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REPORT OF COMMITTEE

TO

Recruit the Ninth Army Corps.

February to August, 1864.

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PREPARED BY THE SECRETARY.  
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New-York:

JOHN W. AMERMAN, PRINTER,
No. 47 CEDAR STREET.

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE
TO
RECRUIT THE NINTH ARMY CORPS.

THE Committee to Recruit the Ninth Army Corps respectfully submit a report of the receipt and expenditure of the moneys entrusted to them for this purpose.

The Committee was appointed at a meeting held at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, on the evening of the 30th January, 1864, in pursuance of the following call :

NEW-YORK, 30th January, 1864.

DEAR SIR :

General BURNSIDE has been authorized by the President to recruit the Ninth Army Corps to 50,000 men, and head-quarters have been established in this city for the purpose.

The record of the Ninth Army Corps is too well known to need detailed mention. From Roanoke to Knoxville, through the campaigns of North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Vicksburg and East Tennessee, it has fought its way to the noble fame it now enjoys.

Among its Regiments is the 51st New-York State Volunteers, raised in this city in 1861, and now returned after severe campaigns. Four-fifths of this regiment have re-enlisted, and are now anxious to fill up their numbers and return to the field.

You are invited to meet with us at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, Room H., Saturday evening next, 31st January, at 8 P. M., to consider how the purpose of General BURNSIDE may be best promoted.

JOHN A. STEVENS,	JOHN J. CISCO,
JAMES M. BROWN,	M. H. GRINNELL,
JONATHAN STURGES,	W. E. DODGE,
THOMAS TILESTON,	GEORGE OPDYKE.

A large gathering of influential citizens replied to the call, and was eloquently addressed by General BURNSIDE, after which a Committee was appointed, consisting of

Messrs. JAMES M. BROWN,
ROBERT B. ROOSEVELT,
EDWARD POTTER,
ELLIOTT F. SHEPARD,
J. BUTLER WRIGHT,
JOHN AUSTIN STEVENS, Jr.

The Committee organized without delay; appointed Mr. JAMES M. BROWN Chairman and Treasurer, and JOHN AUSTIN STEVENS, Jr., Secretary.

The veteran organizations belonging to this State attached to the Ninth Army Corps, which had re-enlisted, were the Fifty-first and the Forty-sixth, (a German regiment.)

The Fifty-first was a Regiment particularly dear to the hearts of New-York. It had been greatly distinguished for the gallantry of its rank and file. Originally commanded by Colonel FERRERO, Lieut.-Colonel ROBERT B. POTTER, and Major CHARLES W. LE GENDRE, the first two of these officers had been promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General for merit, and the third, Colonel LE GENDRE, was now in command of the Regiment.

He was now appointed chief of the recruiting service of the Ninth Corps, for the State of New-York. Establishing his head-quarters at 598 Broadway, with the aid of his excellent officers, conspicuous among whom was the lamented SIMS, he at once set upon the work assigned to him; and the Committee had but little to do except to raise and disburse the necessary funds, in accordance with his wise suggestions.

In addition to these Regiments, at the request of Brigadier General, now Major-General ROBERT B. POTTER, then commanding the Second Division Ninth Corps, the Committee also undertook to recruit for the 34th Battery of Artillery, then under command of the gallant Lieut. BENJAMIN, who had distinguished himself so greatly at the siege of Knoxville, in the defence of Fort Saunders.

The labors of the Committee for the recruiting of the 51st New-York had hardly commenced before the Regiment was again ordered to the West, leaving only a small detail to represent it in New-York.

Early in April it was ordered to Annapolis, where General BURNSIDE had been instructed to establish the rendezvous of the corps.

The head-quarters in New-York, of the Fifty-first Regiment, were successively under the direction of Captains SIMS, HOLBROOK and STUART, all of whom were active in their efforts to fill up the ranks.

