
A Historical Sketch
of the
23rd Indiana Volunteer Infantry

July 29th, 1861, to July 23rd, 1865

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PREPARED IN PAMPHLET FORM BY THE AUTHOR FOR
PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION TO THE SURVIVORS OF THE 23RD
INDIANA REGIMENT AT THEIR ANNUAL REUNION, NEW
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A Few Words by Way of Explanation

Dear Comrades –

In the preparation of this brief sketch of our regiment, - and it certainly is brief, in view of the many interesting details that might be written of its history, - I have been compelled to trust very largely to memory, which you will fully realize must be somewhat faulty after the lapse of nearly half a century, and no doubt inaccuracies will be discovered, though I am confident that none will be of so serious a nature as to mar the correctness of the story in the main. I had before me very little official information, but such as I had was used to the best of my ability. In giving dates, with not more than three exceptions I have quoted them officially, and in giving the casualties I have invariably used official data, and in the absence of such have omitted figures entirely not trusting to my memory in a single instance.

You will undoubtedly note the names of certain places mentioned with which you are not familiar. In these cases I have given the official names, and not the local names or those that we attached to them, which will account for some apparent inaccuracies.

I have purposely avoided special mention of the officers or other individual members of the regiment, except only those of the regimental commanders as they changed from time to time, believing that it would be unwise to do so, unless I could give each of the very many officers of the regiment equal mention, and this the space allotted me would not permit.

Had I been writing the story solely for the pleasure of my old comrades, I could and would have gone more deeply into matters that would no doubt have been of much interest, reviving memories long forgotten, and I could also have given credit for acts of personal heroism and adventure, which would have added to the realism of the story. But, as the article was written for a public document, individual history and incidents of a personal nature would not have been admissible.

Trusting that you will overlook any omissions or inaccuracies, I present the story to you with my kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,
S. K. Hooper

Denver, Colo., Sept. 25, 1910

History of the 23rd Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry

By SHADRACH K. HOOPER,
First Lieut. And Adjutant

There were few regiments in the War of the Rebellion whose service was more continuous, more constantly at the front, more frequently on the firing line, than that of the 23rd Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry. During its four years of service, lacking but six days, it was continuously in the field, and it is questionable whether there was any regiment whose campaign was more extensive or covered so vast a territory as that of the 23rd, when it is considered that in leaving its rendezvous at New Albany, Indiana, for the field, it marched west and during the succeeding four years accomplished a complete circle of fully 3,000 miles, returning home from the east, and at no time retracing its steps except in detours from its great circular journey, and that during its period of service it participated in practically all the campaigns of the armies of Generals Grant and Sherman.

The 23rd Regiment, raised in the southern part of the State of Indiana, might be properly called a border regiment, its entire enlistment having come from the border counties of Floyd, Clark, Harrison and Crawford, with the exception of a large portion of one company and a few members of the other companies who came from Washington County, and a score or more loyal Kentuckians. As these counties are located on the Ohio River, the dividing line between the North and South, it is but natural that the greater portion of the membership should have been steamboat men, or men who had earned their livelihood, directly or indirectly, from pursuits connected with river life on the Ohio and Mississippi and were consequently dependent for support upon the steamboat relations between the North and South. Under these circumstances, it would be only natural to presume that the sympathies of the inhabitants of the river counties might be easily swayed to a more than passive acceptance of southern doctrines. But whatever doubts may have existed at that time as to the loyalty of the border counties should have been most quickly removed by the prompt response made by southern Indiana people in answer to the demands of the nation in its hour of need. The desire for the preservation and perpetuation of one nation predominating in the minds and hearts of these people, personal prejudice and financial interest were sunk into secondary

consideration, and the valiant service of the regiment of which I write proves the fact that they were still of and for the Union.

The business and social intercourse of the people of southern Indiana, by reason of the great waterway which made their interests mutual, being largely with the people of the South, it could be truly said of the 23rd Indiana that it was a case of brother contending against brother, father against son and chum against schoolmate. This was true in a number of instances of officers and men whose near relatives and bosom friends were engaged on the opposite side, growing out of the fact that, owing to the rapidity with which the war progressed in its early stages, many men who would have otherwise been loyal to the North found themselves at the opening of the war within the confederate lines and were either coerced or persuaded to take part with the South against their own natural inclination.

