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MINNESOTA IN THE CIVIL WAR.

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The sectional dissensions between the free and slave holding states of the Union reached a climax in 1861, when the resources of compromise that had deferred for many years the final issue had become exhausted, and the advocates of the "divine institution" as a desperate effort to perpetuate its life, sought to dissolve the Union and establish an independent sovereignty, whose chief attribute was to be the recognition of the right of property in man.

Encouraged by the success of former efforts to force pending differences to a compromise, doubtless the leaders of the secession movement believed that their precipitate action would be followed by acquiescence upon the part of the non-slaveholding sections of the country, to the withdrawal of their states upon terms that would obviate serious conflict. The defiant attitude and aggressive action of the slaveholding interest had, however, carried them beyond the line along which farther accommodation or compromise was possible, and the greatest civil war in the history of the world followed the attempt to establish a Southern Confederacy.

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Note --- In the preparation of the sketches of the several organizations that Minnesota furnished for service in the civil war 1861 - 5, the compiler has quoted liberally from Vol. 1 of "Minnesota in the Civil War and Indian War" published <sup>by the state</sup> in 1890. In fact, much of the data upon which the matter herewith given is based, has been <sup>obtained</sup> ~~furnished~~ from this source.

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Minnesota at the time of the outbreak of the Civil War had but recently been admitted as a state of the Union. It was yet but a sparsely settled community upon the then Northwestern frontier of the country, and though embracing an area of 83,000 square miles of territory, had but 172,123 people within its limits, according to the census of 1860. An unusual proportion of this population, however, was composed of hardy and energetic young men, stimulated somewhat by an adventurous spirit, who had sought the frontier for a home, and were engaged in an industrious and generally an encouraging effort to win an independence. Physically they were the material of which the best soldiers are made, and that they were animated by a patriotic spirit was demonstrated by their early response in large numbers to the call of their country.

While Minnesota furnished her full quota under the several calls of the government for volunteers during the war, yet the number of organizations she sent to the front were few as compared to the older and more populous states. It was, however, her good fortune to be represented in a distinguished manner in many of the notable and decisive battles of the war. The First Regiment at Antietam and Gettysburg; the Second at Chickamauga and Mission Ridge; the Fourth at Vicksburg and Alamo; the Fifth at Corinth and Nashville; the Seventh, Ninth and Tenth at Nashville; the Eighth at Murfreesborough; the First Battery at Shiloh; and on other of the historic fields of the great war her regiments and batteries reflected luster upon the state, by contributing at decisive moments to the achievement of important results.

As distinctively illustrating the loyalty and devotion of her sons, the fact should be borne in mind that while Minnesota was contributing her full share to the enormous requirements of the general Government, she was confronted by and bore the brunt upon her own frontier of the most desolat-

ing Indian War in the history of the country. The Sioux outbreak of 1862- which is treated at length elsewhere in this work, - came like a thunder-bolt upon the defenceless homes of many of her people, while their natural protectors were at the front aiding in repelling the assaults of the common enemy. That this condition vastly increased the burden the state was required to bear at this period must be recognized, and will impress the reader with the indomitable and sterling character of her people in the pioneer days of her history.

Minnesota had in 1861 but the skeleton of a Militia organization, hardly sufficient to be regarded a nucleus for the formation of an organized force for active service. There were a few local military companies, however, from which valuable material was recruited for the rank and file of the early organized regiments of Volunteers.

It is confidently claimed that the first offer of men for the defence of the government came from Minnesota. On the memorable 14th of April, 1861, when the fall of Fort Sumpter was announced, Gov. Ramsey made a personal tender to President Lincoln of one thousand men for military service. This tender being promptly accepted the Governor caused a proclamation to be issued, calling for volunteers to form a regiment of Infantry to consist of ten Companies for three months service. In response to this proclamation war meetings were held throughout the state, enlistments promoted and as a result there was mustered into the United States Military service April 29th, 1861, at Fort Snelling, the

#### FIRST REGIMENT OF MINNESOTA INFANTRY VOLUNTEERS.

The regiment was organized by the appointment of Willis A. Gorman as Colonel, Stephen Miller as Lieut. Colonel, Wm. H. Dike as Major, and was composed of Companies recruited in the following localities: From St. Paul two Companies, and one Company each from Minneapolis, St. Anthony,

Stillwater, Red Wing, Faribault, Hastings, Wabasha and Winona.

May 7th a telegram was received from the Secretary of War requesting that the regiment be remustered for a term of three years. Most of the men consented to this lengthening of their term of service, the places of those who could not do so being promptly filled by new recruits. The new muster roll of the regiment was given the same date as the original muster, April 29, 1861, and thus the First Minnesota became the senior three years regiment in the United States Volunteer service.

June 14th the regiment was ordered to proceed to Washington, D. C., and moving by the most expeditious route, it reached that rendezvous on the 26th. July 3rd it moved to Alexandria, Va., where it was brigaded with the Fifth Massachusetts, Fourth Pennsylvania, and Ricketts U. S. Artillery, as a part of Col. W. B. Franklin's Brigade of Col. S. P. Heintzelman's Division.

The command to which the regiment was attached moved from Alexandria July 16th to participate in operations that precipitated the battle of Bull Run. On the 21st the First Minnesota became engaged with the enemy in the vicinity of Sudley Church. It was in position as a support to Ricketts Battery, where it assisted in repelling successive assaults of the enemy, and where it maintained its position until ordered to retire. The battery was practically cut to pieces, being compelled to abandon its guns and losing heavily in officers and men. The loss of the First Minnesota was 42 killed, 108 wounded and 30 missing. In the retreat the regiment maintained its organization and assisted materially in the efforts made to minimize the confusion and disorder in which the army generally became involved. It was especially commended for its coolness and bravery in the official reports of its Brigade and Division Commanders.

Following the battle of Bull Run the First Minnesota was given a short respite in Washington, but early in August was moved to the vicinity

of Edwards Ferry on the upper Potomac. While here Napoleon J. T. Dana was commissioned Colonel of the regiment as successor of Col. Gorman, who had been appointed a Brigadier General. Dana was a graduate of West Point, had served in the Mexican War, but resigning from the regular army in 1855, had located in St. Paul, where he had established himself as a banker.

On the 21st of October the regiment formed a part of the force under command of General Chas. P. ~~Stam~~<sup>Stone</sup> that crossed the Potomac at Edwards Ferry, in cooperation with the movement of Col. E. D. Baker, whose command met with disaster, and who was himself killed at the battle of Balls Bluff. The regiment was not brought actively into action, but it performed hazardous and valuable service in aiding to secure the orderly retreat of its own command in recrossing the river after Baker's defeat. February 25th, 1862 the regiment left its winter quarters at Camp Stone and, as a part of Sedgwick's Division, moved via Harpers Ferry on an expedition up the valley. This proved a trying campaign, though without serious encounter with the enemy. Late in March the expedition was abandoned, and the regiment returned to Washington; in the meantime, Col. Dana having been promoted, Alfred Sully became Colonel of the regiment. Sully was also an old regular, a graduate of West Point, who had served with distinction in the Mexican and border Indian Wars.

On the 29th of March the regiment moved by steamer down the Chesapeake to join the army being organized for operations on the Peninsula. It participated with the 2nd Corps in various reconnoissances in the vicinity of Yorktown and along York River, doing severe Campaign duty, but little fighting until the battle of Fair Oaks on the 31st of May. In this engagement the regiment held an important position against the attack of the enemy, which was repulsed with but slight loss to the regiment. In the seven days' battles which resulted in the retirement of the Union Army to

Harrison's Landing, the First Minnesota was engaged in the fight at the Peach Orchard early in the day of June 29th. The brunt of the Confederate attack falling on troops to the right of the position it occupied, the regiment was spared material loss, but later in the day, near Savage Station, in repelling an attack of the enemy, which was made with much persistence, the regiment had forty-eight killed and wounded. The following day the regiment was hurriedly dispatched to reinforce troops heavily engaged near Glendale, but deployed into position too late to participate in the heaviest work of the battle; in time, however, to encounter a fire that wounded some of its members, among whom was Capt. William Colville, who received a serious wound in the breast. In the severe conflict at Malvern Hill July 1st, the First Minnesota was in position near the right of the line of the Union Army, somewhat remote from the point at which the enemy made his main attack, and hence, did not become heavily engaged. The following day it retired with the army to Harrison's Landing.

On the 16th of August the regiment moved with its Command under orders to reinforce the army under General Pope, who was then confronting a formidable Confederate force near Washington. Landing at Alexandria <sup>Va</sup> on the 28th of August, it was at once pushed to the front, and on the 1st of September performed efficient service at Flint Hill in protecting the rear of Pope's forces that had suffered serious defeat and were retiring on Washington.

In the "Maryland Campaign" which was undertaken upon the reorganization of the Army after General Pope's defeat, the First Minnesota moved with the Second Corps and was present at the battle of South Mountain September 14th. Coming on the field, however, at night, after the battle was practically over, it was not engaged beyond light skirmishing; but at Antietam on the 17th, the regiment was in the thickest of the fight, losing one hundred and forty-seven men in killed and wounded. In this battle its

position was in the front line of the extreme right of the army which advanced in three lines of battle. Encountering the Confederates posted in a body of timber, the latter were rapidly driven back upon open ground beyond, when strong reinforcements came to their support. A severe engagement followed, which became general all along the line. A gap in the line some distance to the left gave the enemy opportunity to deliver a flank attack upon Sedgwick's division, under which the regiments to the left of the First Minnesota recoiled; the latter, however, maintained its position until ordered to retire, which it did in good order, holding the enemy at bay by the delivery of several volleys in its movement to the rear, and until reinforcements came to its relief. Remaining on the field of Antietam for several days the regiment moved with its division on the 22nd to Harpers Ferry, where it encamped on Bolivar Heights. While here another change in the field officers of the regiment occurred, Col. Sully having been appointed Brigadier General, Lieut. Colonel George N. Morgan was promoted Colonel, Major William Colville Lieut. Colonel, and Capt. Chas. P. Adams, Major.

October 16th the regiment participated in a reconnoissance up the Shenandoah Valley and later in the month crossed the Shenandoah and moved up <sup>u</sup> Loudon Valley at the base of the Blue Ridge; from thence, during November, moving to Falmouth, opposite Fredericksburg on the Rappahannock. It participated with its division in important movements incident to the battle of Fredericksburg December 13th without becoming seriously engaged with the enemy, though occupying exposed positions, and by its example of discipline adding to the morale of the command to which it was attached. The army remained practically inactive during the balance of the winter, but on the 27th of April, 1863, the movement began which culminated in the battle of Chancellorsville. As in the battle of Fredericksburg the First

Minnesota escaped severe fighting at Chancellorsville May 3rd, but participated in maneuvers that became important factors in the general combinations of the battle field. The casualties of the regiment were nine men wounded at Fredericksburg and 15 wounded at Chancellorsville. May 5th Colonel Morgan resigned, increasing ill health having rendered him unfit for farther service. The vacancy was filled by the promotion of Lieut. Colonel William Colville.

The movement of the Confederate General R. E. Lee in June, on his proposed invasion of "the enemy's country", caused the union forces to concentrate for the counteracting of a danger that presented possibilities of great disaster. Moving on somewhat parallel lines the Union forces marched Northward, the Second Corps, to which the First Minnesota was attached, crossing the upper Potomac at Edwards Ferry on the 26th of June. Continuing the march, the vicinity of Gettysburg, Pa., was reached early on the morning of the 2nd of July, where the army of the Potomac was deployed upon a field that was to be made historic for all time by the events that were to follow. The Second Corps now commanded by Gen'l W. S. Hancock was given a position to the left of the Gettysburg Cemetery, its left joining General Sickles' Third Corps, whose line extended to Little Round Top, one of the marked salients of the battle field. This part of the line, though under fire, did not become actively engaged until the early afternoon of the 2nd, when Sickles advanced the Third Corps a half mile or more to the vicinity of "Devils Den" where he was furiously attacked by a strong force of the enemy. In the meantime the First Minnesota had been detached from its proper command and sent to the support of a battery posted near the center of the position vacated by the Third Corps in its advance. The heavier columns of Longstreet and Hill that Sickles had encountered, succeeded in breaking the lines of the Third Corps and in

their recoil the Command dissolved into disorganized fragments impossible to control. As the fugitive mass passed near the position occupied by the First Minnesota, General Hancock, who had come upon the field and was endeavoring to rally Sickles' retreating forces, ordered the regiment to charge the pursuing Confederates. It was a forlorn hope. The regiment numbered, as it stood upon the field, but two hundred and sixty-two men; there was no other organized force in the immediate vicinity, but without a moments hesitation Col. Colville giving the order to charge, the regiment moved against a mass of the enemy numbering many thousands. The Confederate advance became somewhat disordered in crossing the bed of a dry brook at the foot of a slope, at the moment when the First Minnesota with leveled bayonets struck it with a momentum that was staggering. The enemy recoiled upon his supports; his advance was checked and held at bay until reserves came to the rescue. When the regiment was recalled it brought but forty-seven of its members off the field, but it had performed a duty of the most heroic character and a service, the importance of which it is impossible to estimate. <sup>o</sup>In the morning of July 3rd the regiment was joined by Company "F" that had been on detached duty, and <sup>by</sup> a number of the men, who had been detailed on special service, and restored to its proper command, aided in repulsing the notable charge of the Confederate General Pickett in which the First Minnesota suffered an additional loss of seventeen killed and wounded. The total loss of the regiment in the battles of Gettysburg July 2nd and 3rd was 63 killed or mortally wounded, and 163 wounded, among which were five commissioned officers killed and ten wounded. Captains N. S. Messick, W. B. Farrell, Louis Miller, Joseph Periam and Lieut. Farrar were killed. Capt. Chas. H. Mason and David B. Demerest subsequently died of their wounds. Colonel Wm. Colville, Lieut. Col. Chas. P. Adams, Major Mark W. Downie and five other officers were wounded.

The regiment now under command of Capt. H. C. Coates following with the army parallel routes with the Confederates in their retirement into Virginia, reached the Rappahannock near Kelly's Ford late in July.

August 15th the regiment was ordered to New York City with other troops to aid in maintaining order in that metropolis pending the enforcement of the draft. Sept. 6th it returned to the front and rejoined its command at Culpepper, Va.

At Bristow Station October 14th it had a spirited rencontre with the enemy, in which it captured 322 prisoners, five cannon and two colors, suffering a loss of one killed and sixteen wounded. It occupied a position in the action at Mine Run November 30th that at one period of the affair presented the prospect of very serious work, but from the effect of which it was fortunately spared by a change in the plans of the Corps Commander.

This ended the field service of the regiment, its term of three years having about expired. February 5th it was ordered home for muster out, where on April 28th, 1864, at Fort Snelling, the men were discharged, except such as had reenlisted as Veterans, and a few whose terms had not yet expired. These, with some recruits, were organized into two Companies and designated as the "First Battalion Minnesota Infantry Volunteers."

This organization was ordered to the Army of the Potomac, and under command of Capt. Farrell reported at the White House on the Pamunky River June 1st, 1864, where it was assigned to the First Brigade, Second Division of the Second Army Corps, the same position in the Army that had previously been occupied by the First Regiment.

June 18th the Battalion participated in an unsuccessful assault on the enemy's lines in front of Petersburg, in which it suffered a loss of two killed, 13 wounded and twenty prisoners. Early in August the Second Corps was moved to <sup>Deep</sup>~~Deep~~ Bottom on the James River, where the Battalion with

its Brigade became engaged with the enemy on the 14th, suffering a farther loss of seven killed and many wounded. Again on the 24th of August in a fight at Reams Station, the Battalion was farther decimated by the loss of one killed, three wounded and fifteen captured. In all of these actions the Battalion sustained the well earned reputation of the First Regiment for courage, efficiency and discipline.

Late in October the 2nd Corps performed some hard fighting at Hatchers Run in which the Battalion participated, but fortunately escaped with but slight loss. It took part in the final assault on the enemy's works at Petersburg on the 1st and second of April, 1865, and in the several actions in which the Second Corps was engaged up to the surrender at Appomattox, with a loss of but a few men wounded.

The Battalion having been largely increased in numbers by the addition of other Companies and recruits, Mark W. Downie was commissioned Lieut. Colonel and assumed Command. In June it returned to Washington and from there ordered to Louisville, Kentucky, where for a brief period it became a part of the Army of the Tennessee. In July it was ordered to Minnesota for muster out of service, receiving its discharge at Fort Snelling July 15th, 1865.

Minnesota in Three Centuries. Vol. III, Ch. VI.

## SECOND REGIMENT OF INFANTRY.

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The patriotic wave that swept over the country immediately following the surrender of Fort Sumpter had brought tenders to the Government of men for its defence far in excess of the 75,000 to which President Lincoln's first call for volunteers was limited. In Minnesota there were several Companies organized in addition to those constituting the First regiment. They could not then be accepted, but they generally maintained their organizations in anticipation of a farther call of the Government. When in June, 1861 President Lincoln's second call for volunteers was issued, there was ready the nucleus of another regiment and in a few weeks the Second Regiment of Minnesota Infantry was mustered into the United States Military service.

The regiment was organized on the 22nd of July by the appointment of H. P. Van Cleve as Colonel, James George as Lieut. Colonel, and Simeon Smith as Major. Major Smith was soon appointed a Paymaster in the army, and Alexander Wilkin was made Major of the regiment in his place. Col. Van Cleve had been an officer in the regular army and Lieut. Col. George and Major Wilkin had served as volunteer officers in the Mexican War. The regiment was therefore well equipped with experienced field officers. The several Companies of the regiment, like those of the First, were recruited at different points throughout the State, most of them coming from the more populous Counties.

