

Historical Sketch

of the

Third Maine Reg^t

Since organization, at

Augusta, Maine, May 1861.

Historical Sketch of 3^d Maine Regt.

The "Third Regiment, Maine Volunteers" left the city of Augusta, on the morning of June 5^{¹⁸⁶¹} (having been mustered into the United States Service the day previous) under Command of Col. O. O. Howard, and arrived in the city of Washington on the evening of the 7th. On the 8th inst, the Regiment was ordered to a Camp of Instruction, on Meridian Hill, where it remained till the 6th day of July, - then crossed the Potomac, and encamped in front of Fort Ellsworth, being at that time the advance Regiment,

On the 11th day of July the Regiment moved to Clermont, and encamped on the estate of the rebel, Commodore Forest, 3 miles from the previous camp, and still in advance of all others. Here the Regiment was Brigaded with the 4th and 5th Maine, and the 2nd Vermont Vols. Col. O. O. Howard, Actg Brig Gen. Commanding. On the 11th July, we advanced our picket line to Springfield Station, and on the 14th began the March on Bull Run, arriving at Centerville on the 17th and at Bull Run on the 21st, Maj. Staples Commanding the Regiment. In that disastrous battle, the Regiment sustained itself nobly, till the panic seized the troops, when it was found impossible to rally them, - our loss being 8 killed, 29 wounded, and 12 taken prisoners, - The entire baggage of the Regiment, together with the knapsacks of the men, fell into the hands of the enemy.

On the 23^d July, we were again on our previous Camp ground, (Clermont,) where we remained till Aug 10th when orders

to the right of Fort Ellsworth, where a new Brigade was formed, consisting of the 3^d and 4th Maine, and 38th and 40th New York Regiments, under Command of Brig. Gen. John Sedgewick. While at this Camp the Brigade built "Fort Worth," by details of men from each Regiment, daily.

On the 27th and 28th of Aug., a portion of the Regiment, under Major Staples, had a brilliant skirmish with the enemy at "Baileys Cross Roads," without any loss on our part. The Regiment remained in this Camp, doing picket duty, working on fortifications, and drilling, till the 27th of ~~October~~ September, when the Brigade was ordered forward to take position on "Foul's Estate," on the Old Fairfax Road, and was then posted to the Division of Gen. Heintzleman.

Having formed a complete "Breastwork" in our front the Regiments furnished daily details of men for the construction of "Fort Lyon," one of the most important fortresses in the vicinity of the Capitol. At this time, Col. Howard having been promoted to Brig. General, Major Staples succeeded to the Colonelcy of the Regiment, and Company, Battalion, and Brigade drills followed each other in close succession during the remainder of our stay in this Camp, - which, in honor of Gen. Howard, was called "Camp Howard."

On the 17th of March, the Regiment, together with the balance of the Brigade, and Division, broke up Camp, ~~and~~ took transports at Alexandria, - and sailed for Fortress Monroe, where, with the Brigade, six Companies arrived on the 19th, - The other four Companies, viz; Captains Cakeman, Morgan, Johnson and Richmond's were placed on board unseaworthy barks, and having been overtaken by a gale, were driven into St. Mary's Harbor, Md. - near the mouth of the Potomac, and did not join the Regiment for six or eight days after our arrival, they being at the time short of rations.

The army remained at Hampton till April 3rd, and at that date moved forward to Yorktown, where we arrived on the afternoon of the 5th, - encamping in the face of the enemy, and within range of their guns. - At the siege of Yorktown the Regiment sustained no minor part, - being one of the few who never permitted themselves to be "surprised," - and labouring both day and night on the formidable works erected there, oftentimes under shot, and shell, or the more deadly "grape and Canister."