The 23rd Indiana was not in any sense a regiment whose officers were selected through political preference. With the possible exception of two or three officers, politics had no influence whatever in the selection of those who were chosen to command. Col. W. L. Sanderson, who was selected as the commander of the regiment, was commissioned by Gov. Oliver P. Morton at the earnest solicitation of the people of Floyd County as a reward for meritorious service as Captain of the "Spencer Grays," 6th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, which company served so heroically and lost so heavily at the Battle of Buena Vista during the Mexican War.

The original line officers were almost without exception selected by the members of the various companies, - in fact, most of the companies were recruited for the service through the personal efforts and at the personal expense of the officers who were chosen to command. As a result of this method of choosing company officers, the enlisted men were inspired with confidence in their commanders, the majority of whom had been their life-long friends and associates, and, the ambition to attain efficiency being mutual, discipline was easily maintained and the general efficiency of the regiment as a whole largely enhanced.

The 23rd Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry was organized pursuant to an order of the Adjutant General of the State dated June 24th, 1861, issued under the authority of the first call of the President for troops for three years' enlistment, although a number of the companies had been recruiting for two or three weeks prior to that date, anticipating the call for additional troops. The regiments included in this call from the state of Indiana were the 19th to 28th, inclusive.

The companies of the 23rd Indiana were assigned to rendezvous at the old fair grounds at New Albany, afterwards designated as "Camp Noble," from which point southern Indiana recruited and forwarded several other regiments during the continuance of the war. Companies A, B, C, F, H and I were mustered into the service July 27th, and Companies D, E, J and K, July 29th, 1861, the entire regiment having been accepted on the latter date.

It was not until the 15th of August, however, that the command left Camp Noble for the field, fully equipped, except as to arms. The first march from Camp Noble to the depot at Jeffersonville, a distance of about eight miles, where it embarked by rail for Indianapolis, was an extremely severe one, incident to the heavy knapsacks and personal belongings with which the raw recruit was wont to equip himself, - though he learned better later. The regiment arrived at Indianapolis after midnight and dragged itself wearily to an already established camp within two miles from the station.

Late in the afternoon of the following day it commenced its journey by rail to St. Louis, where it arrived during the afternoon of August 17th, undergoing another weary march from the ferry to camp in Lafayette Park, - these little insights into marching being profitable in giving the new soldiers a slight idea of what was to confront them during the four years that were to follow.

Within a few days the regiment was provided with arms and remained at St. Louis until Sept. 9th, during which time every spare moment was devoted to instruction in the duty of the soldier; and that, coupled with the constant drill that they had received at Camp Noble, had so improved them as soldiers that as they marched from camp to the steamer to embark upon their first duty in the field at Paducah, Kentucky, they no longer appeared as raw recruits, but bore themselves with the nonchalance of tried veterans.

Paducah was reached on Sept. 11th, 1861, at which point a brigade was organized under command of Gen. Lew Wallace, consisting of the 23rd and 11th Indiana and the 8th Missouri, and attached to the army under command of Gen. Chas. F. Smith.

Paducah, while within the Union lines, was harassed to a great extent by guerillas, and the service was constant and warlike, picket duty was exacting and arduous during the winter, and night alarms were frequent and exciting, all of which, together with one or two small skirmishes with the guerillas, enured the men to the hardships of grim-visaged war and placed the regiment in the list of seasoned troops.

On Nov. 6th or 7th the regiment was attached to the command of Brigadier-General Payne for a march to the relief of General Grant at the battle

of Belmont, Mo. Although not reaching that point in time to participate in the battle, the march was probably one of the most severe of the many in which the 23rd participated. Leaving camp at Paducah about 7:00 o'clock in the morning, the march was continuous until after nine the following morning, with only four or five short stops, not one of which exceeded thirty minutes; but even then, before reaching the battlefield, the command was turned to the rightabout and started back towards Paducah (the necessity for which is not apparent to the writer), and the march on the return trip was continued until past midnight. At that time, not yet having reached Paducah, Col. Sanderson in his devotion to his men deliberately withdrew his regiment (then inside of our own lines) and went into camp, at the risk of court-martial for his action, although the balance of the command continued the march into Paducah, arriving about 6.00 o'clock the next morning. The 23rd had marched consecutively forty-one hours without even time to cook a meal.

On this march the men learned from bitter experience the necessity for lightening their burdens, and the line of march was strewn with their heretofore treasured possessions, - extra clothing, surplus bedding, fancy toilet articles, cooking utensils, anything and everything that would tend to make the way harder was thrown away, and when the regiment again reached the original camp at Paducah the personal belongings of the men had been reduced to the minimum and gun, cartridge box, blanket, canteen and haversack only remained.

