

Detroit Daily Tribune
Detroit, Michigan
Sunday, March 9, 1862

The Michigan Ninth – On Drill – Rapid Bridge-building – No Paymaster Come Yet.

Muldrow Hill. Camp Blair, West Point, Ky.
9th Michigan Infantry, March 1st 1862

Correspondence of the Detroit Tribune

Never since my enlistment in the 9th Regiment Michigan Infantry, which composes a part of the great American army, have the boys so taken hold of drills and parades, until within a few days past. The weather here has been horrible, rain and snow coming at the same time, which causes our camp to be a complete slosh and mud. Once in a while our boys turn out of their tents and log huts with old Belgian at a shoulder, and take a hand in on target shooting, under the command of Major D.W. Fox, who informs us that if the enemy were ever in the way of old Belgian, while in the hands of this part of the 9th Regiment, farewell to poor Secesh, and it is our intention to serve them Southern army fellows as we do the board that we use for a mark, bore them right through.

For the last two weeks we have seen nothing but soldiers, and heard nothing but the sounds of a steamer's whistle, from morning till night, upon the Ohio waters, conveying troops for some useful service, showing that something is going to be did. The late victories in Kentucky show that the brave boys of the North and West are ever ready to do service for that good old "Flag" denominated as the "Stars and Stripes." It is understood that the Michigan Ninth will follow soon to join Gen. Mitchell's division.

On Sunday evening last, Major D.M. Fox, commanding this post, received orders to build a bridge across Salt River at this point. On Monday morning he took a steamer and went up Salt River, purchased fifty thousand feet of lumber, and set every man of this detachment who was able, at work on it. At Wednesday noon, being only two days and a half from the time the order was received, the bridge was completed, and a heavy Government train passed over. That's the way the Michigan Ninth work, and the "boys" say they can fight just as well if afforded the opportunity as they can build bridges. The exact measurement of the bridge is 650 feet in length, depth 65 feet.

I am informed while writing that an order has been issued by General Buell that the next regiment arriving at Louisville shall relieve the Ninth, which will move forward into Tennessee. The Major has promised us that after next week every officer and soldier will be recognized as graduates of West Point. I apprehend there will be no growling among the boys at such a recognition, if that long-looked for individual, the Paymaster, makes his appearance and settles for our month's pay. We would be better satisfied in establishing ourselves in a new locality, with a few dimes in our pockets in place of Sutler's tickets. Our children at home need bread, and the soldier needs money to make him feel like a man.

Shailer