The evacuation of Yorktown, found us among the first in pursuit of the enemy, hence, the severe loss of the Brigade at the Battle of Williamsburg, before arriving at which place, the men were nearly exhausted, from the severity of the march, through ~~two feet deep~~ of mud, a foot, and in some instances two feet deep. Arriving within two miles of the Battle field, the Brigade filed off, and halting, deposited their knapsacks, ^{and} were again on the march. At the field, Gen. Keintzleman detached the 3rd and 4th Maine Regiments from the Brigade, and being reinforced by three other Regiments, marched to, and formed line of Battle on the plain to left of the battle-field, in order to prevent the possibility of a flank movement, - in the mean time the balance of the Brigade had advanced, and engaged the enemy. At sunset we were withdrawn from the plain and marched to the scene of action, to relieve the Regiments then engaged, - When an order from Gen Kearney was given us, to "file into the woods and brook, for Williamstung was won," - every man was completely saturated with water, for the rain had been falling in torrents throughout the day. - We lost two men, wounded.

On the following morning at "dawn," (May 6th) the Regiment with the 4th Maine were ordered to advance in line, and carry Fort Mifflin by storm. But our passage thither was not disputed, as the enemy had evacuated the works the night previous, leaving his dead and wounded in our hands. The right of the army having been foremost up to this time, the Commander-in-Chief saw fit to rest them here a few days, while the left wing pursued the

enemy, - At Williamsburg our supplies of Rations, and ammunition being replenished, the dead interred, and the wounded cared for, we were again on the march, and on the 15th inst arrived at Cumberland Landing, on the Pamunkey River, - where we remained a few days, then continuing our march to within a few miles of "Bottom Bridge", on the Chickahominy. On the 23^d the Regiment was ordered to Ticket, ~~at~~ Longbridge, on the same river, - joined the Brigade the following day, and on the 25th crossed the Chickahominy at Bottom Bridge, and marched to within half a mile of Fair Oaks. Nothing of interest occurred till the 30th inst, when the sharp rattling of musketry announced the approach of the enemy, and the Regiment was under arms and in line at a moment's warning. The whole Brigade was formed and marched to the scene of action, but nothing of importance was done, except changing position, and some slight skirmishing, in which a few slight wounds were received by the Regiment. - Night having set in we bivouacked ~~for the night~~, - so ended the Battle of Seven Pines, which proved so disastrous to Casey's division, although a brilliant victory.

On Sunday morning, June 1st the Brigade was under the Command of Col. J. H. Stuart Ward, of the 38th New York Regt, and had been from early dawn in "line of battle", - at Fair Oaks, - the quick step of scouts to the line was the signal that the enemy were approaching. Our position could not have been better for the purpose of "ambush", - the South Maine having been sent to take a flank position on the right secured themselves splendidly, the 3^d Maine, 38th and 40th New York, were concealed behind a Virginia fence, - on came the enemy, Longstreet's "Crack" division, - they formed four distinct "lines of Battle"

the last of which was within twenty yards of our levelled muskets, they thought to surprise us, but we turned the tables on them, at the favorable moment the order was given "fire," and "Charge,"— and never was an order more promptly or thoroughly obeyed,— the three left Companies of our regiment being opposed to an entire Battalion (8th Alabama), who were all either killed, wounded, or made prisoners. We drove the enemy, (they manly contesting every foot of ground) through a heavy growth of wood, a swamp, and over a plain, where the 4th Maine Regiment finished the morning's work. The brilliant Charge made by the Regiments of the Brigade was the theme of universal praise, and Gen. Kearney, said, our "Brigade had gallantly won the honors of the Day." Our loss was, in killed and wounded, nearly one-third of the Regiment,— principally, from the "left wing," Co's. "B," "F," "G," & "K."

The Brigade held its position for three days after the Battle, when we were withdrawn and encamped on the ground we fought, ~~and~~ and also interred our deceased Comrades ^{on}. The duty in the trenches was here very trying, as it was almost continual battle from day to day. We remained in the advance line of the Army until June 25th when we were again engaged in the Battle of "White Oak Swamp,"— where, by having a good position, the Regiment was enabled to do excellent service, with very slight loss. On the 29th of June, we were withdrawn from the advance line of fortifications, before Richmond, at early ^{May. Bvt. Commanding} morning, and crossed White Oak Swamp at Jordan's Ford at dusk in the evening, covered by the left flank Company as skirmishers, under Command of Lieut. Francis Cox. Who after an advance of nearly two miles in the direction of Charles City Cross road, came upon the rebels in considerable force, with whom they opened a brisk skirmish, ~~and~~ but in consequence of the disparity in force they retired, slowly, and in good order, with a loss of one man killed, and one made prisoner.