Returning to Paducah the following morning, after the men had recuperated, the regiment remained until Jan. 2nd, 1862, during which time fortifications were constructed, the 23rd furnishing its full quota of men for the work. On Jan. 2nd, accompanying a division under General Chas. F. Smith, it took up the line of march for a reconnaissance in force that was to develop the Confederate fortifications on the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers, convoyed by the gunboat "Conistoga," skirting the south bank of the Tennessee. Having located Fort Henry, on the north, and Fort Hieman, on the south bank of the Tennessee, (which resulted also in fixing the location of Fort Donelson, on the Cumberland), with the sole intention of developing the fact that these forts were garrisoned, shots were exchanged by the "Conistoga" with Fort Henry, while the infantry made a slight attack on Fort Hieman, retired at once and took up the line of march for the return trip, arriving at Paducah on the 14th.

Little mention has ever been made in the history of this particular campaign, which was one of exceeding hardship on account of the rise in the bayous and streams incident to what is known as the "January thaw." The

troops were compelled to ford numerous streams, often more than waist-deep, and wagons and artillery were buried in the mud and swamped in the streams to an extent that compelled the infantry at all times to furnish assistance in order that the wagon trains and artillery might be moved at all; and in several instances guns and wagons were entirely dismantled and dragged piecemeal through the seas of mud and mire. While the entire distance going and returning was scarcely 150 miles, yet it required the greatest effort, constant labor and much suffering to complete the journey in twelve days.

Returning to Paducah, the command embarked on steamers, February 2nd, for the now famous campaign of General Grant against Forts Henry and Donelson, where he earned the sobriquet of "Unconditional Surrender Grant." Proceeding up the Tennessee River, convoyed by the fleet under command of Commodore Foote, the troops disembarked at Camp Union, some five or six miles below Fort Henry, on the south side of the river, on the evening of the 5th. On the morning of the 6th the command marched up the south bank of the river and engaged and captured Fort Hieman, while the gunboats battered down the earthworks of Fort Henry, which unfurled the white flag of surrender early in the afternoon of the same day.

During the engagement at Fort Henry Company B of the 23rd Indiana was assigned to service on the gunboat "Essex," one of the heaviest vessels of the river navy, and incident to the cutting of a steam pipe, caused by a shot from the enemy, a number of the men were killed and seriously injured, and Lieut. Trotter, of Company B, was instantly killed.

The weather in the interim between the fall of Fort Henry and Fort Donelson was extremely severe. Snow fell to the depth of six inches, freezing at night and thawing in the daytime, and the regiment was fortunate in not being pushed to the front at Fort Donelson, remaining on duty holding the ground that had been gained at Fort Henry and Fort Hieman. During a period of a week or more the regiment was absolutely without blankets or other protection than ordinary clothing, and the suffering was extremely severe.

After the surrender of Fort Donelson, Feb. 16th, on or about March 14th the regiment again embarked on steamers and moved up the Tennessee River on what is now known as the Yellow Creek Expedition, a preliminary move to the concentration of forces at Pittsburg Landing, for what was afterward known as the Battle of Shiloh. Stopping en route for a short interior expedition, the command under Gen. Lew Wallace, to which the 23rd was attached, returned to the steamers and disembarked therefrom at Crump's Landing, located some five miles below Pittsburg Landing, about the 19th of March, and from that point

marched, through one of the most terrific rain and electric storms ever experienced, five or six miles into the interior to what is known as "Stony Lonesome."

The 23rd Indiana was the first regiment of the command to leave the steamers, and to the best of the writer's knowledge and belief was the first on the ground in the concentration of forces which afterwards participated in the Battle of Shiloh, - at least, it was positively the first on the ground of the command under Gen. Lew Wallace at Stony Lonesome, although it is possible that other regiments had disembarked at Pittsburg Landing earlier in the day.

It was while at this point that the members of the 23rd were compelled to discard the very handsome cadet gray uniform which the State had provided on their entering the service and assume the blue blouse and "camp-kettle" hat, - very much to the chagrin of the boys, who had always been proud of their natty gray suits. Of course the necessity for the change was fully appreciated, the Confederates having by that time fully adopted the gray. This necessity, however, did little to soothe the feelings of the members of the regiment, who were particularly proud of the appearance of the 23rd, which up to that date had been unexcelled, if equalled, by any regiment in the service.

Up to this time the 23rd had not been engaged in the heated contest of any great battles, although it had had a severe campaign experience in the way of arduous marches and a number of skirmishes, which cannot be mentioned in detail, had sustained losses by death and wounds and a depletion of ranks by sickness, and had experienced hardships and privations, which entitled it to be designated as a "veteran regiment," having had in all probably more field experience than seventy-five per cent of all the volunteer troops that were engaged in the Battle of Shiloh.

