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Official records of the Union and Confederate armies

Pl. XXXVI: Milliken's Bend (LA) and Jackson (MS), Vicksburg (MS)

Between Port Gibson and being left in garrison at Raymond, where did the 120th go?

At this time, the 120th OVI was a part of the 1st Brigade, 9th Division, XIII Army Corps, Department of the Tennessee until August 1863. The 9th Division was under the command of Brig. Gen. Peter J. Osterhaus.

The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Volume 24, Part 2. U S Government Printing Office, 1889. Page 12, Chapter XXXVI, Report No. 2 [Available at Google books.]

No. 2 Report of Brig. Gen. Peter J Osterhaus commanding Ninth Division, Thirteenth Army Corps including operations May 2-23

[*Report from*]Headquarters Ninth Division, Big Black River Railroad Bridge Mississippi May 26 1863

Part 1. -- The day after this battle [Port Gibson May 1] the Ninth Division together with the Tenth Twelfth and Fourteenth Divisions of the Thirteenth Army Corps marched to **Port Gibson** waiting there for the construction of a bridge across Bayou Pierre.

On May 3 the line of march was taken up again for **Willow Springs** and the corps went into camp at the **forks of the roads to Jackson, Vicksburg and Grand Gulf** .

On the morning of the 5th my command was ordered to proceed on the Jackson road. Being in the front, the Second Illinois Cavalry was attached temporarily to it. We had **passed Rocky Springs and Big Sandy Creek** when my advance was halted by a fire from a rebel picket. I ordered the Second Illinois Cavalry to attack which they did boldly, Lieutenant Stickel dashing on the enemy who proved to be in number superior to his company but his attack was so energetic and quick that the rebels could not find time to form. The lieutenant and his men were among them with drawn sabers and drove them for 5 miles killing and wounding 12 and taking some 30 prisoners.

This is without doubt one of the most brilliant cavalry engagements of the war and Lieutenant Stickel deserves the highest praise for skill and bravery shown.

My division **encamped on both sides of the Big Sandy Creek** covering all the roads leading to the Big Black River ferries and to the enemy's line in front and flank.

The whole army corps came up during the next few days and after having had the honor of a **review by Generals Grant and McClernand on May 9**, we again moved forward on the 10th toward the enemy's lines. **The whole Thirteenth Army Corps marched on the Jackson road and when on Five Mile Creek was ordered into bivouac**, the Forty-ninth and Sixty-ninth Indiana being thrown forward as advance guard beyond Auburn (old) to the fork of the roads to Edwards Station and Raymond. My scouts brought information of the **enemy's cavalry appearing near Fourteen Mile Creek and we consequently marched for that point on May 12**, General Hovey's division leading. This general's approach compelled the rebel force to yield their position to us. **They fell back on the Edwards Station road while our corps received the general's order for the next morning to march toward Raymond but if possible on a road hiding this movement of the corps from the observation of the enemy. Such a road was found and made practicable by the corps of pioneers attached to the army corps.** Soon after midnight my division was at **Raymond where I received orders to garrison the place**. I took such measures as secured it against any surprise of the enemy. All the other United States forces concentrated here advanced farther on the Jackson road.

I had to remain at the post of Raymond only until 4 am May 15 when the general commanding the army corps ordered my division except two regiments the [*held back at Raymond*]**Fifty-fourth Indiana and the One hundred and twentieth Ohio Infantry which were to be left as garrison**, to march toward **Bolton Station on the Jackson and Vicksburg Railroad** 12 MISSISSIPPI WEST TENNESSEE ETC Chap XXXVT

[Note: it was the XVII corps under Maj. Gen. James B. McPherson that fought at the Battle of Raymond on 12 May.]

So at 7 am on 18 May 1863 the 120th began its march from Raymond over to Vicksburg. Grant had planned an assault on Vicksburg thinking that he could take the city then. [It turned out more difficult than thought and a siege on Vicksburg had to be undertaken.]

Here is what General Osterhaus wrote about the last day of that attack on Vicksburg.

Page 20 "By 6 pm May 21 an order from headquarters of the army corps advised me officially of a general assault, to be made on the next morning May 22 at 10 o'clock by the whole line."

"The one hundred and twentieth Ohio Infantry was retained as the extreme left, with orders to deploy, at the hour of attack, a very strong line of skirmishers on that wing, and open a heavy fire, and make all such demonstrations which could divert the enemy's attention from the point of our main attack."

Page 21 "With May 22, my operations before Vicksburg came to a close, as I received orders on the next day to proceed with a part of my command and some cavalry, temporarily attached, to Big Black River Railroad Bridge, as the enemy were making some efforts to collect a new army, under General Johnston, with the spoken-out intention to raise the siege of Vicksburg."

[This explains why the 120th OVI did not stay for the Siege of Vicksburg.]

To enumerate those who distinguished themselves is impossible when every man showed himself willing to die for our cause. In mentioning the names of General Lee and Colonels Lindsey and Keigwin my brigade commanders and those of Colonels Bennett, Sixty-ninth Indiana; Fonda, One hundred and eighteenth Illinois; **Spiegel, One hundred and twentieth Ohio**; Cradlebaugh, One hundred and fourteenth Ohio; and Lieutenant Colonels Pardee, Forty-second Ohio; Monroe, Twenty-second Kentucky; Lucas, Seventh Kentucky and Major Hawhe, Forty-ninth Indiana Infantry the regimental commanders; Captain Lamphere, Seventh Michigan Battery; Lieutenants Nutting and Hackett of the First Wisconsin Battery and Captain Campbell, Third Illinois Cavalry. I endeavor to express the greatest obligations I feel to them for their great zeal, promptness, and courage exhibited in executing orders.

For more personal accounts of the action against Vicksburg, [see section 19](#).

Research by Susie Holderfield, 2001-2018
120researcher@gmail.com

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