By order of Gen. Birney we then ~~we~~ crossed the swamp and joined the Brigade, and again crossed White Oak Swamp six miles lower down, gained the highland, and bivouaced for the night. On the morning of the 30th the Regt moved forward on the Charles City Road, and took an active part in the "Battle of Charles City Cross Roads," where we held a skirmish line of about half a mile in length. At this battle the Regiment lost all baggage, it having been left on the field, by order of Gen. Birney, previous to the opening of the Battle.

At 2 o'clock A.M. on July 1st we marched from this place to Malvern Hill, and here assisted in supporting Rowdolph's 6th R. I. Battery, being for 3 hours exposed to a severe fire from the enemy's batteries, during which time the Regiment displayed a spirit of resolute bravery; our loss was here very light. - On the morning of the 2nd ~~the~~ at 2 A.M., we again took up our march in the direction of Harrison's Landing, in a severe rain storm, rendering it almost impossible for our worn out men to keep themselves in the ranks. On the morning of the 3rd we again formed line, as the enemy's shells gave notice of their close proximity, and proceeded to the front, where we remained, held our ground, and finally encamped. - This series of marching and fighting is what has been called the "Seven Days Battles". -

From this time till the 15th of August, the Regiment remained in front, erecting "beast racks," and performing picket duty, when they again took up the march for Yorktown, where we arrived August 19th, - embarked on transports for Alexandria, the 21st, ~~where we arrived~~ ^{and} the following day.

On the 23rd, we left Alexandria, by rail,

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and proceeded to within 4 miles of the Rappahannock River, in which locality we remained till Aug 27th, the Regiment being then under the Command of Captain Calkman. The ^{Brigade} ~~regiment~~ was then ordered on a flank movement to Greenwich, at which place we arrived ~~shortly~~ before midnight, - and at about 9 a.m. the following morning, the Regt moved in advance of the Brigade as Scouts, towards Bristol Station, and continuing the march to Manassas and Centerville, we bivouaced for the night. On the 29th we marched for Bull Run, and arrived on the Battle field at about 9 a.m., and participated in the engagement of that day.

On the 30th Maj. Burt. Commanding, the Regiment supported Randolph's Battery until 3 o'clock P.M., when we retired to the rear, where the Brigade, with all others, were compelled to retire. At this time, the regiment, with Gen. Kearney at its head, returned to the attack, but meeting a rebel brigade, were forced to retire under a murderous fire. A portion of the Regiment also encountered another heavy fire, while supporting a section of a battery, and with the rest of the forces fell back to Centerville.

September 1st we took up the line of march for Fairfax, when again the regiment with the rest of the Brigade went to the assistance of General Stevens' Division, which had been repulsed, and succeeded in checking and driving back the enemy, holding our position till the next morning. Here the gallant and lamented Kearney fell, at the ever memorable battle of Chantilly. Our loss in the last named battle was 4 killed, 30 wounded, and 8 missing.

September 2nd the Regiment marched for Alexandria where we arrived on the 3rd and encamped in the vicinity of Fort Lyon. - On the 4th Col Staples, (having returned from sick leave) took command. - On the 8th the Regiment, with

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The Brigade moved to ^{by} Fort Math, and from thence to Fort Bernard, where we remained till the evening of the 15th when we were ordered to proceed to Poolsville and the Monocacy, Md, where we arrived on the 18th and the following day marched for White's ^{by} Ford, on the Upper Potomac. Here the Regiment done duty on the Fords from Monocacy River to Conrad's Ferry, - at which place, Col Staples having command of the Brigade, Lieut-Col Lakeman commanded the Regiment, till Oct 11th, when the Regiment with the 4th Maine were ordered to the mouth of the Monocacy, (about 8 miles,) to intercept the return of Stuart's (Rebel) Cavalry into Virginia, where