A restless condition developing among the Indian tribes located on the frontier of the State, made necessary the detachment of several

Companies of the regiment for garrisons at Forts Ridgely, Ripley and Ambercrombie. It was not, therefore, until October 14th that the regiment was ordered to the front. The orders under which it left the State designated its first station to be Washington, D. C. While en route at Pittsburg, on the 16th, it received orders diverting it to Louisville, Ky., where it arrived on the 22nd, and from thence moving<sup>ed</sup> to Lebanon Junction, thirty miles South, the same day. Some weeks were spent in this locality, where the regiment acquired much proficiency in field service while drilling and in the performance of the routine of camp and guard duties. Here the Second Minnesota was brigaded with the 25th<sup>and</sup> Ohio, 9th Ohio, and the 87th Indiana regiments, becoming a part of the Third brigade, Sixth Division of the Army of the Ohio, commanded respectively by Generals R. L. McCook, Geo. H. Thomas and D. C. Buell. From January 1st, 1862, to the 17th of the month, the regiment was engaged with the army in an advanced movement Southward, during which it was subjected to a severe test of endurance in its first experience on a hard campaign in exceptionally bad weather. On the latter date Thomas' Division reached the vicinity of Mill Spring on the Cumberland River, a point within a few miles of an entrenched Confederate Camp occupied by a division of troops commanded by General Zollicoffer. Dispositions were made in anticipation of a possible attack by the enemy, which ~~was made~~<sup>occurred</sup> early on the morning of the 19th. This was the opening of what is known in history as the battle of Mill Springs, the first fight in which the Second Minnesota participated, but in which the regiment performed distinguished service, and established its reputation as one of the most reliable in an emergency in the Army of the Ohio. It withstood without flinching, and repulsed a determined assault of the enemy in which the fighting became hard to hand, and was only decided by the courage and superior staying qualities of the Second Minnesota and their comrades of

General Thomas' force. The forces engaged were not large, but it was a decisive Union victory, the enemy being routed and scattered, his entrenched camp with its contents, much artillery and many prisoners being captured. The loss of the regiment was twelve killed and thirty-three wounded.

The regiment remained in the vicinity of the scene of its recent achievements until the 10th of February, when moving with its Division it marched Northward, reaching Louisville on the 25th. There it embarked on steamers and was conveyed via the Cumberland River to Nashville, Tenn., where it disembarked and encamped near the city on the 4th of March.

On the 16th of March <sup>1862</sup> the Army of the Ohio, which had been concentrated in the vicinity of Nashville, commenced its movement Southward to co-operate with the forces under General U. S. Grant that were gathering at Savannah and Pittsburg Landing, Tenn., for a contemplated movement against Corinth, Miss., then occupied by a large Confederate Army. While the Army of the Ohio, under General Buell, was struggling in bad weather to make progress towards the front, the battle of Shiloh was fought April 6th and 7th, 1862. The Division to which the Second Minnesota was attached did not reach Savannah until the 8th, too late to take part in the battle. In the subsequent advance on Corinth the regiment was present with its command, participated in the operations of the investment of the place, its occupation May 30th, and the pursuit of the enemy after its evacuation. Pending these movements Colonel Van Cleve had been appointed a Brigadier General which was followed by the promotion of Lieut. Col. James George, Major Alex. Wilkin, and Capt. J. W. Bishop, respectively, to the Colonelcy, Lieut. Colonelcy, and Majorship of the regiment.

Leaving the vicinity of Corinth June 22nd, the regiment moved Eastward along the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, aiding in the restoration

of such parts of the road as had been destroyed by the enemy. Passing through Athens, Alabama, August 3rd, the command turned northward arriving at Winchester, Tennessee, on the 7th. Remaining here for a few days, the movement was continued until Nashville, Tennessee, was reached on the 7th of September. In the meantime Lieut. Colonel Wilken had been appointed Colonel of a new regiment just organized in Minnesota, and in consequence Major Bishop was made Lieut Colonel, and Capt. J. B. Davis, Major of the Second Regiment.

The Confederate General Bragg had now commenced his campaign Northward from Chattanooga, and the Union Army of the Ohio, under General Buell, moving on parallel lines from Nashville Northward, was expected to intercept Bragg's movement and turn him back. The campaign that followed was one of the most trying in which the Second Regiment participated during its term of service. From the 14th of September, when the march from Nashville began, until its arrival in Louisville two weeks later, it was required to make forced marches every day in intolerable heat, and across a country parched by a protracted drouth.

Buell reached Louisville ahead of Bragg and on the first of October his army moved from its lines about Louisville against the Confederate forces. Bragg retired to Perryville, where the severe battle of that name was fought on the 9th of October. The Second Minnesota was in position and under fire during the battle, but did not become actively engaged. Following the Confederate defeat at Perryville the regiment, after participating in the pursuit of the enemy for a few marches, was detached from the main army and employed for a time in various expeditions in middle Tennessee, made necessary by the raiding movements of the Confederate General John H. Morgan, whose activity much embarrassed the Union forces and deranged the plans of General Rosecrans, who had superceded General Buell

in the command of the army on the 30th of October. The following winter and spring months were consumed in this kind of vexatious and wearying service, without much serious conflict with the enemy, though at <sup>u</sup>Trinne, Chapel Hill and Tullahoma some lively skirmish fighting was experienced. In August the regiment joined in the movements that led to the occupation of Chattanooga by General Rosecrans on the 8th of September, 1863.

On the battle field of Chickamauga the Second Minnesota greatly distinguished itself, being in position both on the 19th and 20th of September where the fighting was severest and where the most decisive contests raged. On the 19th, near the Kelly House, with other regiments of Van Cleve's old brigade (now commanded by Col. Van Derveer), the Second Regiment stood as a breakwater against which the enemy's lines were dashed in vain. Assailed upon the flank, as well as in front, it successively repelled the assault of the enemy by changing front as the immediate exigency demanded, and thus formed a rallying point for such fragments of nearby regiments as had lost their organization, and maintaining its position until the fighting in that part of the field had ceased, and until ordered to a new position. On the morning of the 20th the Regiment with its Brigade was in a reserve position until about nine A. M., when it was hurriedly moved to a threatened point just as the enemy made a flank attack, which must have resulted disastrously <sup>to the Union forces</sup> but for the timely presence of the Brigade where the danger threatened. Though required to change front under fire to meet an attack from ambush, the assault was repulsed after a stubborn encounter. Directly following this action the brigade was moved to Horse Shoe Ridge or Snodgrass Hill, where the final decisive fighting of the day occurred late in the afternoon. Immediately under the eye of the "Rock of Chickamauga" the Second Regiment stood like the rock itself, repelling assault after assault of the enemy, until night closed the contest.

During the night the army retired to Rossville and from thence next day to Chattanooga.

In the battle of Chickamauga the Second Minnesota lost 35 men killed, 113 wounded and fourteen captured, the latter constituting a detail that had been left in care of the wounded. The Brigade Commander, in his official report in commendation of the conduct of the Regiment, remarked that "It is a noticeable fact that the Second Minnesota Regiment had not a single man among the missing, or a straggler, during the two days engagement." Though the result on the field of Chickamauga was somewhat in the nature of a drawn battle, yet the retirement of the Union Army to Chattanooga, and the immediate occupation of the battle field by the Confederates, gave the latter a basis for their claim of having achieved a substantial victory. Rosecrans retired his lines to a defensive position near Chattanooga, which was at once confronted by the Confederates, whose investing lines enveloped the strategic position<sup>s</sup> of Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge. Here for two months the two armies faced each other. The Confederates being near their base of supplies, were in comparative comfort regarding their essential needs, but the Union Army being far from its base and its line of supply leading by a difficult and tortuous route over the mountains to the rear, became reduced to short rations for men and animals, and a greatly insufficient supply of clothing and general equipage.

October 19th General Rosecrans was superseded in command of the Army by General Geo. H. Thomas, and a general reorganization taking place, the Second Regiment became a part of the Second Brigade, Third Division of the 14th Army Corps. A new line of supply via the Tennessee River was opened by November 1st, and large reinforcements having come to the army, a forward movement was ordered on the 23rd by General Grant, who was now in

command. There was considerable fighting on the 24th, but on the 25th the two armies became generally engaged in the spectacular battle of Mission Ridge. The Second Minnesota in the battle was deployed in advance of the main line and was the first to enter the most advanced line of the enemy's defences in its front, which ran along a secondary ridge in front of and parallel to the main defences on the crest of Mission Ridge. Carrying this advanced position, with but little delay the retreating Confederates were followed across the intervening space to the foot of Mission Ridge, where it was expected, and so far as orders had been issued, it was intended that a halt for ~~realignment~~ <sup>realigning</sup> would be made. But there was no appreciable halt. The momentum acquired by the successful charge across the enemy's first position, and the enthusiasm of the men consequent upon their recent achievement, carried them onward and upward in the face of the belching artillery, and the roaring musketry of the enemy, sheer six hundred feet along the precipitous cliff to its crest, where, clubbing their muskets, they beat back the now disconcerted and dismayed Confederates, capturing their main line of defense with its artillery, and many of its defenders. The battle was won, Bragg with his broken army retiring rapidly Southward into the mountains of Georgia. <sup>R</sup> Owing to the absence of two Companies on detached service and other details from the Regiment, the Second Minnesota took but one hundred and eighty-five officers and men into the battle of Mission Ridge. It lost thirty-nine in killed and wounded, more than twenty per cent of its whole number. Of seven non-commissioned officers in its color guard all but one were killed or wounded. Its brigade Commander in his official report of the battle said: "Especial credit is due Lieut. Col. Bishop for the management of his regiment when skirmishing in front of the Brigade, and for the gallant manner in which his command carried the rifle pits at the foot of the ridge."

The regiment remained in the vicinity of Chattanooga several weeks during which about eighty per cent of its members reenlisted as veterans. This entitled the men to a furlough of thirty days with transportation to their homes. On the 8th of January, 1864, the veterans left the army on their "vacation", reaching Minnesota in mid-winter. On the third of March it started on its return, its ranks having been swollen by many recruits. It reached the front April 10th, rejoining its old command in the vicinity of Ringgold, Georgia.

The Army was now preparing for the Atlanta campaign, the forward movement beginning on the 7th of May. The Second regiment was in all the important movements by which General Sherman successively and successfully flanked the Confederate Army and compelled its retirement Southward all the way to Atlanta. Though often at the front and under fire, it did not become heavily engaged in any of the several battles that marked the progress of the Atlanta Campaign. In an action near Kenesaw Mountain the regiment lost one officer killed and eleven men wounded. It participated in the battle of Jonesboro September 1st, but escaped without casualty. In operations following the evacuation of Atlanta the regiment made a hard campaign Northward as far as Kingston, returning thence to Atlanta in time to join the grand army on its historic march to the sea.

Sherman was practically unopposed in his march from Atlanta to the defenses of Savannah<sup>Ga.</sup> - November 15th to December 12th - when Fort McAllister was reached, no enemy appearing in sufficient force to sensibly check his advance to the seacoast. The movement, however, had a powerful moral effect upon current events of the war, as it demonstrated the exhausted condition of the Confederacy, and its inability to farther rally in its defence.

The Second Minnesota had an experience common with the army as a whole in this campaign, without special exciting incident, except a lively brush with the enemy's cavalry on the 8th of December, in which one of its men was mortally wounded. After the occupation of Savannah it remained in the vicinity until January 20th, 1865, when the "Campaign of the Carolinas" began.

In a military sense, Sherman's movement Northward through the Carolinas was a much greater achievement than his "March to the Sea". Here he encountered a very different and a much more difficult problem in the solution of which his versatile genius as a strategist was demonstrated in a marked degree. In the face of a considerable force of the enemy that had now been concentrated to oppose him, he pushed his army to Goldsboro, N. C., a distance of four hundred and eighty miles, through a difficult country owing to its intersection by many large streams, maneuvering on his way in a manner to force the evacuation of Charleston, S. C., and other strategic points held by the Confederates and winning the considerable battle of Bentonville while en route. No doubt the rapid approach of Sherman's army towards the Virginia border hastened the crisis in front of Richmond, and contributed to the rapid succession of events that immediately preceded the close of the war. The Second Regiment saw much hard service in this campaign. The elements seemed to conspire with the enemy in making progress difficult. It was present at the battle of Bentonville, though but moderately engaged. It reached Goldsboro in a condition of <sup>i</sup> dilapidation, but with its morale unimpaired. Here it received a new outfit and many recruits. Col. George had some months previously resigned, his health having become much broken, which left the command of the regiment to Lieut. Col. Bishop. The latter had been commissioned Colonel, but could not be mustered as such by reason of the material ~~de~~ <sup>de</sup> ~~ci~~ <sup>ci</sup> ~~m~~ <sup>m</sup> ~~a~~ <sup>a</sup> ~~t~~ <sup>t</sup> ~~i~~ <sup>i</sup> ~~o~~ <sup>o</sup> ~~n~~ <sup>n</sup> of the material ~~de~~ <sup>de</sup> ~~ci~~ <sup>ci</sup> ~~m~~ <sup>m</sup> ~~a~~ <sup>a</sup> ~~t~~ <sup>t</sup> ~~i~~ <sup>i</sup> ~~o~~ <sup>o</sup> ~~n~~ <sup>n</sup>

ment. The addition of these recruits gave the required minimum for a full field organization, and J. W. Bishop, C. S. Uline and John Moulton were respectively mustered as Colonel, Lieut. Colonel and Major.

Leaving Goldsboro early in May the regiment moved with its proper command Northward through Richmond, Virginia, and across many of the historic fields on which the Army of the Potomac had fought, to Washington, D. C., where it participated in the grand review of the Army on the twenty-fourth of May, 1865.

Leaving Washington on the 15th of June the Regiment moved to Louisville, Kentucky, and on the 10th of July it proceeded from thence to Minnesota, where it was discharged from service at Fort Snelling, July 20th, 1865.

Minnesota in Three Centuries

Vol. III, Ch. VII.

### THIRD REGIMENT OF INFANTRY.

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Before the Second Regiment had left the State for service at the front, recruiting for the Third Infantry was well in progress, and by November 15th the required ten Companies had been formed, and on that date the Regiment was organized by the appointment of Henry C. Lester as Colonel, Benj. F. Smith as Lieut. Colonel, and John A. Hadley as Major.

Orders had already been issued for the Regiment to report for field duty, and on the 27th it left Fort Snelling and moving with remarkable expedition, reached Louisville, Kentucky, two days later. December 6th it was moved to Shepardsville and Lebanon Junction, Kentucky, on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, where it was charged with the duty of guarding bridges and other vulnerable points on the line of the road, being in the meantime brigaded with the 13th and 15th Kentucky and 9th Michigan Regiments, as a part of the Army of the Ohio. The winter was spent in the performance of this duty, but in March, 1862, the Regiment moved to Nashville, Tenn., following the general advance of the army after the capture of Forts Henry and Donaldson. Similar duty was here assigned the regiment until April 27th, when it moved to Murfreesboro, an important strategic point in the heart of Tennessee.

While the Third Regiment had as yet been denied opportunity to show its mettle as a fighting force, it had commanded much attention from its associates in the army, and had received much commendation from its higher Commanding Officers for its fine military appearance, superior discipline and the promptness and efficiency with which it had performed every duty to which it had been assigned. Its es prit du corps was not

excelled by any regiment of the army, and as a body it was eager for an opportunity to establish a reputation on the firing line. If the regiment had been properly officered and commanded there can be no doubt but that it would have acquitted itself with credit in the emergency that overtook it at Murfreesboro July 13th.

Colonel Lester had acquired much reputation as an organizer and disciplinarian, had shown exceptional aptitude for military service, and had the confidence and regard of his men in an unusual degree, but as the event proved, he lacked the first essential of a soldier, courage. He cowardly surrendered his regiment to the Confederate General Forrest without giving it a chance to defend itself. Though a minority of his line officers voted with him for the capitulation, yet it was plainly the assertion of his dominating position that influenced their action, and hence, the responsibility was his. Had Lester possessed a modicum of the courage and spirit of Corporal Charles H. Green of Company "I", who had been left with about twenty men in charge of the camp of the regiment, the Third Minnesota would have been spared the overwhelming disaster of Murfreesboro. Corporal Green, with his little squad, twice repelled a charge on the camp by many times their number, and only yielded when the Corporal fell mortally wounded. Forest had but about a thousand men with him at Murfreesboro, and as appears by Confederate official reports of the affair, was almost persuaded to move forward on his raid, which it seems he would probably have done rather than risk a determined fight.

Immediately after the surrender the regiment, for the moment crushed in spirit and bowed in <sup>grief</sup> ~~sorrow~~, was marched rapidly to McMinnville, where the men were paroled. The officers were transported to Madison, Georgia, where they were retained three months, and from thence transferred to Libby prison in Richmond, Virginia. Here they were also paroled and

sent within the Union lines.

The paroled enlisted men were taken to St. Louis, Missouri, where they were quartered in Benton Barracks until ordered to Minnesota, August 22nd, to join General H. H. Sibley's expedition then organizing for operations against the hostile Sioux Indians on the frontier of the State. The enlisted men were soon regularly exchanged, and under command of Major A. E. Welch - formerly an officer in the first regiment - and some of the officers of the Third, who were not present at the surrender at Murfreesboro, joined Sibley's force near Fort Ridgely, Minn., September 15th.

