

PENNSYLVANIA ONE HUNDRED and FIFTY-FIFTH INFANTRY (Three Years)

One Hundred and Fifty-fifth Infantry. - Cols., Edward J. Allen, John H. Cain, Alfred L. Pearson ; Lieut.-Cols., James Collard, John H. Cain, A. L. Pearson, John Ewing; Majs., John H. Cain, A. L. Pearson, John Ewing, J. Andrew Cline. The 155th regiment, composed of eight companies from Allegheny county and two from Clarion county, was mustered into the U. S. service at Harrisburg and Pittsburg, during August and the early part of Sept., 1862, for three years. The Allegheny county companies rendezvoused at Camp Copeland, near Pittsburg, and moved to Harrisburg, Sept. 3, where they were joined by Cos. G and H and a regimental organization was effected. Immediately after its organization, it left the state for Washington, where it arrived only a few days after the second battle of Bull Run, and went into the defenses of the capital, being assigned to the 2nd brigade, Col. Allabach, 3d division, Brig.-Gen. Humphreys, 5th corps, Gen. Butterfield. It was in reserve during the battle of Antietam, but was heavily engaged at the battle of Fredericksburg, which was its first battle and its loss sustained in the charge on the stone wall at the foot of Marye's heights was 68 killed wounded and missing. It was not heavily engaged at Chancellorsville, losing 3 killed, 10 wounded and 1 missing. The nine months' regiments with which the 155th had been brigaded were now mustered out and it was assigned to the 3d brigade, Gen. Weed, 2nd division, Gen. Ayres, 5th corps, Gen. Sykes. It arrived on the battlefield of Gettysburg on the morning of July 2, and after being held in reserve for a time was hurried with its division to occupy Little Round Top. The 155th gained the summit of the rocky fastness and continued to occupy this position throughout the third day of the battle, its losses being 6 killed and 13 wounded. It shared in the pursuit of the enemy and also took part in the various movements and skirmishes of the fall campaign, being active at Rappahannock Station and at Mine run. On the close of the campaign it was posted along the Orange & Alexandria railroad. Cols. Allen and Cain having resigned, Lieut.-Col. Pearson was promoted to colonel. Under his command the regiment became proficient in the French skirmish and bayonet drill, and in their French Zouave uniforms the men attracted much attention. Before moving on the Wilderness campaign, it became a part of Ayres' (1st) brigade, Griffin's (1st) division, 5th corps. Its losses at the Wilderness were 7 killed, 42 wounded, including Capt. Stewart and Lieut. Johnston, and 6 missing. In the operations at Spottsylvania Court House it again met with heavy loss, having 8 killed, 51 wounded and 2 missing. Its losses at the North Anna river and at Totopotomoy were 2 killed and 15 wounded. On June 6 its brigade became the 1st brigade of the 2nd division and in the operations at Bethesda Church and Cold Harbor it lost 11 wounded and 1 missing. In the assault on the works at Petersburg June 16, the regiment lost 83 killed and wounded in the space of 10 minutes. It participated in the movements at Six-mile house in August, and was later engaged at Peebles' farm, where Col. Pearson for gallantry in leading his men, was promoted brevet brigadier-general. It was warmly engaged but with only small loss at Hatcher's run near the end of October, and shared in the Weldon railroad expedition in Decem-

ber. In the action at Dabney's mill in Feb., 1865, it suffered severely and displayed great gallantry. It moved on its final campaign, March 29, 1865, and was highly complimented by Gen. Meade for its gallantry at the Quaker road and Gravelly run and Gen. Pearson was brevetted major-general. It was active at the battles of Five Forks and Sailor's creek, and after Lee's surrender returned to the vicinity of Washington, where it was mustered out on June 2, 1865. Proceeding to Pittsburgh, it was given a great public reception, and here the men were finally paid and discharged.

Source: The Union Army, vol. 1

Report of Col. Alfred L. Pearson, One hundred and fifty-fifth Pennsylvania Infantry.

