

## Chapter 19 Disaster at Snaggy Point, Red River, La.

### Co C Muster Roll

Station of company, Baton Rouge, La.

### Co D Muster Roll

Left Plaquemine La. on the 23rd day of March - **arrived at Baton Rouge, La on the same day** since which time the company has been performing garrison duty.

### Co B Muster Roll

On the 1st day of May 1864 the 120th Regt. O.V.I. received orders to embark for Alexandria La on board the steamer "City Belle" which orders were promptly obeyed by Col. Marcus M. Spiegel commandant 120th OVI

The 120<sup>th</sup> was at Baton Rouge from March 23, 1864 until leaving for the Red River on May 2, 1864.

*May 1, 1864, Diary of Simon Bott*

*Baton Rouge La*

*Left Baton Rouge and went on board the City Bell for Alexandria*

*May 2, 1864, Diary of Simon Bott*

*Up to the mouth of Red River. Laid on board the City Bell all night on the Mississippi river*

*May 3, 1864, Diary of Simon Bott*

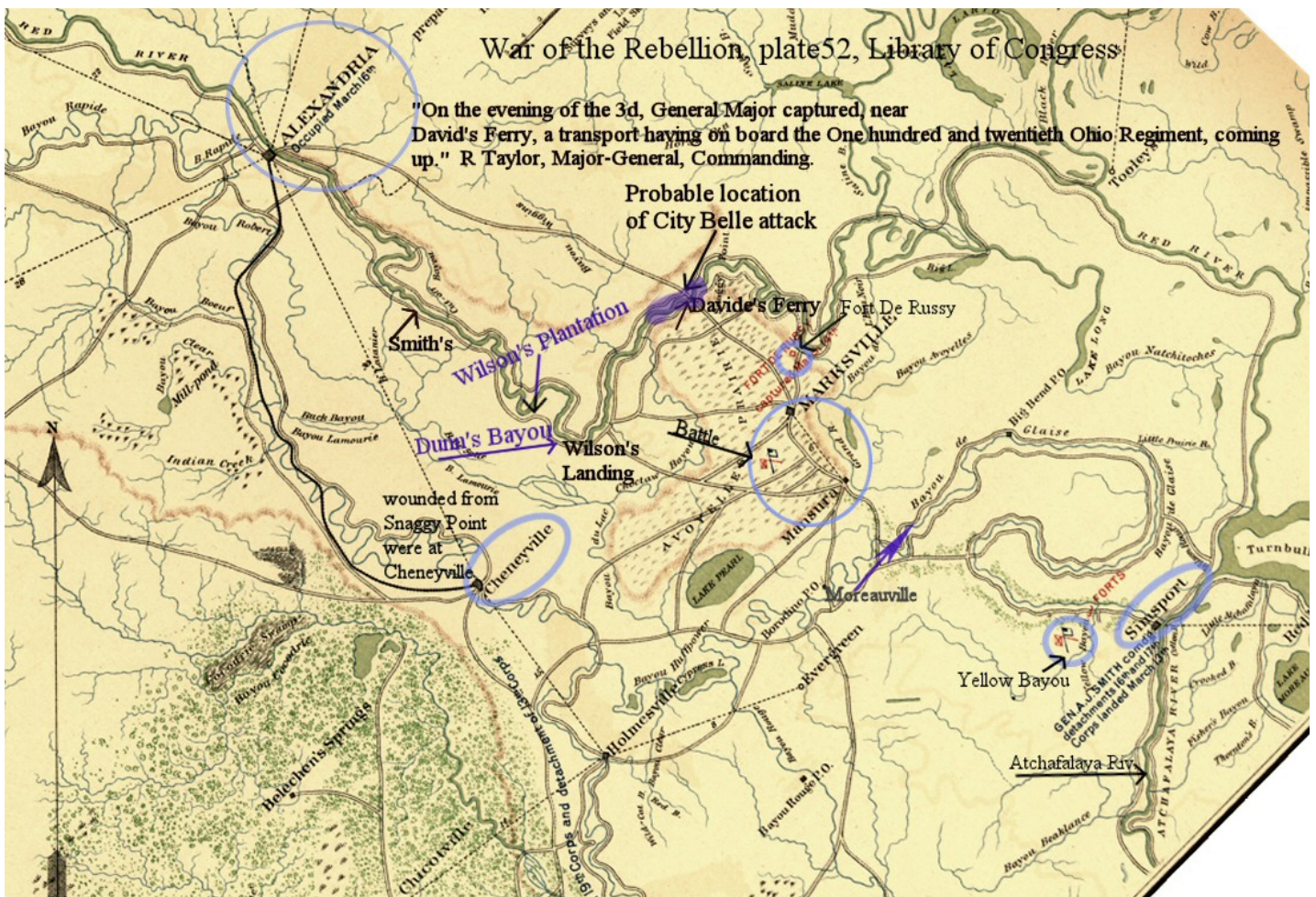
*This morning started up Red River for Alexandria and went with about 25 miles and fired in with artillery and infantry on the bank of Red River [Simon was one of the soldiers who escaped.]*