The Regiment arrived at the mouth of the Monocacy about 11 o'clock P.M., and Capt Morgan with two Companies was sent forward to hold the Bridge, - and form a picket line, and having taken our position, ^{the Regiment} bivouaced. At 9 o'clock A.M., the following morning, the enemy, with field artillery attacked us, with the seeming intention of crossing the river at this point, - Lieut-Col. Lakeman, then sent forward Companies "F" and "H," (under command of Capt Morgan) as skirmishers, to harass the enemy's gunners, - who encountered a body of ^{Rebel} Cavalry, dismounted, and acting as skirmishers, whom he attacked, and routed, - the fire at this time from our own battery, preventing him from following them, - In the mean time Major Burt with four Companies was engaged supporting ^{Purinton's} ~~Company's~~ Battery, - when learning that the enemy had taken to their horses, and were crossing the Ford, three miles lower down, - Col Lakeman, with the balance of the Regiment immediately started for the ^{by} Ford, but arrived too late, - the enemy had escaped.

We returned to Poolsville, in the evening, and

on the 15th, again marched for White's Ford - where we remained, doing Guard and Picket duty till Oct 20th, ~~where~~ we ~~forded~~ forded the Potomac at this point, and encamped near the river on the Virginia side. Gen. Traud having previously taken Command of the Brigade, Col. Staples resumed command of the Regiment. While here the other Brigades of the Division, under Gen. Stoneman, joined us, and on the 31st day of October, we marched towards Leesburg, - encamping within two miles (West) of it, and making short marches, daily, arrived at Warrenton Va. on the Rappahannock, on the 7th day of November, where we remained, doing duty at Waterloo Bridge, till the 16th, when we were ordered to march to ^{by} Galumouth, Col. Staples at this time having resigned, the Command devolved on Col. Lakeman.

We arrived at Galumouth, Nov 22nd and encamped, - until Decr, 11th, when, being under orders for Fredericksburg, the thunder, of guns before the dawn of day, reminded us, we were for duty. The Regiment was in line, and on the march, in their proper position in the Brigade, and with the division and other troops halted after proceeding about a mile, - Here the several Regiments "stacked arms", and the men were permitted to unslung knapsacks, as the passage of the Rappahannock River had not been carried, - In this position we remained till nearly dusk, when the whole division moved about a mile further to the front, and filing right and left from the road, bivouaced for the night.

All the forenoon of the following day (12th) the men were kept at their arms, ready of any emergency, but it was late in the afternoon before the order to march was received, when it did come, no time was lost, and we marched some six

Miles ~~was sent~~ in order to cross and reinforce Gen. Franklin, who had been giving battle to the enemy throughout the day. Arriving within about a mile of the Pontoon Bridge, it was discovered that the troops previously sent by this route had not yet crossed, and we were again ordered to bivac. On the morning of the 13th the Regiment was under arms at day-break, and again on the march, and after the delay, seemingly required, in moving large bodies, we succeeded in crossing the Rappahannock River, about 10 o'clock A.M.

Gen Birney, Commanding Division, immediately found his Brigades, and pushed forward to the left of the ground occupied by Gen. Whipple. We were immediately formed into lines of battle by brigades, and ordered to prepare for action. The Regiment was then marched by Col. Lakeman to the rear. (Some 175 yards) where they deposited their knapsacks, and soon took their position in the line. At this time the shot and shell from the enemy's batteries was flying thick and fast over us, and a few of our men were wounded. The Regiment was then ordered forward to the right of our position, to the support of Captain Hall's (2nd Maine) Battery, and remained in position nearly six hours, under a most trying fire from batteries and sharpshooters. - The execution done by ~~that~~ our Battery on the ranks of the enemy needs no comment from us, - our duty was to support it, at all hazards, and the position was a "post of honor and danger". - The Battery having been ordered to change position, it was discovered that one of its guns had been disabled, and that in consequence of the loss of all its horses. The enemy, seeing which, came boldly forward to seize it, but the unerring aim of a well directed volley from our men, sent them flying back to the cover of their entrenchments beyond