HDQRS. 155TH PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS, August 7, 1864.

SIR: In accordance with Special Orders, No. 209, headquarters Army of the Potomac, 1864, I have the honor to report the operations of this command, commencing May 4, 1864, ending July 30, 1864, as follows:

FIRST EPOCH.

The regiment crossed Rapidan River on the morning of May 4, marching a distance of 18 miles, halting at 2 p.m. in the immediate neighborhood of the Wilderness. On May 5 engaged the enemy at 1 p.m., where, after an action of two hours, the regiment received orders to fall back, suffering a loss of 8 killed, 37 wounded, and 7 missing. In this engagement we were posted on the right of the road leading to Robertson's Tavern. On the 6th we advanced on the left of this road, and supported a line of battle until afternoon, when a line of intrenchments was thrown up by the engineers, which the regiment was ordered to occupy, doing so until night, then changing position several times until near morning of the 7th, when we were ordered to advance as skirmishers with orders to fall back at daylight, which we did, losing 1 officer wounded. At 10 p.m. left our position, marching all night in the direction of Spotsylvania Court-House, halting at 8 a.m. on the 8th, forming line of battle; charging the enemy's position found them in too large force to push forward our column, and halted in a favorable position, and received orders to hold it, which we did. The loss in this engagement amounted to 6 killed, 38 wounded, and 3 missing. Remained here until the night of the 13th, when started on the march to Spotsylvania Court-House.

SECOND EPOCH.

The weather having been very wet the roads were almost impassable and rendered the march both disagreeable and toilsome. After marching all night we arrived in front of Spotsylvania Court-House, and were immediately advanced as skirmishers, establishing a line and remaining thirty-two hours. Were relieved on 15th, and moved back to line of intrenchments, where we remained until the 21st, not being in any general engagement or suffering any loss.

THIRD EPOCH.

Left Spotsylvania Court-House on the 21st of May, marching very rapidly in pursuit of the enemy. Arrived at Jericho Ford, North Anna River, on the 23d, fording the same at 3 p.m. Engaged the enemy at 4, routing them completely, they leaving their dead on the field. Our loss 2 killed, 8 wounded. Toward evening threw up a line of intrenchments and remained until 6 p.m. of the 24th, when we advanced a short distance along the Virginia Central Railroad. Four companies thrown out as skirmishers. Meeting the enemy strongly posted we halted and again built breast-works, remaining here until the 26th, losing 1 man wounded, then crossed to the north side of North Anna River, taking up our line of march toward the Pamunkey River.

FOURTH EPOCH.

After marching a distance of 30 miles, crossed said river at or near Hanover town, halting at 2 p.m. of the 28th, and encamping in line of battle near Bethesda Church. On the 29th advanced to try the enemy's strength. Skirmishers commenced firing. The enemy having been found in large force, we halted and built intrenchments, remaining here until June 2, when the enemy made an attack on our lines and were repulsed; loss, 1 killed, 6 wounded. Left this position on the night of June 5, marching until 7 a.m. of the 6th, halting at Cold Harbor, where we went into camp and remained until the 11th, then marching toward Chickahominy River, crossing the same at daylight on the 13th at Long Bridge, halting at 11 p.m. near Saint Mary's Church.*

Very respectfully,

A. L. PEARSON,
Col., Cmdg. Regt.

Capt. J. D. McFARLAND,
Assistant Adjutant-Gen.

Source: Official Records
PAGE 557-67 OPERATIONS IN SE. VA. AND N. C. [CHAP. XLVIII.
[Series I. Vol. 36. Part I, Reports. Serial No. 67.]

Report of Col. Alfred L. Pearson, One hundred and fifty-fifth Pennsylvania Infantry.

HDQRS. 155TH PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS,
August 7, 1864.
SIR: *
FIFTH EPOCH.