*City Belle and Calypso photo with permission of Murphy Library Special Collections, University of Wisconsin of La Crosse. Contact the Murphy Library for a copy of the City Belle photograph. <https://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/LaCrosseSteamboat/>*

As the crow flies, <http://tjpeiffer.com/crowflies.html>, Alexandria and Cheneyville are 23 miles apart. Alexandria and Mansura are 29 miles apart. Alexandria and Marksville are 26 miles apart. Marksville and Mansura are 5 miles apart.

*Put in newest version of my map*

*[http://www.susieholder.com/maps/north\\_alexandria\\_to\\_simsport.jpg7.jpg](http://www.susieholder.com/maps/north_alexandria_to_simsport.jpg7.jpg)*



I think I got this map somewhere else, but it is available at:  
 Atlas to accompany the official records of the Union and Confederate armies Plate 52.

By United States. War Dept; Davis, George B. (George Breckenridge), 1847-1914; Perry, Leslie J; Kirkley, Joseph W. (Joseph William), 1841-1912; Cowles, Calvin D. (Calvin Duvall), 1849-; Proctor, Redfield, 1831-1908; Elkins, Stephen B. (Stephen Benton), 1841-1911; Lamont, Daniel Scott, 1851-1905; Julius Bien & Co, Published 1891, digitized by Indiana State Library LSTA Grant, contributed by Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection. Lithographs by Julius Bien & Co. Lith. N.Y.

<https://archive.org/details/atlastoaccompany00unit/page/n93?q=Atlas+to+accompany+the+official+records+of+the+Union+and+Confederate+armies>

It is also available here: <https://ehistory.osu.edu/books/official-records/atlas-plates-1-60>

Maybe <https://www.loc.gov/item/2008626486/>

*Civil War Diary of David W. James, collection number (collection M-1100), and holding repository (Louisiana Research Collection, Tulane University), Courtesy of Tulane University.*

<https://digitallibrary.tulane.edu/islandora/object/tulane%3A79291#page/1/mode/1up>

Civil War Diary of David W. James, 1863-1864, Algernon Badger Family Papers, 1813-1920, M1100, Tulane University, pp 118-121

56<sup>th</sup> Ohio, Co E, Sgt.

MAY 3, 1864, Diary of David W. James, 56<sup>th</sup> OVI

On board Steamer Jno Warner. This evening broke up Camp and got on board Steamer



John Warner U. S. Transport being after dark when getting on board. We left the 13<sup>th</sup> Army Corps in line of Battle in front of the enemy and were moving their camp out to the line.

May 4, 1864, Diary of David W. James, 56<sup>th</sup> OVI

Leaving Alexandria at 9 O'clock A. M. for New Orleans, La. There are about 30 Steamboats lying at Alexandria, we left with two Musquito Gun boats No 8 & 25 Covington & Signal one in our rear and other in front, when arriving **about 6 miles from Alexandria we met part of the 120<sup>th</sup> Ohio Vols. Which had been on their way up for Alexandria, having their Steamer "City Belle" destroyed by a Rebel Battery, and a force of 5,000 Rebels. The boat had a Ball penetrated into her Boiler which is supposed many were burnt and scalded & drowning by jumping overboard. The boat was seized [sic] by the Rebels and obstructed it across the river and sunk it in the Channel. There were about 1,400 Union soldiers aboard and scattered all through the woods.**

