my notice, and had no guard from my regiment.

By the Court:

Question. Where was your regiment stationed?

Answer. On the north face of the fort, between the parapet and palisade.

Question. Where was the entrance of the magazine at which these men went in?

Answer. I understood there were two entrances; I do not know which the men were seen to enter.

Question. Were you near when the explosion took place?

Answer. I was; I was making the rounds.

Question. Can you form any opinion as to where the explosion commenced?

Answer, I cannot.

Question. Were there several detached magazines?

Answer. There were not; it was one grand explosion.

Question. Did you have any of the magazines guarded?

Answer. I did; all except this one, which I had not yet discovered.

Question. Where were the guarded magazines situated?

Answer. Under the traverses or mounds connected with the bombproofs.

Question. How many guards were placed to these magazines?

Answer. Three to each; there were thirty-one entrances.

Question. Did the explosion of the main magazine communicate into any service magazine?

Answer. It did not.

Question. At what hour did the explosion occur?

Answer. About 9 A.M.; possibly later.

Question. Were there fires in the interior of the fort between the magazine and bombproof?

Answer. There were not; the fires were outside, south of the magazine.

Question. How near were the fires to the magazine?

Answer. I should judge about 100 yards.

Question. Was there any officer of the guard under you; if so, his name?

Answer. Lieut. Theodore Reifle, Thirteenth Indiana Volunteers, was under me.

Question. In stationing the guard did you receive specific instructions or did you exercise your own judgment?

Answer. I used my own judgment.

Question. State how you proceeded to make the disposition for the guard.

Answer. I commenced on the northwest comer and examined each traverse, placing a guard wherever I found an entrance; did not go so far as the mound; placed a guard there next morning.

Question. When stationing your guard was your attention called to this reserve magazine?

Answer. It was not; I was informed after the explosion that the One hundred and sixty-ninth New York Volunteers had placed a guard there.

Question. Was the One hundred and sixty-ninth New York Volunteers stationed there?

Answer. They were very near, just at the base on the south side.

Question. What regiments were stationed there?

Answer. The One hundred and sixty-ninth and One hundred and fifteenth New York and Fourth New Hampshire Volunteers. Those of the Thirteenth Indiana not on guard were outside. The three first named were in the area inside the fort, and between the main and service magazines.

By the RECORDER:

Question. Were those men soldiers, sailors, or marines who were seen to enter the magazine?

Answer. They were colored troops.

Lieut. Col. Nathan J. Johnson, One hundred and fifteenth New York Volunteers, commanding Third Brigade, Second Division, Twenty-fourth Army Corps, being duly sworn, deposed as follows:

At the time of the explosion I was commanding the One hundred and fifteenth New York Volunteers. I was on the parapet when the explosion took place, nearly north and opposite the magazine. I immediately went down toward the scene of the explosion. Before reaching it I came across two wires, one solid copper, the other, I should judge, a submarine wire, composed of seven small ones inclosed in rubber, leading from the magazine toward the Cape Fear River in a northwesterly direction. I cut both for fear of further explosions, and then proceeded to examine the cavity of the exploded magazine. The wires were on the surface of the ground for some distance toward the river, but entered the earth near where I cut them. Am uncertain whether or not they were covered by the earth from the exploded magazine.

By the RECORDER:

Question. Were guards placed on the magazine?

Answer. I know there were on some, but don't know whether there were on this.

By the Court:

Question. Was the whole brigade inside the inclosure?

Answer. It was, but most of the Thirteenth Indiana were detached previous to entering the fort.

Question. Did those regiments inside have fires?

Answer. They did.

By the Recorder:

Question. How near were any fires to the magazine?

Answer. Not nearer than four rods.

Question. Were any as near as six rods?

Answer. There were, I should think.

Question. Did you see any persons going in the bombproofs with lights?

Answer. I did not.

By the Court:

Question. Did you examine this magazine?

Answer. I did that evening.

Question. Were there two entrances?

Answer. I saw but one.

Question. Was this one towards the fire?

Answer. It was not; it was on the opposite side of the mound.

Question. When you saw the wire did you suppose this the cause of the explosion?

Answer. I did.

Question. Did anyone follow up the wire?

Answer. Some of the engineers, I understood, but am not certain.

Question. Were men at liberty to run around the fort as they pleased?

Answer. So far as I know they were kept out of the bombproofs; otherwise they went around the fort at liberty – sailors and marines; some of the marines were intoxicated, and firing off their pistols.

Question. Were measures taken to restore order immediately after the capture of the fort at 10 o'clock?

Answer. Should judge it was 1 o'clock on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> before a guard was posted; should think the guard was posted as soon as possible.

Maj. EZRA L. WALRATH, One hundred and fifteenth New York Volunteers, being duly sworn, deposed as follows:

I saw the explosion; was near the seventh or eighth traverse. Immediately examined the ruins, and picked up the conical end of a torpedo which had burnt powder on the end and had certainly been at some time exploded. I saw a great many marines and sailors about the works, who were passing in and out of the magazines in search of plunder. They would light matches inside and let them bum to see what was in the magazine. Saw some wires running from the Cape Fear River toward the exploded magazine which I cut with my knife. These wires ran into the earth thrown up by the explosion, and were exposed at various places, ten or fifteen feet at a time, running toward the river. The torpedo was found in the ruins of the magazine. A great many of the marines were intoxicated.

By the RECORDER:

Question. How near was the nearest fire to this magazine?

Answer. I should judge about seventy-five feet.

By the Court:

Question. Had you examined this magazine?

Answer. Only from the outside; saw the entrance, but did not go near it; no guards were on it; saw four or five marines near the entrance, apparently just entering or coming out.

Question. Was it at the main magazine where the matches were lighted?

Answer. I saw none there; it was at one of the south service magazines I saw marines coming out; I asked one how he could see; he replied that he had lighted a match; no guard was on that magazine.

Question. Did you see anyone who was in the magazine to judge about fixed ammunition being there?

Answer. I did not; I judged it was simply a powder magazine from seeing no fragments of shell among the débris.

Capt. John H. Roberts, Fourth New Hampshire Volunteers, being duly sworn, deposed as follows:

On the night of the 15<sup>th</sup> the brigade was inside the fort. Near sunrise the explosion took place. A short time before the explosion took place Lieut. G. F. Quimby, Fourth New Hampshire Volunteers, was near the entrance of the magazine and saw men around with lights. He saw some in the magazine, and one had a candle, apparently searching around, and a few minutes after the explosion took place.

By the RECORDER:

Question. At what distance from the magazine was the nearest fire?

Answer. Should judge about twenty yards.

The court then proceeded to and examined the scene of the explosion, after which it adjourned until 10 A.M. to-morrow, January 22.

#### SECOND DAY.

Headquarters U. S. Forces, Fort Fisher, N. C., January 22, 1865.

At 10 a.m. the court assembled, and all the members being present, came to order.

Capt. George W. Huckins, Fourth New Hampshire Volunteers, acting assistant adjutant-general, Third Brigade, Second Division, Twenty-fourth Army Corps, being duly sworn, deposed as follows:

I gave orders direct from General Ames to Lieutenant-Colonel Zent, Thirteenth Indiana Volunteers, to place guards on all the bombproofs and magazines to keep any one out.

By the Recorder:

Question. Did Lieutenant-Colonel Zent report to General Ames for orders, and did he report that the order about guards had been carried out?

Answer. I do not know; but don't think he did.

Question. In giving the order of General Ames did you specify this main magazine as one to be guarded?

Answer. I did not; not knowing at the time of its existence.

Surg. A. J. H. Buzzell, Third New Hampshire Volunteers, medical inspector of the expedition, being duly sworn, deposed as follows:

On the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> I was in the hospital, and Major Hill and General Whiting were present. The explosion was referred to. Major Hill wished me to say to General Terry that, it having been reported to him that the explosion was the result of wires intentionally placed at the magazine, that such was not the fact; and also, on his honor as an officer and a gentleman, that no wires connected with the magazine; that the only torpedoes were outside the fort, which fact was communicated to General Terry by General Whiting immediately after the surrender. This was all said to me by Major Hill in the presence of General Whiting. He said if there was any connection with the magazine he did not know of it; had there been, he should have been likely to have known of it.

First Lieut. George F. Quimby, Fourth New Hampshire Volunteers, being duly sworn, deposed as follows:

On the night of the 15<sup>th</sup> instant my regiment was inside the fort. About daylight I was walking around the fort. I came near the magazine, and saw several soldiers standing around the entrance, overhauling some old stuff that had been pulled out. One says, "Have you got all out?" The other replied, "I haveperhaps not; they've got a light in there now" (meaning inside the magazine). I then stepped to the entrance and inquired what it contained. Someone inside said, "Boxes of powder." I then ordered if they had a light to put it out, and cautioned them not to have tiny more, as it was very careless and dangerous. I then left the fort, and ten or fifteen minutes afterward the explosion took place. This was the main magazine.

By the Court:

Question. Was there a guard stationed there?

Answer. There was not.

Question. Where was the entrance situated?

Answer. On the side of the magazine next to the river.

Question. Did you see any other entrance?

Answer. I did not.

Question. Who were those men, and did they seem to work under orders?

Answer. They were white soldiers, and were not at work under orders.

Second Lieut. Theodore Reifle, Thirteenth Indiana Volunteers, being duly sworn, deposed as follows:

I was officer of the guard under Lieutenant-Colonel Zent, and posted the guards over the service magazines inside the fort. Did not see this main magazine, and consequently posted no guard there.

Capt. Frederick G. Mosher, One hundred and fifteenth New York Volunteers, being duly sworn, deposed as follows:

I saw soldiers, sailors, and marines running into bombproofs and service magazines where guards were posted, and the guards made no effort to stop them, so far as I could see. Did not observe whether they had lights. This was on the same morning before the explosion.

The evidence in relation to the subject was here closed.

#### FINDINGS.

After mature deliberation upon the foregoing evidence the court finds that the following are the main facts, *viz*.:

- I. Immediately after the capture of the fort General Ames gave orders to Lieut.-Col. Samuel M. Zent, Thirteenth Indiana Volunteers, through Capt. George W. Huckins, Fourth New Hampshire Volunteers, acting assistant adjutant-general, Third Brigade, Second Division, to place guards on all the magazines and bombproofs.
- II. Lieutenant-Colonel Zent commenced on the northwest comer of the fort next to the river, following the traverses round, and placed guards on thirty-one entrances under the traverses. The main magazine which afterward exploded, being in the rear of the traverses, escaped his notice, and consequently had no guards from his regiment or any other.
- III. That soldiers, sailors, and marines were running about with lights in the fort, entering bombproofs with these lights, intoxicated and discharging firearms.
- IV. That persons were seen with lights searching for plunder in the main magazine some ten or fifteen minutes previous to the explosion.

The court do not attach any importance to the report that a magnetic wire connected this work with some work on the opposite side of the Cape Fear River.

#### OPINION.

The opinion of the court, therefore, is that the explosion was the result of carelessness on the part of persons to them unknown.

The court then adjourned sine die.

#### JOSEPH C. ABBOTT,

Brevet Brigadier-General, U. S. Volunteers, President of Court.

GEORGE F. TOWLE.

Captain, Fourth New Hampshire Volunteers,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General and Recorder.

The Wilmington Campaign, Last Departing Rays of Hope, by Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, Penn., 1997, pp. 532-533.

#### Notes for Chapter 9: Victory – and Stalemate

Despite the official findings of the cause of the powder magazine explosion at Fort Fisher on the morning of January 16, 1865, there may be another, darker side to the story. J. C. Maxwell of Glendale, California, vividly recalls his grandfather telling him that he had arranged for a timing device to detonate Fort Fisher's main powder magazine in case the fort fell to Union forces. Captain John Maxwell, an independent agent in the Confederate Secret Service (perhaps best known for blowing up the Union ordnance barge at City Point, Virginia, in August, 1864, that almost killed U. S. Grant), claimed responsibility for the explosion at Fort Fisher. According to his grandson, Maxwell explained that "the U. S. was so embarrassed by their defeat attempting the 'naval boarding' of the fort they could not admit the Rebels had dealt them another disastrous defeat so quickly." According to the grandson:

Grandfather had a fine grain gunpowder mill on Smith's Creek which feeds into the Northeast Cape Fear River. His manager of this operation steamed downriver each day to deliver primed shells, powder and other supplies. He picked up mail for the fort at Wilmington. Grandfather spent Christmas 1864 in Richmond with Sec. [Judah P.] Benjamin and his brother-in-law. After the failed U.S. attempt to land troops and storm the fort [Fort Fisher] late in December, he returned to Wilmington and gave his manager a supply of glass tube "delayed triggers" primed to go off 48 hours after being activated. The triggers were glass tubes sealed at one end with a measured amount of "white metal" (the measured amount determined the length of the time delay). To activate the trigger the tube was filled with acid and inserted into the firing cap/fuse of a bomb. His instructions were that if it appeared the fort was going to fall, a trigger was to be activated and placed inside the powder magazine. The trigger was to be removed within 24 hours if the fort did not fall, but replaced with a newly activated trigger on any day it appeared to be in danger of falling within the next 24 hours.

The first trigger was put in place on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 1865, and was removed and replaced each day until January 15<sup>th</sup>. Neither the CSA government at Richmond nor Col. Lamb at Fort Fisher were aware of these actions which were a part of the desperate plan to recapture the fort after the explosion.

The manager told grandfather that when he left the fort Saturday, January 14, he expected the fort would fall Sunday before he could return, so he selected and activated a trigger with which he deemed to be the longest delay time. It was placed in the magazine at approximately 6 p.m. Saturday. When he came down river Sunday morning his little steamer (with his supply of triggers aboard) was seized by men from Gen. Bragg's headquarters at Wilmington and placed in messenger service between fortifications along the Cape Fear River south of the city. He did find a horse and headed south overland, but by the time he got near the fort the Yankees had cut the approach. He turned back. He sent a coded telegram to grandfather (who returned to Richmond on January 10) and waited for word that there had been an explosion at the fort. When it hadn't come late Sunday night he concluded the machine had failed. It hadn't. As you know, it went off Monday morning.

J. C. Maxwell to author, July 5, 1995, in personal collection of Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., Wilmington, N.C.

War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records, Union and Confederate Armies. Series I - Volume XLII. Part I - Reports. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1893, pp. 954-956.

No. 375.

Report of Captain John Maxwell, Secret Service,
Confederate States, of Explosion at City Point.



General Grant's Campaign – Explosion at City Point, August 9, 1864 Alfred Rudolph Waud (1828-1891) Published in "Harper's Weekly," August 27th, 1864

RICHMOND, December 16, 1864.

Captain: I have the honor to report that in obedience to your order, and with the means and equipment furnished me by you, I left this city on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July last, for the line of the James River, to operate with the Horological torpedo against the enemy's vessels navigating that river. I had with me Mr. R. K. Dillard, who was well-acquainted with the localities, and whose services I engaged for the expedition. On arriving in Isle of Wight County, on the 2<sup>d</sup> of August, we learned of immense supplies of stores being landed at City Point, and for the purpose, by stratagem, of introducing our machine upon the vessels there discharging stores, started for that point. We reached there before daybreak on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August last, with a small amount of provisions, having traveled mostly by night and crawled upon our knees to pass the east picket line. Requesting my companion to remain behind about half a mile I approached cautiously the wharf, with my machine and

powder covered by a small box. Finding the captain had come ashore from a barge then at the wharf, I seized the occasion to hurry forward with my box. Being halted by one of the wharf sentinels I succeeded in passing him by representing that the captain had ordered me to convey the box on board. Hailing a man from the barge I put the machine in motion and gave it in his charge. He carried it aboard. The magazine contained about twelve pounds of powder.

Rejoining my companion, we retired to a safe distance to witness the effect of our effort. In about an hour the explosion occurred. Its effect was communicated to another barge beyond the one operated upon and also to a large wharf building containing their stores (enemy's), which was totally destroyed. The scene was terrific, and the effect deafened my companion to an extent from which he has not recovered. My own person was severely shocked, but I am thankful to Providence that we have both escaped without lasting injury. We obtained and refer you to the inclosed slips\* from the enemy's newspapers, which afford their testimony of the terrible effects of this blow. The enemy estimates the loss of life at 58 killed and 126 wounded, but we have reason to believe it greatly exceeded that. The pecuniary damage we heard estimated at \$4,000,000 but, of course, we can give you no account of the extent of it exactly.

I may be permitted, captain, here to remark that in the enemy's statement a party of ladies, it seems, were killed by this explosion. It is saddening to me to realize the fact that the terrible effects of war induce such consequence; but when I remember the ordeal to which our own women have been subjected, and the barbarities of the enemy's crusade against us and them, my feelings are relieved by the reflection that while this catastrophe was not intended by us, it amounts only, in the providence of God, to just retaliation.

This being accomplished, we returned to the objects of our original expedition. We learned that the vessel (the Jane Duffield), was in Warwick River, and with the assistance of Acting Master W. H. Hinds, of the C. S. Navy, joined a volunteer party to capture her. She was boarded on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September last, and taken without resistance. We did not destroy her, because of the effect it might have had on the neighboring citizens and our own further operation. At the instance of the captain she was bonded, he offering as a hostage, in the nature of security to the bond, one of his crew, who is now held as a prisoner of war on this condition in this city.

In the meanwhile we operated on the James as the water and moon co-operated, but without other successes than the fear with which the enemy advanced, and the consequent retarding of his movements on the river. We neared success on several occasions. Finding our plan of operations discovered by the enemy, and our persons made known and pursued by troops landed from their boats at Smithfield, we deemed it best to suspend operations in that quarter and return to report to you officially our labors. Your orders were to remain in the enemy's lines as long as we could do so; but I trust this conduct will meet your approval. The material unused has been safely concealed.

I have thus, captain, presented you in detail the operations conducted under your orders and the auspices of your company, and await further orders.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN MAXWELL.

Capt. Z. McDaniel.

\* Not found.

[First indorsement.]

Respectfully forwarded to Brigadier-General Rains.

Z. McDaniel, Captain Company A, Secret Service.

[Second Indorsement.]

Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR,

#### Present:

Respectfully forwarded, with remark that John Maxwell and R. K. Dillard were sent by Captain McDaniel into the enemy's lines by my authority for some such purpose, and the supposition was strong, as soon as the tremendous explosion occurred at City Point on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August last, that it was done through their agency, but of course no report could be made until the parties returned, which they did on Wednesday last, and gave an account of their proceedings. This succinct narrative is but an epitome of their operations, which necessarily implies secrecy for the advantage of this kind of service as well as their own preservation. John Maxwell is a bold operator and well calculated for such exploits, and also his coadjutor, R. K. Dillard.

G. J. RAINS, *Brigadier-General, Superintendent.* 

Photographs of Capt. John Maxwell, Secret Service, Confederate States, according to a webpage created by his great-great-grandson, Wade Kinker, of Kinker Press, 3330 W. Marshall St., Richmond, Va. (804) 355-6199 (office).





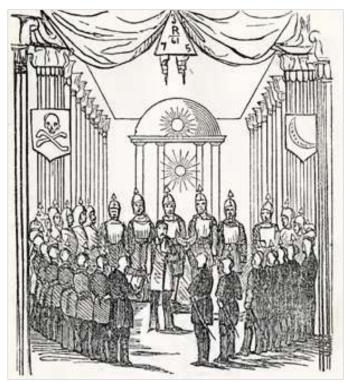
Captain John Maxwell, Secret Service, Confederate States

http://www.kinkerpress.com/captjohn.htm

The Creature from Jekyll Island – A Second Look at the Federal Reserve, by G. Edward Griffin, American Opinion Publishing, Inc., Appleton, Wisconsin, 1994, pp. 392-393.

