



## Stones River National Battlefield

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Murfreesboro, TN 37129

Phone: (615) 893-9501, Fax: (615) 893-9508

### Regimental File Donation Form

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Significant Person's Name: CAPT JAMES BIDDLE

Unit: 16TH US INF

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List Contents of Donation Below:

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1  
written by James Biddle Detroit, Mich

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1862 - 1863

DIARY

CAPT JAMES BIDDLE

16TH U.S. INFANTRY

From Camp Thomas to Harrodsboro.

In compliance with orders I left Detroit, where I had been recruiting for the 16th Infantry, early in May 1862 & went to Columbus Ohio, head quarters of the Regiment. On reporting to Major Coolidge, the commanding officer, I was directed to report for duty at Camp Thomas, four miles from Columbus, where the 16th. & 18th. Infantry's were being organized under Col. Garrington of the 18th. Infantry.

Here I received the following order.

Captain James Biddle 16th.

U.S. Infantry assigned to Company B. 2d. Battalion 16th. U.S.I.

He will organize the company as soon as possible & will proceed with it to join the companies of the 1st. Battalion now in the field.

The organization of my company effected I received orders to go to the front by way of Cincinnati and Louisville.

July 14th. Left Camp Thomas at 5 a. m. and marched to Columbus 4 miles  
Left Columbus at 11 a. m. & reached Cincinnati at 4 p. m. went to the quartermaster's office for transportation. Was informed that we could not go forward until noon next day. Marched to Newport and quartered my men in the barracks for the night.

July 15th. Sent Lt. Bingham with the company to the boat and went to the quartermaster's office and to the boat. Found all on board except one man deserted. Reached Louisville at 11 p. m. but did not go on shore until morning.

July 16th. Went to get transportation to the Army of the Ohio, then at Huntsville Alabama, but was told that Genl. Boyd had ordered that all troops passing through Louisville should be stopped until further orders. I then went to Major Granger, in command of the town, to explain that I had orders direct from the Adjutant General to go to my regiment. The Major said that the orders to stop troops was imperative as Morgan was threatening the city. I was directed to take my men to Barracks No. 1. In the afternoon I was ordered to march my men to the Pork-House <sup>? 8</sup> about 3 miles from the city. Before reaching the latter place we were stopped and ordered to return to town and escort Genl.

? → Green & Lay with to Frankfort Ky. Marched directly to the depot and being joined by General Smith, started for Frankfort.

Arrived there without accident. Encamped in the State-house yard

July 17th. Lay quietly in Frankfort all day.

July 18th. Received orders at 9 p. m. to report to Col. Maxwell of a Kentucky regiment. We marched immediately leaving our camp in charge of Mr. Andrews our sutler. Not knowing that we were to be absent any time, we left our blankets and greatcoats behind. Received orders from Col. Maxwell to fall in on the right of the 11th Michigan. Marched at 11 p. m. for Paris Ky. The force

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under Col. Maxwell consisted of the 11th Michigan, 300 mounted infantry and a section of artillery from a Chicago battery. Marched all night.

19th. At 10 a. m. stopped to rest at the village of Georgetown about 18 miles from Frankfort. Found that a body of Morgan's cavalry had left the place as we entered. At night was ordered to advance part of my company to act as picket guard on the Paris road. Were fired on towards 11 o'clock, no one hurt.

July 20th. At 3 a. m. continued our march towards Paris. Halted by the road-side to rest.

July 21st. Night very cold for summer, felt the need of our overcoats and blankets which we had left behind in Frankfort. Moved forward at 3 a. m. At about day-light Col. Maxwell received orders from Genl. Smith to move rapidly forward as he, Gen. Smith, had gained a position in rear of the enemy and was only waiting for us to come up in front to commence the attack. Instead of pushing forward Col. Maxwell halted and remained by the road-side for 3 hours. At 7 a. m. we resumed our march and by noon were within a mile and a half of Paris. Here Col. Maxwell received, or pretended to receive, information that Morgan was advancing to attack us with a force of 10,000 men. Though it was well known that Morgan had no such number of men Col. Maxwell, who seemed able to believe most any thing, drew up his men in line and waited the attack. Genl. Smith, finding we did not advance, withdrew his force and Morgan quietly slipped away and went to Winchester Ky. Morgan gone we boldly

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marched in to Paris and took possession. Encamped for the night in a field a half a mile beyond the town.

July 22d. Spent the day in getting forage and in looking up small squads of the enemy said to be lurking in the woods and in the town. We thus gave Morgan a start of 24 hours which, as he was mounted and we on foot was not necessary.