When our boat had got down Red River, about 27 miles from Alexandria we were fired into by number of Guerrillas; and with two pieces of Artillery running the Gauntlet, or blockade, very well, losing one man killed, from Company "C" 56 O.V.V.I. And our Gun-Boat having her rudder broken **Stopping for several hours to fix up for running the Blockade further having picked 8 men belonging from and survivors of the ill fated steamer City Belle telling us their History of their Sad affair.** We put to making better preparations for running pass the Rebel Guns. The John Warner was well protected with Barricades of Cotton Bales on every Guard upon the boat, and on top of Hurricane Deck. Texas, and Pilot House were free from harm of bullets as we were fixing the Rebels slipped up on a sly through the woods and let a Volley of Musketry, our Gun boats being upon the Alert ever keeping a watchful eye upon the lookout let drive a Broadside from the Two Boats and silencing them completely the Boats kept up a fire at intervals during the whole night long. The Officers concluded for staying over night, throwing out a Picket line of 3 Companies "I" "E" & "D" and if attacked to fight the Rebels to our Boat.

May 5<sup>th</sup> Diary of David W. James, 56<sup>th</sup> OVI

All Aboard! At Daylight The John Warner taking the lead. The Two Tin Clad boats coming behind within 100 yds apart proceeded for several miles down the river until the booming of Cannon, and Rattling of Muskets commenced. Our Bellropes were cut in two, and we came drifting against the bank having to hallor [sic] out what engine to run by a man (men) stationed along the decks. Finally under heavy fire of Cannon shot, and Musketry having our wheel disabled we drifted ashore running out a stern line which made fast by our Soldiers endangering themselves from the Rebels fire. Let the Gun boats for to fight it out the John Warner being totally disabled Col. Raynor order the Regiment ashore; we lay for an hour it seemed under cover of the woods finally the Captain of the Warner had his wheel fixed and sending a note to Col. Raynor that he was ready for starting when another Rebel shot broke the wheel again; and Col. Raynor became wounded in the Calf of the leg. All Hopes were gone up now. The Mainspring of the Regiment being wounded, The Captain Dean of the "Warner" struck up a White Flag for Surrender of his boat, and Crew. One of the Gun boats came along side of the "Warner" and took aboard the wounded. The 56<sup>th</sup> thence struck out in the woods in Circuitous route to get below the Rebels Guns and for the Gun boats to run the Blockade and meet up below. After marching through the woods for 8 miles we struck Red River; we Halted for a rest; and finally Two Gun Boats, and steamer Shreveport Hove in sight; and hailed her, and right wing getting aboard of the Tin clad, and left wing aboard the Shreveport. Having by this time heard that our two Iron

clads had gone up the spout. Those two which we now get on board with went up and fired several shots and returned with Two Cannon Holes in her sides."

[The 56th arrived at Port Hudson May 6 and then went to New Orleans.]

*Disaster for the City Belle on the Red River in Louisiana*

*225 killed, wounded, and missing. [Dyer's Compendium of the War of the Rebellion, vol 1, page 753] List received from Tyler, TX, contains 185 names connected with the 120th who were captured at Snaggy Point and were listed as being accounted for at the time of their release. That included 3 sutlers.*

**Portions of Report sent by Captain James B. Taylor and published in the Wooster Republican .available at Wayne County Public Library, Wooster, OH.**

**Headquarters, 120<sup>th</sup> Reg't, O.V.I., Alexandria, La., May 6, 1864.**

*About 400 men of the 120<sup>th</sup> were on board the City Belle.*

*"On the 3d of May at 3½ P.M., when five miles above Snagg [sic] Point, and thirty miles below this place [Alexandria, La.], we were attacked by a heavy guerila [sic] force of at least 500 men, with a battery of four guns. As the boat was rounding a bend, a shell was fired from the south bank which passed through the cabin. - Immediately after a second shot cut the steampipe near the boiler, and a third bursting near the pilot-house, killing the pilot. At the same time a force posted behind the levee opened upon us with musketry."*