The principal events that characterized the Sioux outbreak of 1862, are described at length elsewhere in an article devoted to that subject, hence, will be referred to here only to indicate briefly the relation the Third regiment sustained to some of its important incidents. In the battle of Wood Lake, October 23rd, which was the decisive action of the campaign for that year, the regiment took a prominent part, in which it manifested fighting qualities equal to the best of troops and maneuvered under fire in a manner that evidenced the highest discipline. It aided in repulsing several attacks of the Indians and held its ground until ordered to retire, executing the latter movement in good order while almost surrounded by their savage enemies. The regiment lost five killed and twenty-six wounded in this action, among the latter being its Command<sup>r</sup>, Major Welch, who was disabled for farther service. General Sibley, in his official report of the battle, says: "Major Welch of the Third regiment was instantly in line with his command, his skirmishers in the advance, by whom the savages were gallantly met, and after a conflict of a serious nature repulsed"; and the Adjutant General of Minnesota, in his report, says: "As the hottest of the enemy's fire was borne by the Third regiment

and Renville Rangers, the heaviest part of the loss was confined to those troops."

The regiment participated in subsequent movements that resulted in the release of a large body of captives in the hands of the Indians and in several scouting expeditions for the relief of localities on the far frontier.

Returning to Fort Snelling, in November the regiment was re-organized with a view of its return to the seat of war in the South. Col. Lester and all the officers who had voted for or counseled the surrender at Murfreesboro, were dismissed from the service by order of the President dated December 1st, 1862. Lieut. Col. Griggs was thereupon commissioned Colonel, Captain Andrews Lieut. Colonel and other vacancies filled in the line and staff.

January 25, 1863, the regiment left the State under orders to report at Cairo, Ill., which point was reached on the 26th. February 3rd it moved to Columbus, Kentucky, and from thence to Fort Heiman March 12th. Here it was retained for several weeks, doing arduous duty scouting the adjacent country that was dominated by detachment<sup>s</sup> of the enemy conscripting for the Confederate Army.

After General U. S. Grant had completed his incomparable campaign for the investment of Vicksburg, Miss., May 19th, 1863, his rear became seriously threatened by a Confederate Army under General Jos. E. Johnston. That he might be able to cope with this new danger, Grant called to his aid all available troops within reach. Among the reenforcements hurried to Grant's army was the Third Minnesota, which reached the vicinity of Vicksburg June 8th. It here became a part of General Kimball's provisional division of the Sixteenth Army Corps, which was stationed at Haines Bluff, on a line confronting General Johnston's army. The regiment remained in

this position doing important service until after the surrender of Vicksburg, July 4th. On the 26th it was relieved and moved by steamer to Helena, Arkansas, and from there on the 13th of August, it started on a long march with a column under General Frederick Steele up the valley of White River to Devall's Bluff, and from thence across to the Arkansas River at Little Rock, which was occupied September 10th, the enemy under General Sterling Price retiring Southward without seriously contesting General Steele's advance.

Col. Griggs had resigned while the regiment was at Haines Bluff and Lieut. Colonel C. C. Andrews had been promoted to the Colonelcy. Directly upon the occupation of Little Rock, Colonel Andrews was assigned to the command of the post and the Third Regiment placed on duty in the city as provost guard. The regiment remained in Little Rock for several months and in the State of Arkansas until its term of service was completed. It gave material aid to the movement for the reconstruction of the state, and won the regard of the people of the locality for its strictly soldierly conduct in all respects.

In January, 1864, a large part of the regiment re-enlisted as veterans under General Order 191 of the War Department, and soon thereafter the re-enlisted men were given the customary furlough of thirty days and visited their homes.

Details from the regiment were sent on several scouting expeditions, in all of which they gave a good account of themselves. An important movement of this character was made to Augusta, Arkansas, in April 1864, during which occurred the sharp action of Fitzhugh's Woods. Moving from Little Rock on the 30th of March by rail to Devall's Bluff, and thence by the White River to the vicinity of Augusta, one hundred and

eighty-six men of the Third Regiment with a detachment of cavalry all under command of Colonel Andrews, encountered a force of five hundred or more of the enemy, which they decisively defeated after a sharp and somewhat protracted action, in which the regiment lost seven killed and sixteen wounded. The participants in this affair were much commended for their gallant action, which resulted in an effective disposition of a troublesome detachment of the enemy, that had for a time maintained a reign of terror in that locality, in its efforts to enforce conscription for the Confederate Army.

April 28th the regiment was moved to Pine Bluff, Arkansas, near which the movements of the enemy at the time gave prospect of serious work. It did not encounter the enemy in the field, but it lost more men by malarial diseases while stationed here than it would likely have suffered in a pitched battle. More than thirty of its men were buried on the banks of the Arkansas at Pine Bluff and scores were sent to hospitals in a condition of total disability. October 10th the regiment now under command of Colonel Hans Mattson - Colonel Andrews having been promoted a Brigadier General - was moved to Devall's Bluff on White River, a much more healthy locality. From here in December following it participated in another successful scouting expedition to the vicinity of Augusta. May 20th, 1865 the regiment moved to Batesville, Arkansas, where it remained until late in August, when it was ordered home, being mustered out of service at Fort Snelling September 16th, 1865.

Gov. Murphy of Arkansas expressed his admiration of the Third Regiment in a communication to the Governor of Minnesota in these words: "While they have been on duty in our Capital, good order has prevailed and

they have won the respect and esteem of the citizens. When called to meet the enemy, they have proved ready for any undertaking and reliable in every emergency. Such men are an honor to the Government and the cause they serve. Their State may justly be proud of them, as they will do her credit wherever duty calls them."

Manuscript in Three Centuries.  
Vol. III, Ch. VII.

#### FOURTH REGIMENT OF INFANTRY.

The authority for the organization of the Fourth regiment of Infantry was included in the same order of the War Department under which the Third regiment had been organized, and hence recruitings for both regiments were simultaneously in progress. Several Companies were mustered into service during the autumn of 1861 and ordered on duty at frontier forts, but the complete organization of the regiment did not occur until December 23rd when John B. Sanborn was appointed Colonel, Minor T. Thomas Lieut. Colonel, and A. E. Welch<sup>e</sup> Major. The latter being a prisoner of war and unable to report for duty, L. L. Baxter was later appointed Major in his place.

The winter was spent at Fort Snelling and on the frontier, but on April 20th, 1862, the regiment left the State under orders to report to General Halleck at St. Louis, where upon its arrival it was quartered in Benton Barracks. Leaving here on the 2nd of May, it proceeded by steamer via the Mississippi<sup>Ohio</sup> and Tennessee rivers to Hamburg Landing, Tennessee, near which point it joined the army under General Halleck on the 15th, having debarked while en route near Fort Henry, and joining in a scout to Paris, Tennessee.

General Halleck was now engaged in his leisurely advance on Corinth, Miss., which was occupied by a large Confederate Army commanded by General P. T. Beauregard. The Fourth regiment having been assigned to the First Brigade, Third Division, Army of the Mississippi, participated in the movements of its command in the advance on Corinth, and in its occupation on the 30th of May. The Confederate Army retired from Corinth with-

out contesting its occupation by General Halleck, and in the pursuit of the enemy southward, the Fourth regiment proceeded as far as Boonville, Miss., returning thence to the vicinity of Corinth, where the summer was spent in the malarious camps along Clear Creek. Here the regiment suffered much in common with the army generally from typhoid and kindred diseases, losing **many** men by death and many more by a disability which in a large per cent of cases proved permanent. The regiment felt much relieved when in September the activity of the enemy gave promise of a more congenial occupation than wasting its energies in efforts to overcome the effect of unfavorable climatic conditions.

By the end of the summer many changes had occurred in both the armies that had confronted each other the preceding May. Large detachments had been diverted to other fields, and both Halleck and Beauregard had been assigned to commands elsewhere. General U. S. Grant now commanded the Union Army in the vicinity of Corinth, and Generals Sterling Price and Earl Van Dorn the forces of the enemy opposing him; the two armies now numbered about 50,000 and 35,000 men respectively.

On the 18th of September, <sup>1862</sup> General Price occupied Iuka, Miss., compelling its hurried evacuation by a detachment of Union troops. *which under the immediate command of Gen W. S. Rosecrans* General Grant at once concentrated a considerable force ~~and~~ attacked and defeated Price at Iuka on the 19th in a hotly contested fight. In this battle the Fourth Regiment was actively engaged, holding for a time an important position in the advanced line of attack. At the cost of three killed and forty-four wounded, the regiment, in this its first engagement, performed its full duty under circumstances of a peculiarly trying character. It was required to make important movements and confront an attack after darkness had enveloped the field, and while much confusion prevailed on a part of the Union line, during which it received a severe volley in-

tended for the enemy; a combination of conditions that would put to the supremest test the discipline and nerve of seasoned veterans. Notwithstanding, it fought and maneuvered like regulars, receiving high encomiums from its superior commanders for its notable discipline and efficiency in the battle.

Price retreated from Iuka, but combining his force with Van Dorn's they made a determined attack on Corinth October 3rd and 4th following. General Rosecrans, who commanded the Army of the Mississippi - the left wing of General Grant's army - had concentrated 17,500 men near Corinth with which he confronted the combined force of the enemy. The Confederates won the field on the 3rd, but were decisively defeated on the 4th. The Fourth regiment was engaged in both days' battle. On the 3rd, occupying with its division the right of the Union line, the various maneuvers required to maintain the line of battle as it was retired towards Corinth, involved complicated changes of formation, and in one instance a spirited charge to hold the enemy in check, in which the regiment, commanded by Col. Sanborn, was especially conspicuous. In the fighting on the 4th, the regiment aided in the repulse of a vigorous charge on the line of its division, holding the position until the fighting ceased. In the battle of Corinth the regiment lost two killed and ten wounded. It participated in the pursuit of the enemy as far as the <sup>a.</sup> Hatchie river, from thence returning to the vicinity of Corinth.

Early in November the regiment moved West to Grand Junction, there joining the column under General Grant in its advance south along the Mississippi Central Railroad on a projected campaign against Vicksburg, Miss. This movement reached a point about twenty miles South of Oxford, Miss., when the Confederate General Van Dorn, with a large force of Cavalry,

appeared in Grant's rear December 20th, capturing Holley Springs, his depot of supplies, destroying the large accumulation of stores it contained and breaking the railroad to the rear. This caused an abandonment of the campaign and the retirement of the army nearer its base.

The command to which the Fourth regiment belonged moved to the vicinity of Memphis, Tenn., where it was retained until March, 1863, when it moved down the Mississippi river and participated in the Yazoo Pass expedition, in which it had a somewhat thrilling experience. Col. Sanborn in referring to it, says: "The force that went into the Yazoo Pass was in great peril and the enemy ought to have captured it. It could not have been landed anywhere to operate, and there were many points where batteries might have been stationed by the enemy within their reach that would have rendered it impossible for the transports to pass." Returning from the Yazoo Pass Expedition, the regiment moved down the Mississippi river and joined the grand army that was being concentrated for the final campaign against Vicksburg.

As a part of the First Brigade, Seventh Division, 17th Army Corps, the Fourth Regiment participated with its proper command in the remarkable campaign that resulted in the investment of Vicksburg, May 19th, 1863. It was on the field at the battles of Port Gibson, Miss., May 1st, and Raymond, Miss., May 12th, though not in action. At the taking of Jackson, Miss., on the 14th, it was in reserve and but moderately engaged, having two men wounded; at Champion Hills, on the 16th, the regiment performed important service under fire in aiding to carry a difficult position on which a large body of prisoners was captured, suffering but slight loss in the action. In the assault on the fortifications of Vicksburg, May 22nd, the regiment suffered heavily in the loss of officers and men. After reaching a position near the hostile works, the regiment was ordered to move to the

left, away from its proper front, to support other hard pressed troops, the latter then withdrawing, leaving the regiment in an especially exposed position. Lieut. Col. Tourtelotte, in his official report, says: "No sooner had we taken such position than General Burbridge withdraw<sup>e</sup> his brigade from action under a direct fire from the fort in front and a heavy cross fire from a Fort on our right. The regiment pressed forward up to and even on the enemy's works. In this position, contending for the possession of the rebel earthworks before us, the regiment remained for two hours, when it became dark and I was ordered by Col. Sanborn to withdraw the regiment." This work was done at a cost of twelve men killed and forty-four wounded, some of the wounded remaining where they fell, suffering untold agony until two days later, when the dead were buried and those yet alive removed under a flag of truce. The assault on Vicksburg was repulsed at all points and thereafter the operations bore the character of a siege. With the exception of a few days early in June spent on an expedition up the Yazoo Valley, the regiment remained on the investing line in front of Vicksburg, until the surrender of the place July 4th, 1863, when the Fourth Regiment with its division led the troops that were designated for its occupation, in the march into the captured city. It remained on duty in Vicksburg until September 12th, when it joined the column under General Sherman, which moved via Memphis East to Chattanooga, to the relief of the army under General Rosecrans then besieged by the Confederate General Bragg. From Memphis the regiment marched most of the distance to Chattanooga, much delayed en route while bridging rivers and repairing railroads. It reached the lines of Rosecrans' Army on the 25th of November, in time to participate in the pursuit of the enemy, who was now retiring southward. Returning from this duty the regiment spent some time at Huntsville, Alabama, during which about three-fourths of its members re-

enlisted as veterans for three years more of service. Leaving March 5th, 1864 for their thirty days furlough, the veterans reached home in due time, where their brief respite from exacting service was much enjoyed.

Returning to the army in May, the regiment rejoined its old command at Kingston, Georgia, marching thence in July to Altoona, where Col. Tourtelotte was placed in command of the post. Here occurred October 5th the notable battle of Altoona, in which the Fourth Minnesota bore an important and distinguished part. The position had been reinforced by a detachment under General Corse during the night of the 4th, increasing the garrison of the post to about 2000 men. These were assailed by French's entire Confederate Division of 7000 men, which enveloped the Union position on three sides. The assault was determined and several times repeated and as often repulsed. It was during the progress of this battle that General Sherman signaled from the heights of Kenesaw Mountain many miles away, the message on which is based the song "Hold The Fort For I Am Coming". Altoona, besides being a base of supplies for the army, was an important strategic position, naturally strong, and was well fortified. Better than all else, it was well defended, and the farther plans of the enemy frustrated by his failure to take the place. The Fourth regiment had 450 men engaged in the battle, losing thirteen killed and forty-four wounded. Among the trophies the regiment captured were the flags of two Mississippi regiments, which were sent to Minnesota, where they have since remained in charge of the Military Department of the State.

The Fourth regiment had been commanded by Lieut. Col. John E. Tourtelotte since early the preceding year, Col. Sanborn having been in command of a brigade, and soon after the capture of Vicksburg being appointed a Brigadier General. Tourtelotte was now promoted to the Colonelcy of the regiment and James E. Edson made Lieut. Colonel. Sometime later

Capt. L. R. Wellman was commissioned Major.

On the 15th of November, 1864, the regiment, now a part of the Third Division of the Fifteenth Army Corps, joined the main column under General W. T. Sherman in the march from Atlanta to Savannah, known in history as "Sherman's march to the Sea". The historian of the Fourth regiment in "Minnesota in the Civil War" characterizes this campaign as "the picnic through the State of Georgia." In another connection he refers to it as an "excursion"; hence, it may be assumed that the service it imposed was not of the exacting character that had made notable the prior experience of the regiment. Reaching the sea coast with its command December 10th, it entered Savannah a few days later upon its evacuation by the Confederate forces under General Hardee. From here the regiment was conveyed by steamer to Beaufort, S. C., and from thence joining in the general movement of the army through the Carolinas, it participated in a campaign that tested almost to the limit the endurance of the men. It was an almost continuous fight with the elements for much of the way, and through a country presenting great natural obstacles to the passage of an army. The men waded and swam streams and struggled through interminable swamps at times in face of the enemy, overcoming one apparently insurmountable difficulty only to encounter another before a march was concluded. The regiment passed through Columbia, S. C., February 17th reaching Fayetteville on Cape Fear River on the 12th of March. It was present on the field of the battle of Bentonville on the 20th and 21st of March, but though at the front and under fire did not become actively engaged. A few days later the army was concentrated near Goldsboro, N. C., where it was given a rest and a new outfit.

In the movement Northward after the general surrender of the enemy the Fourth regiment left Raleigh, where it had encamped a few days,

April 29th, and marching via Petersburg and Richmond, Va., reached the vicinity of Washington, D. C., May 20th. "On the 24th of May the regiment marched at the head of the column of General Sherman's grand army of sixty-five thousand veterans in the review at Washington, and passing through the city, established its camp five miles out at Crystal Springs."

The army of the Tennessee was now ordered West, and starting a few days later, the Fourth regiment moved by rail and river with its brigade to Louisville, Kentucky. July 20th it was ordered home and was discharged from service at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, August 7th, 1865.

Minnesota in three  
Centuries Vol. III, Pt. III

## FIFTH REGIMENT OF INFANTRY.

The Fifth Regiment was the last of Minnesota's quota under the first call of President Lincoln for 500,000 men. It rendezvoused at Fort Snelling and was recruited during the winter of 1861-2, the first detachment being mustered into service December 19th, 1861, and the organization completed March 20th, 1862, when Rudolph von Borghersrode was appointed Colonel, Lucius F. Hubbard Lieut. Colonel, and William B. Gere Major. While the regiment was being recruited, its several detachments occupied Fort Snelling, and for a time acted as its garrison, acquiring meantime much proficiency in drill and a general knowledge of tactics and army regulations, so that upon its organization as a regiment it was fairly fitted to take the field.

