

TENNESSEANS
IN
THE CIVIL WAR

*A Military History
of Confederate and Union Units
with
Available Rosters of Personnel*

In Two Parts

Part I

Published by the
CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL COMMISSION
Nashville, Tennessee

1964

Stones River National Battlefield
Rt. 10, Box 495, Old Nashville Hwy.
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37130

17TH TENNESSEE INFANTRY REGIMENT

Organized June 11, 1861. Confederate service August 15, 1861; field consolidation with 23rd Tennessee Infantry Regiment November, 1863; surrendered and paroled at Appomattox Courthouse April 9, 1865.

FIELD OFFICERS

Colonels—Tazewell W. Newman, T. C. H. Miller, Albert S. Marks.

Lieutenant Colonels—T. C. H. Miller, Watt W. Floyd.

Majors—Abraham L. Landis, Albert S. Marks, James C. Davis.

Captains—James D. Hoyl, Frank B. Terry, Co. "A." Men from Bedford County.

W. A. Landers, U. C. Harrison, Co. "B." Men from Bedford County.

Robert C. Williams, James C. Davis, Fred M. Orr, John W. McGroarty, Co. "C." Men from Marshall County.

Thomas H. Finch, Henry H. Carden, Co. "D." Men from Franklin County.

Albert S. Marks, John R. Handley, Co. "E." Men from Winchester, Franklin County, and Marble Hill, now in Moore County.

T. C. H. Miller, R. P. Hunter, J. D. Cooper, R. W. McCullough, Co. "F." Men from Marshall and Bedford Counties.

James C. Armstrong, Thomas H. Watterson, Co. "G." Captain Armstrong was from Bedford, but the men were from Coffee County.

Robert H. McCroarty, George W. O'Neal, Co. "H." Men from Marshall County.

W. J. Matthews, William Clarke, Co. "I." Men from Franklin County.

S. B. McDeerman, George W. McDonald, Co. "K." Men from Jackson and Putnam Counties.

Of the field officers, Colonel Newman was not re-elected, and later organized the 23rd Tennessee Infantry Battalion. Colonel Miller resigned in June, 1862, and organized a company of cavalry which became Company "C", 11th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment. Lieutenant Colonel Floyd was killed May 16, 1864. Major Landis was not re-elected, and Major Davis died December 15, 1864.

Nine of the companies composing the regiment assembled in May at Camp Harris where they were organized as companies. They moved to Camp Trousdale, where the regiment was mustered into the Provisional

Army of Tennessee. The regiment was mustered into Confederate service on August 15, 1861, at Big Creek, Campbell County. In July, 1861, the regiment was reported at Camp Trousdale, with 914 men armed with flintlock muskets. On July 23 it was ordered to Virginia, but on reaching Bristol, orders were changed and it joined Brigadier General Felix K. Zollicoffer's forces at Cumberland Gap on August 8, 1861. It remained with Zollicoffer until February, 1862, participating in an engagement at Rock Castle, Kentucky, October 21, where it suffered 45 casualties in half an hour, and at Fishing Creek, Kentucky, on January 20, 1862, where it had 46 casualties.

At Rock Castle, it was brigaded with the 11th, 17th, 20th, and 29th Tennessee Infantry Regiments, 15th Mississippi Infantry Regiment, and McNairy's and Braxton's Cavalry Battalions. At Fishing Creek it was in Brigadier General William H. Carroll's Brigade, along with the 28th and 29th Tennessee Infantry Regiments, and McClung's Artillery. Just prior to the battle it reported 685 effectives out of 726 present. In this battle it was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel T. C. H. Miller, and was highly commended for its valor and excellent discipline.

During the stay in East Tennessee and Kentucky, the regiment had many changes in brigade organization. On September 15, 1861, Zollicoffer's forces included the 16th Alabama, 14th Mississippi, 15th Mississippi, 11th, 17th, 19th, 20th Tennessee Infantry Regiments, and the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Tennessee Cavalry Battalions. On September 24, at Camp Buchner, Kentucky, there were present the 15th Mississippi, 11th, 17th, 19th, 20th Tennessee Infantry Regiments and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Cavalry Battalions. At that date the 17th reported 463 effectives out of 731 present. Regimental returns report much sickness in the regiment, and on November 20, at Warburg, the report shows only 397 effectives out of 538 present. On January 7, 1862, the regiment was reported with only 338 effectives.