#### KNIGHTS OF THE GOLDEN CIRCLE

The Order of the Knights of the Golden Circle was a secret organization dedicated to revolution and conquest. Two of its better known members were Jesse James and John Wilkes Booth. It was organized by George W. L. Bickley who established its first "castle" in Cincinnati in 1854, drawing membership primarily from Masonic lodges. It had close ties with a secret society in France called The Seasons, which itself was a branch of the Illuminati. After the beginning of the war, Bickley was made head of the Confederacy's secret service, and his organization quickly spread throughout the border and Southern states as well.



Rare illustration of a Knights of the Golden Circle (KGC) ritual, replete with the secret society's distinctive symbolism (ca. 1861)

In the North, the conspirators were seeking "to seize political power and overthrow the Lincoln government." In fact, the Northern anti-draft riots mentioned previously were largely the result of the planning and leadership of this group. In the South "they tried to promote the extension of slavery by the conquest of Mexico." In partnership with Maximilian, the Knights hoped to establish a Mexican-American empire which would

be an effective counter force against the North. In fact, the very name of the organization is based on their goal of carving an empire out of North America with geographical boundaries forming a circle with the center in Cuba, and its circumference reaching northward to Pennsylvania, southward to Panama.

In 1863 the group was reorganized as the Order of American Knights and, again the following year, as the Order of the Sons of Liberty. Its membership then was estimated at between 200,000 and 300,000. After the war, it went further underground and remnants eventually emerged as the Ku Klux Klan.



RICHMOND, VA., JUNE 29, 2005.

Richmond's alternative for news, arts, culture and opinion

News & Features -- Cover Story

#### The South's Headless Hero-Terrorist

## Being an account of Captain Maxwell's exploits with his deadly machine.

by Melissa Scott Sinclair

A Union sentinel on the wharf stopped the stranger to ask why he was there. The man said he was carrying out a request from the captain of the barge J. E. Kendrick, who had told him to bring a certain parcel aboard.

The sentry had some difficulty understanding the civilian's thick Scottish brogue. Exasperated, he waved him on toward the powder barge moored at the dock. He may have watched the man wave down one of the Kendrick's sailors and hand him the little box. Or he may have idly turned his gaze back to the river, to watch the sun dance on the water.

In one hour, the sky would rain ash and blood. Bones and bullets would sow the ground. And no one left alive would remember the Scot in the shabby clothes.

His name was John Maxwell. These are the remnants of his life: a gleaming sword and a threadbare, tartan cap. An age-stained stone on a little hill in Hollywood Cemetery, carved with two daffodils and three names. A leather-bound family Bible. A bit of brass clockwork. And a few photographs, including one of him as a young man, another in old age, and one in which blood drips from the stump of his neck.

Some think of Maxwell as a hero who did his best to save the Confederacy. Some might call him a terrorist who killed more innocents than soldiers. Most people have never heard of him. One thing is certain: In

the last phase of the Civil War, when Southern hope was waning, he single-handedly carried out an extraordinary exploit in the heart of the Union command.

Today the site of the City Point dock is nothing but a quiet strip of grass on the river, on the north side of Hopewell. On a recent Monday, a few people fished while their dogs lay brooding in the shade. A stray cat streaked through the weeds.

City Point stayed this quiet for a long time. Native Americans lived here for centuries, leaving bits of pottery and stone tools behind. In 1635, the land on the point was granted to the Eppes family, who came from England to establish a plantation here. A port town grew up on the riverbank, and in the late 1830s the city was on the brink of prosperity. Hope was shortlived, however; the Norfolk to Petersburg railroad, constructed 20 years later, put City Point and its small neighboring ports out of business.

The little river town seemed destined to be forgotten. But for nine and a half months of the Civil War, City Point suddenly became one of the busiest ports in the world. Nestled neatly between the Confederate cities of Petersburg and Richmond, it caught the attention of Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant.

At City Point, a deep channel ran right next to the bank allowing large, heavily laden ships coming up the James River to dock easily. A railroad line ran directly from City Point to Petersburg, where Grant had arrayed his forces to cut off Confederate supply lines. It was the perfect place for Grant to locate his new command headquarters and supply depot, says Jimmy Blankenship, City Point's historian-curator.

Blankenship, 49, is a bit of a rebel himself, a trait perhaps borne in the blood from his own distant Confederate ancestors. His silver-streaked ponytail hangs to his belt, and he chafes at wearing his official National Park Service straw hat. He begs forgiveness if he seems tired – the night before, he says, he took his son to a Judas Priest concert in Washington, D.C.

Blankenship started working for the park service in 1976 at Petersburg National Battlefield. He moved around for a while, then in 1984 returned to City Point, which is part of the battlefield park. His heart is here, he says, with the Point's great old magnolias circled by ospreys, the plantation's grapevines and fig trees that provide a sweet breakfast in late summer.

The Park Service runs a museum in the old Eppes plantation house, which stands on the bluff above the river. The house recently underwent a million-dollar renovation, and Blankenship is only beginning to put the museum exhibits back together.

City Point's lush serenity delights its visitors, but there's no denying that a supply depot lacks the romance of a battlefield. About 25,000 people use the park annually, and of them, 8,000 to 10,000 visit the plantation house.

Blankenship would tell visitors about Grant and Lincoln, the place's military history, and about the fateful day in August too. He didn't know much about John Maxwell, until about 15 years ago a lady named Alice Westmore Evans paid him a call.

"And she asked me, did I know anything about the explosion," Blankenship recalls. He said that he did – but he was about to learn much more. Capt. Maxwell was her grandfather, Evans told Blankenship. She'd known him when she was just a girl. And she had some very interesting things to show the historian: a disconcerting photograph and a small mechanical device.

In the summer of 1864, Grant's army was busy laying siege to Petersburg and Richmond, keeping the Confederates penned and severing their supply lines. Meanwhile, Grant's coded orders clicked and clacked across the country via a telegraph relay system. Below his perch on the hill lay the bustling wharf.

As many as 225 ships arrived here each day, carrying munitions, lumber and food for the Union army and its animals. Warehouses stored 3 million pounds of goods, including enough food to feed the men for 30 days and their animals for 20 days, in case of a Confederate attack on Union supply lines.

The Southerners, on the other hand, were tightening their belts, subsisting on rations that were far from adequate. A certain Confederate officer captured in March 1865 still fervently believed the South had a chance of winning the war, Blankenship recounts, "until this guy was taken behind Union lines. Once this officer saw City Point, what was sitting here, he knew the war was over... If they had known what was sitting back here, they either would have gone for it, captured it, or they would have given up, probably."

Maxwell did neither.

Born in Paisley, Scotland, Maxwell came to Virginia as a young man, for reasons unknown to his family. "Probably one step ahead of the sheriff," says Alan Kinker, Maxwell's great-great-grandson and an employee of the state Department of Military Affairs.

An adventurous spirit, Maxwell enlisted in Wise's Virginia Artillery April 19, 1861 – nine days after the first shots were fired on Fort Sumter. He later became a Confederate raider, joining a small band of soldiers who tried to capture Union ships. An account from the time calls him "a wiry little highlander" – a misnomer, since Paisley actually lies in the low country.

Maxwell was eventually captured and sentenced to be hanged, but was later freed in a prisoner-of-war exchange. He then went to work for a Confederate Secret Service division led by bomb expert Zebekiah McDaniel. In July 1864, when he was 31 years old, Maxwell embarked on a clandestine mission to destroy enemy vessels in Virginia waters.

According to Maxwell's own report, he left Richmond July 26, heading for the James River with a guide named R. K. Dillard. The pair arrived in Isle of Wight County Aug. 2, where they found out about the "immense supplies of stores being landed at City Point." The Union supply depot seemed the perfect place to execute Maxwell's plan, so he and Dillard struck out for the point.

They traveled by night, crawling on their knees to pass through the Union picket line undetected. The sun had not yet risen when they at last neared

City Point on Aug. 9. Maxwell told his companion to wait for him and advanced the last half-mile alone, carrying his small box.

Maxwell surveyed the wharf from the overlooking bluff. He watched the captain of one of the three docked barges leave his craft and come ashore, and he seized the chance to set his machine in motion.

"Rejoining my companion," Maxwell wrote, "we retired to a safe distance to witness the effect of our effort. In about an hour the explosion occurred."

That morning, Union physician James Otis Moore had come to City Point to load a train car with medical supplies for the Third Division Hospital near Petersburg. He and a colleague had just boarded the last car on the train, after a few minutes of arguing. His friend, Dr. Merryweather, wanted to ride on top of the train. Moore didn't, saying it was too hot. The only open car contained a pile of cowhides that smelled none too fresh, but Moore persisted, and Merryweather reluctantly got in.

They were chatting about the similarity of the hide smell to that of the hospital dissecting room when they heard what Moore called "a terrific noise." They looked out the open door toward the river, which was about 60 yards away, and a cloud of cinders blew into their faces. The doctors flung themselves on the floor of the car, then when the noise subsided ran out to see what had happened.

"The first object which met our eyes, was a man lying flat on his back, dead, on the top of one of the cars," Moore wrote the next day in a letter to his wife. "We went a little further... and there lay the lower half of the trunk and about half of the thighs of a man. We proceeded up the hill where our hospital used to be and all along the road we saw detached portions of the human body. A foot, hand, pieces of the scalp – large pieces of muscle and flesh lay scattered all around... We dressed some of the most hideous and ghastly wounds which falls to the lot of Surgeons to dress."

The explosion aboard the powder barge destroyed more than half of the 400-foot wharf and caused \$2 million in damage. Debris flew half a mile in every direction. One account describes 11 barrels of pieces of human flesh collected after the explosion. The official tally counted 43 people who died instantly, including the depot's lemonade vendor, who was killed when a flying saddle hit him in the stomach. One hundred twenty-six more people were wounded.

"I really believe more people were killed in this thing than are known," Blankenship says. The majority of the victims were recently freed black dockworkers, whose names were likely never written in any muster rolls. The explosion also rained shells, balls and debris upon the hillside tent camp of the black workers and their families.

Debris also showered Grant's camp on the bluff, injuring some of his staff and killing one mounted courier. Grant, who had been sitting under a sycamore and reading the newspaper, was unharmed. Five minutes after the explosion, he wired a telegraph describing the event to Washington, D.C.

Most people assumed the explosion was the result of an accident, perhaps a dropped shell. But the real cause was the contents of Maxwell's package,

the one he'd carried so far: a delicate little device nestled in 12 pounds of black powder.

Maxwell had taken the entrails of a clock – the windup mechanism and fine-toothed gears – and affixed two small cylinders. The one on the left held a spring, the one on the right a percussion cap. When the clockworks reached a preset time, this moved a lever, which released the spring, which smashed the percussion cap. He called it his "horological torpedo."

Evans, the woman who came to see Blankenship, gave the Park Service a model of the mechanism Maxwell constructed. Blankenship once allowed a detonation expert to examine it. "He said this would still be considered a class A detonator today," Blankenship says. "He said, 'It works."

The 12 pounds of powder in the box caught fire, then ignited the 80,000 pounds of powder loaded into the barge, which detonated in a thunderous, 30-second explosion. Black smoke was seen 30 miles downriver. Those who saw it thought Petersburg or Richmond was burning.

Maxwell, hiding a short distance away, saw and felt the explosion but escaped injury. He later collected some Union newspaper articles describing the carnage and enclosed them in his report to his commander. He expressed no regret for the effects of his deadly device, except to note that some accounts (now believed to be false) said "a party of ladies" had been killed.

"It is saddening to me to realize the fact that the terrible effects of war induce such consequences," Maxwell wrote, "but when I remember the ordeal to which our own women have been subjected, and the barbarities of the enemy's crusade against us and them, my feelings are relieved by the reflection that while this catastrophe was not intended by us, it amounts only, in the Providence of God, to just retaliation."

His mission accomplished, Maxwell helped a party of Confederates board and capture a Union ship and its crew in the James. Later attempts to raid Union vessels failed, and Maxwell soon found himself running from Union soldiers who landed at Smithfield to pursue the Confederate pirates. He then beat a retreat to Richmond.

The explosion at City Point, though horrific, utterly failed to jolt Grant's supply mechanism. "It didn't slow the Union down at all," Blankenship says.

The docks were rebuilt and in full operation in nine days. Two months later, a new wharf was built a short ways downriver, perpendicular to the shoreline. Although Union leaders still didn't know if the explosion had been sabotage or an accident, they imposed much tighter security on the docks. Anyone who didn't have an official pass – including, on one occasion, Lincoln's young son, Tad – was detained until his identity could be ascertained. The mood was much like today's in the aftermath of 9/11, Blankenship reflects.

Was Maxwell's act terrorism? Visitors to City Point often debate that point, Blankenship says. "Some people would say this is a terrorist act, but it's still a legitimate military target, you know? It's not the norm, it's not acceptable. But then again, with Sherman destroying what he did down south, that was not the norm as far as military fighting either."

By 1864, the Civil War had become a total war, Blankenship says. Union Gen. William T. Sherman laid waste to a broad swath of the Georgia and South Carolina countryside in the course of his "March to the Sea." Union Maj. Gen. Phil Sheridan scorched the Shenandoah Valley so thoroughly that people said a crow would have to carry its own rations to fly across the valley.

Yet when a group of Confederates was caught plotting to burn down New York City, the Union hanged one as a terrorist, Blankenship says. "Well, it's fine for the Union to come down here and do it, but it's not fine for the Confederacy to go up there and do it, you know? But who wins the war?" After Appomattox, the Union seized stacks of Confederate military documents. One was Maxwell's report on the events at City Point, which revealed the true cause of the explosion. Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton immediately issued an order for his arrest and placed a bounty on his head. Some suspected the Confederate Secret Service had been involved in Lincoln's assassination.

"He knew if he'd been caught, they'd have hung him in a heartbeat as a spy," Blankenship says. But the gallows frightened Maxwell not at all, it seemed. Instead of lying low in Richmond, he went to New York. There he had a most unusual portrait taken.

Some weeks afterward, an envelope arrived at Stanton's office. Inside was a photograph of Capt. John Maxwell, nattily dressed in waistcoat, gold watch chain and tie, cradling his own severed head in his right arm. Blood trickles from the stump of his neck, staining his white collar. The message, according to great-great-grandson Alan Kinker: "Here's my head."

An inscription on a copy of the photograph, written when Maxwell was 80 years old, says it "was made from life + then decapitated + colored in order to answer the bloody demands and satisfy the morbid wishes of Sec't'y. Stanton and Gen'l. Halleck who offered a reward for the arrest of said John Maxwell after the war... This photograph was taken in New York City by a photographer whose name, John Maxwell, I cannot in April 1912 recall, but he was a Southern Sympathizer."

The War Department, after receiving the photo, declared Maxwell officially dead, according a Richmond *News-Leader* article from June 21, 1940, when the headless photograph was rediscovered in a deceased judge's papers. Perhaps this was a joke in kind, or simply an example of mindless bureaucracy.

Maxwell became a blacksmith working in wrought iron and had a shop at 1006 E. Cary St. In 1865 Maxwell married Elizabeth "Lizzie" Cance, a Scottish woman who was also from Paisley. They had three children: John Stuart, who died in childhood, Wilbert (or Wilbur – people then weren't always too particular about spelling, says Janet Kinker, Alan's mother) and Janet, who was Janet Kinker's grandmother.

Lizzie died in 1898. Ten years later, Maxwell went to live in the Robert E. Lee Camp Confederate Soldiers' Home, which was at Grove Avenue and the Boulevard. In 1916, at the age of 84, Maxwell contracted pneumonia. His daughter, Janet, had died in 1908, but her husband's new wife took the old man home to care for him.

Janet Kinker's mother, Alice (nicknamed Attie), Maxwell's grand-daughter, was 16 years old at the time. She remembered little of her grandfather besides his Scottish accent and the mischievous sparkle in his eyes. "At the time, you know, when you're 14, 15, 16, right around in there, you're not all that interested in grandparents," Janet Kinker says, not unkindly. "So she said she wished she had listened more to his stories." Attie died last year, at the age of 103.

With help from Blankenship, the Kinkers – Janet and her sons, Dale, Alan and Wade – have pieced together the story of Maxwell's life from old newspaper clippings, firsthand accounts and history books. Some things have been lost, like the original headless photograph. But the Kinkers feel they know their saboteur ancestor better now.

"Pretty gutsy," Alan Kinker says. "To walk into probably the biggest Union depot in that region, just calmly walk in with a bomb under your arm, and look for a target of opportunity, and then figure a way to get it on board a ship. He's either very lucky or really good."

Maxwell's long life was to hold one great disappointment. He was proud of his horological torpedo, which he also called the "infernal machine." In 1872 he tried to patent it. When he failed to receive a response from the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, he went to the White House to try to cut through the red tape. There he met with then-President Grant's executive secretary, Horace Porter.

"Horace Porter is very interested in this device," Blankenship says. "So Porter asked him how it worked, he asked him to give an example of how it was used. Maxwell made the mistake of bringing up the ordnance wharf explosion."

Porter had been Grant's aide-de-camp in 1864, and he well remembered what had happened at City Point that day. He would make sure the rebel never made a dime off his deadly invention. "The Patent Office to this date," Blankenship says, "has absolutely no record of John Maxwell's name."

A scenic riverside park nestled in a historic neighborhood, City Point is open every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day and Martin Luther King Day. To get there, take I-95 south to Route 10 east toward Hopewell. After crossing the Appomattox River bridge, turn left at the old Beacon theater, then follow the road as it turns right. At the end of the road, turn left on Cedar Lane and follow it to the City Point museum.

# The Troy Paily Times.

JULY 24, 1865.

THE 169TH REGIMENT.

#### ITS ORGANIZATION AND HISTORY.

#### ITS BATTLES, SIEGES, MARCHES.

#### PERSONAL ITEMS AND OFFICERS' ROSTER.

[Prepared for the Troy Daily Times.]

The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth regiment was raised in this city in the month of September, 1862, under the call for 600,000 men by President Lincoln. Seven of the companies were from Rensselaer county and three from Washington. The following was the original organization of the regiment:

Colonel – Clarence Buel.

Lieutenant-Colonel – John McConihe.

Major – Alonzo Alden.

Adjutant – Wm. E. Kisselburgh.

Quartermaster – S. N. Kinney.

Surgeon – John Knowlson.

Assistant Surgeons – Jos. F. Skinner, P. L. F. Reynolds.

Chaplain – Rev. Joel Eaton.

Co. A - Capt. J. A. Colvin, Nassau.

Co. B – Capt. Nat. Wood, Troy.

Co. C – Capt. Joseph H. Allen, Brunswick.

Co. D – Capt. W. Coleman, Washington Co.

Co. E – Capt. J. Croff, Washington Co.

Co. F – Capt. A. D. Vaughn, Washington Co.

Co. G – Capt. J. T. McCoun, Troy.

Co. H – Capt. W. H. Wickes, Sandlake.

Co. I – Capt. M. Murnane, Troy.

Co. K – Capt. D. Ferguson, Lansingburgh and Troy.

#### MUSTER-IN AND OFF FOR THE WAR.

The regiment left the city of Troy on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September, and was mustered in at New Dorp, Staten Island, Oct. 6, 1862. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of October, it proceeded to the national capital, and reporting to Maj.-Gen. Silas Casey, the renowned tactician, it was assigned to Abercrombie's division of the Twenty-second corps, and, until February, 1863, constituted a part of the garrison of the fortifications surrounding Washington, – Col. Buel being assigned to the command of a brigade. In the latter month, it was sent to Washington, where it performed provost duty until the following April, when it

#### TOOK THE FIELD

for the first time, being ordered to re-enforce the troops at Suffolk, Va., during the investment of that place by Longstreet with an army of 30,000 men. The federal force was very small indeed; and the One Hundred and

Sixty-ninth was the first to arrive of the re-enforcements that were sent to the relief of the endangered garrison.