The payments were only made on the receipt of vouchers from United States mustering officers, showing that the men were in charge of the officers appointed by the War Department.

As the men were mustered, they were sent to Hart's Island, one of the posts established to receive recruits.

The delays in forwarding the recruits to the Regiment causing some anxiety to the Committee as to whether the men were likely to reach the organization for which they were destined, the Secretary of the Committee, together with Captain J. STUART, at the time the recruiting officer for the Ninth Corps in New-York, called at the rendezvous at Hart's Island, on the 21st April, and received the following report :

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO.

	51st N. Y. V.	46th N. Y. V.	79th N. Y. V.	Total for Corps.
No. of Men received,	306	46	46	398
“ sent to Army,	120	24	36	180
“ at rendezvous,	186	22	10	218
	306	46	46	398
<i>When forwarded.</i>				
January 12,	5	16	15	
February 21,	45	
“ 29,	63	
March 2,	9	8	21	
	120	24	36	180

(Signed,)

HANSON E. WEAVER,
First Lieut. 8th U. S. Infantry,
Mustering and Inspecting Officer of Post.

In the month of April the Ninth Corps moved from its rendezvous at Annapolis and marched to join the Army of the Potomac, then about to begin the great Virginia campaign: while on the march the Fifty-first Regiment addressed the following letter to the Committee:

HEAD-QUARTERS 51ST REGT. N. Y. VOLS., INFANTRY,
Near Bristow Station, Virginia, May 1, 1864.

At a meeting of the officers of the Fifty-first Regiment N. Y. Vet. Vols. Infantry, held at Bristow Station, Va., on the 1st of May, 1864, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

First.—That the gratitude of the whole command has been won by the Committee of the Ninth Army Corps for the City of New-York, Messrs. JAMES M. BROWN, ROBERT B. ROOSEVELT, J. BUTLER WRIGHT, ROBERT MORRIS, HOWARD POTTER, ELLIOTT F. SHEPARD, JOHN AUSTIN STEVENS, Jr., for their generous and disinterested efforts to recruit this Regiment to its full strength.

Second.—That as a special mark of esteem to JOHN AUSTIN STEVENS, Jr., the Secretary of the Committee, for the intimate identification of himself with the interest of this Regiment, and his continuous efforts for its special benefit, he be elected an HONORARY MEMBER of this Regiment.

Third.—That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to each member of the Committee, through its President, JAMES M. BROWN, Esq., and the original kept in the regimental records.

F. B. McREADY,
Secretary of the Meeting and 1st Lieut.

Approved and respectfully forwarded to the President of the Committee, JAMES M. BROWN, Esq.

CHARLES W. LE GENDRE,
Colonel 51st Regt. N. Y. V. V.

A few days later the Ninth Corps was thrown across the Rapidan, and immediately became engaged in the desperate series of engagements known as the Battle of the Wilderness. Here, on the first day of action, its brave Colonel fell, badly wounded by a ball which carried away one eye, and was forced to leave the field. His health was so much shattered by this second dangerous wound, that he was soon after compelled to resign his command. The command devolved on

Major JOHN G. WRIGHT; the Lieut.-Col., R. C. MITCHELL, acting on the staff of Major-General POTTER.

On the 19th May, the Regiment addressed a further communication to the Committee :

HEAD-QUARTERS 51ST REG. N. Y. V. V., IN THE FIELD,
Spottsylvania Court-House, May 19, 1864.

JOHN AUSTIN STEVENS, JR., Esq.,
Secretary of Committee of Citizens of New-York,
engaged in Recruiting the Ninth Army Corps :

DEAR SIR :

This hurried communication we send to you from our bivouac, near the scene of yesterday's engagement, where the men of the Fifty-first advanced against the foe, amidst a murderous fire, close to the face of a scorching blaze of artillery.