The history of the Battle of Shiloh, fought on April 6th and 7th, 1862, has been too frequently written and criticized to make it necessary for the writer to attempt any elaborate description of that memorable engagement or to try to give any reasons why General Wallace's command did not reach the field of battle until near dark of the first day. Yet neither the 23rd Indiana nor any of General Wallace's command was idle during the period, as they were marching constantly and making every effort to reach the field, from 8.00 o'clock in the morning until nearly 6.00 at night. While an earlier hour of reaching the field undoubtedly would have brought decidedly different and possibly better results, the writer questions if their efforts were wasted or if it was not better in the long run that Wallace's veteran command should be on the ground and in condition for the second day's fight, rather than to have inevitably suffered severe losses

in the first day's onslaught. However that may be, the record of Wallace's command on the second day should fully compensate for any errors of judgment that may have occurred on the first.

It was the 23rd Regiment, supporting the 9th Indiana Battery, that opened the engagement on the extreme right at 5.00 o'clock on the morning of the 7th, and there was no period from that time in the morning until the command reached the point occupied by the skirmish line of the enemy on the first day, about 6.00 o'clock at night, that the regiment was not advancing and driving the enemy before it, excepting of course the intervals when the retreating Confederates made their determined stands and required sharp fighting to dislodge them. It is true that the loss of the 23rd was not extremely heavy on this date as compared with those of some other regiments, yet it was under heavy fire constantly, repulsed a vicious charge from a regiment of Texas cavalry, and closed the day with a loss of one officer and fifty-one men killed and wounded, which seems almost miraculous when one considers the opposition and the constant and heavy fire with which it was confronted.

During the campaigns, from the time of leaving Paducah until this date, the regiment was attached to the Second Brigade, Third Division of the Army of the Tennessee.

Remaining on the battlefield of Shiloh until April 17th, the 23rd, with the rest of the army, was moved forward to participate in the siege of Corinth, Miss., at which place it was attached to the right wing of the 13th Army Corps, which formed the reserve stationed at Pea Ridge. But before the siege was raised, the regiment was detailed for outpost duty and, accompanied by the 9th Indiana Battery, moved to Bolivar, Tenn., which forces for a considerable period held that point notwithstanding the continued annoyance of Confederate cavalry and guerillas. The command was reinforced from time to time, until finally it reached the proportions of a division, under command of Gen. Leonard F. Ross.

During the summer months spent at Bolivar, the regiment, with other portions of Gen. Ross' division, was engaged in a number of skirmishes, two or three expeditions to Purdy, which was infested with Confederate cavalry, and finally in the action at Purdy on August 30th. In the meantime a number of small engagements occurred in the vicinity of Bolivar, mostly fought by cavalry, but supported by infantry, of which the 23rd contributed its full share.

On Sept. 1st, 1862, the regiment embarked by rail for Jackson, Tenn., en route to luka, Miss., and participated in the battle at that place and the several skirmishes incident thereto. On Sept. 19th it made a return march to luka and participated in a small way at the second battle of Corinth and the Battle of

Matamora. Returning to Bolivar, it marched to the Hatchee River on October 5th, and, while not reaching there in time for the heated portion of the engagement, was still in time to participate and render valuable assistance in the routing and pursuit of the enemy.

Returning after the Battle of the Hatchee River to Bolivar, which was by this time occupied by two divisions under command of Gen. Hurlbut, the 23rd remained until the organization of the 17th Army Corps under command of Major-Gen. James B. McPherson, to which corps it was attached, remaining during the balance of the war.

During October, the 23rd, with a number of other regiments, made a forced march in pursuit of Ripley, during which time it accomplished the marvelous feat of marching fifty-two miles in two days, going from and returning to Bolivar. After the concentration of the 17th Army Corps at LaGrange, Tenn., in the early part of November, it took up the line of march, participating in Grant's central Mississippi campaign toward Granada in his efforts to reach Vicksburg from that point, - which, as is well known, failed because of Van Dorn's capture of Holly Springs, Miss., and the destruction of supplies, which forced the abandonment of the expedition and a return to Memphis.