#### FIRST FIGHT.

At Suffolk, it participated in its first action, Col. Buel being the first man wounded in an attack upon the enemy's entrenchments on the Edenton road. Private Brock, of Co. H, was the first man belonging to the regiment who was killed. Major Alden was slightly wounded in the thigh during the engagement. On the 3<sup>d</sup> of May, the regiment participated in the last of a series of skirmishes at Suffolk – the enemy withdrawing on the night of that day after a considerable fight at Providence Church.

#### RAIDING.

The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth next took part in several raids to the Blackwater River, and in a number of inconsiderable skirmishes, – thus familiarizing it to a certain extent with battles, and educating it for the more serious contests through which it was destined to pass. In June and July, it formed part of an expedition under Gen. Dix, which was sent up the Peninsula to destroy the South Anna Railroad bridge, and thus cut off Lee's retreat from Pennsylvania. The expedition proved a total failure, and returned to Fort Monroe after a series of slight skirmishes with the enemy.

#### SIEGE OF CHARLESTON.

In August, the regiment was sent to Folly Island, S.C., and bore a prominent part in the siege of Forts Sumter, Wagner and Gregg, until the fall of the last two named, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>. Here, owing to the insalubrity of the climate, the impure quality of the water, and the hard work imposed upon the troops in the trenches, the regiment lost heavily by sickness, though its actual losses in battle fortunately were comparatively light.

#### COL. BUEL RESIGNS.

In January, 1864, Col. Buel, greatly to the regret of both officers and men, to whom he had endeared himself by the highest military qualities, and by his studious interest in their welfare, resigned the Colonelcy, and Lieut.-Col. McConihe was promoted to fill the vacancy, Major Alden being advanced to the Lieutenant-Colonelcy, and Capt. Colvin to the Majority.

#### GILLMORE ISSUES AN ORDER.

At this time, Col. McConihe was home on recruiting service, and Lieut.-Col. Alden administered the affairs of the regiment, and so thoroughly did he discipline and drill the command, that in the month of January, Maj.-Gen. Gillmore, commanding the Department, issued a special order commending the officers and soldiers of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth upon their general efficiency and military deportment, calling the attention of other regiments to their superior equipment, drill and discipline, as exhibited in the report of his Inspector-General. In the same month, it took part in an expedition to John's Island, and engaged in a slight skirmish with the enemy.

#### AMONG THE EVERGLADES.

In February, the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth was sent to Florida, after the defeat of Gen. Seymour in the celebrated battle of Olustee. This engagement closed the campaign; and the regiment remained at Jacksonville (taking part in a little fight at Cedar Creek,) until April, when it came North with the "old Tenth Army Corps" to engage in the grand campaign against Richmond, then being planned by Gen. Grant, and which, under God, was destined to forever end the rebellion.

#### FIGHTS "MIT" BUTLER.

The Tenth corps, under Gillmore, was assigned to Butler's command, and, with the Eighteenth corps, constituted that redoubtable warrior's force in his attack against Petersburg and Richmond from the South side. The expeditionary column left Gloucester Point, opposite Yorktown, May 5, and landed the following day at Bermuda Hundred, on the South side of the James River. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, the One Hundred and Sixtyninth engaged in the battle of Chester Station, on the Manchester and Petersburgh Railroad, with a loss in killed and wounded of fifty-six men. Drewry's Bluff and Foster's Plantation, (two fights at the last place,) followed, to be succeeded by

#### **COLD HARBOR, JUNE 1,**

where the regiment suffered a loss of one hundred and two men, among the number, Col. McConihe, killed, and Lieut.-Col. Alden wounded. Col. McConihe's last words were: "Close upon the colors, men." His loss was sincerely regretted, not more so among his numerous friends at home, to whom he was affectionately endeared by the possession of great social powers, than among the officers and men of the regiment. He had reached, with the regiment, the line of entrenchments held by the enemy, and had stepped upon the embankment, when he was shot and instantly expired. The color-bearer had been wounded; Lieut.-Col. Alden seized the standard and planted it – one of the very first – on the rebel works, when he, too, fell, with a wound that happily was not mortal. The regiment bore itself with the most conspicuous gallantry during the battle, and at once asserted itself as one of the very best fighting organizations in the army.

#### PROMOTIONS AND MORE FIGHTING.

Alden was now made Colonel, Colvin Lieutenant-Colonel, and Capt. Jos. Allen Major. Allen was one of the sufferers at Cold Harbor – ball in the forearm. Grant now threw his whole army South of the James, and the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth took a hand in an engagement at Petersburg Heights, on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of June. On the 30<sup>th</sup> of that month, in an attack upon the rebel line in front of Petersburg, the regiment suffered severely. An assault was to be made in front; a demonstration upon the flanks of the enemy was accordingly ordered, to divert their attention from the main point of attack. The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth took part in the feint. The officer commanding the brigade that was to lead the attacking column failed to get his troops in position at the hour named. The delay was fatal – the enemy discovered the plan of attack, and came down in unexpected force upon the flankers.

"Rebels to right of them, Rebels to left of them, Stormed, raved and thundered."

They seemed to come up from the earth – each blade of grass appeared to be converted into a rebel soldier. They poured a murderous fire into the Union ranks – no troops could withstand it. The regiment fell back, but with its face to the foe. There was no panic, no disorder, but a firm, unbroken line of glistening bayonets was presented to the howling, yelling devils that charged upon our boys. *In five minutes* seventy-four brave and noble soldiers as ever stood in serried ranks had either gone to swell the number of our martyred dead, or were laying torn and mangled victims of rebel shot and shell.

#### THE MINE.

The regiment next took part in the celebrated mine explosion of July 30. Here Capt. A. D. Vaughn, of Co. F, a gallant and glorious fellow, was killed. Brave as a lion, courteous and kind to all,

"None named him but to praise."

His dying request was to be buried on the field of battle, and he sleeps in an unknown, but not unwept or dishonored grave.

#### IN THE TRENCHES.

From June 23<sup>d</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup>, the regiment was in the trenches in front of Petersburg, subjected to the constant fire of the enemy. During this time, exclusive of the losses on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June and at the mine, it lost an aggregate of sixty-eight men.

#### A WICKED SHELL.

At Dutch Gap, August 13<sup>th</sup>, it was again engaged. Here Lieut. W. H. Swartwout, the Acting Adjutant, lost an arm – the same shell which paid its respects to him, killing and wounding thirteen officers and men of the regiment. The incident must not be passed over. Lieut. N. J. Crippen had been shot in the thigh by a canister ball. Under a heavy fire, Assistant Surgeon Mandeville extracted the ball, and presented it to Crippen with the remark: "Old fellow you are mighty lucky." No sooner were the words spoken than the fatal shell exploded, instantly killing Crippen, wounding Mandeville in four places, tearing away Swartwout's arm, and scattering death and destruction all around. Were all our implements of warfare as effective as this shell proved to be, wars and rumors of wars even would be entirely unknown the world over. A day's combat with such weapons would have annihilated both Grant's and Lee's armies.

#### FROM PLACE TO PLACE.

August 28<sup>th</sup>, the regiment returned to the Petersburg trenches, and remained just one month, until it was ordered on the North side of the James again. On the 29<sup>th</sup> of September, it took part in two engagements, – New Market and Fort Gilmer, – suffering a loss of about forty in both affairs. The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth now remained on the North side of the James until Butler set out on his memorable expedition against Fort

Fisher, when it was selected as one of the assaulting regiments. The enterprise, it will be remembered, resulted in lamentable failure. The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth again returned to winter quarters in front of Richmond, only to enjoy, for a very brief season, respite from the arduous labors of the campaign.

#### FORT FISHER AGAIN.

On the 3<sup>d</sup> of January, under Maj.-Gen. Terry, it again set out on the dangerous duty of compelling the surrender of Fort Fisher. After days of hardship upon the sea, subjected to the storms which rock the bosom of mother ocean at that season of the year, the regiment approached the hostile shores of the Cape Fear River. It was the first to disembark from the army transports, and tread the enemy's soil, – this time with an unfaltering faith that Fort Fisher was to be ours. In the assault upon the fort, in which for seven hours our heroic soldiers fought and struggled from bomb-proof to bomb-proof, Alden commanded the brigade, and Colvin the regiment. We know of no fiercer or more desperate fighting during the late war. Better *pluck* was never exhibited. That fight is a good subject for a historical painting. No battle in the war begins to approach it in dramatic power. The fleet firing her fifteen-inch "pellets," which blaze in magnificent arches over the doomed fort, and fall in beautiful, fiery circles in traverse after traverse, just ahead of the boys in blue, advancing as they advance; the pyrotechnic glare of the musketry in the gloom of the night; the hand-to-hand contests and the desperate struggles over the crests of the bomb-proofs; the garrison driven out of the fort, and surrendering only when they are pressed back by the waves of the sea upon the bayonets of the victorious Unionists. Hell scenes mimicked on earth.

#### EXPLOSION OF THE MAGAZINE.

The magazine of the fort exploded next morning, and the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth "had a hand in *that*." Upwards of seventy-five of the members were either blown into shapeless atoms in the air, or found a living burial beneath the debris of the fort, or were left shattered wrecks on the great ocean of humanity. Alden was rescued from a mass of dead and dying, and for four weeks the vital spark glimmered so faintly that once it was thought to have fled; but he lived to read his obituary in our columns, and modestly wear the star his valor won at Fort Fisher. Capt. Ferguson, – a modest worthy officer – and Lieut. McGregor – promoted from the ranks for good conduct – both lost their lives in the explosion. Lieuts. M. Ryan and S. L. Cipperly were killed in the attack. The entire loss of the regiment in the fight and explosion was about one hundred and thirty.

#### THANKS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

The New York troops engaged in this affair were complimented for their bravery and good conduct, by a concurrent resolution of thanks, passed by the Legislature, and approved by Gov. Fenton. We append an extract:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Legislature of the State of New York, and of the people of the State are due and are hereby tendered to the officers and soldiers of

the Forty-seventh regiment, Col. Christopher McDonald; the Forty-eighth regiment, Lieut.-Col. Wm. B. Coan; the One Hundred and Fifteenth regiment, Lieut.-Col. N. Johnson; the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth regiment, Col. Alonzo Alden, commanding, for their consummate skill and undaunted bravery in wresting from the enemies of our Government their last stronghold on the Atlantic coast.

#### IN NORTH CAROLINA.

The regiment now remained in North Carolina until its muster out of the United States service. It was the first regiment to enter Wilmington, (where it did provost duty for a short time,) and it took part in the capture of Raleigh. The march of our forces through the State to the capital was attended with more or less skirmishing, and the regiment was constantly in the presence of the enemy.

#### STATISTICS.

Aggregate strength of the 169th at date of muster	915	
Gained by recruits and transfer	953	
Total	1,868	
Lost by casualties, disease, resignations and other causes	916	
Original number of commissioned officers		39
New officers by promotion, appointment and assignment		44
Aggregate		83
Number of resignations	22	
Number of dismissals	6	
Number of killed in battle	8	
Number died of disease	2	
Number discharged	12	-50
Remaining		33

About five hundred men return with the regiment – a large number being absent sick and wounded, in hospital.

#### BATTLES.

The regiment has been in twenty-eight battles and skirmishes, beginning with Edenton road, and ending with Raleigh, N.C.

#### PERSONAL.

It is impossible, in a newspaper sketch, to do anything like full justice to the officers and men of the regiment, individually. Of the returning officers, only seven went out with the regiment bearing commissions: Alden, Major, now Brevet Brigadier; Colvin, Captain, now Lieutenant-Colonel; Surgeon Knowlson; J. H. Allen, Captain, now Major; F. W. Tarbell, First Lieutenant, now Captain; B. N. Smith, Second Lieutenant, now Captain; E. R. Smith, Second Lieutenant, now Captain.

I do not wish the remark qualified in the least – no braver man than General Alden ever drew a sabre, or wore the single star. A superior disciplinarian, a thorough tactician, cool and fearless in battle, he had no superior in the army as the commander of a regiment or brigade. Going out in 1861 as a Second Lieutenant in the Thirtieth regiment, he musters out of service a Brigadier-General by brevet, in command of the Third brigade, Second division, Tenth army corps. – Lieut.-Col. Colvin and

Major Allen have each done exceedingly well – the latter having been twice wounded. Dr. Knowlson followed the regiment through thick and thin, and comes home beloved by all in the command. His record is a proud one, and his friends may well congratulate him upon it. The Doctor was always on hand – whether duty called to the front, or devotion to the sick exercised his wits to procure from obstinate B.G.'s the necessary orders upon the commissary for a supply of prophylactics – by the barrel. Tarbell bears a terrible remembrance of the enemy's bullets on his person; and the two Smiths sustain the very best reputation as officers and gentlemen. B. N. Smith was, on one occasion, the recipient of a congratulatory order from Gen. Butler, for coolness and bravery in battle. Speaking of the Smith family, reminds me that at one time the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth was made happy by the presence of four Smiths as officers – two of them named Clark Smith.

There are others in the regiment – privates as well as officers – and some now out of it, of whom it would give me pleasure to speak; but where all have performed their duty so faithfully and heroically, the task may be well discharged when I say that what the regiment is they have made it, and its honor and fame belong as much to them as to those whose superior position attract the public eye in a more marked degree. Whatever of good report is attached to the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth regiment, the enlisted men have sustained their full part in its acquirement.

The following is a roster of all the officers of the regiment:

#### **COLONELS**

Name	Date of Rank	Remarks
Clarence Buel	October 11, 1862	Resigned
John McConihe	February 13, 1864	Killed
Alonzo Alden	June 1, 1864	

#### LIEUTENANT-COLONELS

Name	Date of Rank	Remarks
John McConihe	September 17, 1862	Promoted
Alonzo Alden	February 13, 1864	Promoted
James A. Colvin	June [1], 1864	

#### **MAJORS**

Name	Date of Rank	Remarks
Alonzo Alden	September 20, 1862	Promoted
James A. Colvin	February 13, 1864	Promoted
Joseph H. Allen	June [3], 1864	

#### **ADJUTANT**

Name	Date of Rank	Remarks
W. E. Kisselburgh	September 1, 1862	Resigned

#### **QUARTERMASTER**

'n			
	Name	Date of Rank	Remarks

Sidney N. Kinney September 1, 1862 Resigned	
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#### **SURGEON**

Name	Date of Rank	Remarks
John Knowlson	September 3, 1862	

#### ASSISTANT SURGEONS

Name	Date of Rank	Remarks
Joseph [F.] Skinner	September 18, 1862	Resigned
Clark Smith	March 2, 1863	
John S. Delevan	August 18, 1863	Not mustered
Aust. Mandeville	May 11, 1864	
P. L. F. Reynolds	September 22, 1862	Resigned
Homer G. Newton	December 15, 1863	Declined
Peter M. Murphy	January 14, 1864	Resigned
I. M. Schermerhorn	April 11, 1864	Not mustered
John T. Parker	December 8, 1864	

#### **CHAPLAINS**

Name	Date of Rank	Remarks
Joel W. Eaton	October 11, 1862	Resigned
Edgar [T.] Chapman	October 31, 1863	

#### **CAPTAINS**

Name	Date of Rank	Remarks
J. A. Colvin – A	August 21, 1862	Promoted
J. [F.] Thompson – A	February 13, 1864	Dismissed
Clark Smith – A	August 19, 1864	
Nat. Wood – B	September 13, 1862	Dismissed
Nat. Wood – B	June 8, 1863	Re-appointed
B. N. Smith – B	December 7, 1863	
Jos. H. Allen – C	September 16, 1862	Promoted
Thos. B. Eaton – C	June 1, 1864	Resigned
C. D. Merrill – C	November 2, 1864	Discharged
E. Van Santvoord – C	March 21, 1865	
W. B. Coleman – D	September 17, 1862	Dismissed
S. W. Snyder – D	March 30, 1863	Resigned
Chas. E. Morey – D	July [19,] 1864	Resigned
J. H. Warren – D	September 16, 1864	
John F. Croff – E	September 17, 186[2]	Resigned
F. W. Tarbell – E	February 21, 1863	Discharged
E. W. Church – E	October 1, 1864	
A. D. Vaughn – F	October 11, 1862	Killed
E. R. Smith – F	July 30, 1864	
J. T. McCoun – G	September 20, 1862	Discharged
E. R. Mosher – G	March 29, 1865	
W. H. Wickes – H	September 20, 1862	Dismissed
W. H. Lyon – H	February 12, 1864	Resigned
Henry Mulhall – H	August 16, 1864	
Michael Murnane – I	September 20, 1862	Resigned
J. B. Parmenter – I	December 31, 1862	Resigned
Dan'l J. Cary – I	November 29, 1863	Resigned

Name	Date of Rank	Remarks
Jas. H. Dunn – I	October 8, 1864	
Dan'l Ferguson – K	September 20, 1862	Killed
F. W. Tarbell – K	January 16, 1865	

#### FIRST LIEUTENANTS

Name	Date of Rank	Remarks
J. B. Parmenter – A	August 21, 1862	Promoted
J. H. Hughes – A	December 31, 1862	Died
A. R. Bell – A	September 5, 1863	Discharged
C. D. Merrill – A	May 24, 1864	Promoted
E. R. Mosher – A	November 2, 1864	Promoted
John B. Foot – A	March 29, 1865	
D. P. Benson – B	September 13, 1862	Resigned
B. N. Smith – B	December 4, 1862	Promoted
Clark Smith – B	December 7, 1863	Promoted
E. F. Vanderzee – B	August 19, 1864	
F. W. Tarbell – C	September 16, 1862	Promoted
C. E. Morey – C	February 21, 1863	Promoted
J. H. Warren – C	July 19, 1864	Promoted
Michael Russell – C	September 16, 1864	
Rob't O'Conner – D	September 17, 1862	Resigned
W. S. Birdsall – D	December 26, 1862	Killed
Jas. H. Dunn – D	May 16, 1864	Promoted
Michael Ryan – D	October 8, 1864	[Killed]
Chas. H. Palmer – E	September 17, 1862	Died
W. H. Merriam – E	July 28, 1863	Resigned
N. J. Crippen – E	May 27, 1864	Killed
E. W. Church – E	August 13, 1864	Promoted
E. P. Jaques – E	October 1, 1864	
J. [F.] Thompson – F	September 25, 1862	Promoted
T. [D.] Jellico – F	February 13, 1864	Discharged
Jas. H. Straight – F	June 24, 1864	
Geo. H. Gager – G	September 20, 1862	Resigned
T. B. Eaton – G	January 21, 1863	Promoted
W. M. Swartwout – G	June 1, 1864	Discharged
Chas. [L.] Knox – G	March 29, 1865	
W. S. Hartshorn – [H]	September 20, 1862	Dismissed
Wm. H. Lyon – H	February 22, 1863	Promoted
Henry Mulhall – H	February 12, 1864	Promoted
E. Van Santv'rd – H	August 16, 1864	Promoted
A. Tompkins – H	March 21, 1865	
S. W. Snyder – I	September 20, 1862	Promoted
Pat'k Connors – I	March 30, 1863	Resigned
Chas. Dummary – I	July 21, 1864	
Dan'l J. Cary – K	September 20, 1862	Promoted
E. R. Smith – K	November 29, 1863	Promoted
R. B. Van Alstyne – K	July 30, 1864	Discharged
R. J. Horton – K	March 27, 1865	

#### **SECOND LIEUTENANTS**

Name	Date of Rank	Remarks
B. N. Smith – A	August 21, 1862	Promoted
W. S. Birdsall – A	December 4, 1862	Promoted

Name	Date of Rank	Remarks
Clark Smith – A	December 26, 1862	Promoted
E. W. Church – A	December 7, 1863	Promoted
E. P. Jaques – A	August 13, 1864	Promoted
B. McGuire – A	October 1, 1864	
Mich'l Holmes – B	September 13, 1862	Resigned
E. M. Connor – B	January 2, 1863	Dismissed
Michael Ryan – B	September 20, 1863	Promoted
S. [L.] Cipperly – B	October 8, 1864	Killed
Chas. H. Noyes – B	January 17, 1865	Not mustered
Geo. A. Willis – B	March 30, 1865	1 (ot mastered
Chas. E. Morey – C	September 16, 1862	Promoted
James H. Dunn – C	February 21, 1863	Promoted
E. R. Mosher – C	May 16, 1864	Promoted
Mich'l Russell – C	August 16, 1864	Promoted
C. [G.] Francisco – C	September 16, 1864	Tromotou
J. H. Hughes – D	September 17, 1862	Promoted
D. [E.] Scriven – D	December 31, 1862	Resigned
Alex. Bell – D	July 26, 1863	Promoted
Chas. Dummary – D	September 5, 1863	Promoted
T. D. McGregor – D	June 24, 1864	Killed
Jas. H. Straight – D	July 21, 1864	Promoted
Geo. Campbell – D	January 17, 1865	
Henry Mulhall – E	September 17, 1862	Promoted
J. H. Warren – E	February 12, 1864	Promoted
A. Tompkins – E	July 19, 1864	Promoted
T. H. Gardner – E	March 21, 1865	
T. D. Jellico – F	September 23, 1862	Promoted
R. B. Van Alstyne – F	February 13, 1864	Promoted
Rollin Jenkins – F	July [30,] 1864	
T. B. Eaton – G	September 20, 1862	Promoted
C. D. Merrill – G	January 21, 1863	Promoted
J. Faulkner – G	May 24, 1864	
William H. Lyon – H	September 20, 1862	Promoted
J. B. Benjamin – H	February 22, 1863	Discharged
W. M. Swartwout – H	November 9, 1863	Promoted
Thomas J. Tilley – H	June 1, 1864	
Pat'k Connors – I	September 20, 1862	Promoted
N. J. Crippen – I	March 30, 1863	Promoted
E. F. Vanderzee – I	May 27, 1864	Promoted
Chas. L. Knox – I	August 19, 1864	Promoted
Benj. Duryea – I	March 29, 1865	
E. R. Smith – K	September 20, 1862	Promoted
E. Van Santv'rd – K	November 29, 1863	Promoted
John B. Foot – K	November 2, 1864	Promoted
James Hickey – K	March 29, 1865	Discharged.
C. S. Phillips – K	April 1, 1865	

The "discharges" were the result of wounds or physical disability contracted in the service. W. E. K.