July 23. Marched to Winchester 24 miles. Day very hot. Men tired. Left Lt. Bingham sick in Winchester. All mounted in wagons and taken to Richmond.

July 24th. Reached Richmond at day light and bivouacked in the Court-house yard. Stayed all day and night.

July 25th. Left Richmond at day light and reached Lexington at 5 p. m. Took the cars for Frankfort.

July 26th. Reached Frankfort at day break. Got our tents and other property and <sup>went</sup> to Louisville. Stopped the train one mile from town and encamped in a beautiful grove near the road and in the grounds of the Blind Asylum.

July 28th. Received orders from Genl. Boyd at 11-30 a. m. to take the noon boat for Madison Indiana and wait there for further orders. The boat waited for us otherwise we should have missed her. Reached Madison at 4 p. m. Having no orders what to do in Madison I encamped my company on the banks of the Ohio and waited. People very kind and sent us plenty to eat. At 10 p. m. ~~7~~ received orders from Genl. Boyle to report to Col. Lucas 16th Indiana Infantry, who was expected to lead a small force sent

by the Gov. of Indiana to hunt guerrillas in Kentucky.

July 29th. Col. Lucus not on hand.

July 30th. Reported to Col. Lucus. Directed to take 4 o'clock boat for Warsaw Ky. Took steamer and found on board 300 men of the 16th Indiana Infantry. A hard lot of men, not in uniform. Reached Warsaw at 6 p. m. Encamped in a lane just out of the town.

July 31st. Sent, by order of Col. Lucus, all baggage back to Madison, in charge of the sick.

Aug. 1st. Marched out on the Owenton pike and halted at a creek 10 miles from Warsaw. Had no rations and had to pick up what we could on the road. Col. Lucus has guerrillas on the brain and expects to find one under every bush.

Aug. 2d. Marched to Owenton 10 miles. Encamped in a field one mile from town. Company detailed for picket duty.

Aug. 3d. Marched my company in to town and occupied the school house yard. Lt. Bingham and I use the school house and the men a large barn. Gave the school boys a holiday.

Aug. 4th. Ordered to go with my company to Lusby's Mill, 8 miles east of Owenton. to attend an election for county officers. My orders are to allow all union men to vote but to arrest secessionists. <sup>reached</sup> Left Owenton in the morning and reached Lusby's Mill before dark. Took up our quarters in a wool factory.

Aug. 5th. Having stationed a guard at the poles under Sargeant Whalen and, the town being very hot, I marched my company to a spring in a wood 1/3 a mile out of the village. A very bad storm of

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lightning, thunder, wind and rain came up and forced us to take what shelter we could find. At 7 p. m. the elections being over and the night fine, we started on our return. At 11 p. m. when 3 miles from Owenton a storm came up and we halted for the night

and took shelter in a barn until morning.

Aug. 6th. Reached Owenton at 10 a. m. and reported to Col. Lucas. Took up our old position in school yard.

Aug. 7th. Col. Lucas left with part of his command for the centre of the state leaving my in charge of the camp. I have with me, besides my own company, some 250 volunteers. Bad lot.

Aug. 8th. & 9th. In camp.

Aug. 10th. Col. Lucas returned and informed me that if I did not hear from him before Friday Aug. 15th I was to take my men to Ghent on the Ohio River.

Aug. 11th. Went out foraging to get provisions for my men. Since we have been in Owinton some one who will not <sup>give</sup> his or her name, has sent in three good meals a day for Lt. Bingham and me.

Aug. 12 & 13th. In camp.

Aug. 14th. Sent out a sergeant and 20 men to hunt up wagons to take my company to Ghent. Got every thing ready for an early start.

Aug. 15th. Started at 4 a. m. in six wagons and reached Ghent by noon, 24 miles. The volunteers went by the way of Warsaw. Telegraph

Aug. 15th. Started at 4 a. m. in six wagons and reached Ghent by noon, 24 miles. The volunteers went by the way of Warsaw. Telegraph

7 ed Col. Lucas for orders.

Aug. 16th. Received, by telegraph, orders from Genl. Boyle to report to him in Louisville. Took Louisville packet at night. Captain of boat said that my telegraphic orders were not good for transportation and that he would put me off at the first stop. Having 65 armed men at my back he changed his mind and did not do it.

Aug. 17th. Got my sick and baggage <sup>a</sup> on board at Madison, where we stopped at one o'clock a. m. and reached Louisville at 5 a. m. Reported myself and was directed to encamp my men at a point on the Louisville and Nashville R. R. one mile from town and wait for transportation to the front.