Such has been the ceaseless character of our duties during the last thirteen days that our present relief from duty seems almost unreal; our losses stare us in the face; the turmoil of the fray is still before our minds; and in our heart lingers

“A deep feeling, like the moan
Of wearied ocean, when the storm is gone.”

Our stay in this part of the field is uncertain. We know not how soon we may be again engaged, and we can merely send a note of acknowledgment of the services you have rendered us. About three weeks since, during a temporary halt at Bristow Station, a meeting of the officers was held and resolutions of thanks to the Committee were passed; but the Secretary of that meeting, Lieut. McREARDY, having been wounded in the Battle of the “Wilderness,” on the 6th inst., the resolutions have probably not reached you.

While actively engaged in trying to strengthen our organization, it may be satisfactory to you to know that the Regiment has borne its part in the patriotic struggle now so critical. Since May 6th, until yesterday, the 18th, the Regiment has been constantly under fire; and during that time we have been in the very front of the three late engagements, losing during the campaign one hundred and twenty-five in killed and wounded. A large majority of these were old members of the Regiment.

The command has suffered not only in numerical strength but in health. The urgency of the service required of us has caused a longer continuance of fatigue than usually occurs except in sieges.

“The feigned retreat; the nightly ambuscade,
The daily harass, and the fight delayed;
The weary vigil, and the scant supply,
The tentless rest beneath the humid sky.”

Of the number of recruits secured by your endeavors ——* have joined and shared the campaign with us, and we understand that other squads are at Alexandria or on the way to join the Regiment.

While acknowledging the work you have already done, we presume to thank you for labors in our behalf yet unperformed, knowing that in your peaceful homes you sympathize in the efforts in which we are humbly assisting.

We remain, gentlemen, yours respectfully,

JOHN G. WRIGHT, *Major Com'dg 51st N. Y. V.*
 SAMUEL H. SIMS, *Capt., Acting Lt. Col.*
 GEORGE W. WHITMAN, *Capt. 51st Regt. N. Y. V.*
 GEORGE A. TUTTLE, " " "
 CHARLES W. WALTER, " " "
 DAVID F. WRIGHT, " *Co. B.*, " "
 FRANK BUTLER, *1st Lieut.* " "
 WM. F. ACKERSON, " *Co. F.* " "
 PALIN H. SIMS, " *Co. G.* " "
 LEONARD S. SCHOONMAKER, *Co. E.* "
 WILLIAM CALDWELL, *Co. I.* " "
 S. M. POOLEY, " *Co. D.* " "
 CHARLES H. BUNKER, *Co. H.* " "
 WILLIAM E. BABCOCK, *2d Lieut. Co. F.* "
 JAMES H. CARBERRY, " *Co. A.* "

Endorsed upon the back of the letter was the following note:

HANOVER TOWN, *May 29, 1864.*

J. A. STEVENS, JR., Esq.:

STR,—Owing to the rapidity of our movements it has been impossible for me to forward this communication earlier. I now improve the chance of a special courier who is going to the rear with orders for Gen. BURNSIDE.

The troops are now in line of battle, and no doubt we will be engaged to-morrow. All the officers join in wishing to be remembered to you.

I have the honor to be,

Your obd't serv't,

DAVID F. WRIGHT,

Capt. 51st N. Y. V. V.

Acting A. C. S., 2d Div., 9th A. Corps.

* This blank occurs in the original.

The Fifty-first Regiment partook of the varied fortunes of the Army of the Potomac to the close of the war. Before Petersburg, in the affair of the MINE, 30th July, 1864, the Regiment suffered severely, and among its officers lost on that deadly field was the gallant SIMS, who fell while rallying the retreating column. In one of the flanking movements for the possession of the South Side Rail-Road, known as the battle of POPLAR SPRING GROVE, 30th September, 1864, the division, to which the 51st Regiment was attached, being thrown forward in advance of its supports, was in great part captured by the enemy, and only a small detail of the 51st remained. Thus to their other sufferings in the cause was added that of confinement in the loathsome prisons of Salisbury and Danville. The Regiment was returned under exchange in February, 1865, and again joined GRANT'S army.