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# The Troy Daily Whig.

JULY 24, 1865.

#### RETURNING REGIMENTS. - The One Hundred and

Sixty-ninth Regiment is expected to arrive here to-day. Mr. A. M. Knowlson received another dispatch yesterday, confirming the one received by him on Saturday, stating that the regiment would arrive in New York last evening. The regiment will probably come up the river from New York on a special transport. Let the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth have the reception they have earned. We believe they will have a generous welcome. Let the flags be flung to the breeze; let the city put on their smiles; let us have a holiday! Let our citizens remember that they have a duty to do – and do it.

# The Troy Daily Press.

JULY 25, 1865.

## RECEPTION OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH REGIMENT.

#### A Hearty Welcome to the Veterans.

This morning the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment, Brevet Brigadier-General Alden commanding – the last, but not the least of Rensselaer County's offering in the cause of the Union – arrived home. The steamer *Brooks* landed the regiment at the foot of Congress street a few minutes after six o'clock this morning. The officers and men immediately disembarked, and awaited the completion of the arrangements of the Committee of the Common Council on Reception, Aldermen Smart, Prentice and Morris. The following is a complete list of the field and line officers of the regiment, as furnished and reported by Adjutant Jaques, to whom we are under many obligations:

Brevet Brigadier-General Alonzo Alden, Colonel commanding. Lieutenant-Colonel – James A. Colvin. Major – J. H. Allen.

Surgeon – John Knowlson.

Assistant Surgeon – J. T. Parker.

Acting Quartermaster - Lieut. M. Russell.

Company A. – First Lieutenant, J. B. Foot; Second Lieutenant, George Campbell.

Company B. – Captain, B. N. Smith; First Lieutenant, Clark Smith; Second Lieutenant, Chas. Phillips.

Company C. – Captain, J. H. Warren; First Lieutenant, Chas. Dumary; Second Lieutenant, R. E. Jenkins.

Company D. – First Lieutenant, Edward P. Jaques; Second Lieutenant, B. McGuire.

Company E. – Captain, H. Mulhall; First Lieutenant, Edgar Vanderzee; Second Lieutenant, Thos. Tillev.

Company F. – Captain, E. R. Smith; First Lieutenant, J. H. Straight; Second Lieutenant, Benjamin Duryea.

Company G. – Captain, E. Van Santvoord; First Lieutenant, Charles Knox; Second Lieutenant, J. Faulkner

Company H. – Captain, E. W. Church; First Lieutenant, R. J. Horton; Second Lieutenant, C. G. Francisco.

Company I. – Captain, J. H. Dunn; First Lieutenant, M. Russell.

Company K. – Captain F. W. Tarbell; First Lieutenant, A. Tompkins; Second Lieutenant, G. A. Willis.

Total number of enlisted men, 515. Of this number, probably 150 men are of the original regiment.

#### APPEARANCE OF THE MEN.

The "rank and file" of the regiment appeared to the best possible advantage – clean, healthy, and neat in every respect. The strict discipline of Colonel Alden manifested itself in a manner that reflected credit upon his soldierly qualifications and the intelligence of his men.

#### THE REGIMENTAL BAND.

is composed of fifteen brass pieces, together with an excellent drum corps. The band is led by David F. Winters. The previous leader, Joseph Miller, a splendid cornet player, died in the hospital at Raleigh, North Carolina, the evening before the regiment started for home.

#### THE PARADE.

For some reason, which we are unable to explain, the line of march as laid down by the reception committee, was not resumed until near ten o'clock. In the meantime, the veterans "stacked arms" on the dock and remained there without anything to eat. We do not believe the fault can be attributed to the Common Council Committee. But *somebody* is to

blame. Finally, at ten o'clock, the line commenced moving, and observed the following line of march:

Up River street to Jacob, up Jacob to North Second, down North Second to Grand Division, down Grand Division to Fourth, down Fourth to Congress, down Congress to Third, up Third to Broadway, down Broadway to Second, down Second to Liberty, up First to Washington Square. On Washington Square the regiment was welcomed home.

The following was the

#### ORDER OF THE PROCESSION:

Capitol Police, under command of Superintendent Landen and Captain Cross.
Twenty-fourth Regiment Drum Corps.
Twenty-fourth Regiment, Major Steenburgh.
Sullivan's Band.
Veterans of other Regiments.
Washington Volunteers.
Hook and Ladder No. 3.
Taylor Hose Drum Corps.
Taylor Hose Company.
Rankin Steamer.
Osgood Steamer.

The fire department made a fine turnout. The regiment also looked well. On the line of march, General Alden and his officers were literally loaded down with bouquets. As the procession passed the court house, three cheers were proposed by County Clerk Brownell for the veterans of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth – and *such* cheers!

#### THE WELCOME.

The veterans formed in a hollow square on Washington Square, when Ald. Smart introduced Hon. J. A. Griswold, who welcomed the veterans in behalf of the city and county. He reviewed, briefly and eloquently, the career of the regiment, the war and its results, &c., and closed by tendering to the officers and members of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth a heartfelt welcome. Mr. G. spoke eloquently and to the point.

#### MR. WILLIAM H. MERRIAM,

formerly a private in the regiment, but now connected with the *Herald*, was then introduced, and addressed the veterans at length. His speech was both appropriate and eloquent.

The regiment then proceeded to Harmony Hall, where the Common Council Committee had a fine dinner prepared.

At three o'clock P.M., the officers of the regiment will be entertained by the city at the American House.

To-morrow at four P.M. the Nail Factory members of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth are to have a dinner at Usher's Grove.

## The Troy Paily Times.

JULY 25, 1865.

#### RECEPTION OF THE 169th REG'T.

#### OVATION TO RETURNING VALOR.

#### TROY'S WELCOME TO ITS VETERANS.

We have had a local Fourth of July to-day in honor of the return of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment. They have had a reception in Troy such as was eminently due to their valor, their services, and the lustre they have shed on our city. Although the ovation was quite impromptu in its character, it was none the less successful on that account. The welcome was one that must have proved gratifying to Gen. Alden's brave boys, – showing that while absent they had not been forgotten.

#### ARRIVAL.

The regiment reached the city about 7 o'clock this morning on the transport *John Brooks*, and remained at the foot of Congress street until the arrangements for their formal reception could be completed. Nothing of moment occurred on the journey from Raleigh, N. C. to Troy.

#### ARRANGEMENTS.

It was not known until yesterday that the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth would arrive to-day. As soon as the fact was ascertained, Major Steenberg, commanding the 24<sup>th</sup>, ordered out that regiment, and the response was prompt and hearty. The firemen also resolved to do honor to their returning brothers, and the result was a very respectable procession at very short notice. The local military and firemen formed on River street, and awaited the coming of the returning soldiers. The reception line extended from Broadway to State street, – the military being opposite the Troy House.

#### THE HEROES OF THE DAY.

Expectation was on tip-toe among the military and firemen and the crowds of spectators in the streets as the war-worn One Hundred and Sixty-ninth filed from the transport, formed into line, and marched to the scene of the reception. – Aldermen Smart and Prentice, of the Common Council committee, were hurrying to-and-fro on horseback; the Capital Police cleared away teams; officers were giving the words of command, and windows on the bend were filled with faces. With steady tread the veterans marched along. At their head rode Alden, with well-earned stars

upon his shoulders; Dr. Knowlson, the faithful Surgeon, and Capt. Clark Smith, doing escort duty. This triumvirate cleared the way, and close to them was Colvin, the brave Lieutenant-Colonel, while the efficient Major Allen brought up the rear, and the Adjutant and other officers were scattered along the line. But the central figures in the picture were the men – bronzed, travel-stained and dusty, yet with the erect bearing and firm tramp of veterans. Within their lines were borne the colors, riddled with shot, and torn amid the fierce onset of the foe – the same colors that McConihe, with his last breath, told his men to defend. It was a suggestive moment as the regiment passed into the streets of its home, and once more became a part of the busy current of our daily life. Soldiers no longer, but citizens again. Appropriate it was that the fine regimental band should play "Home Again," and that the flags should wave on every mast in honor of the soldiers' return.

#### THE PROCESSION.

As the regiment passed upward, the Twenty-fourth received it with a "present arms," and the entire procession formed in the following order:

Platoon of Capital Police, under command of Capts. Cross, Northup, Squire and Clute, Common Council Committee, Veteran Officers. Perkins' Drum Corps, Sullivan's Band, Twenty-fourth Regiment, Major Steenberg, commanding, Assistant Engineers Simmons and Garfield, Drum Corps, Washington Volunteer Fire Co., Trojan Hook and Ladder Co., No. 3, Chapin's Drum Corps, J. C. Taylor Hose Co., No. 3, Rough and Ready Hose Co., No. 4, Hugh Rankin Steamer No. 2. J. C. Osgood Steamer No. 3, One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment, N. Y. S. V., Brig.-Gen. Alonzo Alden commanding.

Many features of the procession were eminently creditable. The Twenty-fourth Regiment turned out strong and looked well. The Fire Department also made a highly creditable appearance. Severe illness in the family of Chief Engineer Noble caused the command to devolve upon Assistant Simmons. The Capital Police looked very finely, and there was a strong force out. The line of march was as follows:

Up River street to Jacob, up Jacob to North Second, down North Second to Grand Division, down Grand Division to Fourth, down Fourth to Congress, down Congress to Third, up Third to Broadway, down Broadway to Second, down Second to Liberty, down Liberty to First, up First to Washington Square.

The procession began its march about 10 o'clock A.M. Everywhere the heroes of the day had warm greetings. One of the first objects that met their eyes was a

#### BANNER OF WELCOME.

Mr. Geo. G. Arnold, the sutler of the regiment, who followed its fortunes through all the different campaigns in which it was engaged, empowered Kelly some weeks ago to paint a banner of welcome to the returning heroes. The work has been done in the most artistic manner. The banner is suspended across River street, from the Troy House to Starkweather, Norton & Co.'s store, and has attracted great attention. It bears the names of fifteen of the engagements of the regiment, and also the names of Buel, McConihe, Alden, Colvin, Allen, and Knowlson, and all of the officers who have been killed. On the reverse, the motto: "Honor to the brave! Future generations will bless the preservers of the Republic." The whole design is appropriate and graceful, and reflects credit upon Mr. Arnold for his liberality and patriotism.

In this connection, it may not be amiss to state that the testimony of the returning soldiers is universal in favor of Mr. A., whose connection with the regiment has always been marked by the best of feeling on all sides. We welcome George back to Troy.

#### THE REGIMENT'S RECORD.

After the full summary of the regiment's deeds, published yesterday, no sketch of their organization, personnel, nor services is needed. Their heroic deeds seemed to rise before every eye, as the tattered flags and the veteran forms passed in review this morning along our city's streets. They could be seen defying the swamps of Charleston, manning the trenches of Petersburgh, and fighting from casemate to casemate at Fort Fisher. Even the explosion that hurled them into mid-air could almost be pictured on those torn ensigns. Noble Alden, at their head, receiving the plaudits of grateful fellow-citizens, seemed a type of the patient valor that had brought the regiment home in triumph – the same indomitable spirit that had wound up the rebellion. Five hundred strong they returned to-day.

#### AN INCIDENT.

As the procession was passing the residence of Mrs. M. E. Roberts, No. 30 Second street, a beautiful little girl of about five years, Aggie M. Arnold, daughter of George G. Arnold, presented to Gen. Alden a very handsome wreath, composed of myrtle, with verbenas, "everlastings," and other choice flowers. The little creature seemed delighted with this opportunity of paying her tribute to the worth and bravery of the hero of Fort Fisher, and we doubt not its reception was, to the war-worn veteran, one of the most pleasant features in this festal day of welcome. And the gift was no unmeaning one, for the little child has long manifested a deep interest in her friend, the General. One of her little prayers, for many days, was, "God bless Gen. Alden, and don't let him get shooted at all." It is a blessed thing, the friendship and goodwill of little children.

#### AT WASHINGTON SQUARE.

On reaching Washington Square, about noon, the formal reception of the regiment took place. A large crowd had assembled, and the procession formed a triangle around the square. The exercises commenced with a

fervent prayer by Rev. Dr. Baldwin. We have rarely heard a more impressive invocation.

Ald. Smart introduced Hon. John. A. Griswold, who said that while he appeared unexpectedly on this occasion, no one could appear with feelings of deeper gratitude. Mr. G. pictured the sudden call to arms – the noble response – the alacrity of Troy, Rensselaer, and Washington Counties in responding to the calls of our country. We are now welcoming them back, one after another, not as regiments, but as representatives of once strong organizations. In none of these did we feel more pride than in the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth. We know that Charleston, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Fort Fisher, and the war-scarred banners all tell of the bravery and deeds of the regiment. And the obsequies of its martyred dead, from time to time, reminded us of its services. Mr. Griswold paid a high tribute to the late Col. John McConihe, and gave the regiment a renewed welcome to the community which would never forget the brave soldiers of the second war of independence.

Three cheers were given for Mr. Griswold and three for the "old Flag." Brig.-Gen. Alden bowed his acknowledgements, and Ald. Smart introduced Mr. Wm. A. Merriam, of the New York *Herald*, and formerly a Lieutenant in the regiment, who delivered a most eloquent and appropriate address, referring to the history of the regiment, its lamented dead, and its living heroes – with especial reference to Gen. Alden, which called forth three cheers for the General. We shall publish Mr. Merriam's remarks in full to-morrow. Our correspondent friend had a most enthusiastic reception.

#### COLLATION.

The regiment then marched to Harmony Hall, where a fine collation was in waiting. It was then arranged that the men should repair to their homes.

#### RAIN.

A slight shower fell while the speeches were being delivered, but this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the audience nor interrupt the remarks of Messrs, Griswold and Merriam.

#### LOOKED WELL.

It was the general remark that of all the returning regiments who had passed through Troy, the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth looked by far the best of any our citizens had seen. Their Band was a great feature, although deprived of its leader, who died the day the regiment left Raleigh.

#### SIXTH WARD.

The residents of the Sixth Ward intend to give a dinner to Co. I, at 4 o'clock, to-morrow afternoon, in Usher's Island Grove. We are indebted to the chairman of the committee, Mr. Travell, for an invitation to both the senior and local editors of the paper to be present.

#### **MAJOR STEENBERG**

won many praises by the manner in which he handled the Twenty-fourth Regiment. Col. Isaac McConihe, jr., was in the city, but did not parade, in

view of his relationship to the late Col. John McConihe, of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth.

#### AT NEW YORK.

The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth had a splendid reception in New York yesterday – a fine dinner and a good time. The New York papers of this morning speak well of the regiment. The *Times* says:

The regiment marched up Broadway to the New York State Agency Rooms, over Centre Market, where a most substantial dinner was provided by Col. Colyer. Among the various items in the bill of fare, we noticed an abundant supply of peaches, pears and watermelons, which evidently gave the boys a pleasant surprise, as well as a delicious treat.

#### The *Herald* says:

The organization has done good service in the war, and is a credit to the State, and more particularly to the locality in which they were raised. At three o'clock, the regiment was marched down Broadway, accompanied by Col. Colyer. On reaching the Astor House, they were halted, when Gen. Hooker came on the steps, and was received with repeated cheers. He made a few remarks, welcoming the soldiers back to their homes. The General's short speech was received with great enthusiasm. At its conclusion, the line of march was again taken up down Broadway.

#### **ONLY ONE MORE.**

The Griswold Cavalry is the only regiment that Troy can welcome home. Justice has been done to all the rest.

#### OUR POLICE.

Gen. Alden spoke in the highest terms of our Capital Police arrangements. He said "they were really admirable."

#### THE REGIMENT

is going to Albany this afternoon, and will remain at the barracks.

### The Troy Daily Press.

JULY 26, 1865.

CITY AND VICINITY NEWS.

#### HONORS TO THE HEROES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH.

– The reception of the gallant boys of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment yesterday, was in every respect a success. For this, great credit is due to the Common Council Committee – Ald. Smart and Prentice, both of whom were untiring in their efforts to display the city's welcome to the veterans. At the conclusion of the formal reception exercises on Washington Square, the regiment was escorted to Harmony Hall, where a fine dinner had been prepared for the boys. And they did it full justice. At three P.M., the officers of the regiment were entertained at the American House. Ald. Smart presided, and on his right was Gen. Alden and correspondent Merriam. A few members of the Common Council were also present. Merriam, the ex-private and officer, was in his happiest mood. Ald. Smart announced the regular toasts, as follows:

The Union — Established by the wisdom of our forefathers; sustained and defended by the valor and patriotism of their sons, worthy examples of whom we welcome home to-day, — "The Union must and shall be preserved."

Responded to by J. S. Thorn, of the Times, in an address brief and pertinent.