Early in the spring of 1862 Companies "B," "C" and "D" were ordered to the frontier, where they acted as garrisons of Forts Ridgely, Ripley and Ambercrombie, during the Spring and Summer of 1862, or until the occurrence of the Sioux Indian outbreak that desolated the western border of Minnesota in August of that year. The bloody events of that period of horrors are yet fresh in the memories of the early settlers of Minnesota, but probably have little lodgment in the minds of the larger portion of the present population of the State. To the frontier settlers of the time, and to the surviving members of the Fifth Regiment who participated in the thrilling events that characterized that period of savagery, the impressions left on mind and heart are more profound and lasting than of the mightiest events of the war of the rebellion.

Though the history of the Sioux Indian War of 1862-3 is made the subject of a separate chapter in this work, it is proper to make a brief reference here to its earlier events, inasmuch as a considerable

detachment of the Fifth Regiment received the first stunning blow of the savage onslaught, and by its heroism and sacrifice stayed its horrors and saved the more populous portions of the State from the desolation that laid the frontier waste.

In July, 1862, numerous bands of Sioux Indians were gathered at the Yellow Medicine Agency, some fifty miles west of Fort Ridgely, in anticipation of the annual payment of annuities due them, and the distribution of supplies customary on such occasions. The annuity money not arriving when expected, there was uneasiness among the Indians and some demonstrations among them of a semi-hostile character. As a precaution, and to provide for a possible emergency, a part of the garrison of Fort Ridgely had been sent to the Agency. A council with the Indians resulted in an agreement that after the distribution of provisions and other annuity goods then on hand, the several bands should disperse to their homes and there remain until advised by the Agent that the money due them had been received. Under this agreement the Indians left the Agency and the troops returned to Fort Ridgely, arriving there August 12th. On the 18th a messenger from the Agency arrived bringing the startling intelligence that a general massacre of the whites was in progress, which was soon confirmed by the arrival of numerous refugees. Captain Marsh with forty-six men of Company "B" of the Fifth Regiment, within half an hour, marched from the Fort ~~in~~<sup>in</sup> the direction of the Agency.

Evidence of the appalling character of the outbreak was met within a few miles of the Fort, in the form of mutilated bodies of men, women and children lying along the roadside. In the belief that this was the work of but a desperate band of outlaws among the Sioux, and that there was no general uprising of the Indians, Capt. Marsh hurried on until he reached the Ferry at the Red Wood Crossing of the Minnesota River.

Here it was disclosed that armed Indians were in force on the opposite bank, though in ambush, apparently awaiting the opportunity to attack the soldiers in mid stream as they were crossing on the Ferry. Capt. Marsh had his men in line near the river, halted for the moment, while parleying through an interpreter with the Indians across the river, whose spokesman assured Capt. Marsh that the Indians were peaceably inclined, and that "there would be no trouble". Evidently impatient of the delay, <sup>caused by the Captains precaution</sup> the Indians in ambush fired a volley across the river, killing the interpreter and wounding some of the soldiers. Marsh ordered his men to fall back to a more protected position, but the command had hardly been given when with demoniac yells large numbers of the savages sprang from the grass and thickets in the vicinity and rushed upon Marsh's devoted band. "Here for several minutes ensued a contest at short range and hand to hand, most sanguinary, but unequal, the little command holding its ground until nearly half its numbers had fallen, and Indians by the score lay dead." It being evident that he would soon be surrounded and overpowered, Captain Marsh ordered the remnant of his command to seek to gain the thickets along the river to the South, the only quarter not held by the savages, which was done by fifteen of the men. From here along the river bank, which led in the direction of Fort Ridgley, a running fight was kept up for hours. The Indians, deterred by their own heavy losses, fought at long range and late in the day gave up the pursuit. During the night eleven men succeeded in reaching the Fort, many of them wounded, and all in an exhausted condition. Twenty-three of the party that left the Fort in the morning had been killed, besides Capt. Marsh, who was drowned in an attempt to cross the river while seeking to elude a detachment of the pursuing savages.

The disaster that overwhelmed Capt. Marsh's detachment gave warning to the occupants of Fort Ridgley of a probable attack by the Indians

on the Fort itself. This outpost, which consisted simply of a group of buildings, stood on a spur of high prairie table land about a half mile from the Minnesota river. Its garrison consisted of the survivors of Company "B" fifty-one men, a detachment of Company "C", fifty men, that had been sent to its relief from Fort Ripley, fifty men of the "Renville Rangers," an independent Company, and about twenty-five armed citizens, a total of one hundred and eighty men.\*

This little band of heroes made the most remarkable defence against the furious assaults of nearly ten times their number, that is recorded in the annals of Indian warfare. Under the command of Lieut. T. J. Sheehan of Company "C", ably assisted by Lieuts. Culver and Gere of Company "B", James Gorman of the Rangers, and Sergeants Jones, McGrew and Bishop, they fought their savage foes, whose movements were directed by the able and noted Chief Little Crow, with a courage and determination that has commanded the wonder and admiration of every one who has become familiar with this eventful period in the history of the western border.

The reader is referred to the separate chapter upon this subject for details of the desperate contest continuing from the 20th to the 22nd of August, the issue of which was ever doubtful, until the final discomfiture of the savages just at night of the last day's fight. The magnitude of the service rendered by these defenders of Fort Ridg/ley cannot be measured. Had the savages captured the Fort, its occupants would have been massacred, and the way made clear for Little Crow to continue his murderous career all

\*About three hundred non combatant refugees had during the day sought the protection of the Fort.

the way to the Mississippi River. The desperate stand made at Ridgely and at Ambercrombie, where Company "D" of the Fifth Regiment repulsed an attack some days later, broke the warlike spirit of the Indians, made them hesitate and gave time for the authorities and the people to rally and come to the rescue. Minnesota can never forget the debt of gratitude she owes these gallant men for this timely and effective service.

The Seven Companies of the Fifth Regiment not engaged in frontier service, were ordered South in May, 1862, and on the 24th of that month reported to General John Pope in the field near Corinth, Mississippi, where they were assigned to the Second Brigade, First Division, Army of the Mississippi. The regiment had hardly time to establish its camp and realize its surroundings before it was brought into action. On the 28th of May, four days after it reached the front, it participated in the battle of Farmington, the most considerable action of the campaign that preceded the capture of Corinth. Though this was its baptism of fire, the regiment bore itself gallantly while aiding in the repulse of a charge made by the enemy, in which it suffered a loss of three killed and twelve wounded.

In the pursuit of the enemy after the occupation of Corinth the regiment was subjected to one of the most trying experiences of its army life. It made long marches in exceedingly hot weather, resulting in many prostrations and an abnormal sick list, while occupying its subsequent camp. The recent change from the exhilarating atmosphere of Minnesota to the enervating climate and malarious conditions of its present location, was so radical and sudden as to cause a serious drain upon the vitality of the men.

Remaining near Corinth most of the summer, in August the regiment was moved east along the line of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad to the vicinity of Tuscumbia, Alabama, its principal duty there being to "occupy

the country", in common with the service then imposed upon the army generally. While here Col. Von Bergersrode resigned and Lieut. Col. Hubbard was promoted to the vacancy thus created, Major Gere being made Lieut. Colonel and Captain Hall of Company "C" Major.

In September the evidence of activity upon the part of the Confederate forces occupying Central Mississippi made necessary the concentration of the army to meet the threatened advance northward of the forces under Generals Price and Van Dorn. In its movement Westward towards Corinth the regiment holding the rear of the column passed through Iuka, *Miss.* just as the Confederate force under General Price made a dash into the town; beyond some lively skirmishing, however, there was no serious encounter with the enemy. General Rosecrans, commanding the Union Army of the Mississippi, turned the tables on General Price by attacking him at Iuka on the 19th of September, compelling the hasty withdrawal of the latter Southward. In this fight the regiment was present on the field, but was held in reserve.

In the battles of October 3rd and 4th, 1862, when the combined forces of the enemy made a furious assault upon Rosecrans' concentrated army at Corinth, the Fifth Minnesota performed distinguished service at a critical issue of the battle, practically saving the army from disaster. The regiment was detached from its proper command (Mowers' Brigade of Stanley's Division) on the morning of the third of October, and sent to guard a bridge on Tuscumbia River some four miles Southwest of the town. The fighting during the day was to the North and West, considerably in advance of the main defences of Corinth, its general result being favorable to the enemy. The ground was desperately contested, but night found Rosecrans forced back into his defensive works, and the enemy in possession of the field over which the conflict had waged during the day. As the

army fell back the regiment retired into Corinth, taking a position on the Public Square.

About nine A. M., of the morning of the 4th, the enemy made a determined assault upon Rosecrans' defensive lines, which was firmly withstood at all points, except near the center. Opposite this point the enemy had formed a strong column in mass, which by the sheer force of the momentum it acquired as it charged, crushed and overwhelmed the troops in their front, capturing the works they occupied, and passing onward, were making alarming progress through the Public Square towards the rear of the defences that were yet intact. If this force was not checked and that gap closed, the mass of the enemy would pour into Corinth, and the advantage of its strong defensive works would be nullified by a flank and rear attack. The Fifth regiment - still detached from its division - was in a position to act instantly and decisively at the point of greatest danger. From the position it occupied the right flank of the penetrating force of the enemy was presented in close and unobstructed range of its guns, and as it passed the front of the regiment, it was given a volley under deadly aim that cut a swath through the Confederate mass. This was repeated with like destructive effect until the bewildered and disordered enemy recoiled and fell back. The regiment moved quickly in pursuit, halting only when it had reached the line where the break occurred, and where with the aid of the troops now rallied, the Union lines were reestablished. This practically ended the battle, following which the enemy retreated to Holley Springs. Generals Stanley and Rosecrans, in their reports, highly commended the regiment for its effective service on the field of Corinth, *where it suffered a loss of seven killed and sixteen wounded.*

From Corinth the regiment moved in November to Grand Junction, Tennessee, and there became a part of the army under General U. S. Grant, that advanced into Central Mississippi as far as Oxford, the objective of the

movement being Vicksburg, Miss. Incursions of the enemy in Grant's rear, and the serious damage inflicted on his line of communications, caused the abandonment of the campaign and the retirement of the army northward.

In December the regiment participated in an expedition through West Tennessee, in pursuit of the Confederate General Forrest. The expedition was characterized more by excessive marching and general privation than in combats with the wily enemy it was pursuing. Returning from this service, the regiment was moved February 1st, 1863, to the vicinity of Memphis, Tennessee.

During the winter the army had been reorganized, the regiment becoming a part of the Second Brigade, Third Division of the Fifteenth Army Corps, the latter commanded by General W. T. Sherman. In its brigade the regiment was associated with the 11th Missouri, 8th Wisconsin, and the 47th Illinois regiments, and the 2nd Iowa battery of Artillery, constituting what became known as the "Eagle Brigade", *Some months later the 9th Minnesota was added to the brigade* Companies "B", "C" and "D" having been relieved from duty on the Minnesota frontier, here rejoined the regiment, and participated in its subsequent service in the field.

Early in April the 15th Army moved by steamer down the Mississippi river to Millikens Bend, a point on the Louisiana shore, a few miles above Vicksburg, where it awaited the concentration of the army and other dispositions in the plans for the pending campaign against this stronghold of the enemy. The Fifth regiment while here furnished a large detail for daily service in excavating the canals, which became a feature of the early operation of the campaign. The health of the regiment, in common with such parts of the army as was thus employed, became seriously impaired by this service and its attendant exposures. The locality generated all known species of malarial poisons. The camps, being on low ground, became thoroughly saturated by the heavy rains that for a time occurred almost daily, and

as a consequence all the scourges to human life that accompany such conditions were an ever present enemy to be met. The death rate was excessive and the levees along the river affording the only solid ground in which a grave could be dug, became thickly dotted with the simple wooden slab on which the name constituting the final record of some soldier was inscribed.

On the 2nd of May Sherman's Fifteenth Corps moved down the west bank of the river to a point opposite Bruinsburg, where it crossed to the Mississippi shore. In the advance of the army to Jackson, Miss., the Fifth regiment for much of the way held the advance of the column. It had acquired the reputation of being specially effective on the skirmish line, and as the column was being constantly impeded by a body of the enemy, the regiment was kept to the front, a notable recognition of its efficiency.

At Mississippi Springs, just at night of the 13th of May, the regiment had a spirited encounter with the rear guard of the enemy that was retiring on Jackson. About three o'clock, P. M., of the 14th the vicinity of Jackson was reached, and an immediate assault on the defences of the place was ordered. Here, the regiment resuming its proper position in line, participated in the assault upon and capture of the enemy's defences. In the occupation of the place the regiment was assigned to provost duty, having its bivouac on the grounds of the Capitol Square, and placing its regimental flag for a day on the dome of the Capitol building of the Capital City of the Confederate President's own State. On the morning of the 16th, the Fifteenth Corps started on a hurried march towards Vicksburg, where on the 20th it was assigned to the right of the line of investment.

In the assault on the defences of Vicksburg, May 22nd, the regiment occupied a position that saved it from serious loss. The broken nature of the ground in its front with its entanglement of fallen timber and dense thicket, made it impossible to move in line of battle. The "Graveyard Road",

one of the main thoroughfares connecting Vicksburg with the adjacent country, passed through the position occupied on the line of investment by the brigade to which the Fifth Regiment belonged. It was determined to make the assault along this road, though it was commanded by a formidable earthwork and obstructed by cheveaux de frise. The assault, therefore, must be made in column by the flank, the same formation as presented by troops in line of march. The Fifth Regiment was upon the left of the brigade, which brought it in the rear, or the fourth regiment in line. In this formation the old "Eagle Brigade" charged at a run along the graveyard road. As the leading regiment, the Eleventh Missouri, with General Mower at its head, emerged from the protected position behind which the formation had been made and became exposed to the enemy's view, it was met, and as it moved forward was as if melted down, by the fire in front and on both flanks that was concentrated upon it. Scarcely a man from the right of the regiment to its colors but fell, either killed or wounded. The heaps of dead and wounded men of themselves formed an obstruction difficult to surmount. Though a corporal's guard reached the ditch of the fort - among them the color bearer, who placed his flag on the slope of the work- it was evident that no considerable number could pass the deadly spot, and hence the order came to desist and seek cover, which was found among the ravines and behind the felled timber on either side of the road.

It being demonstrated that Vicksburg could not be taken by assault, dispositions were made for the prosecution of a siege by regular approaches.

The Fifth Regiment was detached with its brigade early in June for duty with an expedition up the valley of the Yazoo river, and at Sata<sup>o</sup>tia on the 4th, and Mechanicsburg on the 5th, participated in actions of considerable importance. Upon its return the regiment was sent with its brigade across the Mississippi river to Young's Point, where it served until

Vicksburg surrendered July 4th, 1863, guarding approaches to the beleaguered place from the Louisiana side of the river. While here it participated in a sharp fight with the enemy at Richmond, La., in which it had eight men wounded.

After the surrender of Vicksburg, the regiment resumed its position in the 15th Army Corps, participating in General Sherman's pursuit of the Confederate army under General J. E. Johnston, and upon the conclusion of this campaign established its camp on the Big Black River. From here, during the summer and early autumn of 1863, the regiment participated in two expeditions to Canton, Miss., and was engaged in actions of some note at Canton, Brownsville, <sup>r</sup>Baxton's Station, and on the Big Black River. In November it was ordered to Memphis and from thence to LaGrange, Tenn., a locality with which it was familiar, where it remained undisturbed by exciting incident until the beginning of the New Year.

Late in January, 1864, the regiment returned to Vicksburg, re-occupying its old camp on Big Black River. It was while encamped at this point that the members of the regiment re-enlisted, almost in a body, for a second term of three years, and thereby became, under the orders of the War Department, in name, what they had for a long time been in fact, Veterans. There had also been further changes in the organization of the army, under which the Fifth Regiment became a part of the Second Brigade, First Division of the Sixteenth Army Corps.

On the 4th of March, 1864, the regiment, with its associates of the Sixteenth Corps under command of General A. J. Smith, embarked aboard transports at Vicksburg, and on the 10th, sailed with the fleet down the Mississippi River bound upon the famous Red River Expedition. At this time the Regiment was commanded by Major J. C. Becht, Colonel Hubbard commanding the Brigade. The troops disembarked at Simmsport on the Atchafalaya<sup>g</sup> River,

March 12th, and on the 14th assaulted and captured Fort De Russy on Red River, thence moving by the river to Alexandria, La. While waiting here for the arrival of General N. P. Banks' Army en route from New Orleans, an expedition under General Mower, of which the regiment was a part, on the 21st captured a Confederate outpost at Henderson Hill, consisting of a battery of artillery and a detachment of cavalry.

General Banks arriving at Alexandria on the 25th, the next day the movement in force up the valley of Red River commenced. Arriving at Grand Ecore, La., April 4th, the 16th corps was halted for two or three days; meantime the 5th regiment with other troops, under command of Colonel Hubbard, was sent against a body of 2000 of the enemy posted at Compti on the North bank of Red River. In the action that followed the enemy was decisively defeated and dispersed. April 7th the march up the country towards Shreveport was resumed, the 16th Corps bringing up the rear. During the afternoon of the 8th a vague rumor came along the line of march that General Banks was having a fight far to the front, but nothing definite respecting its character was learned until, as the Sixteenth Corps went into bivouac that night near Pleasant Hill, the intelligence was received that the main body of the enemy, under General Richard Taylor, had been encountered at Sabine Cross roads, and that Banks had been decisively defeated, losing heavily in killed and wounded, and in prisoners, artillery and transportation. The worst reports were soon confirmed by fugitives from the front, and the broken fragments of the army as they retired to Pleasant Hill hard pressed by the enemy.