The following report from the Lieutenant-Colonel, JOHN G. WRIGHT, in command of the Regiment at the time of its capture, first informed the Committee of the number of men who, by desertion or from other causes, failed to report.

It will show the difficulty under which Regiments in the field labored in keeping up their organizations, and how much the 51st N. Y. V. V. was indebted to the labors of the Committee and of its friends at home :

HEAD-QUARTERS 51ST REG. N. Y. V. V.,
Alexandria, Va., May 12, 1865.

JOHN AUSTIN STEVENS, Jr., Esq. :

DEAR SIR,—Enclosed please find the rolls of men who were enlisted from this Regiment, but who have never reported. The Regiment is now on duty in this city, guarding United States military prisons, and have the most comfortable quarters, the best rations and the lightest duty they have had since their entry into service. We have two hundred and sixty-one enlisted men present with the Regiment, and the number is daily increasing. Quite a number of men who were reported dead at Salisbury, N. C., have returned to the Regiment, and others are expected, so I am in hopes the mortality will not prove as great as has been reported. The health of both officers and enlisted men is very good. If you should visit Washington to witness the contemplated Review, I trust you will not fail to come down and see us.

Respectfully yours truly,

JOHN G. WRIGHT,
Lieut.-Col. Commanding 51st N. Y. V. V.

The rolls reported 140 men, enlisted between February and August, the time of the labors of the Committee, as having failed to appear.

The missing men were gradually restored to the command, and when the Regiment at last returned to New-York, where it was originally raised under the name of the SHEPARD RIFLES, in 1861, on the 25th July, 1865, 456 men were mustered out and received their discharges.

During the period of their labors the Committee enlisted 667 men, of whom 564 were for the 51st Regiment, a fact which furnishes a striking instance of the difficulty in keeping an organization in the field, even with great outside exertions, under the system adopted, perhaps of necessity, during the war.

The tables annexed show the disposition of the recruits and the amount of money collected and expended by the Committee. In this connection it is proper to say, that the Committee were able to collect from our liberal and public-spirited community as much money as they thought necessary for the purpose they had in charge. Without their efforts the 51st Regiment could not have kept the field.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

By order.

JOHN AUSTIN STEVENS, Jr.,

Secretary.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS

TO THE

Fund to Recruit the Ninth Army Corps.

GENERAL SUBSCRIBERS.

Feb. 11, 1864.	Jonathan Sturges,.....	\$100 00
	J. F. D. Lanier,.....	100 00
	Morris Ketchum,.....	100 00
	Moses H. Grinnell,.....	250 00
	Livermore, Clews & Co.,	100 00
	William H. Marston,.....	100 00
	William Curtis Noyes,.....	100 00
	National Bank Note Company, (by E. F. S.),	100 00
Feb. 13.	J. Butler Wright,.....	100 00
	James Brown,.....	250 00
	Howard Potter,.....	100 00
	James M. Brown,.....	100 00
	J. C. Brown,.....	100 00
	C. S. Brown,	50 00
Feb. 17.	Phelps, Dodge & Co.,.....	100 00
	J. Warren & Son,.....	50 00
	Robert B. Roosevelt,.....	100 00
	Spofford, Tileston & Co.,.....	100 00
	Fisk & Hatch,.....	100 00
	L. P. Morton & Co.,	100 00
	Charles Carow,.....	50 00
	George Griswold,.....	100 00
	John C. Green,.....	100 00
	William F. Cary,.....	100 00
	Hugh N. Camp,.....	100 00
	C. N. Potter,.....	100 00
	J. B. & W. W. Cornell & Co.,.....	100 00
	Chas. Burrall Hoffman,.....	100 00
	J. G. King's Sons,.....	100 00
	G. S. Robbins & Son,.....	100 00
	Moses Taylor.....	100 00
Feb. 19.	George C. Ward,.....	100 00
	Carried forward,.....	\$3,350 00

	Brought forward,.....	\$3,350 00
Feb. 19.	James Lenox,.....	1,000 00
20.	S. Gandy,.....	100 00
26.	Schuyler, Hartley & Graham,.....	100 00
	J. P. Morgan & Co.,.....	100 00
	Morris K. Jesup & Co.,.....	100 00
	Thomas H. Faile,.....	100 00

Members of New-York Stock Exchange, through
EDWARD KING.