The One Hundred and Sixty-Ninth Regiment – From Suffolk to Charleston, from Charleston to Petersburgh, from Petersburgh to Cold Harbor, from Cold Harbor to Fort Fisher and Raleigh, they have kept step to the music of the Union, and in many a hard-fought battle illustrated the true type of the American citizen soldier. We welcome them with grateful hearts and open arms to the peaceful homes their valor has given to us and our descendants.

Responded to by General Alden, who remarked that his forte was not public speaking. The history of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth speaks for itself. The General then returned thanks for the honors extended to him and his command by the citizens of Troy. He was loudly applauded.

*The Memory* of Colonel McConihe, Captain Ferguson, Vaughn, and Lieutenants Birdsall, McGregor, Crippen, Ryan and Cipperly, the martyred dead of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth.

Responded to by William H. Merriam, Esq., in a really able and eloquent speech.

The Press – The Bulwark of our Liberties and the Defender of our Rights.

Responded to by A. S. Pease, of The Press.

Lieutenant-Colonel Colvin offered the following:

Alderman Smart and Alderman Prentice, the Twenty-fourth Regiment and the Fire Department: For their generous labors in our behalf this day, we cordially extend our thanks. The success of our welcome home is largely due to their organized efforts, and we take pleasure in recognizing this fact.

Alderman Smart responded, saying that the city could not do too much for the gallant One Hundred and Sixty-ninth, and that he was determined to do his share. Mr. Merriam then proposed the health of the "brace of beauties – Captain Clark Smith and Lieutenant Kisselburgh." This "brought down the house," as did also the reply of Lieutenant K.

Several volunteer toasts and sentiments followed, which were responded to by Colonel J. A. Colvin, Joseph J. Alden, Colonel Hyde, Major Steenburgh, Alderman Prentice, Thomas Hurley, of THE PRESS, and others. The feast was a great success.

#### THE REGIMENT

soon after formed in line and proceeded to the Albany barracks. It will be paid off on Monday next.

#### THE NAIL FACTORY COMPANY

will be entertained at Usher's Grove this P.M.

#### GENERAL ALDEN

has issued the following card:

The officers and men of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment N. Y. Volunteers, hereby tender our thanks to the citizens of Troy for the very flattering reception extended to us yesterday. It was to a certain extent a surprise. It was well known that regiments had returned heretofore, and had been uniformly received with every mark of honor and approbation, and it was thought that you had become weary of such things. But this was a mistake. The greeting we received at your hands was one that will long be remembered by us all with pleasure, and serve to repay us somewhat for the sufferings and toils of the last three years.

Our especial thanks are due to the Twenty-fourth regiment, the fire department, the veteran officers who were in line, the Capitol Police, and to the Hon. John A. Griswold and Wm. H. Merriam, Esq., who were immediately engaged in the ceremonies of the day, and to Alderman Smart, Prentice and Morris, the very efficient Common Council Committee.

ALONZO ALDEN, Brevet Brig.-Gen. And Col. Com. Reg. Troy, July 26, 1865.

#### THANKS THE REGIMENT.

Previous to leaving North Carolina the following orders were issued. They speak for themselves:

#### ORDER FROM GENERAL LITTELL.

Headquarters, Second Division, Tenth Army Corps, Raleigh, N.C., July 18, 1865.

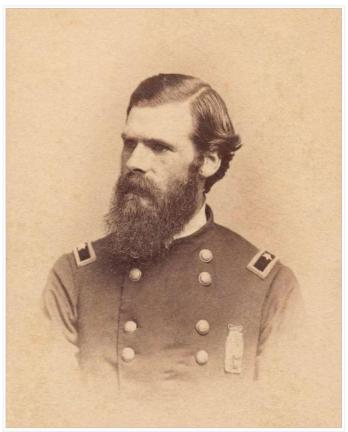
General Orders No. 18:

The Brevet Brigadier-General commanding, on his own behalf and that of a grateful country, avails himself of this most befitting occasion to thank the officers and men of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment New York State Volunteers, for their gallant services during the past three years, in suppressing a rebellion, the most formidable in the annals of history. As an organization, your career has been brilliant, and from records at these and superior headquarters, it appears that you have participated in twenty-eight different engagements, and on every occasion your conduct has not only been irreproachable, but such as to

secure complimentary notice from your commanding generals. Your work is done, and *well* done; and now you return to your homes to enjoy the blessings of peace which you have conquered, and to rejoice in the consciousness that you have borne no *small* part in the attainment of it. You bear with you into civil life the gratitude of your country; and honor to the "Empire State," and hereafter you may each be proud to say that you were members of the One Hundred and Sixtyninth Regiment New York Volunteers, and as such identified with the famous Second Division, Tenth Army Corps. By order of

Brevet Brig.-Gen. J. S. LITTELL.

B. N. Smith, Captain, 169th N. Y. V. and A. A. A. G.



Bvt. Brig.-Gen. and Col. Alonzo Alden, commanding 169<sup>th</sup> N.Y. (1865) Collection of Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr.

#### ORDER FROM GENERAL ALDEN.

HEADQUARTERS, ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH N. Y. S. V.,

RALEIGH, N. C., July 19, 1865.

#### General Orders No. 28:

After nearly three years of military service, this command is about to return to its own State for final payment and discharge. When that is accomplished, and your final accounts with the government have been settled, the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment N. Y. S. V. will cease to exist as an organization, but its memory and enviable reputation will long be cherished. Those who have served in its ranks, and survived the fiery ordeal through which it has passed; and the

friends of its honored heroes who have filled a patriot's grave, will never forget the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment, or a single chapter in its eventful history.

October sixth, 1862, this regiment was organized with an aggregate of 915 officers and men; since which time it has gained by recruits, transfers and otherwise, an aggregate of 953, making 1,868 officers and men connected with it since its organization; and the regiment has lost by casualties in battle, disease, etc., 963 officers and men.

Since its organization there have been connected with the regiment eighty-seven commissioned officers. Because of resignations, casualties in battle and other causes, fifty-two officers have been dropped from the rolls.

The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment has participated in twenty-eight separate and distinct engagements, and in some of them has lost heavily; in all, without exception, it has acquitted itself with honor, and received the compliments of the commanding generals. We are called upon to mourn the loss of many of our brave comrades who have fallen in the storm of battle. On the bloody field of Cold Harbor, our gallant colonel, McConihe, fell. He knew no such thing as *fear*; he clearly comprehended the purpose of the commanding general, and with *victory* for his watchword, with coolness and deliberation, he led his command upon the terrible, and to him, fatal charge. Many of our brave comrades fell in this terrible conflict, which with Petersburgh, Gilmer, and Fort Fisher, charges already renowned in history, this command will have occasion long to remember.

While we mourn with those that mourn and weep with those that weep, for these our country's martyrs, we also rejoice that their final and crowning efforts were patriotic and Godly – in defence and for the restoration of their insulted and bleeding country, and for the more effectual re-opening and re-establishment of God's vineyard for His people. You are now about to resume your peaceful avocations. Anxiously and eagerly your families and friends wait to greet your return; and by all good citizens will you be honored as the saviors of our country. Let the same zeal and fidelity characterize your conduct in civil pursuits as have secured your success in arms, and your civil career will be attended with prosperity and success. By order,

ALONZO ALDEN, Col. and Brevet Brig.-Gen. Com. Reg.

Ed. P. Jaques, First Lieut. and Act. Adj.

## The Troy Daily Times.

July 26, 1865.

Speech of Mr. Wm. H. Merriam, at the Reception of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment N. Y. S. V., on Washington Square, July 25, 1865.

Soldiers and Fellow-Citizens: I am most overwhelmingly rejoiced that I left the capitulated capital of the so-called Southern Confederacy to behold this thriceglorious day in the ever-memorable annals of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth New York Volunteers. After years of battle-scarred service, wherein honor and

glory and imperishable renown have been truly won in defense of the country and the Constitution that is supreme over it, these gallant veterans return to you today. fellow-citizens of Troy and of Rensselaer, the torn, stained, but pure and righteous old banners which three years since they bore to the field of strife amid so much of hope and fear and sorrow. They come to you bronzed in the service of the Republic, worn-down and weary after many an honorable struggle in the holy cause of civilization, of freedom, and the eternal perpetuity of Constitutional government on this continent. It has been theirs to aid with sword in hand in meting out justice to a haughty, relentless and thoroughly implacable foe. They did it nobly in defense of your firesides and your fanes and all that you hold dear here below, and it is indeed fitting that you, whose immediate representatives and defenders they have been, should, on this calendar day in the Ides of July, in the season of foliage and genial warmth, pour out upon their honored heads the wealth of your gratitude and affection. To-day witnesses the consummation of that high and holy contract of three years' since between these hardy veterans and this people, which shall in all the future, in all the coming and fleeing years, constitute a lofty claim upon your remembrance, upon your respect and upon your veneration. All honor then to their unsurpassed devotion to the country in its hour of supreme agony and trial, - their dauntless courage, - their impressive gallantry on the field of battle, with their faces to the foe, and their honest, manly hearts and stout arms only bent on maintaining the integrity of the Union and its now really "gorgeous ensign," "the flag of the free," before the world. These gallant men have returned to you sanctified by all of those glorious and never-dying traditions that had their birth in the twenty-three days of great investment at Suffolk, and which were only heightened by the never-to-be-forgotten scenes on the banks of the Nansemond and the Blackwater; the siege of Charleston; among the green everglades of Florida; at Olustee; on the fatal but glorious field of Cold Harbor; on the banks of the placid and now more than historic James; in front of Richmond and at Fort Fisher. I say, now, that the scanty remnant of all those who went forth from these homes, these streets, these churches, these busy marts of commerce and impatient haste, these spots, where memory

Always loved to linger, and Loving lingered long,

have come to you again to take on the character and form of model citizens; enshrine them in your hearts, and see to it that their deeds for your weal do not soon perish from the memory of all who remained to encourage them with means, and inspire them with hope.

But they are not all here. Hundreds of those noble men, who three brief years since determined in their hearts that the Republic should suffer no detriment at the insistence of bad men within its borders, and joined their fortunes to this gallant command, are not here to-day, to smile at the gladdening welcome of these goodly citizens and accept the winsomeness of all these fair ladies. Many of them sleep their final sleep on the shores of the ever-musical sea, all along the Atlantic Coast, from Hampton Roads to Fort Fisher, and Charleston. The mighty waters of that great sea rise up in billowing and monumental splendor at their patriot graves, dash, break and die away, and the immortal dead of this city and county sleep on – sleep ever, till called to obey the final summons – the precursor of that lasting victory.

Foremost among the noble fallen, let us on this auspicious occasion not fail to remember the patriotic services of that fresh young child of the Republic, whose honored remains to-day rest, in the silence of death, in yonder Oakwood. Let us not forget that to the gallant Col. John McConihe was accorded the immortal privilege of falling on the field of battle, "in the front rank of the peril," in defence

of an indispensable principle, and let it be ours to see to it that the memory of one who in life no less than in death twined around the historic features of the good old One Hundred and Sixty-ninth New York so many amaranths of sempiternal fame and glory, and honor, be not forgotten in all the hours that are to come and go. Unselfishly offering his life upon the altar of his country and its cause, let fragrant memories ever cluster around the grave of our young, daring and heroic leader.

Neither must we omit a melancholy remembrance of those other gallant, tried and faithful officers, who have fallen on the field ere reaching the goal of Peace. To memory dear will ever be the names of the manly and ardent Hughes; the impetuous, stern and noble Vaughn; the lovely, gallant and patriotic young Walter Birdsall, of this city, who died with his sword outdrawn upon the enemy; the chivalric and patient Ferguson; the courteous and brave Palmer; the earnest, handsome and thoroughgoing young soldier, Norman J. Crippen; the genial and true officer and soldier, Ryan; and Cipperly and McGregor, all of whom met soldiers' deaths as soldiers most of all desire to die.

Neither must we fail to recall here and now to our recollection the many deeds of high public service of that commander of the regiment who united to stern discipline and an unfaltering soldierly bearing, a boundless courage, a triple devotion to his flag, trailed by traitors-in-arms, and whose presence we hail here to-day with equal emotions of affectionate respect and gratitude, General Alonzo Alden, one of the perishless heroes of Cold Harbor and memorable Fort Fisher. May his gallant life long be spared to us, and may we never fail to yield a tribute of homage to a General who by his great deeds certainly deserves so well of his country.

Welcome then again, thrice glorious Hundred and Sixty-ninth. The laurel of success is yours – the chaplet of fame has been honorably won, and will fittingly deck in all the future those honest brows, the seat of so much patriotism, and the birthplace of so much genuine impulse. May it be yours henceforth to repose in the midst of arms, and that in your presence the brow of him who is war's majesty "may be encircled as at a festival with the bloodless but imperishable garlands of Peace, of Science, of Religion and of Art."

# The Troy Daily Whig.

July 26, 1865.

### The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Home From the Wars – A Glorious Welcome to the Veterans.

At seven o'clock, yesterday morning, the steamer *John Brooks* arrived at the foot of Congress street, with the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment on board. During the time which elapsed before the soldiers were marched from the steamer, a large crowd of citizens were congregated at the dock, anxious to catch a glimpse of familiar faces among the returned veterans. There are in the regiment five hundred and fifteen men, of whom probably not more than one hundred and fifty are of

the original number which left here in 1862. We published yesterday morning a list of the original officers of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth. The following is a complete list of the present field and line officers: –

> Brevet Brigadier-General Alonzo Alden, Colonel commanding.

Lieutenant-Colonel – James A. Colvin.

Major – J. H. Allen.

Surgeon – John Knowlson.

Assistant Surgeon – J. T. Parker.

Acting Quartermaster – Lieut. M. Russell.

Company A. – First Lieutenant, J. B. Foot; Second

Lieutenant, George Campbell.

Company B. - Captain, B. N. Smith; First Lieutenant, Clark

Smith; Second Lieutenant, Chas. Phillips.

Company C. - Captain, J. H. Warren; First

Lieutenant, Chas. Dumary; Second Lieutenant, R. E.

Jenkins.

Company D. – First Lieutenant, Edward P. Jaques;

Second Lieutenant, B. McGuire.

Company E. - Captain, H. Mulhall; First Lieutenant, Edgar

Vanderzee; Second Lieutenant, Thos. Tilley.

Company F. - Captain, E. R. Smith; First Lieutenant, J. H.

Straight; Second Lieutenant, Benjamin Duryea.

Company G. – Captain, E. Van Santvoord; First

Lieutenant, Charles Knox; Second Lieutenant, J.

Faulkner.

Company H. - Captain, E. W. Church; First

Lieutenant, R. J. Horton; Second Lieutenant, C. G.

Francisco.

Company I. - Captain, J. H. Dunn; First Lieutenant,

M. Russell.

Company K. – Captain F. W. Tarbell; First

Lieutenant, A. Tompkins; Second Lieutenant, G. A. Willis.

The Twenty-fourth Regiment and Fire Department formed on River street and waited until the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth came into line, when the procession moved on up River street to Jacob, up Jacob to North Second, down North Second to Grand Division, down Grand Division to Fourth, down Fourth to Broadway, down Broadway to Second, down Second to Liberty, down Liberty to First, and up First to Washington Square. The procession was formed in the following order: –

> Platoon of Capital Police, under command of Capts. Cross, Northrup, Squire and Clute, Common Council Committee, Veteran Officers, Perkins' Drum Corps,

Sullivan's Band,

Twenty-fourth Regiment, Major Steenberg, commanding, Assistant Engineers Simmons and Garfield,

Drum Corps,

Washington Volunteer Fire Co.,

Trojan Hook and Ladder Co., No. 3,
Chapin's Drum Corps,
J. C. Taylor Hose Co., No. 3,
Rough and Ready Hose Co., No. 4,
Hugh Rankin Steamer, No. 2,
J. C. Osgood Steamer, No. 3,
One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment, N. Y. S. V.,
Brig.-Gen. Alonzo Alden, commanding.

The regimental colors of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth were borne in the procession. The colors were riddled with the bullets of twenty-eight battles and skirmishes, at Suffolk, Blackwater, Hanover Junction, Siege of Charleston, John's Island, Chester Station, Bermuda Hundred, Cold Harbor, Fort Anderson, Wilmington, Petersburgh, Strawberry Plains, Chapin's Farm, Deep Bottom, &c.

The procession halted at Washington Square, where the reception ceremonies took place. Ald. Smart introduced Hon. J. A. Griswold, who welcomed the veterans in behalf of the city and county. He reviewed, briefly and eloquently, the career of the regiment, the war and its results, &c.., and closed by tendering to the officers and members of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth a heartfelt welcome. The remarks of Mr. G. were loudly applauded by the returning veterans. The speech was, indeed, a fitting welcome, on the part of the citizens of Troy, to the gallant One Hundred and Sixty-ninth. Correspondent Wm. H. Merriam, of the New York *Herald*, was also introduced to the audience, and made one of his characteristic speeches. At the conclusion of Mr. Merriam's remarks, the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth marched to Harmony Hall, where the Common Council Committee had caused a repast to be prepared.

The officers were entertained at the American House. At the conclusion of the dinner toasts, sentiments and speech-making ruled the hour. The following were the regular toasts:

The Union – Established by the wisdom of our forefathers; sustained and defended by the valor and patriotism of their sons, worthy examples of whom we welcome home to-day, – "The Union – it must and shall be preserved."

Responded to by J. S. Thorn, of the Times.

The One Hundred and Sixty-Ninth Regiment – From Suffolk to Charleston, from Charleston to Petersburgh, from Petersburgh to Cold Harbor, from Cold Harbor to Fort Fisher and Raleigh, they have kept step to the music of the Union, and in many a hard-fought battle illustrated the true type of the American citizen soldier. We welcome them with grateful hearts and open arms to the peaceful homes their valor has given to us and our descendants.

Responded to by General Alden.

*The Memory* of Col. McConihe, Captain Ferguson, Vaughn, and Lieutenants Birdsall, McGregor, Crippen, Ryan and Cipperly – the martyred dead of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth.

Responded to by William H. Merriam, Esq.

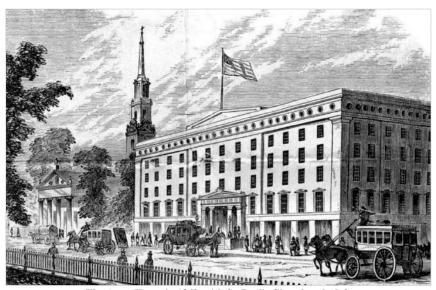
The Press - The Bulwark of our Liberties and the Defender of our Rights.

Responded to by A. S. Pease, of the *Press*.

Several volunteer toasts and sentiments followed, which were responded to by Col. J. A. Colvin, Ald. Smart, Jos. J. Alden, Col. Hyde, Major Steenberg, Major Kisselburgh, and others.

The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment left at four o'clock for the Albany Road Barracks, where they will remain until paid off and mustered out

Great credit is due to the Common Council Committee, to Major Steenberg, who, on account of the absence of the Colonel and Lieut.-Colonel, had command of the Twenty-fourth Regiment, and to the officers of the Fire Department, for their exertions to make the reception a success, and a welcome worthy of the returning veterans.



The Astor House in 1862, with St. Paul's Chapel to the left

The New York papers of yesterday, had the following in regard to the
 One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment: –

The regiment marched up Broadway to the New York State Agency Rooms, over Centre Market, where a most substantial dinner was provided by Col. Colyer. Among the various items in the bill of fare, we noticed an abundant supply of peaches, pears and watermelons, which evidently gave the boys a pleasant surprise, as well as a delicious treat. -N. Y. Times.