The Sixteenth Corps was ordered into line of battle at two o'clock on the morning of the 9th, to check the pursuit of the enemy, and to perform such duty in connection therewith as events might impose. Awaiting the concentration of his forces, Taylor delayed an attack on the 16th corps

until about three o'clock, P. M., when he made an assault that was easily repulsed. Taylor now massed his forces and threw them with much vehemence against the lines held by the 16th Corps, <sup>which had been</sup> reenforced by such troops of Banks' army proper as could be hastily reformed and placed in position. Then followed some of the hardest fighting and bloodiest work for the numbers engaged of any battle of the war. Taylor's assaults were several times repeated and as often repulsed, until greatly weakened by his successive failures, he yielded to a counter charge made by the concentrated forces under General Smith, and retired in disorder from the field.

The battle having extended into the night, the exhausted army was allowed a few hours rest, but was aroused at two o'clock on the morning of the tenth, expecting to be sent in pursuit of the fleeing enemy. To its amazement and chagrin, the head of the column was turned to the rear as it moved off the field, and marched as if in retreat from a pursuing force. General A. J. Smith violently protested against what he characterized a cowardly retirement from a victorious field, but Banks' orders were imperative and the army moved back to Grand Ecore.

It developed that Banks' army proper was so badly shattered and demoralized by its defeat at Sabine Cross Roads, that General Banks felt it must undergo reorganization before its farther employment in offensive operations. The retreat of Banks reassured the enemy, who soon made aggressive movements against the position occupied by the army at Grand Ecore.

As conditions developed they seem to have discouraged Banks from a farther prosecution of the campaign, and on the 22nd of April he moved from Grand Ecore on his continued retreat out of the Red River Valley. The 16th Corps again brought up the rear and at once found business to attend to in dealing with the enemy. Before it got away from Grand Ecore it repelled a fierce attack made by the enemy in force, and again at Cloutierville, a few miles east, a like movement of the enemy was met in

like manner. Indeed, some part of General Smith's command was in line of battle during most of the five days and nights occupied in the retreat to Alexandria.

In all the operations above noted the Fifth Regiment took an active part. From the battle of Pleasant Hill where it held with Hubbard's brigade the right of the line of the Sixteenth Army Corps, until its arrival at Alexandria, it was in every affair in which its division participated, performing its full duty in every emergency.

Banks' army remained at Alexandria until the 13th of May, detained there by the Gunboat and transport fleet that was unable to pass the rapids in the river at that point. The boats were finally floated over the obstructions by the construction of wing dams, which deepened the channel sufficiently for the purpose. This accomplished, the army was put in motion on the 14th for its final exodus from the Red River country.

By this time the Confederate General Taylor had concentrated a large force in the vicinity, and had occupied the roads on which Banks' army must move. In consequence parts of the army were habitually in line of battle and often engaged, as it slowly made progress towards the Mississippi River. The Fifth Regiment in this movement participated in actions on Bayous Robert and La Moure, on Moore's Plantation, at Mansura, on Bayou de Glaise, and at the crossing of the Atchafalaya<sup>y</sup> River, some of which affairs assumed the dignity of a battle, and in all of which the enemy was defeated.

The mouth of Red River was reached on the 21st when the Sixteenth Corps embarked aboard its fleet and moved up the Mississippi. While the corps felt much chagrin at the failure of the campaign, it was relieved by the reflection that it was in no wise responsible for its mistakes, but rather that its presence with the expedition had saved it from still greater disaster.

The retirement of the Union forces from the Red River country was followed by great activity on the part of the Confederates in the Trans Mississippi States, a condition the Sixteenth Corps was made to realize in its progress up the Mississippi. Near Lake Village on Lake Chicot, Ark., the fleet found the river successfully blockaded, necessitating the landing of the troops and the fighting of a stubbornly contested action June 6th, <sup>1864</sup> in which the Fifth Regiment suffered a loss of seventeen killed and wounded. Proceeding on its way the fleet reached Memphis on the 10th. Here the regiment was given its veteran furlough and on the 17th took a steamer for St. Paul.

Returning to the front the Regiment rejoined its old command near Holley Springs, Miss., on the 17th of August. While the veterans were taking their furlough, those members of the Regiment who had not re-enlisted under the command of Capt. T. J. Sheehan, were engaged in the battle of Tupelo, Miss., July 14th, in which they acquitted themselves in a most creditable manner. On the 23rd of August the regiment while acting as rear guard of the column, repulsed a vicious attack by a considerable force of the enemy at the crossing of the Tallahatchie river, near Abbeyville, Miss.

Early in September the Regiment with its division under command of General J. A. Mower, was conveyed by steamers from Memphis via the Mississippi and White Rivers to Devalls Bluff, Arkansas, and from thence on the 17th, started on one of the severest campaigns in the history of the war, being subjected at times to great privations, and often to the most exhausting effort. The Confederate General Sterling Price had invaded Missouri with a body of 12,000 Cavalry, and was threatening great disaster to the Union cause in that semi-rebellious State. General Mower moved in pursuit, his route leading over the mountains and across the swamps of

Arkansas to Cape Garadean, Mo., thence by the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to Jefferson City, Mo., and from there to the Kansas State line, returning thence across the entire State of Missouri to the city of St. Louis, altogether covering a marching distance of 795 miles. The average day's march during the campaign was over thirty miles, and in frequent instances it exceeded forty miles per day.

Leaving St. Louis November 24th, the regiment moved with the 16th Corps via the Mississippi, Ohio and Cumberland Rivers, to Nashville, Tenn., arriving there December 1st, 1864, and reinforcing the army of the Cumberland under General George H. Thomas.

In the **decisive** battles of Nashville, December 15th and 16th, 1864, the Fifth Minnesota, with other Minnesota troops, bore a prominent and distinguished part. It was at the front in the several assaults in which the enemy's positions were carried during the operations of the 15th; and in the final charge in the afternoon of the 16th, it was among the first to reach the enemy's fortified line, being at the extreme front when the key point of the Confederate position was carried at the point of the bayonet, and where men and artillery were captured by regiments and batteries.

The most impressive evidence of the character of the work the regiment performed in the battles of Nashville is the number of casualties it suffered. One hundred and six gallant spirits of the Fifth Regiment were prostrate upon the field when the battle ended. Three of its color bearers were killed and four of its color guard wounded in the final charge. Its ranks were fearfully decimated, but its success had been commensurate with its sacrifice.

General A. J. Smith, commanding the 16th Corps, in his official report referring to the Brigade, in which were the Fifth and Ninth Minnesota

Regiments, says: "Col. L. F. Hubbard had three horses shot under him on the 16th. Going into action with a total of 1421 muskets in his brigade, he captured over 2000 prisoners, 9 pieces of Artillery and 7 stand of colors, and the casualties of his Brigade number 315."

The campaign in pursuit of the enemy after the battle was an especially severe one, owing principally to the continuous bad weather that prevailed. The regiment reached Eastport, Miss., on the Tennessee River, January 10th, 1865, where it remained until ordered to join the Army of the Gulf at New Orleans.

February 7th it embarked with the Sixteenth Army Corps on steamers and moving via the Tennessee, Ohio and Mississippi Rivers reported to General E. R. S. Canby at New Orleans on the 22nd. Early in March it moved by steamship via the Gulf of Mexico to Dauphin Island at the entrance of Mobile Bay, where it became a part of the Army then being organized for a campaign against Mobile. It participated in the siege and capture of Forts Spanish and Blakely, engaging in the assault on both positions April 8th and 9th. These were the keys to the defences of Mobile, their capture resulting in the surrender of the city on the 12th of April. The assault on Blakely occurred the same day that General Lee surrendered to General Grant and was therefore practically the last considerable engagement of the war.

After the surrender of Mobile the regiment moved with the 16th Corps to Montgomery, Alabama, from whence the troops were distributed in detachments in occupation of the country. The Fifth Regiment was sent to Demopolis, Alabama, where it remained until ordered home for muster out of service, receiving its discharge at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, September 6th, 1865.

## SIXTH REGIMENT OF INFANTRY.

The formidable proportions of the rebellion had developed by mid-summer of 1862 to a degree to impress the Government with the necessity of making still greater drafts upon the resources of the country for its defense. There was already in the field an army of more than half a million men, but it had become evident that it was not sufficient to cope with the problem that confronted it. A call for large reinforcements came to the Government from the commander of every army that was engaged in aggressive movements, the response to which was met by a further call by President Lincoln in July and August for 600,000 additional volunteers. Under these calls Minnesota furnished her full quota of men, the recruiting for several regiments being simultaneously in progress.

The Sixth Regiment was organized August 28th, 1862, when William Crooks was commissioned Colonel, John T. Averill Lieut. Colonel and R. N. McLaren Major.

Pending the final organization of the Regiment, several of its Companies had been dispatched to the frontier of the state to aid in the suppression of the uprising of the Sioux Indians, which had now assumed ~~formidable~~ <sup>alarming</sup> proportions. Some of these Companies formed a part of the expedition under General H. H. Sibley that relieved Fort Ridgely August 28th, and that a few days later were sent to the rescue of the detachment beleaguered by the Indians at Birch Coolie. In the battle at Wood Lake September 23rd the Regiment held an important position, some of its Companies having hot encounters with the attacking savages during the progress of the fight.

Greatly to the disappointment of its members, the Sixth Regiment

was retained in frontier service throughout the operations against the hostile Indians until the summer of 1864, participating in the trying experiences of the frontier campaign of 1863 across the wilds of the Dakotas to the Missouri river, and later acting as garrisons for posts established for the protection of the then far frontier.

On the 14th of June, 1864, the regiment having rendezvoused at Fort Snelling, left for the South under orders to report to General Buford at Helena, Arkansas. The Regiment had hoped to be sent to one of the active armies in the field, and agencies had been invoked to secure for it an assignment that would give the Regiment opportunity to render efficient service at the front. The exigencies of the service for the moment, however, required the strengthening of garrisons along the Mississippi River, and it became the misfortune of the Sixth Regiment to be stationed at one of the most undesirable locations of this character.

Helena was a point important to be held as affecting the navigation of the Mississippi River; it was, however, perhaps the most unhealthy location that at this period could be found in all the swampy and malaria infected regions on the lower Mississippi. The Regiment had done valiant service in the Indian campaign on the northwestern frontier, and the men had become seasoned veterans. When it left Minnesota it was one of the most stalwart organizations that had gone from the state, and it reached Helena June 23rd, 1864, with full ranks, Nine Hundred and Forty strong, and in all respects in splendid condition. It was retained at Helena until November 4th following, a period of but a little more than four months, during which seventy-two of its members died and over six hundred were sent to northern hospitals, victims of the malarial poisons of the locality. On August 7th, barely six weeks after its arrival at Helena, there were but seven officers and one hundred and seventy-eight men reported fit for duty.

Such conditions could but bear heavily upon the spirits of the men. As the historian of the regiment writes: "The regiment fretted and chafed at Helena, consoled with the single reflection that it was as much the soldier's duty to meet disease and death in garrison in obedience to orders, as to serve upon the field of battle."

We do not fail to generously applaud the courage and patriotism of the soldier who faces his fate without flinching as he gallantly charges the enemy's lines, baring his breast to the deadly volleys he knows he must encounter, but a sublimer courage is required to face the approach of the grim messenger through the gloom that pervades an environment such as here enveloped the Sixth Regiment. No compensation of possible glory to be achieved for notable service to the cause for which he risks his life was here offered the soldier to inspire and console him. The emotions are slow to respond to a recital of the sacrifice a soldier makes while he combats and finally succumbs to the dread disease, to whose insidious attacks he is vulnerable at every point. His name is not mentioned in the despatches, nor is it found in the casualty list that illumines the achievement of some great engagement, but none the less his life is given to his country, and his patriotic service is as great, if not so distinguished as the foremost hero of the battlefield.

The regiment was engaged during the summer in repelling a raiding attack upon the post it occupied, and in an expedition in July up White River, in which it met with exciting incidents, but had no serious encounter with the enemy. While at Helena Col. Crooks resigned, which was followed by the promotion of Lieut. Colonel Averill as Colonel, Major Grant as Lieut. Colonel and Captain H. S. Bailey as Major.

The regiment was relieved from its living tomb November 4th, and moved to St. Louis, Mo., where it remained until the following January,

engaged in provost service in the city, meantime greatly recuperating from the debilitated conditions consequent upon its summer experience at Helena.

On the 29th of January, 1865, the Regiment was ordered to New Orleans, La., where in March following it was assigned to the Second Brigade, Second Division of the 16th Army Corps, constituting a part of the army then concentrating for operations against Mobile, Alabama. It moved with its command March 8th to Dauphin Island at the entrance of Mobile Bay, and from thence, a few days later, to Fish River, an eastern affluent of the Bay, which became the base for operations of the campaign. In the advance to Spanish Fort and Blakely, the regiment had some lively skirmish fighting and in the siege of Fort Blakely performed effective service in the construction of approaches and in sharpshooting duty. In the assault on the Fort April 9th, the regiment was among the foremost of the troops to reach the hostile works, though encountering a hot fire from the enemy and passing over exploding torpedoes on the way. It captured the works in its front gathering in a considerable body of prisoners and some artillery as it crossed the defensive line of the enemy it confronted.

The capture of Spanish Fort (which was occupied on the 8th) and Fort Blakely resulted in the surrender of the city of Mobile on the 12th of April, and proved the end of active hostilities in the Southwest.

Upon the conclusion of the Campaign of Mobile the regiment marched with the 16th Corps to Montgomery, Alabama, where it remained until the dissolution of the Corps early in August, when it was ordered home, receiving its discharge from the army at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, on the 19th of August, 1865.

Minnesota in Three Centuries,  
Vol. III, Pl. VIII,

## SEVENTH REGIMENT OF INFANTRY.

The call of President Lincoln in the summer of 1862, for six hundred thousand volunteers, was followed by a patriotic outburst throughout the country that gave assurance of the final success of the Union cause. The response was immediate, every considerable community raising companies and regiments much faster than they could be armed and equipped. In Minnesota five regiments were raised as the quota of the state under the call, all being in process of formation practically at the same time.

The Seventh Regiment of Infantry was partially organized in August, 1862, Stephen Miller being commissioned as its Colonel, and W. R. Marshall as its Lieut. Colonel on the 24th of the month, and George Bradley as Major September 5th.

The occurrence of the Sioux Indian uprising caused the several Companies of the regiment to be sent to the relief of the frontier as fast as they were formed, and hence, some were already in service while others were awaiting their muster in. Four Companies reached Fort Ridgely September 2nd, and were hastily dispatched from there to the scene of hostilities at Birch Coulee, where their presence afforded timely relief.

Under the command of Lieut. Colonel Marshall the regiment was actively engaged in the battle of Wood Lake September 23rd, aiding materially in the discomforture of the savages by a brilliant charge that practically ended the battle. The Seventh was a part of General Sibley's force that effected the liberation of the white captives at "Camp Release" in October, and subsequently engaged in duty along the frontier until the following summer. In June, 1863, the regiment joined the expedition under General Sibley that drove the hostile Indian beyond the Missouri River, which resulted in bringing peace and a feeling of security to the Minnesota border.

October 7th, 1863, the regiment was ordered South, arriving in St. Louis, Mo., on the 11th. Here it was kept on special duty until April 20th, 1864, when it was moved to Paducah, Kentucky. There had recently been a formidable movement of the enemy under General Forest in this locality, and the regiment with other troops had been sent here to re-enforce the garrison. Aside from reconnoissance movements, but little active service was performed by the regiment during the few weeks it was stationed at Paducah. In June the regiment was transferred to La Grange, Tenn., where it became a part of the Third Brigade, First Division, of the 16th Army Corps. Colonel Miller having been made a Brigadier General, the field organization of the regiment was now constituted as follows: Colonel, W. R. Marshall; Lieut. Colonel, George Bradley; Major, W. H. Burt.

The Seventh Regiment was now fairly "at the front", and was soon to be given an opportunity to contrast the conditions between savage and civilized warfare. In the battle of Tupelo, Miss., July 14th, it saw some hard fighting and performed important service. It was in position and most of the time under fire for several hours, finally aiding in driving the enemy from the field, suffering a loss during the engagement of ten killed and fifty-two wounded. Following the Tupelo Campaign the regiment participated in the "Oxford raid" through Northern Mississippi in August, returning to Memphis, Tenn., late in the month.

September 3rd the Regiment embarked with its division aboard steamers at Memphis, and was conveyed via the Mississippi and White rivers to Devalis Bluff, thence marching to Brownsville, Arkansas. From this point it started on the 17th on the notable campaign in pursuit of the Confederate General Sterling Price, in his raid through Missouri. The command crossed the mountains of Arkansas on obscure and difficult roads that had been washed by continuous rains down to their rocky beds.

Severe storms prevailed much of the time, entailing great physical effort and suffering upon the men. The pursuit was continued across the state of Missouri to the Kansas line, without a serious encounter with the enemy, and from thence the command was moved back to St. Louis, covering altogether a distance marched of nearly eight hundred miles during the campaign.

The regiment left St. Louis with the 16th Army Corps November 24th, proceeding via the Mississippi, Ohio and Cumberland Rivers to Nashville, Tenn., where it arrived on the 30th of the month.