Aug. 18th to 23d. Remained in camp at Louisville one week ~~during~~ during which time I received orders: 1st - To take my company to Frankfort; 2d - To go to Lebanon Ky. Both of these orders were countermanded. Finally on Sunday Aug. 24th I was told to take railroad and go as far towards Nashville as the train could get. The road was known to be cut some where beyond Bowling-Green Kentucky. Captain Lewis of the 16th joined me at Louisville and spent several days with me.

R.R.

Aug. 24th. Sunday morning at 7 o'clock we took the Nashville and at 2 p. m. reached Bowling Green, at which point the train was stopped, the road being cut further on. Reported to Col. Bruce, the commanding officer, and was directed to put my men in camp at a large spring, in a walnut grove 1 1/2 miles from the town. We remained in this camp until September 3d. I found Col. Bruce

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was of the real Kentucky-Colonel type and kept a barrel of whiskey on tap. I made it a point to enquire after his health twice a day.

Sept. 3d. A large force of the enemy's cavalry being reported near by, I was ordered, by Col. Bruce, to bring my company inside the picket line. Marched in at 5 p. m. and encamped near the Catholic church. Remained in new camp until September 10th, hoping every day to get transportation to Nashville, when we were aroused to activity by hearing that Buell's army was but a few miles from Bowling Green.

Sept. 11th. & 12th. The advance-guard of the army commenced passing through the town. My company was ordered out to act as police in the town. I was to see that all saloons were closed.

Sept. 13th. Ordered to report to Major Slemmer commanding 16th Infantry in camp at Lost Springs 4 miles from town. Turned over my guard to Lt. Bingham and went out to camp. Relieved from police guard and ordered to guard an ammunition train. 1st Battalion of the 16th Infantry passed through Bowling Green and encamped on the Barren River.

Sept. 14th. Left Bowling Green and joined the 1st Battalion on the Barren River. By order of Major Slemmer all tents and baggage are to be placed in the division train. Men to carry one blanket and three days' rations of pork and crackers.

Sept. 15th. Crossed the Barren River and took the Louisville pike. Officers allowed transportation for their blankets and valises.

hard

3 Rained very at 3 p. m. Reached Dripping Springs at dark. Eight miles. No water but what we could get from a horse-pond in a barn-yard. Rained again at 8 p. m. and continued most of the night. Wagons with officers blankets did not get up until morning.

Sept. 16th. Marched to a point near the Mammoth Cave. Sun very hot and our clothes soon got dry on our backs.

Sept. 17th. Marched at 8 a. m. Halted at Prewet, a Knob. Bragg's Army said to be in position in our front. Nothing to eat.

Sept. 18th. At same place.

Sept. 19th. Went out on picket duty in command of 4 companies of the 16th Infantry. Got a chicken and some bread from a farm-house.

Sept. 20th. Relieved from picket line at 8 a. m.

Sept. 21st. Ordered to be ready to move at a moments warning. Bragg's Army still in our front. Left camp at 9 p. m. and marched all night on a cross road to take our position in line of battle. Much firing in our front.

Sept. 22d. Reached our destination at 4 a. m. Soon after, the enemy having vacated his position, we advanced to Upton a station on the Louisville and Nashville R. R. Nothing to eat.

Sept. 23d. Marched to Elizabethtown 15 miles. Crackers and bacon issued to the men. Got some myself. This is the first we have had to eat in 24 hours.

Sept. 24th. Marched to West Point on the Ohio River. All wagons were

left, by order of Genl. Buell, at Elizabethtown to follow in rear of the army. Distance 15 miles.

Sept. 25th. Marched to within 13 miles of Louisville. Dust so bad that we could not see the men in front of us.

Sept. 26th. Entered Louisville at noon. Our brigade was paraded about town for three hours, many men fell out of ranks from exhaustion. Encamped in a lumber yard at the steamboat landing. No tents and no blankets. Used boards to sleep on.

Sept. 27th, 28th & 29th. Remained in Louisville. Strict orders against officers and men leaving camp. Some of us did however get to the Galt House for a meal. While we were in the hotel Genl. Davis shot and killed Nelson.

Sept. 30th. Men of the 1st Battalion paid off. Wagons came up bringing our bedding.

Oct. 1st. The water being low in the Ohio, nearly one half of the 1st Battalion forded the river, after getting their pay and deserted. Marched out of Louisville and encamped by the road side. Co. F 1st Bat. has but 8 men in ranks.

Oct. 2d. Marched to Shelbyville. 31 miles from Louisville. Our part of the army, under Genl. Sill, has separated from the main army under Genl. Buell and is advancing against Genl. Kerby Smith now near Frankfort.

Oct. 3d, 4th & 5th. Remained in camp at Shelbyville. Very pretty camp in an oak grove.