the woods. - The Regiment then escorted the Battery to the position ~~it had~~ been ordered to, and immediately returned, and formed line of Battle on the ground previously occupied by the Battery, covering nearly the whole Brigade front. At sunset, we were reinforced by the other Regiments of the Brigade, and that night formed the advance line, being in close range for the enemy's sharpshooters. - At early morning we were withdrawn from the front, and placed in the second line, - where we remained all ~~day~~ through the day (14th) and at midnight again took up our previous position, (in the advance.) The Regiment was of necessity compelled to lay on wet ground, in front of the enemy, ~~for~~ about 50 hours, - which accounts for the light loss sustained, in comparison with others of the Brigade. Our loss was 3 killed, 25 wounded, and four missing, - supposed to have been taken prisoners.

X On Monday night between the hours of ten and eleven, the Regiment, with the rest of the Brigade were withdrawn from the lines, - retreated ~~to the pontoons~~, and soon after midnight crossed the river, losing no baggage, or public property. - Halting a few hours before daylight, the Regiments were permitted to rest, and amid a disagreeable rain storm, snatched an "Soldiers sleep," At 10 o'clock the next morning, (15th) the Regiment with the Brigade marched to the Camp ground previously occupied, - and where we now are.

The 3^d Maine Regiment has therefore, participated in Fifteen battles or engagements, without reference to the numerous skirmishes, which, since their organization they have been either participators or principal actors in, - the

engagements are as follows:

"Bull Run," "Bailey's Cross Roads," "Siye of Yorktown," "Williamsburg," "Seven Pines," "Fair Oaks," "Fair-oak Swamp," "Chas. City Cross Roads," "Malvern Hill," "Glendale," "Manassas," "Chautilly," "Monocacy," and "Fredericksburg."

The following table will show the original, and present state of the Regiment:—

Gen. Goddard:—

Sir, There may be a slight discrepancy in the loss of men, in this table.— I would say that some of the men reported as transferred, were from one company to another, and being reported on the original strength, and also the present,— causes a slight variation.

M. J. Latham.

Col & Meritt

Table, showing the original and present condition of 3^d Me. Regt.

Field, Staff, and Companies.	Original Strength	Gain			Present Strength.	Present for Duty.	Present Sick	Absent Sick.	Loss of Officers.					Loss of Enlisted Men.						
		Recruits received.	By transfer from other Regiments	Officers joined from Depots.					By Promotion.	Resigned.	Deserted.	Died.	Dismissed.	Enlisted Men Transferred	Enlisted Men Discharged	Killed in Action	Died of wounds rec'd in Action	Died of disease	Missing in Action	Deserted.
G & S	37	1		2	11	10	1	4	6			2		^{band.} 27						
A	94	13	1		64	34	2	14	2				3	28	4	1	1			7
B	96	11	2		59	27	4	16	2	1			4	28	2	5	5			6
C	96	7			64	28	6	22		2		1		23	3	1	4	1		4
D	96	15	1		57	20	7	18	2	2				35	1		7			9
E	86	27			69	38	4	19	1	3				26	2	1	8			4
F	97	18		1	65	38	4	14		2		3		26	5	2	9			4
G	99	13			66	31	5	12		2	1		2	25	2	3	6			7
H	86	23			67	45	2	15	2	2				18	1	3	5	4		8
I	92	23	2		72	36	4	16	1	3	1		6	19	3		7			5
K	84	25	1	1	71	37	4	18		4		1		23	2		7			2
Total	963	176	7	4	665	344	42	165	14	27	1	2	6	15	278	25	15	59	5	56

In addition to the "present for duty," three Officers, and one hundred and eleven men, are on detached service.

Col. Moses B. Lakeman
 Report of 3^d Me. Vols
 January 1. 1863

Company	Present	Absent	Detached	Wounded	Killed	Missing	Dead	Total
A	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
B	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
C	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
D	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
E	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
F	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
G	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
H	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
I	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
J	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
K	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
L	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
M	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
N	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
O	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
P	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
Q	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
R	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
S	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
T	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
U	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
V	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
W	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
X	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
Y	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
Z	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
Total	110	11	0	0	0	0	0	121

The addition to the present for duty this office and in receipt
 one other one in detached service.