Following the defeat at Fishing Creek, the regiment retreated through Livingston and Ganesboro to Murfreesboro, arriving February 19, 1862. At this time Carroll's Brigade was composed of the 17th, 28th, 29th, 37th Tennessee Infantry Regiments, Hawkins' Bat-

talion, Baker's Battery, Monsarrat's Battery and Gordon's Cavalry.

On February 28th the regiment moved to Tula, Mississippi, but was not engaged at the Battle of Shiloh on April 6-7. At Corinth, it was armed with English rifled muskets. Here the regiment was reorganized with the election of T. C. H. Miller as colonel; Watt W. Floyd, lieutenant colonel; and Alfred S. Marks, major. Colonel Newman later became major of the 23rd Infantry Battalion. Colonel Miller resigned in June, and A. S. Marks succeeded him as colonel; Captain James C. Davis was elected major.

On April 26, 1862 the regiment was reported in Colonel R. G. Shaver's Brigade of Hardee's Corps, along with the 2nd, 5th, 6th, 7th Arkansas Infantry Regiments, an Arkansas Cavalry battalion, an Arkansas Tennessee Mississippi battery, and Baker's Tennessee Battery. The 17th reported 547 effectives. June 30, 1862, the regiment was in Colonel A. T. Hawthorn's Brigade, along with the 33rd Alabama, 21st and 23rd Tennessee Infantry Regiments, and Austin's Battery. Here began a connection with the 23rd Tennessee which was to last throughout the war. Shortly thereafter, the regiment was placed in Brigadier General Bushrod R. Johnson's Brigade, which consisted of the 5th Confederate, 17th, 23rd, 25th, 37th, and 44th Tennessee Infantry Regiments, and Darden's Mississippi Battery. The 17th, 23rd, 25th, and 44th remained together in Johnson's Brigade until the end of the war. Johnson's Brigade was consolidated with Archer's early in 1865 under Brigadier General William McComb, but these four Tennessee Regiments were still together in the consolidated brigade.

As part of this brigade in Buckner's Division, the regiment participated in General Bragg's invasion of Kentucky, being present at the capture of Munfordsville, and at the Battle of Perryville October 8, 1862. At Perryville the 17th had 24 casualties. There followed the retreat into Tennessee, and the Battle of Murfreesboro December 31, 1862. By this time the 5th Confederate Infantry was no longer a member of the brigade.

At Murfreesboro, the brigade was in General Patrick R. Cleburne's Division, and the 17th with 598 men engaged, lost 246 men killed and wounded, including 22 out of 41 officers. On May 20, 1863, Johnson's Brigade was transferred to General A. P. Stewart's

Division, took part in the engagement at Hoover's Gap June 24, 1863, and the subsequent withdrawal to Chattanooga. For a time the regiment was stationed around Loudon and Charleston, but on September 4 began its march in the direction of Chickamauga and was heavily engaged in the Battle of Chickamauga September 19-20, 1863. Here the brigade consisted of the 17th, 23rd, 25th, and 44th Tennessee Infantry Regiments. The 17th suffered 130 casualties out of 249 engaged, including the loss of Major Davis and 60 men captured. An interesting note is that before the battle, the barefoot men, numbering 122, were sent to the rear, and not engaged.

On November 23, 1863, the brigade severed its connection with the Army of Tennessee, and as part of General Simon B. Buckner's Division went with Lieutenant General James Longstreet on his expedition into East Tennessee. At this time the 17th and 23rd were consolidated into one field unit under Lieutenant Colonel Floyd, which consolidation continued until the end of the war, but separate muster rolls were maintained. The brigade was now composed of the 17th, 23rd, 25th, 44th and the 63rd Tennessee Infantry Regiments.

January 31, 1864, the brigade was still in Longstreet's Corps, but in May, 1864, it was transferred to General P. G. T. Beauregard's Corps. Major General Robert F. Hoke's Division. The brigade was commanded by Colonel John S. Fulton, of the 44th, and the 17th/23rd by Colonel R. H. Keeble, of the 23rd. The brigade was placed on the Richmond-Petersburg Line, and on May 15, at Drewry's Bluff, suffered 68 casualties out of 319 engaged. Here Lieutenant Colonel Floyd was mortally wounded.

In an engagement on June 17, the 17th Tennessee lost 70 prisoners to the 17th Vermont Infantry, a curious coincidence of "Seventeens."

