

Chapter 12 From Port Gibson to the Garrison at Raymond

Continue to refer to map: Wilson, Js. H, Otto H Matz, and L Helmlle. *Map of the country between Millikens Bend, La. and Jackson, Miss. shewing the routes followed by the Army of the Tennessee under the command of Maj. Genl. U.S. Grant, U.S. Vols. in its march from Millikens Bend to the rear of Vicksburg in April and May.* N.Y., Julius Bien & Co., photo lith, 1876. Map. Retrieved from the Library of Congress <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3981s.cw0261000/?r=0.538,0.276,0.237,0.158,0>

The 120th marched between Port Gibson and was left in garrison at Raymond:

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.]

<https://books.google.com/books?id=3CYXJY6J6QYC&pg=PA12&dq=No.+2+Report+of+Brig.+Gen.+Peter+J+Osterhaus+commanding+Ninth+Division,+Thirteenth+Army+Corps+including+operations+May+2-23&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0OahUKEwigx5qu+7hAhVNzlkKHR45AT8Q6AEIKjAA#v=onepage&q=No.%23>

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.

[United States Congressional serial set, Issue 2762. page 12] 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

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120th OVI Muster Rolls

Company C, Muster Roll: On May 2nd the Regt took up the line of march for the rear of Vicksburg via Raymond where it arrived May 7

Company D, Muster Roll: On the 2nd, marched to Port Gibson, distant 5 miles. Left this point on the 3rd and arrived at Raymond Miss at about 2 am of the *th.

Company F, Muster Roll: Marched to Port Gibson, Miss. May 2nd 1863. Arrived at Raymond Miss. May 13, 1863. Left Raymond Miss. May 18, 1863.

Company H, Muster Roll: the enemy being defeated we pursued him Via Raymond (where we arrived May 14th and remained till May 18th)

Company I, Muster Roll: May 2nd advanced 5 miles to Port Gibson. May 3rd pursued the retreating enemy 13 miles. May 6th arrived at Rock Springs May 13th arrived at Raymond Miss. taken the day before by Logan and Quimby. Remained in Raymond till the 18th--

May 3, 1863, Sunday, Diary of Henry Sherman

"Started about 4 o'clock and marched through a broiling sun all day long. Passed through a magnificent country, rough and wild, yet beautiful in its wilderness."

Sgt David Andrews, Co B, died 3 May 1863 near Vicksburg, Mississippi. This would actually have been in Louisiana across the river from Vicksburg. Burial Registers, Military Posts and National Cemeteries, 1862- 1960: Moved from grave yard at Marshal Plantation, Madison Parish, LA. running number 580. David ANDREWS, Sergt, Co B 120th OH Inf, died 3 May 1863. Vicksburg [old numbering]section E 163.

May 4, 1863, Monday, Diary of Henry Sherman

"Remained in bivouac all day. Out of rations and nothing to eat but a little meat."

May 5, 1863, Tuesday, Diary of Henry Sherman

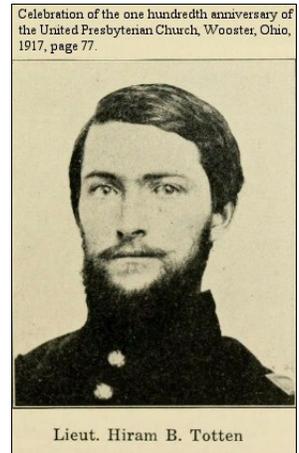
"The greater part of the Division moved this morning leaving nothing but the 120th and 49th of 1st Brigade and 114th of the 2nd Brigade and Foster's Battery. We were left behind because we were out of provisions and ammunition. About dark we were ordered to move forward and not wait for the Train. We marched until about 11 o'clock P. M. where we bivouacked at Rocky Springs. It was a beautiful starlight night when we took up the line of march and about 9 o'clock the moon arose. The pale light of the queen of the night gave a ghostly as well as magnificent appearance to the wildness of the scenery around the lofty hills and in deep dark gorges through which the road wound its serpentine [sic] course."

Pvt David Dewitt, Co K, captured near Napoleon, AR about January 21, 1863. The Ohio roster says that David died March 17, 1863, while prisoner at Jackson MS. Charles Shott,

who was prisoner with him, thought that **David died about May 5, 1863**. Cause: dysentery or flux.