On the return trip, the regiment, having occupied for a few days Oxford, Miss., reached the Yocknapatafa River on Christmas Eve, 1862, at which time practically the whole command, and especially that portion to which the 23rd was attached, was without rations and for a period of nearly ten days was dependent for subsistence entirely upon a country through which two armies had already marched. That the supply of provisions was extremely limited will be realized when it is known that it became necessary to issue ordinary dry corn as the only ration, from which subsistence was principally derived by grinding the same into meal and also by popping it in ashes, - which is very delightful to the children on a winter night but is not a food that is calculated to give strength or encouragement to a soldier in a hard campaign, nor at all appropriate as a "Christmas dinner." A variety, however, was secured in some instances by the use of what the soldiers designated as "nigger" beans, being field beans raised largely for the support of the slave field hands. Later, the railroad having been repaired to some extent, supplies were received, and on January 10th, 1863, the command marched to Colliersville, Tenn. The period spent at Colliersville was extremely severe, because of the extraordinary cold and heavy snow followed by thaws, which made the roads almost impassable.

On January 20th the regiment took up its line of march to Memphis, Tenn., not, however, in its full strength, for, because of the exhaustion growing out of

the severe campaign, inadequate food and lack of shoes for a large number of men, fully 125 were compelled to move to that point by rail, being unable to march. On this trip, however, the men were encouraged by the prospect of securing a much needed rest after the arduous marches through central Mississippi, as well as clothing of all kinds, of which the troops were much in need, preparatory to the beginning of the campaign against Vicksburg.

At Memphis the army was fully recuperated and newly equipped, and on Feb. 21st the regiment embarked by steamer for Lake Providence, La., at which point Grant was concentrating his army for his combined assault on Vicksburg by the army and navy, from the front and rear. Col. Sanderson was detached and left at Memphis in command of the troops at that point and Lieut. Col. W. P. Davis assumed command of the regiment. During the stay at Lake Providence the levees of the Mississippi River were cut by command of Gen. Grant and the surrounding country overflowed, as a protection from assault upon the army from the rear, which precaution proved wise and successful. This measure forced the command to move to a point of high ground a few miles above, locally known as Berry's Landing, where it remained during the concentration of troops. On April 17th it moved to Milliken's Bend.

Grant's effort to divert the channel of the Mississippi River having failed, he then decided to run the blockade of the Vicksburg batteries and carry his supplies and ammunition to a point below where the armies would concentrate, using the same boats after their arrival to transport the troops, which were then marching by land, across the river to a safe footing on the Vicksburg side.

The date for the running of the blockade was fixed for April 21st. Volunteers were called for to man these boats, and the 23rd Indiana, being largely composed of steamboat men, volunteered in numbers far in excess of the demand. The steamer "J. W. Cheesman" was manned largely by members of the 23rd, including the captain, pilot and a part of the engine room crew, as well as many subordinates. In addition to that, a portion of the crew of the steamer "Horizon," which was severely injured by the batteries at Vicksburg, were members of the 23rd Indiana. When it is considered that these were simply the ordinary passenger boats, without any protection whatever except such as could be temporarily made by piling cotton bales around the boilers for safety against the enemy's shells, that the pilot houses were torn away entirely, and that the bulkheads (which shielded the engineers and crew from storm and weather but were no protection from shot and shell) were entirely removed, so that the officers and men who manned the boats worked in the open in plain view of the gunners who were firing at them, it will be understood that it required

more than ordinary nerve for men to volunteer to fill such positions. And yet there were a hundred men still remaining in the 23rd Indiana who bemoaned their fate when they learned that their services were not required and they must remain behind. It is true that the loss of life in the 23rd in this instance was not great, yet it stood its full proportion of wounded and sustained one death.

On April 25th the regiment marched from Milliken's Bend to a point opposite Grand Gulf, a campaign lasting until April 30th, and was with the shore forces at the time of the terrific naval engagement at the latter point, and was actually in the engagement at Port Gibson on April 30th. It was now thoroughly launched into Grant's famous campaign in the rear of Vicksburg. On May 1st the 23rd was engaged in the battle of Thompson Hill, losing one officer and nine men, which was followed on the 3rd by a severe skirmish at Bayou Pierre, and reached Bruinsburg on May 6th.