*"Col. Speigle [sic] was mortally wounded by a minnie ball in the abdomen."*

*Col. Mudd [2d IL cavalry] "was shot in the forehead and instantly killed."*

*"A quartermasters clerk from Ill. Named Bates, volunteered to swim to the opposite shore with a headline. He was assisted by Lieut. Baer, of my company, and Sergeant Van Ostern." The boat was landed alongside the north bank, this offering cover to those who could get off while passing up the bank to the timber above."*

*176 escaped to that shore. Four miles farther on [toward Alexandria] from the scene of the disaster was Grimes plantation. Lieut. Baer and three other wounded were left at Grimes plantation.*

*At Grimes' plantation a negro guide showed them through the pine woods to Smith's plantation which was 20 miles from the steamer.*

*"Capt. Harvey and Quartermaster Sergeant Bixler, volunteered to cross the river the south bank and proceed to Alexandria with the tidings of the disaster."*

*No boat ever came down to the survivors so they found a small skiff to get them to the south side of the river and marched up to Alexandria. They were told that a transport had been sent down to them but was "refused permission to pass the gun-boat on duty below the city."*

*Corporal Jones, of Co. E, ...safely brought off the colors of the regiment."*

*The survivors were well cared for in Alexandria.*

*Here is the list of the missing that came with Taylor's report. I have corrected some names to make them easier to identify. Also certain ones were marked as having since returned to the regiment, so I marked them as "returned."*

*Field and Staff missing and left on the boat: Asst. Sur. Gill, Sgt Maj M. Rouch, Com Sgt Wm*

*Reinoehl, Chief Musician Philip Kuhn.*

*Co A: Missing: Wm E. Montgomery, Jacob Lehman, John McQuigg, Solon Boydston, Geo. E. Good, Wm A. Shreve, Emanuel Shrever, John R. McKinney, John H. Batdorf, Christopher Cowell, Wm Taggart, Samuel Smedley, Wm H Sponsler, Nicholas S. Hawkins, George Metzler, Luther C. Finley. Missing and wounded: Isaac D. Huntsperger.*

*Co B: Missing: Capt. Jos. P. Rummel, Matthias Mowry, Benjamin Ressler, John W. Baughman, Henry H. Culler, James Channel, Lewis L. Hoops, John H Mowers, Frederick S. Moffit, Anthony W. Miller. Missing and wounded: Andrew J. Stichler, William Parker.*

*Co. C: Killed: Joseph D. Seibert*

*Missing: D. Hearst, John Gray, Archibald Marshal, Wm McCreary, Gibson Craig, Amos Ebey, John France, John Henney, John S. Hawkins, Edward Otto, Alonzo Shambaugh, Daniel Stouffer, Samuel E. Strine, Simon Whetamire.*

*Missing and wounded: Jas Gillis, Wmr Hannan [corrected], James Jarvis.*

*Co. D: Missing: Capt. Benj F. Miller, Robt C. Crow, J. A. Shively, A. A. Keister, J. McClane, John Baker, C. Bender; A. Crawford, H. Hartman, J. W. Plum, D. Resser, John Swinehart, W. S. Stophlett, A. Thompson, J. Wolf, A. Smyzer.*

*Missing and wounded: J. W. Christy, Jno Wilhour, T. R. Erwin, J. R. Hannah, e. G. Keister, F. W. Matz [corrected].*

*Co E: Killed: John T. Campbell*

*Missing: Wm G. Spencer, Frank Holmes, John J. Bonewitz, Henry Grunder, Augustus Hushaur, Wesley D. Miller, John W. McCreary, John M. Merietta, Cyrus McConnell, David Painter, George D. Palmer, Harmon D. Pershin, J. S. Weltmer, Samuel Whonsettler.*

*Co F: Killed: Daniel Wollet*

*Missing: Capt. Elias Fraunfelter, Richard Smiley, J. S. McClane, Richard Biggs, Wm W. Brown, Andrew Klinger [corrected], Frank Emery, **Andrew Fredline [corrected and returned]**, Jacob Fisher, A. B. Kepner, Andrew B. Kieth, Adam Mish, John W. Millington, Isaac Yearick [corrected], Jonathan Holmes, George W. Saltzman.*

