

Military duty for Joachim (James) Peik

On the 8th of March, they left Vicksburg, en route for Wisconsin, to take their veteran furlough, and arrived at Madison on the 18th, where they were welcomed by the State authorities and citizens. They disbursed to their several homes, and reassembled at Camp Washburn, Milwaukee, on the 20th of April. On the next day they proceeded to Cairo, arriving on the 22nd, where they found the Seventeenth Corps, to which they were attached, and which was on its way to join the forces of General Sherman, in the Atlanta campaign. Here it was assigned to the Second Brigade, of General Gresham's forces. Colonel Malloy was placed in command of the brigade, Lieut. Col. McMahon being in command of the regiment. They embarked for the Tennessee River on the 4th of May, and reached Clifton, Tenn., thence marched to Huntsville, Ala., where the Seventeenth was transferred to the Third Brigade, Third Division, General Leggett. Col. Malloy was placed in command of the brigade. On the 5th, they commenced their long march to join the forces of Gen. Sherman, who was then advancing against Atlanta. Proceeding by way of Warrenton and Rome, Ga., they reached Ackworth, near where Gen. Sherman's forces were in position, on the 8th of June.

On the 10th of June, the regiment took position near Big Shanty, in front of the enemy, the division occupying the extreme left of the line. They were constantly occupied in heavy skirmishing until the 19th, when the division advanced, taking position on Brush Mountain. During this they suffered 2 deaths and 6 wounded.

On the 22nd, they took part in a demonstration on the enemy's right, carrying two lines of rifle pits. After sustaining a heavy fire from the enemy's artillery for over three hours, they returned to the vicinity of Brush Mountain. With the division they took part in the operations against Kennesaw Mountain where they sustained casualties of 2 dead and 11 wounded.

The Seventeenth accompanied the movement of McPhearson's corps, to the right of Kennesaw Mountain, on the 2nd of July, in the subsequent movement of the Third Division, prior to the crossing of the Chattahoochee, on the 17th of July, Sustaining losses of 1 dead, 3 wounded.

Crossing the river with the Third Division on the 17th, the regiment marched through Decatur, and on the 20th, occupied with the division, a portion of the extreme left of the line, to the south of the Augusta Railroad, in front of Bald Hill. On the 21st of July, the Third Division, General Leggett, led by the brigade of General Force, the Twelfth and Sixteenth Wisconsin in the advance, charged up the hill upon the enemy's works, and after a fierce struggle, drove the rebels out, and took possession of the hill. On the 22nd the enemy attempted to retake possession of their captured works, but after a hard struggle, the Third Division succeeded in holding the ground, and with the aid of the Sixteenth Corps, who attacked the enemy in the rear, finally drove the rebels into their works. In this severe contest of the 21st and 22nd of July, the Seventieth Wisconsin was actively involved and lost 4 to death and 11 wounded.

The Seventeenth Regiment accompanied the movement of the Seventeenth Corps to the right on the 26th of July, and continued in the duties of the siege, until the 26th of August, when it took part in the operations of the Seventeenth Corps to the south of Atlanta, being present at the battle

of Jonesboro, and Lovejoy Station, returning with the Seventeenth Corps and camping near Atlanta, on the 9th of September.

On the 24th of August, Lieut. Col. McMahon was discharged and Major Scott was appointed Lieut. Colonel, and Captain McCauley, Major. The losses in the vicinity of Atlanta were 11.

With the rest of the Seventeenth Corps, the Seventeenth regiment left East Point, where it had been encamped, and crossed the Chattahoochie, in pursuit of the rebel General Hood. From this pursuit they returned to Marietta, and encamped on the 4th of November, where they remained until the 13th, when they moved to Atlanta, and on the 16th, began the grand march for Savannah.

The Seventeenth, on the march, engaged in the different duties engaged upon the different regiments, and nothing particular occurred to vary the operations of the Seventeenth, and its history is similar to most of the other regiments engaged.

With the Seventeenth Corps, it left Savannah in January, and camped near Beauford, S.C., and joined in the march to Goldsboro.

Col. Malloy was home on leave of absence when General Sherman started for Savannah. He consequently reported himself to major General Steadman, at Chattanooga, who was appointed by General Sherman to the duty of taking charge of such furloughed soldiers or officers of his army who might report themselves after he had cut loose and started his march. These persons were to rejoin their respective organizations on hearing of his arrival at the seacoast. The organization of these detachments into a Provisional Division had been assigned to Brigadier General Charles Cruft. By him Col. Malloy was placed in command of all the available men in the camp of the Seventeenth Corps Detachment, and ordered to occupy all the blockhouses along the line of the Georgia State Railroad, and garrison Tunnel Hill and Ringgold. In a short time Col. Malloy had a full brigade under his command. Hood was making preparations to attack Thomas at Nashville, and the forces of Col. Malloy, on the 30th of November, started from Chattanooga by rail, reaching that city the next day. Col. Malloy's brigade occupied several different positions during the period that Hood threatened Nashville, and on the days of the battle were posted on the right of Fort Negley, in the works. They were afterwards sent to Decatur, Ala., and other points in the performance of severe and arduous duty. These detachments of new recruits, returning veterans and others, were ordered to rendezvous at Stevenson, Ala., on the 13th of January, thence they moved to Nashville, where the various commands were organized into three brigades, all of which on the 17th, 18th and 19th of January, 1865, embarked on steamers en route to join their commands in Sherman's army, by way of the Cumberland and Ohio Rivers. General Francis Meagher had command of the Provisional Division. The troops on the boat suffered severely for want of fires, and their commissary arrangements were not of the best. Colonel Malloy visited Wisconsin and joined his brigade after their arrival at Beauford, N. C.. On reaching Ohio they were compelled to take cars, the river not being navigable, and proceeded by way of Pittsburg and Pennsylvania Central Railroad to Baltimore, thence to Annapolis, where they took steamers and proceeded to Beauford, N.C., arriving there on the 8th of February, 1865, from whence they moved by rail to New Bern, on the 12th.

On their arrival at New Bern, General Meagher assumed command of the Provisional Division, and had the general management of its affairs. Much dissatisfaction being produced, the general was relieved from duty on the 2nd of March, by General Cox. The brigades composing the Provisional Division, were attached to the divisions of Generals Carter and Palmer, in the army under General Cox, and made their way towards Goldsboro to cooperate with General Sherman. On their way they encountered the rebel General Hoke, and sundry skirmishes took place which resulted in favor of the Union arms. Reaching Goldsboro on the 21st of March, on the 23rd, the forces of General Sherman made their appearance, when the Provisional Division was broken up by that General's order, and the members sent to their respective regiments. In this Provisional Division, about 1,000 Wisconsin men were incorporated, including the veterans of the Eighteenth Regiment. Col. Malloy and Lieut. Col. Scott rejoined the Seventeenth Regiment and accompanied it on the march to Raleigh, and after the surrender of Johnston, proceeded to Richmond and Washington, where they took part in the Grand Review of the troops of General Sherman in May, and thence proceeded to Louisville to muster out. They left that city on the 14th of July, and reached Madison on the 17th where they were publicly received and paid off, and the regiment disbanded.