Continuing the march towards Vicksburg, the enemy was again encountered in force on May 12th at the town of Raymond, about thirty miles from the enemy's stronghold. In this engagement the 23rd Indiana lost 127 officers and men in killed, wounded and missing, - the missing consisting of one officer and twenty-three men of the skirmish line who were taken prisoners, the most severe engagement for the time occupied during the whole Vicksburg campaign. The regiment, having become detached from the main body, had marched into what was practically an ambush and alone met the onslaught of five Confederate regiments, two on one side and three on another, being almost entirely surrounded. But, notwithstanding this fact and the inability of the men to reload their guns after the first discharge, with fixed bayonets and clubbed muskets they successfully emerged from what seemed to be an almost hopeless position, fell back to the main line, re-formed, and continued in the engagement until its close near night fall, when the command took up the pursuit of the enemy in its flight towards Jackson. In this engagement the color bearer was killed, but through the heroism of the Second Lieutenant of Company C, who rescued the flag and reached the rallying point, the regiment was re-organized without disorder and without a single soldier continuing to the rear of the color line.

At Jackson again the enemy was overtaken on the morning of the 14th, where an open field battle was fought, lasting until late in the afternoon, but on account of the protected position the loss of the 23rd in killed and wounded, of which the writer has no exact record, was comparatively small.

On the morning of the 15th the command retraced its steps towards Champion Hill, arriving on the field of that battle on the night of the 15th, and

was the first regiment to come to the assistance of Hovey's division during the heat of battle on the 16th. Although engaged from morning until night fall, the 23rd was fortunate in the loss of only four officers and fourteen men killed and wounded.

The enemy was pursued during the greater portion of the night and was again overtaken at Black River on the 17th, - the 23rd, however, not reaching that point until after the enemy had been driven back towards Vicksburg. The latter point was reached on the 18th of May, the regiment participating in the assaults on the Confederate strongholds May 19th and 22nd. During the latter engagement the 23rd reached a position immediately at the base of the enemy's entrenchments and many of its members gained the top, led by Lieut. Zulauf, of Company A, who met a gallant death at the very crest of the enemy's works.

The 23rd Indiana, together with the 45th Illinois, held the position at the very base of the enemy's works, which was the center of the line, in Logan's Division on the White House Road, until the surrender of Vicksburg more than forty days later, during which time these two regiments constructed and exploded the mine under the particularly strong stronghold of the enemy known as Fort Hill, and after the explosion, which occurred at 4.00 o'clock on the afternoon of June 25th, alternate details of 100 each from these regiments occupied the crater caused by the explosion, from 4.00 o'clock on the afternoon until daylight the following morning. This engagement, because of the peculiarity of the situation, was conducted by the interchange of hand grenades and six-pound shells thrown by hand between our own troops and the enemy.

It was also a volunteer detail of Companies E and B of the 23rd Indiana Regiment which, taking advantage of their position at the foot of the enemy's works, constructed the famous observation tower so frequently written of and illustrated in publications of the time.

During the whole period of the occupation of the position in front of the enemy's works the regiment was of course without any provision for shelter, and those immediately under the enemy's lines were not in position even to prepare their meals. Consequently, it was necessary to dig zig-zag trenches for ingress and egress, and the food was prepared outside of the location and carried back and forth under the protection of the friendly trenches. In the meantime, not only that portion of the regiment immediately under the enemy's works, but the entire command lived and slept in holes dug in the hillsides for that purpose, which served as a protection from the enemy's shells as well.

During the period of the investment of Vicksburg, independent of the battles in the approach thereto, the loss of the 23rd Indiana was five officers and fifty men, killed and wounded in the trenches. During the entire campaign, from the crossing of the Mississippi River at Grand Gulf to the surrender of Vicksburg, the total loss in killed, wounded and missing, was 212.

When the troops entered Vicksburg on July 4th, 1863 (although the surrender was practically on the 2nd), the 23rd Indiana and the 45th Illinois were designated, as a post of honor in reward for their services, as two of the few regiments to enter the city to receive the surrender, marching in by the well known White House Road. In the meantime, Gen. McPherson having been promoted to command the Army of the Tennessee, the 17th Corps was assigned to Gen. Frank P. Blair, of beloved memory, who was its commander until the close of the war. The regiment remained in camp within the Confederate fortifications at Vicksburg until August 28th, when it was selected with three others, under command of Brig.-Gen. Leggett, for the expedition across the State of Louisiana to Monroe, on the Ouachita River, for the purpose of ridding the country of guerillas that were then harassing the inhabitants and preventing their return to legitimate pursuits. Upon the return from this expedition it remained in camp at Vicksburg until October 12th, when it was again called upon to participate in the expedition to Canton, Miss., and return, lasting until October 22nd, for the purpose of destroying the railroad and equipment to prevent their use by the enemy in moving troops and supplies.