General George H. Thomas had here concentrated an army of about 40,000 men, which was confronted by a Confederate force somewhat larger, commanded by General J. B. Hood. It was evident that a great battle must be fought at Nashville, the issue of which would determine the ability of the Union forces to permanently check and turn back the enemy, who had thus far advanced in his purpose to penetrate northward to the Ohio River. The battle was opened on the 15th of December by an attack by General Thomas on Hood's advanced lines, the Sixteenth Corps holding the advance on the right of the Union line. The enemy was steadily driven during the day, several fortified positions being carried by assault, the Seventh Regiment participating with its Brigade in the capture of a redoubt that held the key to a strong position. In this affair the officer commanding the Brigade, Colonel Hill of Iowa, was killed, the command then devolving on Col. Marshall of the Seventh Regiment, who thereafter continued in the permanent command of the Third Brigade. In the final charge of the following day against the last position held by the enemy, the Seventh Regiment in line with the Fifth, Ninth and Tenth Minnesota Regiments together constituting a large part of the front of the First Division - each brigade being formed in double lines - showed its admirable discipline and splendid fighting qualities by its steady advance over difficult ground in the face

of a withering fire from infantry and artillery, and carrying the enemy's works with a dash and an impetuosity that prevented anything in its front from escaping capture. It was a brilliant achievement, though won at a serious sacrifice. Seven men killed and forty-eight wounded was the price it paid for its valor. General McArthur, the Division Commander, in his official report, says: "I wish particularly to mention the gallant conduct of Col. Wm. R. Marshall, Seventh Minnesota Infantry, Commanding Third Brigade; called to take command during the first day's battle, his admirable management and example stamp him as an officer of rare merit."

In common with the army generally, the regiment had a severe experience in the pursuit of the enemy after the battle; the condition of the elements, and a long separation from its supply train subjecting the men to much suffering and privation. It reached Eastport, Miss., on the Tennessee River January 7th, 1865, where it was given a rest, though required for a time to subsist on meager rations, owing to an ice embargo on the Tennessee River, a condition that indicates the severe weather with which the army had to contend.

Early in February the Regiment moved with the Sixteenth Corp to New Orleans, La., where it was assigned to the Army of the Gulf, commanded by General E. R. S. Canby. In March following it moved via Lake Pontchartrain to Dauphin Island, Mobile Bay, and from there to Fish River on which there had been established a base for operations against the defenses of Mobile, Alabama.

On the march in the advance against Spanish Fort, on the 25th of March, Colonel Marshall was quite seriously wounded by a sharpshooter, but he continued on duty as though nothing had happened. In the siege of Spanish Fort the regiment performed arduous duty in a new line of service. In the construction of the approaches to the enemy's works, it was given opportunity to become familiar with engineering details of the Military art.

It constructed trenches, zig zags, saps, parallels and emplacements according to scientific engineering plans, and kept its approaches well advanced as the siege progressed. It occupied Spanish Fort with its Brigade as the Confederates evacuated on the night of April 8th, and next day moved in front of the enemy's position at Blakely. Here it cooperated in such service as the 16th corps generally performed in the capture of Blakely on the 9th, which constituted its final participation in the hostile operations of the war.

Following the surrender of the city of Mobile, which occurred on the 12th of April, the regiment marched with its command to Montgomery, Alabama, from whence it was transferred to Selma, where it remained until July 20th. On this date having received orders to return to Minnesota, it started on its final march homeward bound, and received its discharge from service at Fort Snelling, August 16th, 1865.

## EIGHTH REGIMENT OF INFANTRY.

Enlistments for the Eighth Regiment were generally made with the expectation that <sup>it</sup> ~~the regiment~~ would be sent south as soon as fully organized, but the exigency created by the Sioux Indian outbreak in August, 1862, resulted in its retention in frontier service until October, 1864.

The call for help and protection from the frontier became so sudden and urgent, that many of the Companies of the regiment were hurried to the most exposed points before they were sufficiently equipped or, in some cases, even mustered into the service. This condition much delayed the organization of the regiment. While Minor T. Thomas was commissioned its Colonel August 24th, 1862, its Lieut. Colonel and Major in the persons of Henry C. Rogers and George A. Camp, respectively, were not mustered as such until November 14th and 20th following.

The several Companies were continued on out post and scouting duty along the frontier of the State during the balance of 1862, and throughout the following year while General Sibley made his campaign to the Missouri River. While on this service the several Companies were widely separated and often broken into squads, being required to cover an extended line. Some of these detachments had exciting experiences with wandering bands of Indians, in which numerous casualties occurred in the regiment, and many Indians placed hors du combat. The historian of the regiment makes the statement that "the Eighth Regiment lost more men killed by Indians during the summer of 1863 than the five regiments that composed General Sibley's expedition of that summer."

The Eighth Regiment was at no time together in a body until May 24th, 1864, when rendezvousing at Fort Ridgely it was mounted and became

a part of the expedition that marched June 5th under command of Col. Thomas to the Missouri River, there joining the column under General Alfred Sully in his campaign against the Indians through the "bad lands" to the Yellowstone River. The history of that campaign belongs to another part of this work, to which the reader is referred for an account of the many important and exciting details in which the regiment prominently participated.

The regiment returned from its severe campaign through the wilds of the Dakotas and Montana, and along the Yellowstone, reaching Fort Snelling in October, 1864. Its long service upon the frontier had given the men an experience that specially fitted them for the further duty to which they were to be assigned. Thoroughly trained, bronzed and seasoned as they were, they had become veterans in every sense, and could be depended on for any emergency, as subsequent events abundantly proved.

Leaving Fort Snelling October 26th, the regiment was despatched in haste to Murfreesboro, Tenn., then near the center of active hostilities in the west. Here it was assigned to the Third Brigade, First Division, of the Twenty-third Army Corps.

Early in December the Confederate General J. B. Hood, with a large army, en route on his projected campaign to the Ohio river, was threatening Nashville, Tenn., where General George H. Thomas was seeking to concentrate a sufficient union force to arrest his progress. Murfreesboro, but a few miles distant, was an obstacle in Hood's proposed route, and hence, while operating against Nashville, he sent a detachment of his army under Generals Forest and Bate to endeavor to dislodge and capture or disperse the garrison at Murfreesboro, which consisted of two brigades commanded by General R. H. Milroy. This force of the enemy was met outside the defences of the town December 7th, and after a severe engagement was decisively defeated and driven from the field. The Eighth regiment with its brigade - the

latter commanded by Colonel Thomas, made a brilliant charge upon the enemy at the crisis in the battle, which decided its issue. The severe character of the fighting is indicated by the loss the regiment sustained. Thirteen killed and Seventy-seven wounded was the sacrifice the Eighth Regiment suffered in its first encounter with the enemy on southern fields.

After Hood's decisive defeat at Nashville, December 16th, the regiment joined in the pursuit of the enemy, continuing on his trail as far as the Tennessee River, making many forced marches of an exhausting character.

The Twenty-third Army Corps was now ordered east and the Eighth Regiment, embarking with its command on steamers at Eastport, Tenn., moved via the Tennessee and Ohio Rivers to Cincinnati, Ohio, and from thence by rail to Washington, D. C., where it arrived February 1st, 1865. The corps was under orders to proceed by sea to North Carolina, but owing to an ice blockade in the Potomac, it was detained in Washington some weeks, not reaching the scene of its further service until early in March.

The corps was expected to join the force operating against Wilmington, N. C., but that point having been occupied by the Union forces, the Regiment with its Division was diverted to Newbern. From here it marched in the direction of Goldsboro, and while enroute, encountered, March 18th, a considerable force of the enemy commanded by General Braxton Bragg, with which it had a spirited encounter near Kingston. The enemy, after several attempts to impede the march by attacks on the head of the column, finally retired and the command reached Goldsboro on the 22nd of March, there meeting the advance of General Sherman's army that had just concluded its campaign through the Carolinas.

When Sherman marched northward through Virginia to Washington, the Twenty-third Corps was left in North Carolina pending the settlement of

condition following the surrender of the Confederate armies. The Eighth Regiment spent some time at Raleigh, moving from thence to Charlotte, N. C., where it remained until July, when it was ordered home for muster out, receiving its discharge July 11th, 1865.

## NINTH REGIMENT OF INFANTRY.

As has been noted in respect to the several regiments raised in Minnesota in the summer of 1862 under President Lincoln's call for six hundred thousand volunteers, the sudden uprising of the Indians on the western border of the State had called into active service their Companies as fast as they were formed, in many instances before they were fairly organized; so in the case of the Ninth Regiment, as soon as a Company was recruited to the minimum, and <sup>often</sup> before fully officered, it was despatched in haste in response to an urgent call to some point on the frontier, threatened by the savages. In this way the Companies became widely separated and remained in such relation for many months. Although Alexander Wilkin was commissioned as Colonel, Josiah F. Marsh as Lieut. Colonel and William Markham as Major, in August, 1862, they were not formally assigned to the Regiment and its organization completed by official orders until January 15th, 1863. The Regiment, in detachments, as indicated, continued in frontier service until the autumn of 1863, meanwhile having several sharp encounters with separate bands of Indians, and three of its Companies joining in General Sibley's expedition to the Missouri River.

In October <sup>1863</sup> the Regiment was ordered to St. Louis, Mo., where eight Companies reported to General J. M. Schofield on the 12th of the month. From St. Louis the Regiment was ordered to Jefferson City, Mo., where it was again broken into detachments and assigned to garrison duty along the Pacific Railroad and connecting lines. It remained in this service until May, 1864, when it returned to St. Louis, there meeting the two Companies it had left behind in Minnesota, and "for the first time in its history saw itself together, and held its first dress parade with every Company present." From St. Louis the Regiment moved by river to Memphis, Tenn.,

where it reported May 31st to General S. G. Sturgis, who was in command of a force then organizing for an expedition into Northern Mississippi. This expedition resulted in disaster to General Sturgis' Army of 8000 men, and especially to the Ninth Regiment, though the latter greatly distinguished itself by its coolness, discipline and heroism under conditions that subjected the men to the limit of human effort and endurance. In the battle of Brice Cross Roads near Guntown, Miss., June 10th, General Sturgis engaged a Confederate force, inferior to his own, commanded by General N. B. Forest, at whose hands he was not only defeated, but utterly routed, driven in disorder from the field and suffered severely in the loss of men, artillery and almost his entire train of ammunition, baggage and supplies. That he did not lose his army was largely due to the splendid fighting and maneuvering of the Ninth Minnesota. Sturgis was defeated in detail. He attacked the enemy by detachments hurried to the front at double quick, as they reached the field in an exhausted condition, his flanks being repeatedly turned by reason of his faulty tactics, and his failure to comprehend the significance of the movements of the enemy by which he was compelled to successively yield his positions on the field. The work performed by the Ninth Regiment in the final crisis of the battle is best told by the officer commanding the division to which the regiment was attached - Col. W. L. McMillan - who says in his official report: "My extreme right, after a sharp and bloody contest, was forced back, and I was obliged to throw in the only regiment I had in reserve to drive the enemy back and reestablish my line at that point. This work was gallantly performed by the Ninth Minnesota under the heroic Marsh, and I desire here to express to him and his brave men my thanks for their firmness and bravery, which alone saved the army at that critical moment from utter defeat and probable capture." *R* The regiment held the rear of the army for a long distance on its retreat, and by its gallantry and persistence much delayed the

eager pursuit of the enemy. It had several sharp encounters with a superior force during the two days it covered the retirement of Sturgis' broken detachments, losing many men by capture when sometimes overwhelmed by vastly superior numbers. Colonel Wilkin being in command of a Brigade, the regiment operated generally under the immediate command of Lieut. Colonel Marsh, but the former rendered conspicuous service by skillful dispositions, which resulted in checking at many points the enemy's vigorous pursuit.

In the battle of Brice Cross Roads, the Ninth regiment lost nine killed, thirty-three wounded and two hundred and forty-four captured. Of the latter one hundred and nineteen died in the Andersonville, Ga., prison, many of the remainder dying soon after their release from diseases entailed by their imprisonment.

The regiment retired to Memphis, where in the reorganization that followed the recent campaign, it was assigned to the Second Brigade, First Division of the Sixteenth Army Corps, the latter commanded by General A. J. Smith. An effort was now made to retrieve the disaster at Brice Cross Road, which was accomplished in the achievement of a decided victory at Tupelo, Miss., won by General Smith July 14th, in which the Confederate General Forrest received similar punishment to that he had inflicted upon Sturgis the preceding month. In this battle the Ninth Regiment, though not heavily engaged, lost two killed and five wounded, among the former being its brave and soldierly Colonel, Alexander Wilkin. Colonel Wilkin was peculiarly endowed with ideal personal and soldierly qualities, and was highly regarded by all to whom his superior merits became known. His regiment was inconsolable at his loss and following so soon the disaster it had so recently suffered, seemed an affliction especially hard to bear.

Returning again to Memphis, the regiment started August 2nd on

what became known as the "Oxford Raid", which, though accomplishing substantial results, was not characterized by much fighting or exciting incident, the expedition returning to Memphis on the 30th of August. Here Lieut. Colonel Marsh received his commission as Colonel, Major Markham being also promoted to Lieut. Colonel and Capt. H. B. Strait to Major.

September 2nd<sup>1864</sup> the First Division of the Sixteenth Army Corps, to which the regiment was attached, embarked at Memphis and was conveyed via the Mississippi and White Rivers to Devalls Bluff, Arkansas. From this vicinity it moved on the 17th with the expedition under General J. A. Mower, which made one of the hardest campaigns of the war, <sup>in pursuit of</sup> ~~following the trail~~ of the Confederate General Sterling Price, which led over the mountains of Arkansas into Missouri, and across the latter State. General Price was raiding through Missouri with a mounted force numbering about twelve thousand men, and under the conditions then existing, would probably have inflicted great damage to the Union cause, but for the timely presence and vigorous action, at seriously threatened points, of the Sixteenth Army Corps. While the regiment saw but little of the enemy at close range on this campaign, it aided materially with its command, by means of forced marches and skillful maneuvering, in compelling the enemy to often change his plans and abandon his purpose at important objective points. The regiment covered nearly eight hundred miles of marching distance besides several hundred miles that it moved by water, before the campaign was concluded by its arrival in St. Louis, November 15th, on its return march from the western border of Missouri.

Stirring events were now occurring in Tennessee by reason of the invasion of that state by a large Confederate Army under command of General J. B. Hood, who was making rapid progress northward; there being no sufficient Union force in the threatened region to materially impede his movements. General George H. Thomas, was organizing at Nashville, Tenn., such force as

could be hurriedly gathered at that point, to take the field against Hood, and the Sixteenth Army Corps being the most considerable detachment "in sight", was forwarded via the Mississippi, Ohio and Cumberland Rivers to reinforce Thomas. It arrived at Nashville December 1st and was placed in position on the right of the line of defence, which had been established in expectation of an attack by the enemy. Hood had been considerably weakened by a bloody encounter with the Fourteenth and Twenty-third Corps under General Schofield at Franklin, Tenn., November 30th, <sup>1864</sup> which seemed to cause hesitation upon his part in his further operations after he had advanced to the vicinity of Nashville. Meantime Thomas had been sufficiently strengthened to warrant offensive movements by the army he had organized, and on the 15th of December he made an attack on the enemy. The main attack was made by the Sixteenth Corps on the right, the Division to which the Ninth Regiment belonged being actively engaged throughout all the operations of the day. The enemy was steadily driven, being compelled to fall back from several strong positions which were gallantly charged by the Ninth and their comrades. These, however, were but outposts, Hood's main defensive line being encountered just at night when the fighting for the day ceased.

The decisive action of the battle of Nashville occurred late in the day of the 16th of December, <sup>1864</sup> when a general assault on the enemy's defensive line was ordered and executed with a brilliancy and success not excelled by any similar achievement on any field of the Civil War. An officer of the First Division who witnessed the movement writes of it as follows:

"The hour arrives - four o'clock precisely by McArthur's time; the order goes forth and with a shout that is heard away off in our old lines near Nashville, the division starts for the works before it. \*\*\*\*\*

Across the corn field, the soft ground giving way until men and horses sink at every step knee deep; under a shower of canister, shell and minnie-balls filling every inch of the atmosphere and meeting them square in the face, they keep onward. The works are gained; no faltering yet; and now goes up the flag of the Ninth Minnesota on the works; simultaneously with it the flag of the veteran Fifth - which has been shot down four times in this advance and riddled with a full charge of canister - ascends; the works are carried in front of all the brigades of the Division, and Minnesota holds the position in an unbroken line of half a mile in extent.\*

\*\*\*\*\* The whole work - a work that all military men who witnessed it agree in pronouncing a charge of scarcely equaled brilliancy in the annals of warfare - was accomplished in ten minutes time. The enemy was completely routed and driven to the adjacent hills in utter confusion."

The Ninth Regiment lost in the battle of Nashville ten killed and forty-eight wounded; eight of the latter subsequently died as a result of the wounds they received. In the pursuit of Hood's shattered army to the Tennessee River, the Regiment in common with their comrades, were subjected to continuously exhaustive effort under extreme conditions of adverse weather and limited supplies of the necessities of life. It reached Eastport, Miss., January 9th, 1865, where it remained throughout the month.

