

(Extract from Civil War Report of the Adjutant General of Indiana)

SEVENTY-SECOND REGIMENT INDIANA VOLUNTEERS

The Seventy-second regiment was raised in the Eighth Congressional District, and organized at Lafayette. It was mustered into service on the 16th of August, 1862, and left on the following day for Kentucky, arriving at Lebanon a few days after. Here it remained until Bragg's invasion, when it moved with Buell's army, and was continually engaged in marching and skirmishing with the enemy. In November it moved into Tennessee, stopping for a while at Castillion Springs, and other places in that portion of the state. On the 8th of January, 1863, it arrived at Murfreesboro, and upon the reorganization of the Army of the Cumberland the Regiment was ordered to be mounted, and to serve as mounted infantry. It made several scouts from Murfreesboro, and captured horses enough to mount the entire Regiment. The men were armed with Spencer Rifles, and were a part of what was known as the Wilder Lightning Brigade.

In the campaign against Tullahoma and Chattanooga it was in the advance of Thomas' command, and moved from Murfreesboro through Hoover's Gap on the 24th of June, where it aided in defeating the enemy and driving him from his position, the regiment sustaining considerable loss including Chaplain John R. Eddy, who was killed by a cannon shot. In all the movements of this campaign the Brigade to which it was attached bore a conspicuous part. On the 12th of September the regiment met a brigade of Gen. Pegram's command at Rock Springs, Georgia, and routed it, losing one officer and ten men killed, and a number wounded. It was engaged at the battle of Chicamauga, fighting the enemy for three days, and sustaining a severe loss. After this engagement it was sent in pursuit of Wheeler, and aided in driving him out of Middle Tennessee. At Mooreville, Alabama, on the 31st of November, it engaged the enemy, losing a number killed and wounded.

On the 31st of December it was sent to Memphis, where it was attached to the cavalry command of General Sherman's army, and moved with it through Mississippi on the Meridian raid. During this expedition it covered the retreat of Gen Smith from Okalona. It then returned to Memphis, and from thence moved to Nashville. On the 26th of March, 1864, it joined the Third Brigade, Second Cavalry Division. It next moved to Columbia, from whence it started on the Atlanta campaign on the 30th of April. From that time to the last of August the regiment was continually engaged with the rebels, and after the capture of Atlanta it was engaged in a great number of skirmishes. When Sherman commenced his march through Georgia, the horses of the Seventy-Second were turned over to Kirkpatrick's division, and the regiment ordered to Louisville to be remountd.

On the 28th of December it moved to Gravelly Springs, Alabama, from whence it marched with General Wilson's cavalry expedition, which resulted in the capture of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, and Columbus and Macon, Georgia, with over eight thousand prisoners, a number of pieces of artillery and an immense quantity of supplies. At the battle of Selma on the 2d of April, 1865, Col Miller, of the Seventy-Second, commanding the Brigade, was severely wounded. After the capture of Richmond and the surrender of Lee, the regiment was sent out by detachments to intercept the flight of Jeff Davis, one detachment being in close pursuit of him when captured.

On the 23rd of May the regiment left Macon for Nashville, and on the 26th of June, 1865, it was mustered out of service at that place. On the 29th of June it reached Indianapolis, with five hundred and ten men and thirty-six officers, and on the next day, after partaking of a fine dinner at the Soldiers' Home, it marched to the Tabernacle, where welcoming speeches were made by Lieut. Governor Baker, Gen Hovey and others. The Seventy-Second left the state with an aggregate of nine hundred and seventy-eight men, and lost, during its term of service, four hundred and thirty-one.

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