Returning to Vicksburg, winter quarters were established at Hebron, a short distance from Vicksburg, and during the winter encampment the regiment re-enlisted "for three years more," or until the close of the war, though at that time the regiment was very much depleted in numbers. Having as yet received but few recruits, there were, according to the best records at hand, 280-odd of the enlisted men who re-enlisted out of a total number of less than 500 then reported for duty, though a number of the members of the regiment not re-enlisting were before and at that time transferred at their own request to the Navy.

Returning again to Vicksburg, the 23rd Indiana remained until February 3rd, 1864, when it accompanied Sherman on his ever-memorable raid to Meridian, Miss., accomplishing the destruction of the railroad track, its equipment and supplies the entire distance of more than one hundred miles east from Jackson to Meridian, thus depriving the enemy of facilities to reach either Jackson or Vicksburg to harass Grant's and Sherman's armies encamping at and near those points.

In the latter part of March the regiment left Vicksburg on the regulation thirty-day veteran furlough and returned in a body, by steamboat up the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, from Vicksburg to New Albany, the place of enlistment, at which point arms were stacked and equipment stored, and the members dispersed to their various homes for the enjoyment of a well earned and much needed rest.

At the expiration of the veteran furlough the men again reported for duty and moved directly from New Albany by steamer to Bird's Point, Mo., where the regiment remained for a short time, receiving a considerable number of recruits. From that point it proceeded on May 5th, 1864, by steamboat up the Tennessee River to Pittsburg Landing, marching through the old battlefield of Shiloh, via Huntsville, Ala., to join the Army of the Tennessee, then concentrating for the campaign against Atlanta, reaching Ackworth, Ga., June 9th, where it was again attached to the 17th Army Corps under Gen. Frank P. Blair.

During the many operations incident to the siege of Atlanta, the 23rd participated in the engagements at Kenesaw Mountain and Busby Mountain, between June 9th and June 15th, at Big Shanty, June 19th, the assault on Kenesaw Mountain, June 27th, Nickajack Creek July 4th, and engagements at the latter point July 6th and 8th. It also took part in the various engagements in the approach to the Chattahoochee River July 8th to 12th, at Decatur July 19th, the engagements at Leggett's Bald Hill July 20th and Peach Tree Creek July 21st (where Gen. W. Q. Gresham, Division Commander, was seriously wounded and succeeded by Gen. Giles A. Smith), and the Battle of Atlanta July 22nd, which commenced the actual siege of Atlanta, lasting from that date until Sept. 2nd, including the well known engagement at Ezra Chapel July 28th (which battle is frequently referred to as "Logan's Battle," that general having assumed command of the Army of the Tennessee after the death of Gen. McPherson on July 22nd), and also participated in the heavy skirmishes about Utoy Creek from August 5th to 7th. During the entire period from July 22nd to Sept. 2nd the regiment, when not participating in the engagements named above, occupied the trenches and was under constant fire day and night.

On July 27th and 29th (or within a few days thereof, as the discharge papers were received) the original officers of the regiment then remaining were all mustered out by reason of the expiration of their term of service, except only Capt. George Babbitt, who was promoted to Lieut.-Colonel and assumed command of the regiment, and the writer, who had before been mustered in as Adjutant. Vacancies were promptly filled, however, by promotion of non-commissioned officers selected by their respective companies. So that each

company had a full complement of officers, but the vacancies in the field and staff were not filled and the regiment was without field officers other than the Lieut.-Colonel and Adjutant until the close of the war, except by detail.

When Sherman made his flank movement with the view of enticing the enemy out of the works at Atlanta, the command to which the 23rd was attached moved on to Jonesboro and engaged in a heated battle at that point during the whole day of August 31st. During the heat of the battle of Jonesboro the regiment was moved from its position near the center of the line to the extreme right to reinforce Gen. Kilpatrick's cavalry, which was being hard pressed, and in this engagement the 23rd was under a heavy fire of the Confederate batteries, occupying the rifle pits of the enemy, from which it had been driven by the advance of the 23rd.

From Jonesboro the regiment moved to Lovejoy Station Sept. 2nd, and on Sept. 6th returned to Ackworth on outpost duty until it joined in the pursuit of Hood into Alabama in a campaign lasting from October 3rd to 26th, during which time it took part in the second engagement at Snake Creek Gap October 15th, having followed Hood's command almost to the Tennessee River, when a rightabout was made and Sherman returned to Atlanta for the purpose of making preparations for the famous March to the Sea.