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\*Four Minnesota Regiments, the Fifth, Seventh, Ninth and Tenth, were in the First Division, and as the Brigades in this movement were formed in double lines, these Regiments were brought into a continuous line, ~~and all in front.~~

February 6th the Regiment moved with the Sixteenth Army Corps via the Tennessee, Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans, and from thence via the Gulf of Mexico to Mobile Bay, where it was mobilized with the army that subsequently captured the City of Mobile. In the siege of Spanish Fort March 27th to April 8th, the regiment was engaged in all the operations that resulted in the capture of that key to the enemy's position, and was with the reserve at the storming of Blakely on the 9th of April; its casualties in these operations numbering two killed and fourteen wounded.

The regiment moved with its command to Montgomery, Alabama, after the occupation of Mobile, and from thence was sent to Marion, Alabama, where it spent many pleasant weeks, though becoming impatient to return home now that the war was over. July 26th it was ordered to proceed to Minnesota, where it received its discharge, being mustered out at Fort Snelling August 24th, 1865.

## TENTH REGIMENT OF INFANTRY.

While much of the service rendered by the troops enlisted in Minnesota in 1862 did not directly relate to the "Civil War", yet it has been deemed necessary to briefly refer to the earlier experience of such organizations as prominently participated in the Indian War of 1862-3, that an intelligent idea may be conveyed of the character and extent of the work performed by Minnesota soldiers during the period of 1861-5. When one speaks of the "War of the Rebellion" he does not ordinarily have in mind any thought of the rebellious conduct of the Sioux Indians in their uprising in 1862, but there can be no doubt that the action of these savages was in a large measure inspired and promoted by the conditions in which the country became involved by the rebellion in the South. They had accurate knowledge of the character of the mighty contest in which the country was engaged, and doubtless believed that the Government would fail in its efforts to maintain its integrity. They saw the stalwart men of the frontier leaving their homes in large numbers for service on distant fields, and they felt that the situation presented to them the opportunity to wreak their slumbering vengeance on the race that was steadily crowding them away from their ancestral homes. Had there been no Civil War in progress there would have been no Indian uprising in 1862; hence the military service on the frontier was as important and was in a manner closely related to the like service in the South.

The Companies composing the Tenth Regiment were recruited without reference to their ultimate regimental association, each Company being sent to exposed points on the frontier as soon as organized. Though the enlistments were largely in August, the regimental designation was not made until October 18th, 1862, when James H. Baker was assigned as Colonel,

*then Secretary of State*

Samuel P. Jennison as Lieut. Colonel and Michael Cook as Major of the Tenth Regiment of Infantry, and a full complement of Companies designated to form their command. One of these Companies then known as the "Renville Rangers", under command of Capt. James H. Gorman, bore a distinguished part in the defense of Fort Ridgely August 20th to 22nd, <sup>and in the battle of Wood Lake Oct 23.</sup> and still another bearing the name of the "LeSueur Tigers", commanded by Capt. E. C. Sanders, participated in the defense of New Ulm August 24th and 25th. Other Companies were actively employed at different points on important duty in repelling attempted incursions of the savages, their vigilance and activity contributing much to the restoration of order and repose to the frontier of the State. In the summer of 1863 the regiment constituted a part of the command that General Sibley led in an expedition to the Missouri River. In this campaign the savages were driven far beyond the borders of Minnesota, being hotly pressed until they found refuge in the mazes of the bad lands west of the Missouri. In its progress across the then desert plains of Dakota, the expedition had several exciting encounters with the Indians, though the latter would rarely come to close quarters. The most important action occurred July 28th, near ~~Dead Buffalo~~ <sup>Stony</sup> Lake, in which the Indians, to the number of three or four thousand, made a stand and maneuvered as if resolved to retreat no farther. The Tenth Regiment led in the attack on the position here occupied by the enemy, other portions of the command moving in support. <sup>Rapid</sup> ~~A few~~ volleys from the Infantry line reinforced by well directed discharges from the Artillery, <sup>by which many Indians were killed.</sup> seemed to change the purpose of the savages as they lost no time in retiring beyond range and thereafter made little effort to impede the progress of the expedition.

Upon its return from the Indian Campaign, the regiment was met at Fort Snelling by orders to report at St. Louis, Mo. It left on the 7th of October, <sup>1863</sup> and, arriving in due time, was quartered for a few days in

This was the largest body of Indians that ever confronted an American Army. General Sibley said of this action: "The brunt of the conflict was borne by the Tenth Regiment, Colonel Baker in front, where the Indian assault was most gallantly met and broken."

Jefferson Barracks near the city. On the 23rd it was assigned to duty in the city as provost guard, Colonel Baker being placed in command of the post. St. Louis was at the time one of the largest military posts in the country, bearing highly important relations to several fields of army activity in the southwest. It was a great compliment to Colonel Baker to be assigned to so important a command immediately upon his arrival near the seat of war, but it became later the cause of ~~much~~<sup>much</sup> regret on his part, as it resulted in his permanent separation from his regiment. When the following April the regiment was ordered to the front, Colonel Baker sought to be relieved of his duties in St. Louis, that he might accompany it, but his persistent requests to that effect were repeatedly denied. It became known some months later that strong influences were invoked by local interests to have the Tenth and Seventh Minnesota Regiments retained in St. Louis as a permanent garrison; the soldierly conduct of these commands, and the efficient discharge of the duties they had to perform, sometimes of a delicate character, had created a strong sentiment among the citizens of the city for their retention. This request being finally refused by the War Department, a final special request was made of Secretary Stanton that Colonel Baker be continued in command of the City. In deference to so pronounced a sentiment, and in view of the excellent record of his administration, this concession was made. Colonel Baker continued in command of the Post of St. Louis until July 1st, 1864, when his jurisdiction was extended to include four adjoining counties. Subsequently he was appointed <sup>by E. M. Stanton Secy of War</sup> ~~Assistant~~ Provost Marshal General of the Department of Missouri, in which position he continued until the close of the war, rendering highly efficient service in the administration of the complicated and exacting duties of the several positions to which he was assigned.

The Tenth Regiment left St. Louis April 22nd, 1864, under command

of Lieut. Colonel Samuel P. Jennison, proceeding to Columbus, Kentucky. Here for a few weeks it was engaged in scouting duty, as a counter irritant to the operations of the Confederate General N. B. Forrest, who was causing much disturbance in that locality. Two Companies were early sent to Island No. 10 in the Mississippi River, where they were retained until the regiment was ordered farther South. June 20th the regiment arrived in Memphis, where it was assigned to the First Brigade, First Division of the Sixteenth Army Corps, in which association it remained until the close of the war.

In July the regiment moved with the Sixteenth Corps on an expedition commanded by General A. J. Smith, into Northern Mississippi, where it encountered on the 14th, near Tupelo, the forces under the Confederate General N. B. Forrest, that had the preceding month won a substantial victory over the command of General Sturgis near Guntown, Miss. At Tupelo Forrest was defeated after making a stubborn fight, in which the Tenth Regiment became moderately engaged, losing one man killed and twelve wounded. In August a second expedition under General Smith moved against Forrest, who, avoiding a close encounter, fell back before Smith's advance. The expedition proceeded as far as Oxford, Miss., from whence it returned to Memphis. At the crossing of the Tallahatchie River, on the retrograde movement, the Tenth, in conjunction with the Fifth Regiments, had a spirited action on the 23rd, with a superior force of the enemy, in which the latter was driven into precipitate retreat.

On the 2nd of September, 1864, the regiment with its division embarked upon the campaign which led via Devalls Bluff on White River, over the mountains of Arkansas, and across the State of Missouri. This "raid after General Price" has been alluded to in preceding sketches of the campaigns of Minnesota Regiments, hence it is sufficient here to say, that the Tenth Regiment participated in all the forced marches, excessive fatigue, almost constant privation and exposure that characterized that campaign of

October and November, 1864 as one of the severest made by any Army of the Union during the war. After chasing the enemy's mounted force from White River, Arkansas, to the vicinity of St. Louis, Mo., and thence to the Kansas border, the command marched back to St. Louis where it arrived November 15th. From here the Sixteenth Corps was forwarded by steamers to Nashville, Tenn., arriving December 1st, a most welcome reenforcement to the army. General George H. Thomas was then organizing to stay the progress of the Confederate force under General J. B. Hood moving northward from the Tennessee River.

In the attack on the enemy in front of Nashville, December 15th, the First Division of the Sixteenth Army Corps, to which the Tenth Regiment belonged, held the extreme right of General Thomas' Infantry lines. In the fighting that followed the Corps, the Division and the Regiment performed a succession of valient deeds and each won distinction for what it accomplished.

The Tenth was among the leading Regiments - fully abreast with the foremost - in the assault upon and the capture of the first positions taken from the enemy; followed closely his retirement to his main line of defense, and was at the front when the fighting ceased at night, where Hood made his final stand. Though the first day's work was a substantial success, the victory was not yet won. Hood had retired his army, under a pressure he could not withstand, to where he had previously established a defensive line that was exceptionally strong in its natural advantages and well fortified<sup>ified</sup> by entrenchments and redoubts. Attacks on this line early in the day of December 16th made by Divisions on the left of the army had been repulsed. At four o'clock, P. M., an attack was made by the 16th Corps, which resulted in a brilliant success, the entire line of the enemy being carried along the front of the Corps, and large captures made of

prisoners and guns. In this assault the Tenth Regiment was especially conspicuous. It was required to move up a steep elevation along the crest of which the enemy held a strongly fortified position, the approach to which was commanded by an enfilading fire upon either flank. The regiment charged this salient point of the enemy's lines and "after a severe and bloody conflict, forced the enemy with bayonet from his works. \*\*\* Every officer and man was at his post and nobly did his duty. Especially did its Commander, Lieut. Colonel Jennison, display a high order of those qualities requisite in an officer who wins battles over a brave and stubborn foe. \*\* In the charge which decided the fate of the day, the last one made, Colonel Jennison fell severely wounded in front of his command."

The regiment was highly commended by its Brigade, Division and Corps Commanders for its gallantry in this assault, even General Thomas, who witnessed it, declaring that "it was the handsomest feat of arms I ever saw."

The regiment lost in the battle of Nashville twenty-one killed or mortally wounded, and fifty-six wounded; among the former were Major Michael Cook and Captain George T. White, two brave and accomplished officers.

The battle of Nashville was one of the most decisive battles of the Civil War. The Confederate Army here encountered was not simply defeated, but it was practically destroyed. It left the field in demoralized fragments and even these dissolved and scattered under the pressure of General Thomas' vigorous pursuit. This battle also decided adversely to the enemy a campaign undertaken under promising conditions, for a purpose, which, if successful, would have seriously effected the Union cause. If Hood had reached the Ohio River, it would have been a fair offset to Sherman's march to the sea. It would doubtless have necessitated another levy of

troops at a time when the resources of the country, both in men and the sinews of war, were strained almost to the limit. It would have precipitated conditions that might have embarrassed the situation throughout the theatre of war in other parts of the country.

The regiment participated in the campaign to the Tennessee River in pursuit of the enemy after the battle of Nashville, reaching Eastport, Miss., January 7th, 1865. From here it moved with the Sixteenth Army Corps to New Orleans, La., where it arrived February 22nd.

As though destined to "box the compass" of the theatre of war in the Southwest, the regiment was moved from New Orleans via the Gulf of Mexico to Mobile Bay, where it came under the command of General E. R. S. Canby, who was then organizing a campaign for the capture of Mobile.

In its subsequent service the regiment was given an opportunity to acquire practical knowledge of the art of reducing a fortified position by "regular approaches". In the siege of Spanish Fort it performed hard service in the trenches and had its advance parallel, close to the hostile works when the enemy evacuated on the 8th of April. Mobile surrendered on the 12th, after which the Sixteenth Corps marched to Montgomery, Alabama.

In the "occupation of the country" after the close of the war, the Tenth Regiment was assigned to Meridian, Miss., where it remained until ordered home. This long expected and most welcome order was received late in July, under which the regiment proceeded to Minnesota, where it was mustered out of service <sup>at Fort Snelling</sup> August 18th, 1865.

## ELEVENTH REGIMENT OF INFANTRY.

The Eleventh Regiment of Minnesota Infantry volunteers being the last regiment organized in Minnesota for service in the South, was sent to the front at so late a period in the war that little opportunity was given it to test its mettle in a substantial encounter with the enemy. It was composed of like material that gave character to and that won distinction in the ranks of its predecessors, and it was inspired by a like ambition to render substantial service to the country, and win glory by gallant achievement. The regiment was recruited during the months of August and September, 1864, and finally organized by the appointment of James Gilfillan as Colonel, John Ball as Lieut. Colonel and Martin Maginnis as Major.

The regiment left Fort Snelling for the South September 20th, 1864 proceeding to Nashville, Tenn. From here it was assigned to the duty of guarding important sections of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, headquarters being established at Gallatin, Tenn. The regiment continued upon this duty throughout its term of service. The activity of partisan bodies of the enemy in the locality required the exercise of constant vigilance at all points occupied by the Regiment and necessitated frequent scouting expeditions on the trail of guerrilla bands that were continuously raiding through the adjacent country. In some of these affairs exciting incidents occurred and occasionally an encounter that gave promise of a respectable fight, but generally ended in the precipitate retirement of the raiders. In one of these actions two men of the Regiment were killed. "An impediment to effective dealing with the guerrilla was the difficulty of distinguishing him from the ordinary inoffensive native, though it was generally believed by the men that the apparently inoffensive native and

the guerrilla were, under different conditions, one and the same individual." The service required of the regiment was exacting, requiring the men to be ever watchful and alert, ready at a moment's warning to repel an attack or march in pursuit of the elusive enemy. That the regiment performed its duty well is evidenced by the fact that the important line of Railroad it was guarding was operated without interruption while under its protection.

The regiment was relieved of this service June 26th, and ordered to Minnesota where it was mustered out July 11th, 1865.

## FIRST AND SECOND COMPANY OF SHARPSHOOTERS.

Early in the war the U. S. War Department requested the State authorities to organize two Companies of troops for special service to be designated "Sharpshooters." Pursuant to this authority the first of such Companies was mustered into service October 5th, 1861, and officered as follows: Captain, Francis Peteler, First Lieutenant Benedict Hippler, Second Lieutenant Dudley P. Chase.

The Company left the State October 6th, <sup>1861</sup> and reported in Washington, D. C., on the 10th. It remained here unassigned until February 10th, 1862, when it became a part of the Second Regiment of United States Sharpshooters commanded by Colonel H. A. V. Post, and composed of Companies from the states of Minnesota, Michigan, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Captain Poeteler was appointed Lieut. Colonel and A. B. Jones Major upon the final organization of the regiment, when it was assigned to Augers Brigade, Kings Division of McDowell's Corps. The regiment was armed with Sharp's breech-loading rifles and acquired great skill in their use.

The Minnesota Company with its regiment was with the Army of the Potomac in most of its campaigns, participating in the battles and actions of Fredericksburg, April 18th, 1862; Orange Courthouse, July 27th; Guinea Station, August 6th; Rappahannock Station August 21st - 23rd; Warrenton Springs, August 26th; Second Bull Run, August 28th - 30th; South Mountain, Sept. 14th; Antietam, Sept. 16th and 17th; Fredericksburg, December 13th - 15th; Chancellorsville, May 2d - 4th, 1863; Gettysburg, July 2nd - 4th. Wapping Heights, July 23rd. Kelly's Ford, November 7th; Brandy Station, November ---; Locust Grove, November 27th; Mine Run, November 30th; Wilderness, May 5th - 7th, 1864; Spottsylvania, May 8th - 21st; North Anna, May 23rd - 27th; Totopaytomoy, May 27th - 31st; Cold Harbor, May 30th to June 12th; and throughout the siege of Petersburg from June 16th, 1864 until its

occupation by the Union forces.

The Company lost eight men killed and twenty-three wounded in the several affairs in which it was engaged. Its service when in action was habitually on the skirmish line, and hence "did not suffer the heavy losses incident to fighting in heavy columns."

In February, 1865, the Company was transferred to the First Minnesota Battallion and was mustered out of service with that organization at Fort Snelling, July 15th, 1865.

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THE SECOND COMPANY OF SHARPSHOOTERS was organized March 20th, 1862, Wm. F. Russell being appointed Captain; John A. W. Jones, First Lieutenant, and Daniel H. Priest Second Lieutenant. April 21st the Company left Fort Snelling and arrived in Washington, D. C., on the 26th. May 3rd it moved to the front reporting to Col. Hiram Berdan of the "First United States Sharpshooters", on the Peninsular near Yorktown. The Company remained with this regiment but a few days, but during the time it participated May 27th in the battle of Hanover Court House.

On the 30th of May the Company was assigned to the First Minnesota Infantry and thereafter bore the designation of Company "L" of that organization. "From this date until November 23rd, 1863, the general history of the Company was practically the same as that of this regiment (1st Minn.), as it participated with it in all its hardships, battles, etc. \*\*\* a reference to the history of that regiment will practically cover the ground."

November 23rd, 1863, the Company was detailed as provost guard at the headquarters of the Second Division of the Second Army Corps, and remained on such duty until mustered out. While thus detached the Company participated with its division in the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania Court House, Hanover Church and Cold Harbor, and throughout the siege

of Petersburg, including actions at Deep Bottom, July 27th - 30th, and August 12th - 21st, 1864; Reams Station, August 25th; and Boynton Roads, October 27th. Its casualties in action during its term of service were six men killed and thirty-five wounded. The Company was mustered out of service near Petersburg, Va., March 19th, 1865.