The organization has done good service in the war, and is a credit to the State, and more particularly to the locality in which they were raised. At three o'clock, the regiment marched down Broadway, accompanied by Col. Colyer. On reaching the Astor House, they were halted, when Gen. Hooker came on the steps, and was received with repeated cheers. He made a few remarks, welcoming the soldiers back to their homes. The General's short speech was received with great enthusiasm. At its conclusion, the line of march was taken up down Broadway. – Herald.

A SPLENDID BANNER. – A splendid banner suspended across River street, from the Troy House to Starkweather, Norton & Co's. store, attracted no little attention yesterday afternoon. It was painted by Kelly, at Mr. Geo. G. Arnold's expense. Upon it were inscribed the names of fifteen of the engagements of the 169<sup>th</sup> Reg't., and also the names of Buel, McConihe, Alden, Allen and Knowlson, and all of the officers who have been killed. On the reverse, the motto: "Honor to the brave; future generations will bless the preservers of the Republic."



#### THE LOWVILLE REPUBLICAN.

LOWVILLE, N.Y., ca. 1864.

THE COMMON SOLDIER. — We never meet a common soldier without profound respect, and an inclination to salute him as if he were a major-general. There he goes in his faded blue, perhaps he limps a little, maybe he gets over the ground painfully on crutches or with a staff, perhaps if you touch your hat to him he cannot return the salute for want of a right hand, or perchance an ill-cast bullet has made his face beautiful forever by an ugly gouge. He carries with him Wagner; as we turn to look at him, we know he did not flinch on that slippery sod. Or he was in the smoke and fury of Gettysburg. Or he endured the hardships of the Louisiana campaign, until he

got hit at Irish Bend. Or he remembers Antietam, where for hours he stood where the shot and shell came right along – stood still. Or he follows Grant, following victory and eagles that never have retreated; or went down into the hot fight with Rosecrans, crowding the enemy by sheer pluck. Or he rode with Kilpatrick and peeped into Richmond streets, or went with him into many a gallant fray, and is rather proud of his sabred forehead. Or he has come free out of a dozen bloody fields; or has caught in camp some nameless fever which consumes him.

The nation honors him living, or, grateful, mourns him, the private soldier, dead. Where he sleeps is sacred ground; and when this war is over, monuments shall rise wherever the soldiers of the Union have laid down their lives for it. – In this Holiday time we will think, of course, what we can do for the soldier, here or with his distant regiment. But we are hardly yet fully conscious of what he has done for us, or what it is to save the liberties of a nation, and to teach it the great lessons of self-devotion.

## The Troy Paily Times.

APRIL 13, 1871.

DEATH OF SERGEANT GEORGE SAUER. – One by one

the brave men whose bodies were torn and riddled by rebel shells and bullets in the late rebellion, are passing away to that "undiscovered country" where there is no war, and where the Prince of Peace sits upon His throne of love. The last of these is George Sauer, who was a Sergeant in Co. G, One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment New York Volunteers. He died this morning of consumption, the result of exposure in the army. When the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment was formed there were in Co. G about a dozen Germans, who had volunteered to defend the honor of their adopted country. George Sauer was among the number. There were no better soldiers in the regiment than they, and not one among them who had a better record than the deceased. George was for a long time a member of the color-guard, and when the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth under "Baldy" Smith charged the rebel lines at Cold Harbor he was in the front ranks in the very midst of that dance of death. "Close upon the colors!" were the words of Col.

McConihe, the gallant leader of the regiment, as his eyes looked down the line for the last time and saw the gap that had been made in the color-guard, every man of which had been shot down while protecting the dear old bulletriddled flag they loved so well. George fell with his comrades, leaving a leg upon the battlefield. Poor fellow, he has now gone to join his leader and many of his comrades in the fight who laid down their lives on that field of strife. But he will be tenderly remembered by all who survive him, for he was a kind-hearted, generous man, and wore the stamp of nature's nobility upon his brow. The deceased was a member of Post Willard, of the United Ancient Order of Druids, of the order of "Red Men" in a German lodge, and of the German Mutual Aid Society, all of which we presume will attend his funeral, that will probably be held on Sunday.

# The Troy Times.

SEPTEMBER 1, 1904.

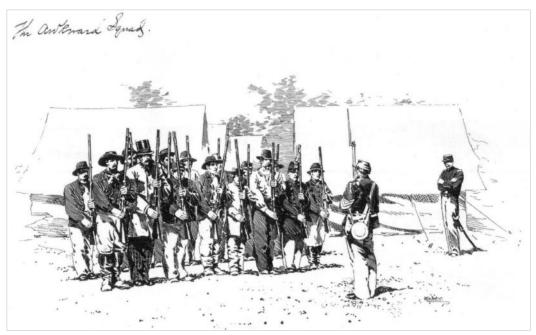
#### HOME MATTERS.

#### A GLORIOUS REUNION.

The One Hundred and Sixty-ninth New York Volunteers' Day in the Woods – Election of Officers – Spirited Addresses.

Yesterday was a day of unalloyed pleasure for the veterans of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth New York Volunteers who assembled at Averill Park in their annual reunion. The survivors and their families arrived at the park about 11 o'clock, and on reaching the pavilion Capt. D. J. Cary, President of the association, made the following address:

Comrades and Friends: This is the anniversary of an event which transpired many years ago. You all remember the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment when it started for the front. We were boys, not only in years but in experience. As soldiers we were raw recruits, without drill or experience, and constituted an awkward squad. One thing only about military we knew, our country was assailed, the institution of liberty was imperiled, help had been called for and we had responded to the call.



The Awkward Squad (1886)
Isaac Walton Taber (1857-1933)
The Century Collection, New York

The next step in our history was the first battle. We did not dread the first battle, because we did not know what war was, and after that awful baptism of shot and shell, where some of our number performed the last duty of patriotism, completed the round of the patriot's life and left their bodies as an evidence of the sincerity with which they obeyed that call – but you can all remember the transition – after that battle we were no longer boys but men. We were no longer raw recruits but soldiers. And then came the next and the next and many succeeding battles. These battles we did not dread, because we did know what war was, but we knew also what we were fighting for, and we knew also the price that must be paid if we would win the great battle and succeed in our efforts to save the Union.

More and more were taken from our ranks. The places of some were filled by new recruits. The places of some were never filled. And then came the glorious ending, the surrender at Appomattox, the mustering out, the return home; and behold, we were veterans!

Those of us who are assembled here today have been fortunate in living to see the country we rescued become the mistress of all the nations. We have lived to see her beneficent influence extended to those who dwell in the islands of the sea. We have lived to see our children and our children's children rescue a smaller nation from tyranny, oppression and greed, and helped them to establish a government of their own in the magnificent island of Cuba, known as the "Pride of the Antilles." We have seen American civilization carried to the far islands of the Philippines. We have seen thrift, education and prosperity take the place of indolence, savagery and barbarism.

Some of us have received the rewards due to patriots from a great nation for whose safety they had risked their lives. Some of us have lived to see that nation placed in the position of ingratitude by reason of the manipulations of selfish politicians, but none of us have lived or will live to such an age that we will regret the glorious part we took in the War of the Rebellion.

Each year at these reunions our numbers are less, until there will come a time when none will remain to answer the roll-call; when all will have mustered into service on the other side of the dark water, where we sincerely hope and trust that disappointment and ingratitude will not plant cruel thorns in the path we have to travel, but where the consciousness of having done our duty as well as we could according to the light that has been given us will enable us to pursue the path that may be marked out in that great hereafter triumphantly, shoulder to shoulder, as we marched in those days long gone by, touching elbows with all those who in days past have rescued and in days to come shall give their lives for the safety of their country.

#### The Roll-Call.

The roll-call showed the following present: 1

Company A – Patrick Aylmer, James Sheldon, Lon Teator.

Company B – John Brimmer, William Bibbins, John Cannon,

William H. Freeman, William Shriner.

Company C – C. D. Gibson.

Company D – Martin Iler, Capt. S. W. Snyder.

Company E – William Downs, C. E. Morey, William Mead.

Company F – Virgil Jackson, Thomas A. Overocker,

Augustus C. Keach.

Company G – Joseph Farrington, William Godfrey.

Company H – William Apple, George Bowers, Alfred

Carmon, Noel R. Church, Daniel Odell, William Pohl, Noel J. Thomas.

Company I – Capt. D. J. Cary, Lieut. J. F. Smith, Capt.

William M. Swartwout, Oliver Santos.

Company K – George Burgess, Lieut. Albert Tompkins.

Secretary Smith reported the deaths during the year as follows: James Brown, Company C, Averill Park; Peter Schumacher, Company C, Averill Park; and B. N. Hoag, Company C, Hoosick Falls.<sup>2</sup>

#### Addresses.

Colonel McNutt, a guest, was called upon and addressed the gathering with interesting remarks. Augustus C. Keach said this was the first time he had met with his old comrades, and it had afforded him so much pleasure that he had resolved to be present at all future reunions. President Cary and Captain Snyder also made short and entertaining remarks. Miss Elizabeth J. Freeman, daughter of Corporal Freeman, gave two fine recitations.

The old officers were re-elected as follows: President, Daniel J. Cary; First Vice President, Charles E. Morey; second Vice President, William M. Swartwout; Treasurer, Albert Tompkins; Secretary, James F. Smith; Chaplain, Rev. Edgar T. Chapman; Surgeon, Dr. John Knowlson; Executive Committee, William M. Swartwout, Spencer W. Snyder and Daniel J. Cary.

Superintendent of Parks Cahill invited the Regimental Association to hold the reunion next year at Prospect Park, and the invitation was accepted with thanks. The dinner was a basket event, and was held in a grove.

[Notes: <sup>1</sup>The full names and ranks of the veterans, in the order listed above, are as follows: 1st Serg't, Patrick J. Avlmer, Co. G: Priv. James B. Sheldon, Co. A: Corp. Loren Teator, Co. A; Priv. John H. Brimmer, Co. C; Priv. William Bibbins, Co. E; Drummer John Cannon, Co. B; Corp. William H. Freeman, Co. B; Serg't. William Shriner, Co. B; Serg't. Cyrus D. Gibson, Co. C; Corp. Martin O. Iler, Co. D; Capt. Spencer W. Snyder, Co. D; Priv. William W. Downs, Co. E; 1st Lieut. Charles E. Morey, Co. C; Priv. William Mead, Co. E; Priv. Virgil D. Jackson, Co. F; Drummer Thomas A. Overocker, Co. F; Priv. Augustus C. Keach, Co. F; Corp. Joseph Farrington, Co. G; Priv. William Godfrey, Co. E; Priv. William H. Apple, Co. H; Priv. George L. Bowers, Co. H; Priv. Noel R. Church, Co. H; Priv. Daniel Odell, Co. H; Corp. William Pohl, Co. H; Priv. Noel J. Thomas, Co. H; Capt. Daniel J. Cary, Co. I; 1st Serg't. James F. Smith, Co. I; 1st Lieut. William M. Swartwout, Co. G; Priv. Oliver Santos, Co. I; Priv. George Burgess, Co. K; and 1st Lieut. Albert Tompkins, Co. K. <sup>2</sup>The veterans who died the previous year were: Corp. James Brown, Co. A; Priv. Peter Schuhmacher, Co. H; and Priv. Benjamin N. Hoag, Co. C.]

### THE TROY RECORD.

AUGUST 15, 1910

## VETERANS ANSWER ROLL OF HONOR

MUSTER OF FIGHTING REGIMENT IS HELD.

#### REUNION AT BROOKSIDE

Soldiers Attend Outing and Hear Stirring Addresses by Able Speakers – One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment – One Whose Valor was Not Lacking – Camp Fire Themes.

The gallant old 169<sup>th</sup> regiment, which won fame for itself and for Rensselaer and Washington counties in the war for the preservation of the Union, is holding its annual reunion this afternoon at Brookside Park. That is, the little band of loyal soldiers remaining out of the host which filled the ranks of the regiment is in peaceful camp and comradeship at the park, very near where some of them lived when the call to arms reached them as mere striplings.

The thinned ranks of the "Boys in Blue," drawn up in review to-day within the shelter of the little park and along the course of the romantic

Wynantskill, illustrate sadly the march of time and the retreat of brave men from the battlefield of life who never fled in the face of mortal foes. The number left to recall the stirring scenes and tragic experience of the war of the rebellion is very touching in its meagerness – hardly forty being at the camp to-day out of a total of 1,467 men who were recruited for the regiment between 1862 and the close of the war.

#### A Splendid History.

The 169<sup>th</sup> regiment was organized with men from Rensselaer and Washington counties, and went to the front on September 24, 1862, under Colonel Clarence Buel, to serve three years or to the close of the war. It stayed in the field to the finish, being mustered out at Raleigh, N.C., July 19, 1865. It lost in killed, wounded and deaths from disease and the horrors of prison 618 men, and is carried on the roll of honor of the war department at Washington as one of the 300 noted fighting regiments. It participated in the following battles: Siege of Suffolk; Edenton Road; seige of Fort Wagner, S.C.; Charlestown Harbor; bombardment of Fort Sumter; Seabrook and John's Island; operations against Petersburg; operations against Richmond and Port Walthall; Chester Station; Swift Creek; Drewry's Bluff; Bermuda Hundred; Cold Harbor; Dutch Gap; Fort Fisher and Strawberry Plains. It held a particularly perilous position at Cold Harbor, Fort Fisher, and in the trenches before Petersburg, being one of the regiments selected for those daring expeditions.

Colonel Buel, who retired from command, was succeeded by Colonel John McConihe, who fell at Cold Harbor. Other officers who fell in action were these: Captain Augustus D. Vaughn, at the Crater, Va.; Captain David Ferguson, Fort Fisher; Lieutenant Charles H. Palmer, Lieutenant John D. Hughes, Lieutenant Walter S. Birdsall, killed at Port Walthall; Lieutenant Norman J. Crippen, killed at Dutch Gap; Lieutenant Michael Ryan, killed at Fort Fisher; Lieutenant Samuel L. Cipperly, killed at Fort Fisher, and Lieutenant Hugh D. McGregor, killed at Fort Fisher.

#### Former Companies.

The companies from Rensselaer and Washington counties were recruited in Troy, Nassau, Schodack, Poestenkill, Brunswick, Hoosick, Pittstown, Easton, Sandy Hill, Kingsbury, Fort Edward, Whitehall, Lisbon, Fort Ann, and Lansingburgh. Company I was known as "The Nail Factory" company.

#### Not a Field Officer Left.

At the reunion to-day not a field officer of the immortal band answered the roll call – all have gone to their rest and reward, where war's alarm is heard no more. The survivors who exchanged the grip of comradeship to-day were addressed by Judge Lewis E. Griffith in an eloquent review of the principles the Union soldiers fought and died for, and the great, lasting and far reaching results of the victory won. Judge Griffith dwelt especially

upon the importance of a full realization of the fact that the issues causing the war of the rebellion were settled forever by the war.

#### The War is Over.

"We sometimes hear men who had no part in the great struggle for the nation's life say of us – 'Why they don't know the war is over. They continue to talk about it.'

"We do know the war is over. None should know it better and none regret that war more. None pray more sincerely that all the horrors of the battlefield, the hospital and the prison may never be visited upon this nation again. But there are others who do not seem to know that the war is over and who appear to think the issues were not settled. These issues were unconditionally settled when Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox. The war is over, and gatherings like this to-day are held not to revive the bitterness of the days of war or to keep alive sectional feeling. They are held that the men who shared the dangers and privations of the field and the seas may grip each others' hands with the warmth of comradeship and story, as they have won the right to glory in the history for the nation and humanity they helped win."

Remarks were also made by members of the Regimental association; patriotic songs were sung by a glee club under direction of Fred C. Comstock, and the veterans and many friends enjoyed a fine feast prepared for the occasion.

#### Officers Elected.

The following officers were elected: President, Charles P. Hoag of Albany; first vice president, Daniel J. Carey; second vice president, William Freeman of Troy; secretary, Spencer W. Snyder of Watervliet; treasurer, Albert H. Tompkins; chaplain, Edgar T. Chapman of Troy; surgeon, Dr. John Knowlson of Poultney, Vt.

After the election a group picture was taken of the association. Short speeches were made by the retiring president, Thomas Jessup, the officers-elect and the retiring officers. Reminisces were enjoyed and stories told of the old days in camp. Music was furnished by the Wynantskill band. The day proved a success in every way.



August 27, 1910



Photo by Kovar, Troy.

#### VETERANS AND GUESTS AT THE REUNION OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH REGIMENT AT BROOKSIDE PARK LAST WEEK.

The above newspaper clipping was found in Josephine V. (Aylmer) Collins's secretary desk by her grandson, Steven M. Wiezbicki, in an envelope marked "family members," 20 years after her death in 1984. The envelope contained two folded clippings of the photograph, but neither identified her grandfather, 1st Serg't. Patrick J. Aylmer, Co. G (1833-1911).

Patrick's height is found in his military service records (5 feet, 6 inches tall) and an affidavit in his pension file by Serg't. Benjamin G. Walker, Co. G, described Patrick as a "wee boy." It is also known by his descendants that he grew a walrusstyle mustache to cover the scar from a gunshot wound to his face. Josephine, who was born in 1905, recalled that Patrick "looked very old" and he died in 1911 at age 77, a year after the photograph was taken.







Is Patrick the man in the top row of the group photograph? He had the walrus mustache, was apparently of small stature, and looked pretty old. Patrick's son Joseph V. Aylmer (1872-1905) and granddaughter Josephine (1905-1984) are shown above for comparison purposes. Joseph resembled his daughter Josephine and grandson James M. Collins. Is there a resemblance to the man on the left?

#### THE ADIRONDACK DAILY ENTERPRISE.

SARANAC LAKE, N. Y., APRIL 12, 1961.

## First Shot Fired at Ft. Sumter One Hundred Years Ago Today

Editor's Note: Today is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the shot fired on Fort Sumter, the shot that exploded into Civil War. Brave men and boys carried the battle colors of New York State's units. These flags, many torn, bloodstained, crumbling, are gathered in the Flag Room at the State Capitol. They tell the story of the Empire State's fighting men.

#### By JOHN MULLIGAN



Flag Room, New York State Capitol, Albany, N.Y. (1900)

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) – A faint, ghostly bugle sounds in the darkened Flag Room of the State Capitol.

A breeze rustles the old flags, in their glass cases...

It is 4:30 a.m., the hour the first shell of the Civil War shrieked into Fort Sumter – a hundred years ago today.

Shadowy figures converge from the corridors of time, from more than 2,100 battlefields, from beneath nearly 50,000 white headstones marked

"N.Y.," from 5,000 nameless graves of New Yorkers from mighty Gettysburg to humble Pole Cat Station, Va.

Wraiths of lean color-bearers, all in step, all proudly erect.

Gently, they take the bullet-torn, blood-stained banners from their cases. Down the broad Seventy-Seven Steps to the Capitol lawn they march to pass in review before the mounted statue of Albany-born Gen. Philip Sheridan.

Their flags represent fully a fourth of the Union Army, more than 480,000 men of the Empire State, overwhelmingly volunteers.

In a war where battles often turned on flags, these were bravest of the brave – the men who carried the colors through what Blue and Gray called "the deadly, iron hail."

One hundred and three of them wear the Congressional Medal of Honor, earned capturing enemy colors or retrieving their own.

Drummer boy Benjamin Levy marches by with the flag of Manhattan's First Infantry, which he snatched from fallen bearers at Glendale, Va.

Another drummer boy, 15-year-old John Otto Swan of Medina, proudly holds the banner of the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry from Orleans, Ontario and Genesee Counties. He stuffed the silk flag in his coat lining at Chancellorsville when he was captured and hid it successfully at a Richmond prison until exchanged.