May 6, 1863, Wednesday, Diary of Henry Sherman

*Still remaining in bivouac at Rocky Springs. Took a walk over the village and there saw what was enough to make my blood boil with indignation. Soldiers had brokend open stores and were destroying everything in them that could be destroyed. I did not think that those who were battling for the Sacred cause of the Union could be so forgetful of all that makes them civilized and descend to the level of the barbarians. **Thank heaven that they did not belong to our regiment.** In company with Lieut. Totten [Co E] I went in a private residence and took a seat upon the front porch. The magnetic attraction that drew us involuntarily to take this step was the beautiful form and face of one of the daughters of the Sunny South. She was most beautiful with eyes of Melting blue and lips and cheeks of the roses hue. I was decidedly struck with her appearance and manners which betokened gentle blood. She resembles Lizzie Cobb very much. I spent a very pleasant hour there and again in the afternoon I called on them. We have no orders to move yet and I suppose we will remain here all night again.*



May 7, 1863, Thursday, Diary of Henry Sherman

Received marching order about noon having obtained rations and ammuniton during the forenoon. I had intended to call upon Minnie but we moved so suddenly that I had no time. I saw her a minute but not to speak to her. Col. Spiegel called a few minutes and from him they inquired of me. They said that our regiment was the first that had shown them any kindness, we having put a guard around their house yesterday, and had in a manner protected them. I left there with regret that I could not become better acquainted with Minnie. We traveled slowly for about 5 miles where we are now bivouacked. I sent a letter by private hands to mother today.

Meanwhile, back at Smith's Plantation, LA, **Private Jacob Harker**, Company C, died.



Liljenquist Family Collection of Civil War Photographs at the National Archives.

Letter in pension record.

"Depot Hospital, James Plantation

May 8th 1863

Mrs Harker,

It becomes my painful duty to inform you of the decease of your husband who departed this life about 10 o'clock to day. He arrived here last night almost exhausted. The vital spark

almost extinguished - too late to receive any benefit from medical aid. He died the death of a christian as far as I was able to judge. His disease was chronic diarrhea.

I examined his knapsack and find the contents of not much value and shall consign them to the grave with his body. Enclosed you will find all the money he had on his person. A good coffin shall be made and he shall be decently interred.

May the god of mercy sustain you in your troubles is the prayer of the undersigned
R. Carley, Actg Asst Surg, General Hospital,
Army of Tennessee

Pvt. James P. Edwards, Co I, discharged for disability 12 Apr 1863, died at home Richland Co OH 8 May 1863. Pension: Soldier was unfit for duty since the battle of Chickasaw Bluff because of disease of the lungs caused by exposure.

May 8, 1863, Friday, Diary of Henry Sherman

Still remaining in the same place. Towards evening went out riding with Spiegel. Met Gen. Osterhaus and staff. Went with them on a reconnoitre near Black River. Returned safe. Several shots were fired at us.

May 9, 1863, Saturday, Diary of Henry Sherman

Made a visit to the 32nd Ohio and spent a very pleasant time. Saw Lieut. Alf. Phillips & Alex. Patterson and several other Mansfield boys. Spent about 2 hours very pleasantly listening to all the news from home and Ohio. Very hot today. In evening went to see Uncle Cump (Gen. Sherman) whose Corps was reported to be some little distance in the rear of us. Met one of his Divisions but he was not with it. Returned about dark.

Pvt George W. Wertman, Co F, died 9 May 1863 Van Buren General Hospital at Milliken's Bend, LA. Cause: chronic diarrhoea. National Cemetery Interment Control Forms, 1928-1962, listed as G. W. WESTMAN : Originally buried at graveyard at Marshal plantation on west bank of Mississippi river in Madison Parish, LA.

May 10, 1863, Sunday, Diary of Henry Sherman

"Received marching order this morning early. Left bivouack about 8 o'clock and marched till noon where we halted at a little town, Utica.....In about an hour we started again and after a march of a mile or two we bivouacked for the night. Are within 28 miles of Jackson and about 16 of Vicksburg.

May 12, 1863, Tuesday, Diary of Henry Sherman

"Left camp about 5 A. M. Marched about 9 miles and bivouacked for the night. Once during the day our Regts. was sent off on a cross road about an hour to guard, I suppose, against a flank attack which was slightly apprehended as several rebels were seen off in that direction. It was very hot and dusty."

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

May 13, 1863, Wednesday, Diary of Henry Sherman

"Left our bivouac about 7 o'clock this morning and after a short two miles march towards Edwards Station we started off to the right and are now pushing towards Jackson, I think. Rec'd news of the fight of McPherson's corps near Raymond. After a hard and dusty march of about 12 miles it began to rain very hard and considerably relieved us of the dust and discomfort of the dry road. About dark we

*bivouacked in a thick grove about five miles from Raymond and remained there until about 11 o'clock P. M. when we resumed the march in the midst of heavy rain. We arrived at **Raymond** about 2 A. M. and bivouacked there."*

May 14, 1863, Thursday, Diary of Henry Sherman

Still raining very hard and taking everything into consideration is very uncomfortable. We have one tent up which serves to keep the rain off in a great measure.