During the period of preparation the 23rd Indiana was encamped at West Point, close to Atlanta, and with the rest of Sherman's army commenced its march from Atlanta to the sea Nov. 15th, reaching Savannah on Dec. 10th. During the march the regiment was actively engaged at the battle of the Oconee River, where on Nov. 24th and 25th it was confronted by a heavy force of Wheeler's cavalry, and again encountered the same force at the Ogooshee River December 7th and 8th, these two engagements causing the greatest delay and the heaviest fighting that Sherman's army encountered during the entire March to Savannah.

Arriving at Savannah on December 10th the 23rd Indiana participated in the siege, which lasted eleven days, during which time there was heavy firing all along the line, though fortunately the casualties were not great and the regiment suffered but slight loss, there being none killed and only a few of its members wounded. During the period of siege, however, as is well known, the troops suffered to a very considerable extent because of the lack of rations. Having trusted for supplies to foraging the country through which they had just passed and none having reached the command on arrival at Savannah, the army was sorely pressed for provisions until the day following the evacuation,

December 22nd, when supplies were received in abundance from the vessels lying in the offing.

The command remained in camp around Savannah until the early part of January, 1865, when it again took up the line of march for the campaign through the Carolinas. The 23rd moved by vessel from Savannah to Beaufort, South Carolina, and experienced its first and only voyage by salt water. After remaining at Beaufort a few days, it took up the line of march northward, participating in engagements at Pocotaligo, South Carolina, January 14th to 16th, at Salkehatchie February 3rd to 5th, at South Edistoe River Feb. 9th, at North Edistoe River Feb. 12th and 13th, at Congaree Creek Feb. 15th, and reached Columbia, South Carolina, Feb. 16th, and, remaining there until the 18th, was present at the burning of that city, many of its members assisting, unorganized, in the effort to suppress the conflagration.

Leaving Columbia, it proceeded north and took part in the capture of Cheraw, March 2nd and 3rd, and practically alone captured Fayetteville, North Carolina. March 11th, having double-quickened for a distance of four miles to the relief of a detachment of Sherman's Bummers, who had had the audacity to attack and attempt to capture the place unaided; and but for the quick relief of the 23rd Indiana, which was afterwards re-enforced by other regiments, the original captors would have been forced to abandon it and possibly a severe battle would have ensued to regain it.

Proceeding north, the regiment was engaged actively at the battle of Bentonville, North Carolina, March 19th and 20th (with but a small casualty list), which was the last of the battles fought by Sherman's army, as no actual engagement occurred after that date, although it occupied Goldsboro, North Carolina, on the 23rd of March.

So thus it will be seen that the 23rd Indiana, which marched to the relief of Grant at Belmont in November, 1861, and actually engaged in the battle of Bentonville in March, 1865, can be truthfully said to have been engaged in Grant's first battle of the war and in Sherman's last, having, directly or indirectly, participated in forty-three engagements, large and small, exclusive of the forty days in the trenches at Vicksburg and the eighty-seven days before Atlanta, forty-two of which were actually spent in the trenches, every hour of which time was one of exposure to the shot and shell of the enemy.

At Goldsboro news was received of the fall of Richmond, and with light hearts the regiment started forth from that point April 10th to continue its march north with Sherman's army and assist with those commands in receiving the surrender of Johnson's army to Sherman at Raleigh, North Carolina, on April 26th,

1865, - the glorious and befitting ending of an arduous campaign of almost four years.

Following the surrender, the regiment proceeded north by easy marches through Richmond and on to Washington, at which point it participated in the triumphant march of the concentrated armies of the United States through the streets of the capital and past the reviewing stands of the great commanders whose ability and courage had brought to a successful ending the most wicked war that had occurred during the age of civilization; and only the presence of the great guiding mind of the loyal side of the conflict, whose thread of life had been snapped by the hand of an assassin, could have added to the joy and pride of this crowning occasion.

From Washington the 23rd Indiana proceeded to Louisville, Ky., where on the 23rd of July, 1865, it was honorably discharged and mustered out of the service.

Notwithstanding the fact that the 23rd Indiana Regiment did not suffer as serious losses in specific engagements (except only at Raymond) as did many other regiments, yet the constant drain upon its members from death and wounds, which it incurred by the small numbers killed and wounded here and there in skirmishes and smaller engagements, made the aggregate, as set forth in Gen. Terrell's Report from the time of its muster-in until its muster-out, killed in battle and died of wounds 345 men, died of disease 179, making a grand total of loss by death alone 524, to say nothing of the great number that were necessarily discharged from service on account of disease contracted and wounds received. There may have been many other regiments participating in the war whose death losses and campaigns were greater, but the 23rd Indiana achieved a record of which the State as well as its members should be justly proud.