August 31, 1864, the brigade was reported in Lieutenant General Richard S. Ewell's Corps, with Johnson's Brigade reporting only 395 effectives for the whole brigade. October 31, 1864, the brigade effectives were up to 483. In the reports for Ewell's Corps dated October 31, and November 30, 1864, the 44th/28th Consolidated was reported as a member of the brigade. This was an error, for the 28th Tennessee was with the Army of Tennessee, and never in the Virginia theatre. In the re-

port for December 31, 1864, the 44th/25th appears correctly as a member of the brigade. At this time the 17th/23rd was commanded by Colonel Horace Reedy of the 23rd.

January 31, 1865, Archer's and Johnson's Brigades were consolidated under Colonel (later brigadier general) William McComb, and the brigade was in Major General Henry Heth's Division, of Lieutenant General Ambrose P. Hill's Corps. The consolidated brigade was composed of the 2nd Maryland

Battalion, 1st Confederate, 7th, 14th, 17th, 23rd, 44th/25th, and 63rd Tennessee Infantry Regiments.

On February 5, 1865, the regiment was engaged in the Battle of Hatcher's Run, and on April 2, 1865, in the defenses around Petersburg, fought its last battle. It was surrendered by Lee at Appomattox Courthouse as part of McComb's Brigade, Heth's Division, Hill's Corps, with no change in the brigade organization as shown for January 31, 1865.

18TH TENNESSEE INFANTRY REGIMENT

Organized June 11, 1861; Confederate service August 7, 1861; reorganized September 26, 1862; formed field consolidation with 26th Tennessee Infantry Regiment October, 1863; formed Company "I", 4th Consolidated Tennessee Infantry Regiment April 9, 1865; paroled at Greensboro, North Carolina May 1, 1865.

FIELD OFFICERS

Colonel—Joseph B. Palmer

Lieutenant Colonels—A. G. Carden, William R. Butler.

Majors—Samuel W. Davis, W. H. Joyner.

Captains—Milton R. Rushing, John G. McCabe, Co. "A." Men from Cannon County.

W. H. Joyner, James W. Roscoe, Co. "B." Men from Sumner and Davidson Counties. Joseph B. Palmer, William R. Butler, Richard L. Stephens, John W. Oslin, Co. "C." Men from Rutherford County.

H. J. St. John, M. E. St. John, Co. "D." "St. John's Guards." Men from Cannon County. Gid H. Lowe, Co. "E." "The Ashland City Guards." Men from Cheatham County.

Benjamin F. Webb, Co. "F." Men from Rutherford and Bedford Counties.

A. J. McWhirter, John Dick, Joseph B. Matthews, Co. "G." Men from Davidson County.

B. Grand Wood, Thomas G. Curlee, Co. "H." Men from Rutherford and Cannon Counties.

A. G. Carden, William L. Putman, Z. W. Williams, Co. "I." Men from Wilson County. W. J. Grayson, William P. Bandy, Co. "K." Men from Wilson County.

Of the field officers, Colonel Palmer was promoted to brigadier general November 15, 1864. Lieutenant Colonel Carden resigned,

and Major Davis was not re-elected at the reorganization.

The companies from which this regiment was formed were organized in various Middle Tennessee counties during May 1861. They assembled at Camp Trousdale, where the regiment was organized, and where it was transferred to Confederate service.

A Field and Staff report from Lieutenant Colonel William R. Butler dated March 31, 1864 at Dalton, Georgia, gave the following information as to the history of the regiment up to that date: "This regiment was organized at Camp Trousdale June 11, 1861; sent to Bowling Green, Kentucky, September 1, under General Buckner; sent to Fort Donelson in February; participated in that fighting; captured February 16, 1862; in prison till September 16, 1862; exchanged at Vicksburg; reorganized at Jackson, Mississippi; sent to Murfreesboro; placed in Breckinridge's Division and took active part in the engagement at Stone's River, especially on Friday evening; was in the fight at Chickamauga in Division of Major General Stewart; lost 144 men killed and wounded; was not much injured in Battle of Missionary Ridge. We were then in Stevenson's Division and are at present temporarily consolidated with 26th Tennessee, October 8, 1863."