Mch. 9.	A. B. Baylis,.....	\$100 00
	Seyton & Wainwright,.....	100 00
	Edward King,.....	100 00
	A. L. Corse & Co.,.....	100 00
	Ward, Campbell & Co.,.....	100 00
	W. & J. O'Brien,.....	50 00
	Ward & Co.,.....	50 00
	D. Groesbeck & Co.,.....	50 00
	B. M.,.....	50 00
	Weeks & Co.,.....	50 00
	Fearing & Dalton,.....	50 00
	George S. Rainsford,.....	50 00
	Clark, Dodge & Co.,.....	50 00
	Wm. H. Neilson,.....	25 00
	Edward Wolff,.....	25 00
	H. Meigs, Jr., & Smith,.....	50 00
		<hr/> 1,000 00
17.	D. Stinson,.....	250 00
April 21.	G. S. Stephenson,.....	50 00
	Stanton, Sheldon & Co.,.....	50 00
	Alex. Van Rensselaer,.....	100 00
	Timothy G. Churchill,.....	25 00
22.	Elliot C. Cowdin,.....	25 00
	Marié & Kanz,.....	50 00
	Wm. T. Blodgett,.....	100 00
	E. D. Morgan & Co.,.....	100 00
May 10.	Wm. M. Vermilye,.....	100 00
	John E. Williams, Presd't,.....	100 00
	Sprague, Cooper & Colburn,.....	100 00
	Van Wyck, Townsend & Co.,.....	100 00
	Nehemiah Knight,.....	25 00
16.	The New-York Produce Exchange, by AR- CHIBALD BAXTER, Pres't,.....	2,000 00
		<hr/> Carried forward,.....\$9,025 00

	Brought forward,.....	\$9,025 00
<i>Special Subscriptions, to close Account.</i>		
Mch. 30, 1865.	James M. Brown,.....	100 00
	Howard Potter,.....	100 00
	J. Butler Wright,.....	65 00
	Robt. B. Roosevelt,.....	65 00
	E. F. Shepard,.....	65 00
		<hr/>
		\$9,420 00
	Paid to J. M. Brown, Treas.,.....	\$6,500
	R. B. Roosevelt, Treas.,....	2,525
	J. B. Wright and J. A. Stevens, Jr., Committee to close accounts,.....	395
		<hr/>
		\$9,420 00

DISBURSEMENTS OF COMMITTEE TO RECRUIT NINTH ARMY CORPS.

In Drafts of Executive Committee, on JAMES M. BROWN, Treas.

Feb., 1864.	To paid, in month of February, for recruits,	\$1,740 00
	“ Col. C. W. Le Gendre, expenses of tour through State of New-York, to establish agencies,....	\$200 00
19, 1864.	“ John W. Oliver, printing and posting,.....	88 00
22.	“ Telegram to Secretary of War,.....	11 08
21.	“ Bill of January advertise- ment,	24 30
27.	“ J. W. Oliver, printing,....	25 75
29.	“ Advertisements, February,.	24 30
		<hr/>
		373 43
March.	“ in month of March, for recruits, ..	2,350 00
11.	“ Advertisements, City and County,.....	\$31 23
14.	“ “ “	38 90
19.	“ “ “	40 85
17.	“ Printing,	7 00
	“ Telegram,.....	3 73
28.	“ John W. Oliver, 1000 mam- moth posters, colors,....	125 00
		<hr/>
		246 71
April.	“ in month of April, for recruits, ...	1,770 00
	“ Capt. H. H. Holbrook, sundry ex- penses of recruiting,.....	55 60
		<hr/>
	Carried forward,.....	\$6,535 74

Brought forward,.....\$6,535 74

In Drafts of Executive Committee on ROBERT B. ROOSEVELT, Treas.