Sergeant A. L. Van Ness of Dansville has the colors of the 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry of Rochester and nearby Livingston County. The cloth star pinned to its staff was picked up by him when it was shot out of the flag he carried up the Heights of Fredericksburg, Va.

A former Confederate named Townsend bears the American flag of Albany's 91<sup>st</sup> Infantry. Inducted into the rebel army against his will, he deserted and joined the 91<sup>st</sup> at Pensacola, Fla. He was fatally wounded carrying the flag at Port Hudson, La., the bullet was fired by his own brother, serving with the 10<sup>th</sup> Alabama, who recognized him too late.

Many march behind the faded banner of Oswego and Ontario Counties' 147<sup>th</sup> Infantry, which took 77.2 per cent casualties at Gettysburg. But survivors watched Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House.

There's a note still pinned to the colors of New York City's Fifth Infantry, "Duryée's Zouaves," recording that of its 490 men, 117 were killed and 200 wounded at Manassas Plains. The Fifth claimed the heaviest casualties for any unit on either side in a single engagement.

Ten Hudson Valley men form the color guard of the 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry of Dutchess, Columbia, Rensselaer and Saratoga Counties. That many died carrying its colors in one battle, Second Bull Run.

Private Francis Foley of New York City holds the American flag of the 90<sup>th</sup> Infantry. His blood, spilled fatally at Cedar Creek, Va., stains its stripes.

Private Henry Lloyd bears the colors of the 14<sup>th</sup> Heavy Artillery, recruited from 20 Upstate counties, from Putnam to Chautauqua. He was killed at the head of this regiment, which led the assault on the "Crater" at terrible Petersburg, Va., an excavation blown out of Confederate lines by tunneling Blue-clad Pennsylvania miners.

The passing colors of the North Country's 169<sup>th</sup> Infantry are fastened to a Confederate flagstaff that replaced one shot at the Crater. There are 100 holes each in its American and regimental flags.

Corporal James Young carries the 44<sup>th</sup> Infantry (statewide) flag that he twice rescued in heavy crossfire at Hanover Court House, Va., where he was killed.

A Sgt. Hackett has the American flag of Albany and New York City's 43<sup>rd</sup> Infantry, which he hid when captured at the Wilderness, Va. When he died at infamous Andersonville Prison, the flag secretly was buried with him.

The American flag of Manhattan's 37<sup>th</sup> "Irish Rifles" is borne by a Private Loyd. At Chancellorsville, he removed it from the staff to prevent its capture, wrapped it around his body and crawled off through the brush. When he was killed, comrades who did not know of the flag hastily buried him. Attempts to find his grave were futile.

One of every three New York volunteers was foreign-born, and reminders of lands where a Kathleen, Maria or Lisa often waited word that never would come was written on their passing flags: The Irish Brigade, which included the famed Fighting Sixty-Ninth of New York City; the Irish Legion, Garibaldi Guards, Italian Legion, Schwarze Yaegers, German Artillery Corps, Mozart Regiment, Kossuth Guards, Hungarian Regiment, Polish Legion, Netherlands Legion, Guarde de Lafayette and 55th French Regiment; British Volunteers, and the Cameron Highlanders of the 78th and 79th Infantry, who fought in kilts.

Next come the flags of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> U.S. Colored Infantry and other Negro units; those of regiments in which New York State Indians served, of Troy's dreaded "Northern Black Horse Cavalry," the Seventh; of the lumberjacks of the 118<sup>th</sup> Adirondack Infantry, of the Railway Brigade, the 99<sup>th</sup> Naval Brigade, the Merchants Brigade, the huge Metropolitan Brigade, composed entirely of New York and Brooklyn policemen, of fire department units like the dashing 11<sup>th</sup> N.Y. Fire Zouaves, whose flag was presented by Laura Keene, a great actress of the day.

Flag on flag of the hundreds of New York regiments passes by, their stories better told in stark battle names on monuments across the State. There often stands Billy Yank, eternally at parade rest, facing South.

Dawn breaks. An early riser thinks he hears the wind keening in the winter-sleeping Capitol elms.

It is the voices of men long-dead, whispering a song they often marched to or sang around campfires in Dixie:

We'll rally 'round the flag, boys. We'll rally once again, Shouting the battle cry of Freedom!

[Note: Full names of soldiers with abbreviated names in the article include: Serg't. Arch L. Van Ness, 27<sup>th</sup> N.Y.; Color Serg't. Samuel Townsend or Priv. Henry Townsend, 91<sup>st</sup> N.Y.; Priv. Henry M. Lloyd, 14<sup>th</sup> N.Y. Heavy Artillery; Serg't. Christopher Hackett, 43<sup>d</sup> N.Y.; and Priv. Michael Loyd, 37<sup>th</sup> N.Y.]



#### LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

ALBANY, NEW YORK

February 27, 1865.

Concurrent Resolution to Present the Thanks of the People of the State of New York to the Men Who Have Volunteered to Defend the Union.

Resolved, That the thanks of the people of the State of New York are due to the men who have volunteered to defend the integrity of the Union, and the flag which represents its sovereignty, on the bloody fields, where rebellion has raised armed opposition to the National Government.

Resolved, That the State of New York has watched with pride the bravery and devotion which has been manifested by her sons, wherever and whenever their country has called upon them to suffer and to die in her defence; that we have witnessed with sadness the daily sacrifices of life which have marked the history of the past four years, and that the sympathy of the State is with the afflicted and bereaved survivors of those who have laid their lives upon the altars of their country.

Resolved, That the Governor of the State of New York be, and he is hereby, requested to prepare and present to each regiment of State volunteers, a suitable memento of the perils it has encountered, and the abiding gratitude of the people and the State they have represented so bravely and so well on the fields made memorable by their valor and hallowed by their blood.





#### THE NEW YORK CIVIL WAR PLAQUE

The bronze New York Civil War Plaque is an impressive example of artistic die work with the details finely and deeply struck. It has a height of 110.2 mm and a width of 79.5 mm. The manufacturer was the United States Mint. Its shape is a blunt-eared shield with a rounded bottom, highly rounded top, and rounded sides. The design on the obverse is a variation of the shield from the State's coat of arms. The shield design on the obverse has pointed ears and top and bottom center points. On the shield's left-half is a detailed version of the scene on the shield of the State's official coat of arms. On the right half is a vertical American flag banner. Below the shield is a banderol bearing in serif letters the State's motto "EXCELSIOR". Above the shield is the top half of a globe with a vertical eagle, in motion, alighting with downward sweeping wings on the globe. The reverse bears the award's inscription, as follows:

PRESENTED / TO THE / (Curved blank banderol scroll for unit's designation) /
N. Y. S. V. / BY / REUBEN E. FENTON, / GOVERNOR, / In Pursuance of Concurrent
Resolutions, / PASSED BY THE / SENATE AND ASSEMBLY /
OF THE / STATE OF NEW YORK, / AS A / MEMENTO OF THE
COURAGE / OF HER / SOLDIERS AND SAILORS. /

"The benediction of the covering heavens / Fall on your heads like dew."

The quotation that constitutes the last two lines of the inscription is from Act V of Cymbeline by William Shakespeare with the replacement of the word "these" with "the" before "covering heavens."

### Army of the James Monument, City Point National Cemetery, Hopewell, Va.



City Point National Cemetery is located in Prince George County, Va., on the south bank of the Appomattox River. In the last year of the Civil War, Union troops, artillery and all manner of supplies were amassed at City Point in preparation for Grant's final assaults to capture Petersburg – another key communications center – and Richmond. From June 1864 until April 1865, the relentless Union advances and the Confederate's stubborn and often-desperate defense tactics resulted in many wounded and dead who were transported to City Point and other regional hospitals. Seven hospitals in City Point administered most of the care for the injured and mortally wounded.

Casualties were originally interred in burial grounds near the hospitals, and later they were re-interred at City Point National Cemetery. Through the years, additional burial sites from various Civil War battles have been discovered as local construction projects, such as subdivision development and road widening were made near the cemetery. Many of these remains – both Union and Confederate – were re-interred at City Point National Cemetery. Unlike other Civil War-era national cemeteries in the Richmond area, here the number of known interments exceeds unknowns. Re-interments include remains from another City Point burial ground, Point of Rocks cemetery (Chesterfield County), and Harrison's Landing (Charles City County).

The Army of the James Monument is a large, 20-foot high white marble memorial erected in memory of the dead of the Army of the James. The monument was constructed under the direction of Major General B. F. Butler, commander of the Army of the James from April 1864 to January 1865.

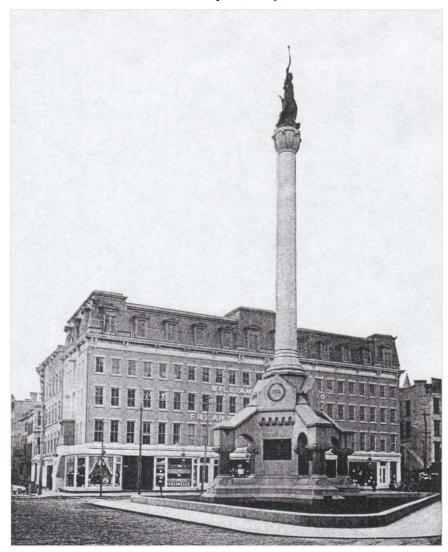
http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/citypoint.asp#hi



Detail of the Army of the James Monument, City Point National Cemetery, Hopewell, Virginia



#### Rensselaer County Soldiers and Sailors Monument, Monument Square, Troy, N.Y.



Landmarks of Rensselaer County, New York: Operations of the One Hundred and Sixty-Ninth, by George Baker Anderson, (Published under the Auspices of The Troy Press), D. Mason & Co., Syracuse, New York, 1897, Pp. 130-133.

#### SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT.

The corner stone of the handsome memorial to the deceased soldiers and sailors of Rensselaer county was laid in the city of Troy with imposing ceremonies on Memorial day, Friday, May 30, 1890, by Colonel Charles L. MacArthur, president of the Rensselaer County Soldiers and Sailors Monument association, which had been incorporated November 12, 1886. The site selected for the monument was Washington square in Troy. The city conveyed the title to the ground on which the shaft stands to the society in 1887. Two years later the Legislature authorized the supervisors of the county to appropriate \$25,000 toward the monument, which they did. The design offered by Fuller & Wheeler, architects of Albany, was accepted August 7, 1889, and February 24, 1890, a contract for the erection of the memorial was awarded to Frederick & Field of Quincy, Mass. At the laying of

the cornerstone Colonel MacArthur delivered a historical address, and other speeches were made by the Rev. Peter Havermans and the Rev. Dr. J. W. Thompson. The exercises of the day included a great parade, under the direction of General Joseph B. Carr.

On September 15, 1891, the dedication of the magnificent memorial took place, in a manner well befitting its noble and patriotic purpose. But few times before in the history of the city had there been a public demonstration equal to that of this day. One of them was fifteen months before, when the cornerstone was laid. The early morning trains brought large crowds of people to the city from surrounding towns and villages. Many of the mills and factories gave their employés a holiday. All the business houses and most of the residences along the route of the parade and also on other streets were elaborately decorated. Many portions of the business district were bowers of gay colors, including many large and handsome portraits of the nation's heroes in war – Grant, Lincoln, Sherman, Sheridan, Hancock, Logan and others.

The parade, a large and imposing one, started at 11 A.M. Colonel Lee Chamberlain acted as grand marshal, and his staff were composed of Col. Charles S. Francis, Lieut.-Col. John Don, Col. D. M. Greene, Col. George H. Gillis, Col. M. H. Burton, Col. W. H. Lawton, Col. Marcus D. Russell, Col. Francis N. Mann, Jr., Col. Edward L. Gaul, Col. George P. Lawton, Lieut.-Col. Harry M. Alden, Lieut.-Col. J. A. McDonald, Major C. H. Scott, Jr., Major E. M. Green, Major W. G. Carr, Major Isaac F. Handy, Major Arthur MacArthur, Major A. W. Hoysradt, Major H. W. Thompson, Major Le Grand C. Tibbits, Capt. E. R. Thompson, Capt. Charles G. Cleminshaw, Capt. I. W. Copeland, Lieut. J. L. Thompson, and Major Waldo K. Chase. The first division was commanded by Col. James W. Cusack, and acted as escort to the veterans. It was headed by Doring's band and comprised the Troy Citizens Corps, Tibbits Cadets, 12th Separate Company, New York National Guard, and the National Guard companies from Cohoes, Hoosick

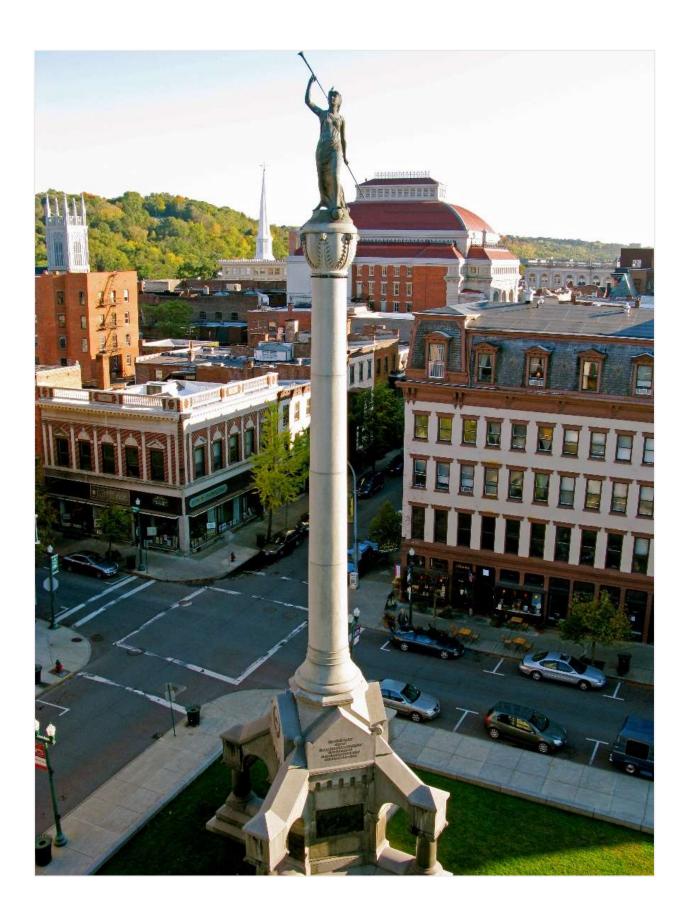
Falls, Schenectady and the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Albany. Next came in carriages Col. Charles L. MacArthur, Gen. Daniel E. Sickles, Gen. Stewart L. Woodford, Gen. Henry Slocum, Gen. Alonzo Alden, Capt. John Palmer, Col. Frederick Phisterer, and other well-known military men. The other divisions were in command of James M. Snyder, Col. Levin Crandall, Capt. E. F. Ormsbie, Edwin A. Frear and Cornelius F. Burns.

The line of march was down First street to Liberty, to Second, around Washington park, to Third, to State, to Fifth avenue, to Jacob, to King, to River, to Third, to Broadway, to the monument, where the parade passed in review and was dismissed. It is estimated that there were fully 10,000 people about the monument when the parade reached that point. Col. C. L. MacArthur, president of the monument association, had charge of the exercises. After prayer by the Rev. J. W. Thompson, a telegram was read from Gen. Joseph B. Carr, who was detained in New York by illness, in which he said he was "present in spirit if not in person." Col. MacArthur then made the opening address, in which he said:

We have put an insignia on this monument to commemorate the bravery of the men of Rensselaer county in the Mexican war. We were first in the field. In 1812, when we had a war with Great Britain, a Troy man was the first to capture a flag in that war. I refer to Hon. William L. Marcy. When troops were called for in the late war Troy was the first to raise a regiment and send it to the Adjutant-General's office. A Troy man, Frank Brownell, was the first to shed blood when he shot Jackson at Alexandria.

The next address was made by General Daniel E. Sickles, who spoke in glowing terms of the part taken by Troy soldiers in the Civil War. Among other things he said:

One of the earliest regiments to take the field was the Second New York Infantry, organized in Rensselaer county by your townsman, General Carr. This regiment was for some time in the Third Army Corps and often fell under my personal observation. Carr



raised his standard here on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April, 1861, while the echoes from Sumter filled every ear and stirred every loyal heart. All troops reflect, sooner or later, the character and qualities of their commanding officers. Therefore, I need not tell you, who knew General Carr so well, that the Second New York was an admirable regiment. It was not long, however, before the signal abilities shown by General Carr proved his fitness for higher command. He always enjoyed, and still enjoys, the confidence and respect alike of his troops and of his superior officers. Always ready to obey orders with alacrity, he taught his commands that discipline makes good soldiers. An earnest patriot, he inspired his men with his own zeal for the cause of the Union. Fearless and calm in battle, his example made his battalion trustworthy under all circumstances.

The next speaker was Captain John Palmer of Albany, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic of the United States, and his address was listened to with the closest attention. Rain began falling at 1.30 P.M. and the exercises at the monument were necessarily shortened, an adjournment being taken fifteen minutes later.

At three o'clock the ceremonies were resumed in the Music Hall, Colonel C. L. MacArthur, presiding. After prayer by the Rev. Dr. George C. Baldwin, Benjamin H. Hall read an original poem, written by Captain William B. Gordon, of the Watervliet arsenal. The Troy Vocal Society sang "On, Gallant Company," after which the dedicatory address was delivered by General Stewart L. Woodford, of Brooklyn. It was a masterpiece of oratory and was frequently interrupted by applause. General Sickles and Colonel MacArthur followed with brief addresses. At the conclusion the Troy Vocal Society sang "The Star Spangled Banner," the immense assemblage rising and making the walls of the big building ring as they joined in the chorus. Rev. Father John Walsh of St. Peter's church closed the exercises with the benediction, and the large audience slowly dispersed.

#### **Rensselaer County Soldiers and Sailors Monument**

The Rensselaer County Soldiers and Sailors Monument is a war monument in Monument Square, at Broadway and Second Street in Troy, N.Y. It honors those from Rensselaer County who served in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the American Civil War. The monument is a contributing object in Central Troy Historic District. It features a 50-foot granite column crowned by *The Call to Arms*, a 17-foot bronze statue of the Goddess *Columbia*. She stands with her foot on a cannonball, a sword in one hand and a trumpet in the other.

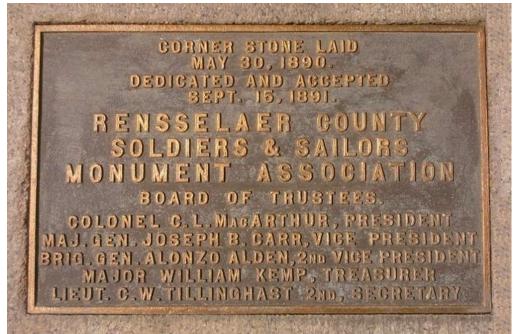
The granite base is designed in a vigorous Neo-Grec style. Architectural elements such as scrolls, acroterions and guttae are recognizable, but abstracted. Instead of traditional piers, four buttresses form attached arches that are supported by compressed Byzantine columns. Four slightly-projecting gables support the great column. Three are adorned with a carved laurel wreath encircling a date – "1776," "1812," "1861-65" – and the fourth features the monument's dedication: "To the Men from Rensselaer County who fought for Their Country on Land and Sea."

Bronze relief panels on the base depict battle scenes of the Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery. The Navy is represented by a sea battle between ironclad warships – *The Monitor and The Merrimack*. This has a local connection, the iron plates that covered the U.S.S. *Monitor* were forged in Troy. Bronze plaques list the names of major battles from each war.