During this period the regiment was reported at Camp Trousdale in July, 1861 with 883 men armed with flintlock muskets. On September 28, 1861, under the command of Brigadier General Simon B. Buckner, it was reported in the brigade commanded by Colonel John C. Brown, along with the 3rd and 23rd Tennessee Regiments. At Fort Donelson, half of Baldwin's Brigade was attached to Brown's Brigade. The 18th reported 655 men

present and had 52 casualties in the fighting before the surrender on February 16, 1862. Some members of Company "A" who were not captured at Donelson were assigned to 1st Company "H", 23rd Tennessee Infantry Regiment.

The enlisted men were sent to prison at Camp Butler, Springfield, Illinois. In a Federal report from that point dated March 19, 1862, 529 men from the 18th were included in an enumeration of prisoners who wished to take the oath of allegiance to the Federal Government, with the proviso that they were to remain behind the Federal lines until the cessation of hostilities. No record was found as to how many, if any, actually took the oath, but the regiment was exchanged at Vicksburg, Mississippi, September 26, 1862, and declared exchanged November 10, 1862.

At the reorganization on September 26, 1862, Colonel Palmer and Lieutenant Colonel Carden were reelected, but Captain W. H. Joyner succeeded Samuel Davis as major. Lieutenant Colonel Carden resigned, and Captain William R. Butler was elected lieutenant colonel to succeed him.

On October 28, 1862 the regiment was reported in Major General John C. Breckinridge's Division, Colonel Palmer's Brigade, composed of the 18th and 32nd Tennessee, 32nd Alabama, 4th Florida Infantry Regiments, and Dawson's and Moses' Georgia Batteries. A Federal report dated December 7, 1862 erroneously reported the 18th in an engagement at Hartsville, Tennessee. Units from Hanson's Kentucky Brigade, of Breckinridge's Division, were the only infantry reported in this engagement by the Confederates.

In the Battle of Murfreesboro the brigade consisted of the 18th, 26th, 28th, 32nd, and 45th Tennessee Infantry Regiments, and Moses' Georgia Battery, with the 32nd on detached service and not engaged. Colonel Palmer was in command until about noon on January 2, 1863, when Brigadier General Gideon J. Pillow took command. In the first two days' fighting the 18th suffered 31 casualties, but in a heavy fight on January 2, the 18th had 135 casualties out of 430 engaged. Colonel Palmer was wounded three times, but refused to leave the field. However, he was incapacitated for about four months, and did not rejoin the regiment until just before the beginning of the retreat to Chat-

tahoogie.

On January 19, 1863, the regiment was reported in Brigadier General John C. Brown's Brigade with 305 effectives out of 430 present. The brigade consisted of the 18th, 26th, 28th, and 45th Tennessee Infantry Regiments, and Moses' Battery. On July 31 Brown's Brigade was reported in Major General Alexander P. Stewart's Division, with the 23rd Tennessee Infantry Battalion having been added to the brigade, and Moses' Battery replaced by Dawson's. The 18th was reported at Loudon and Charleston in August and September, 1863, but along with the brigade was engaged at Chickamauga, September 19-20. Here they lost 135 men out of 330 engaged, including Colonel Palmer, Lieutenant Colonel Butler, and Major Joyner who were all wounded. Palmer very seriously, and he was not able to rejoin his regiment until the summer of 1864.

On November 12, 1863, Brown's Brigade was transferred to Major General Carter L. Stevenson's Division. The brigade at this time consisted of the 3rd Volunteer, 18th/26th, 32nd and 45th Tennessee Infantry Regiments, and the 23rd Tennessee Infantry Battalion. These units remained together during the balance of the war. The 18th/26th was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Butler of the 18th. During the Battle of Missionary Ridge, the 18th was on outpost duty on the flanks of Lookout Mountain and had only one casualty.

After the retreat to Dalton, Georgia, the regiment remained in winter quarters there until the resumption of fighting in May, 1864, except for a period during the month of February when it was sent to Rome, Georgia, and occupied with building fortifications.

Another report from Lieutenant Colonel Butler covering the period from May to August 31, 1864 stated that the regiment was engaged in a series of engagements beginning at Rocky Face, Georgia on May 7, and ending at Atlanta, where the regiment was in line of battle north of Atlanta. The report stated that the regiment suffered severely in killed and wounded. Company reports list engagements at Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, New Hope Church, Powder Springs Road, and Chat-tahoochee River.

Colonel Palmer rejoined the army at Chattahoochee; was given command of the brigade, and promoted to brigadier general November 15, 1864. During the siege of Atlanta, Palmer's Brigade was in line of de-