*Missing and wounded: John W. Dorland, George Shriner [corrected].*

*Co G: Missing: Harvey H. Galehouse, H. T. Cooper, Martin Noonan [corrected], James Eaton, Benton Barkhamer, D. Bunn, H. A. Cooper, Wm Cuddy, Gabriel Dague, Geo Detrick, Wm Eaton, Jefferson Etling, John Gochmour, Thomas Golden, John Horney, Peter Harvey [corrected], Wm A. Jamison, Frank H. Kissinger, Samuel Ludwick, E. Metsker, Elias Seig, John Smith, Enoch Willford.*

*Missing and wounded: John Harbaugh.*

*Co H: Missing: Jos Myers, B. M. Norris, Henry Stauffer, Geo E. Fetzer, John Beveridge, Henry Brubaker, John A. Baker, Joseph Farmer [corrected], Jacob Farmer [corrected], J. J. A. Foss, Jacob Krauter, D. Long, Geo. W. Lightfoot, T. B. Myers, M. S. Myers, **T. D. Risser [returned]**, **M. A. Stoner [returned]**; Sam A. Smith, John Sexton, A. J. Stake, Francis F. Shellman, C. Willford, John R. Weaver.*

*Missing and wounded: Lieut. J. M. Baer, John Null.*

*Co I: Missing: John S. B. Matson, J. H. rRchey, M. A. Morrow, James Bussing, A. T. Church, Jas Collman, Sam'l Cook, Alfred Creigh [corrected], W. Eyerly, Samuel Ettswiler, James Furgeson, T. J. Hill, P. Hyer, **B. F. Hoch [returned]**, **J. C. Holland [returned]**, Wm Higgins, Israel Lindly, Josiah Martin, Daniel Oyasster, Milton Parks, Benj Payne, Jacob S. Reed, Levi Ritter, M. V. Taggart, Charles Wallace, William Buck, Wm R. Morrow, John C. McIlvaine.*

Missing and wounded: Lieut. W. B Milligan, John H. Morton, **James M. Wallace [returned]**.

Co K: Missing: Lieut H. Applegate, Wm Cockburn, Joseph Snyder, A. Longley, Jacob Morfoot, Cyrus Gurell, Wm Metzger [corrected], J. Hyman, Wm Craig, Wm Carmichael, T. Craig, T. Tanner, Henry Louthan [corrected], Christ Eschbaugh, A. Swanger, Millford Johnson, S. Fast.

Missing and wounded, John Leylander [corrected], Philip Miller.

May 4, 1864, Diary of Simon Bott **with those who escaped and went to Alexandria.**

**This morning we started on a march and marched within about 8 miles of Alexandria and then we cross the river by a scift.**

May 5, 1864 Diary of Simon Bott

Alexandria La

this morning we was in the city and done no duty at all. Lay still all day in a big house in town.

May 6 1864, Diary of Simon Bott

Alexandria La

In the town We lay all day and done no duty at all of no kind. But we fire up some for a march. A nice and clear day.

May 7, 1864, Diary of Simon Bott

Alexandria La

Out this morning. We still was laying in the town but done no duty at all of no kind. Lay still all day. A nice out clear day.

May 8, 1864, Sunday Diary of Simon Bott

Alexandria La

in town yet this morning until 4 o'clock in the evening then we started on a march and march about 3 miles from the town.

[Note: I have tried over time to figure out for certain who escaped at Snaggy Point and went on to Alexandria. I have figured out who might have been on that list; but without getting the military records for every soldier, I have no way of knowing for certain. You can access my charts and see that those marked in green are the soldiers who could have escaped to Alexandria. But those soldiers also might not have been on the City Belle because of illness or other duty. Also, some may have escaped in the other direction and gone east to Morganza, LA.

Summary charts for each company are included in a folder on this disc or are online at the home page for each of the companies. [Remember that one day the site for the 120<sup>th</sup> OVI will be gone, so download or print out what you want right away.

[A](#)  
[B](#)  
[C](#)  
[D](#)  
[E](#)

E  
G  
H  
I  
K

FIELD & STAFF

END CHAPTER 19

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