The monument was designed by the architectural firm of Fuller & Wheeler (1883-97) of Albany, N.Y. The stone was quarried and fabricated by Frederick & Field of Quincy, Massachusetts. The bronze figure of *Columbia* was modeled by James E. Kelly, and the bronze relief panels were modeled by Caspar Buberl. The sculpture was cast by the Henri-Bonnard Bronze Company of New York City. The monument was rededicated in September 1991.



Bronze relief of an infantry charge from the Rensselaer County Soldiers and Sailors Monument, Troy, N.Y. Caspar Buberl (1834-1899)



Corner Stone of the Rensselaer County Soldiers and Sailors Monument

### The Troy Daily Press.

SEPTEMBER 26, 1894.

#### SOLDIER'S MEMORIAL WINDOW.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE 169<sup>TH</sup> REGIMENT.

Placed in an Episcopal Church with Solemn Ceremony – Addresses by Survivors – Officers Elected – Battle Scarred Warriors' Reunion.

Tuesday, September 25, will pass into history as the chief of the reunions since the organization of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment N. Y. V. association. It will long be remembered as a day when the church and the members of the regiment were drawn in closer touch, and ties were bound tighter between the two. Never before in the history of a regiment has the fact been recorded where a memorial window had been erected as a memorial to the fallen dead.

The members of the regiment, numbering sixty-four men, and their guests were met upon alighting from the electric cars at Brookside avenue by a part of Doring's band composed of twelve pieces of music. The party marched to St. Margaret's church, Menands. The edifice had been tastefully trimmed for the occasion with American flags. Over each side of the main entrance was draped a handsome flag, and as a centrepiece over the door a star had been formed of smaller ones, in the middle of which was the picture of the first church on Folly Island, S. C., in which Rev. Edgar T. Chapman ever preached. Arriving at the sacred edifice the services commenced with the entrance of the surpliced choir, who sang a hymn, after which a prayer was offered by Rev. Eaton W. Maxcy, D. D. At the conclusion Rev. Edgar T. Chapman, the pastor of the church and chaplain of the regiment, addressed the congregation and unveiled the memorial window which had been placed in the west side of the edifice with appropriate remarks, in which he feelingly referred to the past history of the regiment and its illustrious dead, to whose memory the window had been erected. The speaker was moved to emotion during his address, while deep sentiment impregnated the breasts of those members of the association who were present.

The exercises at the church closed with the benediction and the singing of a hymn. The party then assembled outside, and led by Doring's band, marched to the residence of Rev. Edgar T. Chapman on the Albany road, to the inspiring music of "Marching through Georgia," "The Star Spangled Banner," and other familiar tunes. Arriving at Rev. Mr. Chapman's the company was lined up, facing the house, where, from the veranda, Joseph A. Lawson, chairman of the reception committee, welcomed the regiment and their guests. He referred to the occasion in a pleasing manner, concluding by hoping they would live to see many reunions of the like.



Memorial window to the 169<sup>th</sup> N.Y.S.V. Infantry Regiment, formerly located at St. Margaret's Church, Menands, N.Y. Published in "The Swartwout Chronicles 1338-1899, and the Ketelhuyn Chronicles 1451-1899" by Arthur James Weise (1899)

Major E. R. Smith, the president of the association, followed with an address as follows:

I expected that the welcoming address would be replied to by one of our honored guests, an officer beloved by the regiment. I was disappointed, but I can always speak with pride of the achievements of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth New York State Volunteers. Comrades and friends: In behalf of the members of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth New York State Volunteers we extend our heartfelt thanks for the invitation tendered us to hold our reunion in Menands, where one of our noble comrades resides. We did not expect such a reception, which shows that the soldiers have friends in your beautiful village. I wish to impress on the minds of all present the important part that the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth New York State Volunteers took in the war. No better regiment ever went to the scene of battle, and every soldier that was a member of the regiment should feel proud of its record. Since our last reunion many have passed away, and ere many years we shall all have been called over the same stream. I cannot speak in too high terms of the bravery of our officers and men. You have one in your village today – a noble, brave and true man, Rev. Mr. Edgar T. Chapman.

Thirty-two years ago, on the twenty-fifth day of September, 1862, the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth New York State Volunteers went to the front from the city of Troy. The day we were mustered we had 915 men, to which were added by recruits and transfers 1,868. We lost by casualties, disease, resignations and other causes 916. The original commanding officers numbered 39; new officers by promotion, appointment and assignments 44; aggregate, 83. The regiment was in thirty-two engagements, beginning at Suffolk and ending at Raleigh, N. C. The total loss of officers and men was 963. We were one of the 300 fighting regiments. It was on the battle field of Cold Harbor our gallant Col. John McConihe fell pierced with rebel bullets.

The question of the memorial window was brought before the regiment at the reunion held in Sandlake September 25, 1893. The matter, however, was laid aside for another year. The executive committee in the meantime agreed to raise the money for the memorial window, and through their efforts sufficient funds were raised to pay for it.

The window is of stained glass, showing the full figure of an ancient warrior with full armor. In his hand he bears a banner, on which is emblazoned a Maltese cross. The inscription contains the words, "Fortes, facti sunt in bello." Underneath the inscription are the words: "Dedicated to the memory of the fallen heroes of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth N. Y. V." The date of the present reunion, September 25, 1894, is also inscribed upon the glass.

When the address of Major Smith was finished, the veterans marched to the spacious grounds in the rear of the house, where a bountiful collation had been prepared. When all had regaled their appetites the entire party was photographed in a group.

Shortly afterwards a business meeting of the organization was held, and Wm. Godfrey,<sup>2</sup> of the committee appointed to solicit subscriptions for the erection of the memorial window, reported that \$176 had been obtained, and that he had turned over to Rev. Edgar T. Chapman \$150. The balance, \$26, was given to Treasurer Allen S. Andrews.<sup>3</sup>

The officers for the ensuing year were then elected as follows: Major E. R. Smith, president; Charles E. Morey, first vice president; Albert Tompkins, second vice president; D. J. Cary, third vice president; S. W. Snyder, fourth vice president; Edwin Van Derzee, fifth vice president; Allen S. Andrews, treasurer; George Campbell, secretary; H. W. Toole, financial secretary; John Knowlson, surgeon; executive committee, H. R.

Leffingwell, chairman; James Smith, D. J. Cary, Albert Tompkins, A. J. Moss, William Swartwout, William Godfrey, Jas. C. Moore, George A. Willis and Edgar Vanderzee.<sup>4</sup>

General Alonzo Alden, although suffering from indisposition, was called upon to make a few remarks and said: "The regiment never had a reunion yet that met with the sentiment that was shown to-day. We have served the Lord, we have served mankind and we have served one another. Thirty-two years ago to-day we numbered over 900 men, and with recruits added afterward our number reached 1,800 men, who fought for their country. Through battle and other means we lost over 1,000 men, among whom were, of course, deserters. We, however, have not one deserter here with us to-day."

A. D. McConihe, 5 commander of Post McConihe, G. A. R., said his heart was always with the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment. He had attended the reunion last year at Sandlake, and it afforded him pleasure to be present again. He hoped the association would hold the reunion next year in Sandlake, when the residents would outdo their former efforts in extending hospitality. He praised the regiment for its bravery, and concluded by saying that in all of the battles fought, the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth regiment did its share. Colonel McConihe was, upon the conclusion of his speech, made an honorary member of the association.

Captain Spencer W. Snyder in a short speech referred in a felicitous manner to the camp life and battle scenes of the regiment during the war, and entertained his listeners in a happy manner.

Captain James Dunn made a pleasing address, and complimented the members of the regiment for their bravery. In concluding his address Captain Dunn thought one man had made the regiment what it was, and that man was Gen. Alonzo Alden. Major Colvin said it was gratifying to him to meet old comrades once more. The speaker referred feelingly to their dead comrades. In conclusion he paid a tribute to the chaplain of the regiment, Rev. Edgar T. Chapman. Rev. Dr. Maxcy spoke in behalf of Rev. J. Ireland Tucker, D. D., and said it was a sad disappointment to Dr. Tucker that he had been unable to be present. Dr. Maxcy referred feelingly to the chaplain and to his noble work. Rev. Mr. Chapman was then called upon to speak, and with much emotion said it seemed to him better to leave well enough alone. He felt in his heart as a priest of God. He thought the religious sentiment should not be overworked too much. He wished to correct a sentiment that had gone abroad, and it was that the company was indebted to him for the reunion. Such was not the case.

Rev. Mr. Chapman then related a story of an Episcopal clergyman whom he met while in the South during the war. Mr. Chapman was taking a drink of water from a well, when the clergyman approached and complained that the Northern troops that had previously passed had taken away everything but the well from which Rev. Mr. Chapman was drinking. And they would have taken even that if they could have carried it with them. Like the minister, the speaker would say to the voters that they could carry away everything he owned, even to the well, if they wanted it. He further remarked that the members of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment were always welcome under his roof so long as any of them survived. A

vote of thanks was extended Rev. Mr. Chapman by the association, after which the members and guests departed for their homes.

Among the number present at the reunion was Daniel Cummings, the oldest living survivor of the regiment. Mr. Cummings is 85 years of age, and was the regiment fifer.<sup>6</sup>

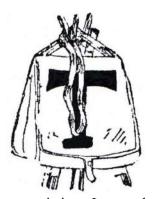
[Notes: ¹A surplice is a loose-fitting, white ecclesiastical gown with wide sleeves, worn over a cassock. ²Priv. William Godfrey, Co. E, wounded in the left arm during the assault at Petersburg, Va., June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1864, and undergoing amputation at the elbow joint the same day in a field hospital under the administration of chloroform. ³1<sup>st</sup> Serg't. Allen S. Andrews, Co. K. ⁴The list of veterans includes Maj. Edwin R. Smith, Capt. Charles E. Morey, Co. C; 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. Albert Tompkins, Co. K; Capt. Daniel J. Cary, Co. I; Capt. Spencer W. Snyder, Co. D; 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. Edgar Vanderzee, Co. E; 2<sup>d</sup> Lieut. George Campbell, Co. A; Serg't. Hugh W. Toole, Co. D; Surgeon John Knowlson, Musician Henry R. Leffingwell, Co. G; probably 1<sup>st</sup> Serg't. James F. Smith, Co. I; Corp. Alfred J. Moss, Co. K; Maj. William Swartwout, Corp. James C. Moore, Co. G; and 2<sup>d</sup> Lieut. George A. Willis, Co. K. ⁵Col. A. Douglas McConihe, brother of Bvt. Brig.-Gen. and Col. John McConihe; <sup>6</sup>Priv. Daniel Cummings, Co. F.]



Troy, N. Y., September 30, 1894.

#### OUR HAVERSACK.

#### Reunion of Veterans – Meetings Last Week – Grand Army News.



HE One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment, New York State Volunteers, held its thirty-second annual reunion at Menands Tuesday, and it was a gathering that will long remain in the memories of those who were present as the most pleasant, delightful and memorable in the history of

the association. It was a beautiful day and the people of Menands did everything in their power to make the visit of the veterans enjoyable. Nearly seventy-five members of the regiment, accompanied by their families, and headed by Major E. R. Smith of Lansingburgh, president of the regimental association, took the electric cars at the

Congress street bridge in this city at 10 a.m. and proceeded to Menands. They were met at Brookside avenue by Doring's band and a platoon of police under command of Captain McMahon of the Watervliet town police and escorted to St. Margaret's Church. The Rev. Mr. E. T. Chapman, who was the chaplain of the regiment during the war, is rector of the church now. A memorial service was held at the church and a memorial window in honor of the dead members of the regiment was dedicated. The services, which were very impressive, were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Chapman, assisted by the Rev. Dr. E. W. Maxey of Christ Church, Troy. After the dedication the window was formally presented to the association, and William Godfrey of Green Island, in behalf of the association, presented the vestry of the church a purse containing \$150 in gold, the price of the window. A brief address, reminiscent of the days when the regiment was at the front, was made by Mr. Chapman. Dr. Maxcy also made a few remarks. At the conclusion of the services the line was formed and the veterans marched to the residence of Mr. Chapman where a banquet was served. visitors were welcomed in behalf of the citizens of Menands by Joseph A. Lawson, and the response was by Major Smith. The annual business meeting was held after the banquet, when remarks were made by General Alonzo Alden, Colonel James A. Colvin of New York, Captain James Dunn of Buffalo, Captain Charles E. Morey, Captain D. J. Cary, Commander A. D. McConihe of Post McConihe and Mr. Chapman and Dr. Maxcy. The annual election of officers resulted as follows: President, Major E. R. Smith; first vice president, Charles E. Morey; second vice president, Albert Tompkins; third vice president, D. J. Cary; fourth vice president, S. W. Snyder of West Troy; fifth vice president, E. Vanderzee; secretary, George Campbell; treasurer, Allen S. Andrews of West Troy; financial secretary, H. W. Toole; surgeon, John Knowlson; executive committee, H. R. Leffingwell, James [F.] Smith, D. J. Cary, Albert Tompkins, A. J. Moss, William Swartwout, William Godfrey, James C. Moore, George A. Willis and Edgar Vanderzee.



ALBANY, N.Y., FEBRUARY 19, 2012.



Historian Bill Connelly of Gansevoort outside the former St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Menands (February 9, 2012)

#### A tale of sacrifice in glass

### Relatives of Civil War veterans are looking for a stained-glass window that notes regiment's heroism

By Kenneth C. Crowe II

The great-grandsons of two Civil War soldiers are searching for a memorial to the 169<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry Regiment that was a stained-glass window in St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Menands for nearly a century.

For Bill Connelly of Northumberland and Steven Wiezbicki of Fort Collins, Colo., the window is a tie to their ancestors who fought with the famed 169<sup>th</sup>, which also was known as the Troy Regiment.

When churches close, items of religious significance may stay in the building, be transferred to a sister congregation, put in storage or sold. In rare instances, materials may become available when a church is demolished.

Tracking down the window from St. Margaret's has been difficult for Connelly and Wiezbicki because the one-story brick Episcopal chapel was sold 28 years ago to Cornerstone Christian Church. The nondenominational congregation, also known as the Road to Damascus Church, paid \$45,000 for the building on Brookside Avenue, just west of Menands Village Hall. The window was removed sometime after 1984.



The former St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Menands (February 9, 2012)

The two Civil War enthusiasts came to know each other when Connelly asked Wiezbicki for help in locating a wartime photograph of his great-great-grandfather, Patrick Connelly, who was a sergeant in Company D of the Troy Regiment. Connelly has been the local leg-man running down clues in the Capital Region as to the window's whereabouts.

"This is the only memorial dedicated specifically to the 169<sup>th</sup>," said Wiezbicki, a management consultant who is writing a regimental history.

His research turned up a black-and-white drawing of the window and an article in the Albany *Evening Journal* describing the dedication ceremony, which reported: "The window is simple in design, containing the single figure of an armored soldier bearing a banner on which is an Army corps cross. One hand rests on a shield about which is entwined a victorious wreath."

The window's inscription reads, in part, "In memory of the heroic dead of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth N.Y.S. volunteers this window is placed in St. Margaret's Ch. by their comrades, Sept. 25, 1894."

Retired Albany Episcopal Bishop David Ball attended St. Margaret's as a boy. This week he recalled that some fixtures from the church accompanied the rector to his new parish in Moreau. Ball said he made sure that other prized items went All Saints Cathedral in Albany, but no windows were not removed at the time of the sale. Jeanne Rutherford was one of the last five parishioners of St. Margaret's, and as its acting treasurer signed the deed for the property transfer.

"It was a nice little church," said Rutherford, who still lives around the corner. She recalled that some items were sent to an Episcopal church in Brant Lake, where they remain to this day.

Apparently sometime after the church was sold, its side windows were replaced with more energy-efficient glass. Connelly and Wiezbicki believe that's when the 169<sup>th</sup>'s window was taken out.

The two men contacted a New Jersey-based firm that buys and sells church artifacts and inquired if it had come across the Civil War memorial, but that was a dead end.



Bill Connelly meeting with Paul Ehmann of Coldwell Banker, represented the seller St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Menands (February 9, 2012)



A stained glass window inside the former St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Menands (February 9, 2012)

Connelly and Wiezbicki are hoping their window survives and that someone in the Capital Region knows where it's located. They ask anyone who might have information about it call Connelly at 518-306-8795 or Wiezbicki at 970-686-3526 or email them at smw107@columbia.edu or William.Connelly@ momentive.com.

Meanwhile, the former St. Margaret's, which was most recently home to the Menands Community Church, is for sale for a third time, said Paul Ehmann of Coldwell Banker, who has represented the seller in many local church sales. The asking price for the historic church is \$85,000.

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http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/A-tale-of-sacrifice-in-glass-3343173.php



ALBANY, N.Y., MAY 3, 2012.

#### Search for historic window sees light

### Long-lost stained glass that honored soldiers is found safe in local home

By Kenneth C. Crowe II

SCHENECTADY. — A stained-glass window, the only monument honoring the Civil War service of the 169<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry Regiment, has been found decades after it was last seen in a former Episcopal chapel in Menands.

The discovery that the artifact is safe in a Schenectady couple's home was greeted jubilantly by the descendants of soldiers who fought in the battle-tested Army unit known as the Troy Regiment.

They never lost heart that they'd find the memorial window from St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, even though they ran into numerous dead ends in their search.

"The big thing is we know where it is. And it's in safekeeping now," Bill Connelly of Northumberland said Wednesday

Connelly and Steven Wiezbicki of Fort Collins, Colo., have been searching for the window honoring the hard-fighting 169<sup>th</sup> in which their ancestors served.

They focused on the various congregations that have owned the church since 1984 when it was sold by Episcopal Diocese of Albany. The *Times Union* assisted in locating information about the building's owners and pastors.

Colonie Town Historian Kevin Franklin helped them obtain a list of church members for the Road to Damascus Church, which once owned the building on Brookside Avenue, just west of Menands Village Hall.

The location of the historic St. Margaret's window comes on the eve of a visit to the Capital Region by the head of the national Episcopal church. On Friday morning, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori will give the keynote address at the church's provincial synod, which includes the dioceses from New York state and New Jersey as well as the Caribbean and Europe. The synod is held in preparation for the triennial General

Convention in Indianapolis in July. Wiezbicki located the window Tuesday night when he spoke to Lori DeSorbo of Schenectady.

"As it turns out, these windows were purchased from the Road to Damascus Church organization by one of the church elders, Louis DeSorbo, as a gift for his wife, Lori," Wiezbicki said in an email.

The DeSorbos could not be reached for comment Wednesday about the windows.

Connelly said the couple liked the 169<sup>th</sup> Regiment window. When the church shipped it to New York City to an auction house for sale, Louis DeSorbo bought it and brought it Schenectady.

Connelly and Wiezbicki would like to obtain color photographs of the window. The only picture they have is a black and white [photograph].

"I would like to go and see the window and photograph it," Connelly said.

This depiction appeared with an article in the Albany *Evening Journal* describing the dedication ceremony, which reported: "The window is simple in design, containing the single figure of an armored soldier bearing a banner on which is an Army corps cross. One hand rests on a shield about which is entwined a victorious wreath."

The window's inscription reads, in part, "In memory of the heroic dead of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth NYS volunteers this window is placed in St. Margaret's Ch. by their comrades, Sept. 25, 1894."

Connelly and Wiezbicki had worried that the historic window would never be found. They called museums as far away as Florida in their search.

The church's stained-glass windows were removed and replaced with more energy-efficient glass sometime after the property was sold 28 years ago. It's not unusual for stained-glass windows to be taken out when a church is sold.

Connelly said he would like to see the 169<sup>th</sup> window displayed in the New York State Military History Museum in Saratoga Springs.

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http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Search-for-historic-window-sees-light-3530452.php