On the 14th [June] marched a distance of ten miles and go into camp near Charles City Court-House. 16th, left camp at 5 a.m., crossing James River at Wilcox's Landing on transports, taking the Petersburg road and marching until 1 o'clock that night, halting within two miles of the city, having marched a distance of twenty-eight miles. June 17, remained in camp during the day, with orders to move at a moment's notice. 18th, advanced in line of battle on the enemy's fortifications, taking the Norfolk railroad in the morning, and in the afternoon made a charge, advancing until within twenty yards of the enemy's works, but in consequence of the troops on our right and left falling back we were

forced to retreat and take position in a ravine under cover, losing 12 killed, 71 wounded. Remained here until the 21st and then moved to the left half a mile and go into camp. On the 22d, at 4 p.m., were advanced to the front line, where a portion of the Second Corps had met with a repulse. After dark the regiment was advanced as skirmishers and retook the intrenchments and position lost, remaining until daylight of the 23d, when we were relieved and marched back to camp, where we remained inactive until July 21; then moved to the front and occupied a portion of the line of intrenchments, nothing unusual occurring until the morning of the 30th, when upon the explosion of one of the enemy's forts we fired incessantly for a period of one hour and a half from our intrenchments.

Recapitulation of losses: Officers-killed, 2; wounded, 3. Enlisted men-killed, 41; wounded, 153; missing, 7. Total, 206.

Very respectfully,

A. L. PEARSON.

Col., Cmdg. Regt.

Capt. J. D. McFARLAND,
Assistant Adjutant-Gen.

Source: Official Records
CHAP. LIII.] THE RICHMOND CAMPAIGN. PAGE 462-80
[Series I. Vol. 40. Part I, Reports. Serial No. 80.]

Report of Maj. John A. Cline, One hundred and fifty-fifth Pennsylvania Infantry.

HDQRS. 155TH REGT. PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS,
Near Appomattox Court-House, April 14, 1865.

I have the honor to make the following report of the operations of the One hundred and fifty-fifth Regt. Pennsylvania Volunteers during the action of April 1, 1865:

About 3 p.m. the regiment was formed in line eighty paces in rear, covering the left of the Third Brigade, First Division, Fifth Corps, as reserve to fill any vacancy which might occur near that point of the general lines. After an advance of about one mile from a halt the regiment moved a short distance by the left flank and formed a line facing to the left of the general lines. From this position the regiment was moved at a double-quick by the right flank by file left to connect on the right of the troops formed on the crest of a ridge about 300 paces distant to the left. When within seventy-five paces of the line to which we were to connect it moved forward on a charge, and the regiment was ordered to follow, and moved forward on their right with all possible haste. After crossing a fence into the woods the regiment was brought into line facing by the rear rank, and advanced with a view to connect on the right of the troops now out of sight in the advance on the left. The regiment moved forward independently and without connection on the right or left, and when passing through a thick growth of small pines came upon the enemy, striking their works on the left flank and rear at the time they were receiving re-enforcements from their right. The left

striking their works some of the men pushed into their works, and about 140 of the enemy passed through to our rear, prisoners; others had thrown down their arms, but were rallied and the butts of muskets were used by both parties, and on account of their superior numbers the men fell back in comparative good order, with the loss of 5 killed and 21 wounded, about 100 paces, when they were formed and advanced farther to the right, the enemy leaving without much resistance. We then connected on the left by troops supposed to be of the First Brigade, First Division, and a general advance was made, the regiment capturing three pieces of artillery, several wagons and ambulances, and a number of prisoners. At this point portions of the Third and Second Divisions, with the First Division massed, while moving forward, separated the men of the regiment into squads, who continued to follow the routed enemy until after dark, when halted and called together by the officers and call of the brigade bugle, when they bivouacked for the night.

Very respectfully,

J. A. CLINE,
Maj., Cmdg. Regt.
Capt. WILLIAM FOWLER,
Assistant Adjutant-Gen., First Division, Fifth Corps.

Source: Official Records

PAGE 867-95 N. AND SE. VA., N. C., W. VA., MD., AND PA. [CHAP. LVIII.
[Series I. Vol. 46. Part I, Reports. Serial No. 95.]