## BRACKETT'S BATTALION OF CAVALRY.

Minnesota furnished her compliment of men for all arms of the service during the Civil War. She was not only represented in the Infantry branch, but in the Cavalry and Artillery as well. The first Cavalry organization formed in the State was three Companies recruited<sup>ed</sup> in the autumn of 1861, and which are designated in the records as "Brackett's Battalion". These three Companies commanded by Captains Henning Von Minden, D. M. West and A. B. Brackett, respectively, reported for duty in St. Louis, Missouri, in December, 1861, where they were assigned to a regiment known as the "Curtis Horse", named in honor of General Curtis, then in command of the Department of Missouri. Directly upon such assignment, Captain Brackett was promoted to Major and placed in command of the Minnesota battalion. Subsequently the name of the organization was changed to Fifth Iowa Cavalry, under the order of the War Department, requiring all volunteer regiments to bear the name of some State. The regiment being composed of four Companies from Iowa, three from Minnesota, three from Nebraska and two from Missouri, gave Iowa the advantage in the choice of name.

In February, 1862, the Regiment was ordered to Fort Henry, Tenn., reaching there on the 11th, soon after the surrender of the Fort, but in time to take part in the operations resulting in the capture of Fort Donaldson February 16th. The regiment rendered important service here while on scouting duty, in which it operated effectively on the enemy's communications, preventing reinforcements from reaching the Fort. Following the surrender of Donaldson the regiment was almost constantly in the saddle for several weeks, performing arduous duty defending the flanks and rear of the army from attack by the partisan rangers of the enemy.

The Minnesota battalion, acting independently, performed important service in the restoration of bridges and the construction of lines of telegraph in connection with the movements of the army, *just* prior to the battle of Pittsburg Landing, April 6th and 7th, 1862, also in General Halleck's advance on Corinth in May, it performed like service most efficiently.

After the occupation of Corinth May 30th, Brackett's battalion with headquarters at Humbolt, in West Tennessee, was employed throughout the summer in scouting the country and protecting Railroad communications with Corinth. During the autumn months of 1862, and the winter of 1862-3, the regiment acting together, made several long scouts in Western Tennessee in efforts to stay the ravages of the Confederate General Forrest, who terrorized that region for so long a time. In the course of its movements it became engaged in several actions of considerable importance, at Clarksville, September 3rd, and twice, near Fort Donaldson, it had spirited fights. At the latter place, on the 5th of February, it was with the force that encountered Forrest, Wheeler and Wharton, with their combined commands of several thousand men. This force made a determined attack upon the Fort, but was repulsed and forced to retire.

In June, 1863, the regiment moved to Murfreesboro, where it was assigned to the cavalry division of the Fourteenth Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland.

During the summer months following, the regiment participated in the advance movements, which constituted a notable feature of General Rosecrans' general campaign against the Confederate General Bragg, and his army, in which the latter was finally forced to retire south of the Tennessee River at Chattanooga. In this movement the regiment was generally employed in scouting and outpost duty, a character of service in aggressive

operations that entails exceptional vigilance and activity, and at times much hardship and privation upon the troops so engaged. In this service the Battalion much of the time operated independently, always executing its orders promptly and effectively; often encountering detached bodies of the enemy and sometimes acting with the advance of the main column in its attacks upon important positions.

About January 1st, 1864, the battalion having largely reenlisted as veterans, ~~it~~ was ordered to Minnesota for its veteran furlough. While in the State the battalion received many recruits and otherwise increased its numbers by the addition of another Company commanded by Captain Ara Barton. Before its furlough expired an order was received permanently detaching the battalion from the Fifth Iowa Cavalry, and thereafter it bore the <sup>e</sup> designation of "Brackett's battalion of Minnesota Cavalry."

The further service of this organization was in the Indian expeditions on the western frontier. It reported to General Sully at Sioux City, Iowa, May 21st, 1864, and accompanied him on the succeeding campaign up the Missouri River, through the bad lands of the Dakotas, to the Yellowstone River. During this expedition it participated in two severe engagements with the Indians, in both of which the courage, dash and discipline that had characterized its prior service in the south, was manifested in a notable manner.

In 1865 the battalion was again with General Sully in his operations west of the Missouri river, and after quiet was restored to the frontier, it was posted in detachments at widely separated points along the western border, where it remained until its muster out of service in May, 1866.

This organization bears the distinction of having served a longer period than any other troops enlisted in the State. Its service extended

from September, 1861 to May, 1866, a period of more than four and one-half years, during which the men of the battalion became veterans of two wars.

*more space*  
In addition to Brackett's battalion there was raised in Minnesota two full regiments of cavalry of twelve Companies each, known as the First regiment of Mounted Rangers recruited in the autumn of 1862, and the Second Regiment of Cavalry organized in January, 1864; also Hatch's Independent Battalion of Cavalry, composed of six Companies, enlisted during the summer of 1863. None of these organizations, however, were sent South, their service being wholly upon the frontier in campaigns relating to the Sioux Indian war. Their <sup>history</sup>~~service~~ is sketched in the chapter relating to the "Sioux Outbreak of 1862", and hence is omitted here.

## FIRST REGIMENT OF HEAVY ARTILLERY.

The last troops raised in Minnesota for service in the Civil War was the First Regiment of Heavy Artillery, the largest organization in point of numbers that went from the State during the war. It was composed of twelve Companies, including a total of 1755 men, most of whom were recruited during the early months of 1865, though the nucleus of the regiment was formed in the autumn of 1864. Its organization was completed in April, 1865 by the appointment of William Colville as Colonel, Luther L. Baxter as Lieut. Colonel and Orlando Eddy, C. P. Reffelfinger and David Misner as Majors.

The regiment was forwarded by Companies as they were organized to Chattanooga, Tenn., where they were assigned to duty in the numerous forts by which that strategic point was encompassed.

The war was so near its close when the regiment reached the front, that no opportunity was afforded it to try conclusions with the enemy. It efficiently performed the duty required of it as garrisons of the posts it occupied, where it was retained until its service was no longer required.

"Under the brow of Missionary Ridge, at the base of Lookout Mountain, and with the battlefields of Chickamauga and Atlanta beyond, what inspiring memories to lofty thoughts and patriotism. Rumor comes from time to time that Hood is about to march to Chattanooga and thence to Knoxville. The men are placed on half rations, and the utmost vigilance exerted and anxiety prevails. General Hood had reorganized the rebel forces of the southwest, and it was a serious question as to what route he would take north. By attacking and capturing Chattanooga, thence on to Knoxville, he could have joined Lee and delayed the final result."

But Hood met his fate in another quarter. Chattanooga was not seriously threatened, and after a few months' service the regiment returned to Minnesota, the last of its Companies being mustered out of service September 27th, 1865.

## FIRST BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY.

The First Battery, Minnesota Light Artillery, was mustered into service November 21st, 1861, and when ordered to the front was commanded by Emil Munch as Captain, with William Pfaender and F. E. Peebles as First Lieutenants, and Richard Fisher and G. F. Coake as Second Lieutenants.

Soon after its organization, the Battery was forwarded to St. Louis, Missouri, where it received its guns and equipment, and in February, 1862, was ordered to Pittsburg Landing, Tenn., where it was assigned to Buckland's Brigade of Sherman's Division of the army under General Grant, then concentrating at that point.

It will be observed that this Battery reached the fighting line of the army in the west early in its career. It was also its fortune to be given an early opportunity to test its qualities as a fighting force on one of the most hotly contested and bloodiest fields of the Civil War. In the battle of Shiloh the First Battery was among the first organizations of that arm of the service to get into action, and by its effective work it was conspicuous in aiding to check the first onslaught of the Confederates in their almost successful surprise of the Union Army on the morning of April 6th, 1862. Throughout the fighting of the first day's battle the battery gave evidence of remarkable discipline and efficiency in maintaining its organization during most difficult maneuvers in repeated changing of positions, as the pressure of the enemy compelled the recession of the Union lines; and in the final conflict of the day when it seemed more than an even chance that Beauregard would make good his boast, that he would that night "water his horses in the Tennessee river," th<sup>e</sup> First Minnesota battery, posted at the key point of the most vital position of the Union line, five guns in battery, one disabled, its commander, the gallant Munch,

severely wounded, never ceased its fire until the last cartridge in its ammunition chests was expended, and the final assault of the enemy was repulsed.

The service performed by this battery in the battle of Shiloh was not properly recognized in the official reports, for the reason that in the confusion and disorder that largely characterized the operation of the first day's fight, it served under several different brigade or division commanders, being repeatedly sent, in some instances in separate sections, to the most exposed or threatened positions, independent of the organization to which it properly belonged. This neglect was afterwards recognized by General B. M. Prentiss, to whose command it was attached early in the action, by a public declaration made by him since the war, that "The First Minnesota battery never received the credit it deserved at Shiloh; that it was mainly due to the excellent work done by this battery that the 'hornet's nest,' with its comparatively small force of men, held out so long against the overwhelming numbers of the enemy." The battery suffered a loss of three killed and eight wounded at Shiloh.

In the campaign that followed the battle of Shiloh, the battery was with the army under General Halleck that advanced against Corinth, Miss., and that occupied that place on the 30th of May. During the "siege" it was often in action and always posted at points where decisive results were sought to be obtained. In the second battle of Corinth, October 3rd and 4th, 1862, a section of the battery assigned to special service in a reconnaissance sent out to develop the position and movements of the enemy, became so hotly engaged that one of its guns was disabled and abandoned, but was recovered during the pursuit of the enemy after the battle was won.

In all the movements that related to the "Campaign of Vicksburg" from November, 1862, to July 1863, in which its Division participated, the

battery was present and performed good service. After the investment of Vicksburg, it was given an advanced position where the effective operation of its guns was especially noted in the artillery practice preceding the assault, and subsequently during the arduous service of the siege.

After the surrender of Vicksburg the battery remained in the vicinity for several months. In April, 1864, it moved with the Seventeenth Army Corps, to which it was now attached, and making a hard march across the country, reached Big Shanty, Ga., June 9th, where it joined General Sherman's army then engaged in the Atlanta Campaign. In the notable "flanking" movements of this remarkable campaign, the battery was often under fire, and in operations about Atlanta its Rodm<sup>a</sup> guns were in daily practice throwing shell into the doomed city.

The battery was in the "march to the sea", and in the "campaign of the Carolinas", during the latter participating actively in a fight at Cheraw, S. C., in which it effectually silenced a Confederate battery. It continued with Sherman's army in the march to Washington, where on the 24th of May, 1865, it "took part in the grandest review ever seen in America."

During its service there had been many changes in the roster of its officers. W. Z. Clayton had become Captain <sup>e</sup> vice Emil Munch resigned, and at the time of the muster out of the battery June 30th, 1865, Henry S. Hurter, James Fall, John D. Ross and F. L. Haywood were its Lieutenants. Lieut. Wm. Koethe was killed in front of Atlanta August 14th, 1864.

## SECOND BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY.

Small organizations of troops like a Company of Artillery do not as a rule attract attention to its service in the same degree, even relatively, as is the case with a full regiment of one thousand men. An isolated Company of any arm of the service, however distinguished, may be the character of the work it performs, does not command the attention and recognition accorded to a larger body performing the same general character of service. This <sup>is</sup> relection is not suggested as specially applicable to the Second Battery of Minnesota Light Artillery, but rather as illustrating the general proposition that such organizations, operating independently of other troops from the same locality or state, are placed at a disadvantage in its efforts to win its meed of credit for the good work it may perform.

The Second Battery of Artillery saw long and severe service in some of the hardest Campaigns of the war, and won honorable distinction for its discipline and efficiency in whatever service it was required to perform. The battery was recruited during the winter of 1861-2 and "accepted into the service of the United States" March 21st, 1862. Wm. A. Hotchkiss continued as Captain of the battery throughout its service, and until its muster out in August, 1865. There were many changes among its subaltern officers, but during its early service its Lieutenants were Gustav Rosenk, Albert Woodbury, Richard L. Dawley and Henry W. Harder.

The battery reported in St. Louis, Mo., April 25th, <sup>1862</sup> where it was outfitted for the field, and on the 21st of May ordered to Pittsburg Landing, Tenn.; from thence it joined the Army of the Mississippi, commanded by General John Pope, in front of Corinth, and was with that command during the concluding days of the Corinth Campaign. It performed some reconnoissance duty during the summer, and in August moved with General Jeff. C.

Davis' Division, to which it was now assigned, to Nashville, Tenn., there becoming a part of General D. C. Buell's Army then operating against the Confederate forces commanded by General Braxton Bragg. In the race for Louisville, Kentucky, that became a notable feature of the succeeding campaign, the battery moved by forced marches a distance of two hundred and fifty-nine miles, and reached its goal with the army just in time to save the city from capture by the enemy. Failing to effect a lodgement on the Ohio river, Bragg fell back to the vicinity of Perryville, Kentucky, where the battle of October 8th<sup>1862</sup> was fought, and in which the guns of the Second battery performed effective work. The battery was in action several times during the day, being ordered to critical points of the field as they were developed by the movements of the enemy. The conduct of the battery was much commended in the official reports of the battle, and was ever after while with the army regarded as one of the most reliable units of its Artillery arm. Several of its members were wounded at Perryville, but its casualties were light considering the exposed positions it occupied.

In the battle of Stone River December 26th<sup>1862</sup>, in which the battery had three men killed and nine wounded, its record was of a similar character. Always posted where the contest promised to be most stubborn, the battery fought with determination and never allowed the enemy to reach its guns or "limbered to the rear" until ordered to change its position. During the Tullahoma campaign the battery was frequently under fire, always serving its ten pounder Parrott guns, with which it was now armed, with good effect.

After the occupation of Chattanooga by General Rosecrans, who had superseded Buell in command of the army, the battery participated in the general movements that led up to the battle of Chickamauga, September 19th, 1863. Capt. Hotchkiss, who was acting as Chief of Artillery of the

Division, says in his report relative to the service of the Second Battery in the battle of Chickamauga: "The Battery was promptly brought into position under a brisk fire from the enemy's skirmishers, and soon drove in, not only his skirmishers, but his main line. The service the Second Minnesota Battery did at this point was of great importance. Three successive times it prevented the enemy from forming and extending his left, with the evident<sup>t</sup> purpose of flanking General Davis' right." General Davis in his report says: "With the admirable position taken and efficient working of the Second Minnesota Battery on my right, I was enabled to repel the repeated assaults of the enemy, and to prevent him from flanking our position until about four P. M., when reinforcements arrived."

Lieutenant Woodbury received a severe wound in this battle from the effect of which he died a few weeks later, greatly lamented by his comrades.

In the battle of Mission Ridge, November 25th, the Battery was with the reserve of General Sherman's Army, but while the fighting was in progress, it was given opportunity to use its guns effectively against an important work of the enemy. In the pursuit of Bragg's forces after the battle, the Battery moved as far as Ringgold, Georgia, from whence it was sent with its Division to the relief of Knoxville, Tenn. Returning to Chattanooga in December, it was stationed at Rossville, an outpost near the city, where it remained until March, 1863, participating in the meantime in actions at Tunnel Hill and Buzzard Roost.

While at Rossville the Battery "veteranized" (reenlisted as veterans), and in April was furloughed to Minnesota, where the men enjoyed a brief respite from their long and arduous service. Upon the return of the veterans to the front in June they were assigned to special service as a mounted force, but not equipped as Artillery. They remained in the vicinity of Chattanooga until March, 1865, serving in scouting and garrison duty

when they were assigned as a garrison of a Fort at Philadelphia, Tenn. Here they remained until ordered home where they were mustered out of service August 16th, 1865.

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A Third Battery of Light Artillery was organized in Minnesota in February, 1863, but its service was limited to operations relating to the Indian War on the western frontier. The important events of its history are sketched in the chapter on the Sioux Outbreak of 1862.

The limited space allotted in these volumes to the Chapter on "Minnesota in the Civil War" has allowed but a brief separate reference to the history of the several organizations whose service is somewhat cursorily reviewed in the preceding sketches. The purpose had in view in this compilation was to give the reader a general idea of the part Minnesota sustained in the great war for the preservation of the Union. A simple statement of facts is sufficient to show that the State was represented in all the large army organizations and in all the more important campaigns of the war, and that her regiments, battalions and batteries made an exceptional record for valor and notable achievement on many of the decisive and historic fields of perhaps the greatest civil conflict in the history of the world. While keeping in mind the fact that Minnesota in 1861-5 had but just assumed the responsibilities of a sovereign state, and the further fact that she was required during this period to defend her own border against a savage onslaught of unprecedented proportions and violence, it will be conceded that there is warrant for the pride with which her people refer to the tribute of patriotic effort and sacrifice she offered for the salvation of the country.

Under the supervision of the Adjutant General of the State there has recently been completed an exhaustive examination and analysis of the muster rolls and other preserved records of the several organizations recruited in Minnesota, from which it is ascertained that a total of 22,018 men were enlisted in the United States Military service, of which 14,775 were Infantry, 3975 Cavalry, 2448 Artillery and 820 were unassigned. This enumeration eliminates all duplications of names and gives but a single record for reenlisted men. There were 34 officers and 601 enlisted men killed or mortally wounded in action, and thirty-two officers and 1904 enlisted men who died of disease while in the service, a total of 2539.

If there be added to this total the multitude of those who by reason of their disabilities engendered by their service, survived but a brief period after their muster out, the aggregate would be greatly increased.

That Minnesota honors the memory of her patriotic dead is evidenced by the memorials she has caused to be erected on the battle fields of Shiloh, Vicksburg, Gettysburg, Chickamauga and Mission Ridge, commemorating the glorious record of her sons on those historic fields.