Wooster Republican, 14 May 1863, p 3. Wooster Public Library or pay site

Notice of goods from friends of 16th and 120th lost by sinking of boat near Greenville, MS.

[Note: Greenville was 73 nautical miles from Vicksburg.]

Pvt **John Brant**, Co E, died 14 May 1863 at Milliken's Bend, LA. US Registers of Deaths of Volunteers, 1861 - 1865: John BRUNT [misspelled], Private, Co E 120th OH Inf, died 13 May 1863, at Van Buren General Hospital Millikens Bend, LA. Cause: chronic diarrhoea

Sgt. **William Gould**, Co D, died 15 May 1863 at Young's Point, LA. Registers of Deaths of Volunteers, 1861-1865: Wm GOULD, Private, Co D 120th OH Inf, died 15 May 1863 on the hospital steamer "D. A. January." Cause: chronic diarrhoea.

Pvt James Force, Co B, died 15 May or 9 or 15 Jun 1863 at Milliken's Bend, Louisiana. Registers of Deaths of Volunteers, 1861-1865: James FORCE, Pvt, Co B 120 OH Inf, died 15 May 1863 at Van Buren General Hospital Millikins Bend, LA. Cause: chronic diarrhoea. National Cemetery Interment Control Forms, 1928-1962: J. FORCE (J. M.), Co B 120 OH Reg., died 15 May 1863, originally buried at graveyard at Marshall plantation, west bank Mississippi, Madison Parish, LA. Vicksburg National Cemetery, Sec H Grave 117.

May 15, 1863, 2nd Lieut George W. Althouse, part of Field and staff, resigned that day after having a sunstroke near Vicksburg.

May 15, 1863, Friday, Diary of Henry Sherman

"Begin to feel quite comfortable in our quarters. Went out to the front where our division was engaging the enemy. Formed the acquaintance of two very nice young ladies, Miss Stewart and Miss Jenkin. Had a splendid time in the evening at their house. Found them very witty and sarcastic and very "secesh" as well as beautiful. "

May 16, 1863, Saturday, Diary of Henry Sherman

"Moved our regiments up into the town and quartered them in one of the large empty stores on the Public Square. We took for our Head Qrs. a small office on the other side of the Square. Capt. Moffit was appointed Provost Marshall." [Valentine Moffit was captain of company D.] Called on the young ladies in the evening and formed the acquaintance of another Miss Jenkins who was, I think, more beautiful than either of the other two. I am afraid I am severely struck by her. She seemed so good and kind to us that I could not help being taken by her."

May 17, 1863, Sunday, Diary of Henry Sherman

"Went out on a scouting expedition with Gen. McArthur towards Utica." [General John McArthur]

Corporal **Christopher Cowell**, Co E, died May 17, 1863, at Van Buren General

Hospital, Milliken's Bend, LA. Cause: chronic diarrhoea.
Pension record: Christopher, Co E 120th OVI, died at Van Buren Convalescent Hospital at Millikens Bend LA of consumption on 17 May 1863. Captain says that **"soldier was in excellent health until about Dec 29, 1862, when he was engaged in the battle of Chickasaw Bluffs where he was on picket duty at night, exposed to the cold rain, where he took a severe cold - was sent to Hospl and never did any more active service** - produced chronic diarrhea & was informed he died of the same in May, 1863. Late Surgeon testifies to the same, as to cause of chronic diarrhea from which he never recovered. but after a time was attendant with night sweats, cough and expectoration and he believes the disease of which he died was contracted in line of duty." Assistant Surgeon Stoufer said that Christopher did accompany the Regiment to Arkansas Post, Youngs Point, and Millikens Bend LA and then was transferred to Van Buren Convalescent Hospital where he died.

Pvt Lyman Webster, Co K, died 6 June 1863 [or other date] at Milliken's Bend, LA. Registers of Deaths of Volunteers, 1861-1865: Lyman WEBSTER, Co K 120th OH Inf, died 17 May 1863 at Van Buren General Hospital Millikens Bend LA. Cause: chronic dysentery. Widow's Pension: Soldier died on hospital boat at Milliken's Bend, LA or at Van Buren Hospital in the same place on 25 May 1863 or on 17 May, of chronic dysentery.

Pvt **Silas Johnson**, Co D, died 19 May 1863 on hospital steamer "D A January" at Young's Point, Louisiana. Cause: chronic diarrhoea.

END CHAPTER 12

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