May.	To paid, in month of May, for recruits, ...	2,410 00
	“ J. W. Oliver, printing,	\$9 00
	“ Advertising,	2 00
21.	“ Capt. J. J. Stuart, expenses	
	recruiting office,.....	12 40
	“ petty clerical assistance,...	86
		24 26
Mar. 3, 1865.	“ (in cheque of Special Committee,) by J. Butler Wright, John Austin Stevens, Jr., to close accounts, and settle outstanding claims, “Hathorne,”.....	400 00
Dec. 30, 1865.	“ Bill printing report, J.W. Amerman,	50 00
		<u>\$9,420 00</u>

Recapitulation.

Paid for 667 recruits,.....	\$8,670 00
“ Incidental expenses of Committee, &c.,..	750 00
	<u>\$9,420 00</u>

SUMMARY OF ENLISTMENTS.

1864.	51st V. V.	46th V. V.	*89th V. V.	34th Battery.	Total.
February,	94	0	11	0	105
March,	97	4	0	22	123
April,	143	8	0	34	185
May,	57	8	1	15	81
June,	6	0	0	0	6
July,	55	0	0	0	55
August,	112	0	0	0	112
	564	20	*12	71	667

The above is a summary of the number of men, and the dates at which they were enlisted, into the different organizations attached to the Ninth Corps.

* Men enlisted into this Regiment were paid for at the request of Gen. R. B. PORTER.

TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS.

JAMES M. BROWN, TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH COMMITTEE TO RECRUIT NINTH ARMY CORPS.

1864.			
April 26.	By Cash received from subscriptions,		
	Feb. to date,	\$6,500 00	
" 30.	" Cash returned by agents of Committee, (in interior),	40 00	
May 18.	" Cash from R. B. ROOSEVELT, new Treasurer, to close,	85 74	
		<hr/>	
		\$6,625 74	

New-York, 18th May, 1864.

JAMES M. BROWN, *Treasurer.*

\$6,625 74

ROBERT B. ROOSEVELT, TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH COMMITTEE TO RECRUIT NINTH ARMY CORPS.

1864.			
May 18.	By Cash received from subscriptions,	\$525 00	
" 18.	" Cash received from subscriptions of New-York Produce Exchange, through ARCHIB'D BAXTER, Prest.,	2,000 00	
" 18.	" Cash returned by Chemung Canal Bank Agents,	275 00	
		<hr/>	
		\$2,800 00	

New-York, May 6, 1864.

ROBERT B. ROOSEVELT, *Treasurer.*

\$2,800 00

1864.

May 18. To paid to J. M. BROWN, late Treasurer, balance due in account,

" 6. " Drafts of Committee, May 18 to date, 2,709 26

" " " Special Committee, to close account, balance on hand,

\$85 74

2,709 26

5 00

SPECIAL COMMITTEE IN ACCOUNT WITH COMMITTEE TO RECRUIT NINTH ARMY CORPS.

<p>1865.</p> <p>March 30. By cash received from ROBERT B. ROOSEVELT, Treasurer,..... \$5 00</p> <p>“ Subscriptions to close accounts, 395 00</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">\$400 00</p>	<p>1865.</p> <p>March 30. To paid HATHORNE, agent, compromise of claims on the Committee,..... \$400 00</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">\$400 00</p>

New-York, May 30, 1865.

J. BUTLER WRIGHT, } *Special Committee to*
 JOHN AUSTIN STEVENS, Jr., } *close accounts.*





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