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**Soldiers and Sailors Historical Society
of Rhode Island**

Personal Narratives

SEVENTH SERIES, No. 10

**THE
Second Rhode Island Volunteers
AT THE
Siege of Petersburg, Virginia**

By ELISHA H. RHODES

[Colonel Second Rhode Island Volunteer Infantry]

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PERSONAL NARRATIVES
OF EVENTS IN THE
WAR OF THE REBELLION

BEING PAPERS READ BEFORE THE
RHODE ISLAND SOLDIERS AND SAILORS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

SEVENTH SERIES.—NO. 10.

PROVIDENCE:
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E. H. Rhodes

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[Edition limited to two hundred and fifty copies.]





Edwin A. Rhodes

THE
SECOND RHODE ISLAND VOLUNTEERS
AT THE
SIEGE OF PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA

BY ELISHA H. RHODES,
[Colonel Second Rhode Island Volunteer Infantry.]

ON the last day of November, 1864, the Second Rhode Island Volunteers, attached to the Third Brigade, First Division, Sixth Corps, Army of the Potomac, were in camp near Kernstown, Virginia, in the Shenandoah Valley. The corps had taken a conspicuous part in the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, and the first attack upon Petersburg, and then hastening to the relief of Washington when menaced by the Confederate Army under General Jubal A. Early, had finally made the victorious campaign of the Shenandoah Valley under General Sheridan.

On the date mentioned above (November 30), I made the following entry in my diary: "Home again in camp with a cheerful fire, and very happy with my comfortable surroundings. To-morrow I shall move my regiment to a better location, where I expect to make the best camp in the army and hope to remain during the winter." At midnight we did move our camp, and the movement was not completed until we reached the entrenchments in front of Petersburg.

The Third Brigade was commanded by Colonel Oliver Edwards (afterwards Brigadier and Brevet Major-General U. S. Volunteers), and was composed of the following regiments: Second Rhode Island, Thirty-seventh Massachusetts, Fifth Wisconsin, Forty-ninth, Eighty-second and One Hundred and Nineteenth Pennsylvania Volunteers.

The First Division was commanded by Brevet Major-General Frank Wheaton, a native of Rhode Island, and formerly Colonel of the Second Rhode Island Regiment, while the Sixth Corps was under the command of Major-General Horatio G. Wright, an officer distinguished both for gallantry and ability.

On the morning of December 1 our brigade, having marched to Stephenson's Depot, took cars for Washington via Harper's Ferry, where we arrived about noon on the 2d. Marching to the wharf, the Second Rhode Island and Eighty-second Pennsylvania embarked on the steamer "City of Albany," and proceeded down the river to Alexandria, joined the fleet of transports and anchored for the night.

At daylight on the 3d, General Wheaton arrived on the steamer "Idaho," and the entire fleet conveying the First Division started on the journey down the Potomac. On the afternoon of the 4th we arrived at City Point and took cars for the front. We here had an opportunity of testing the famous military railroad in the rear of the Union lines. Built upon the surface of the ground, with little if any attempt at grading, the chances were against the safety of the passengers.

At one point the lines ran within range of the enemy's batteries, and during the winter, when business or pleasure called us to City Point, we always took into consideration the chances of being thrown from the track or killed by Confederate shells. But

this did not prevent frequent applications for passes to visit the base of supplies. Arriving at Parkes Station we left the cars, and it being very dark, we went into camp for the night. Not knowing our exact location, there was some discussion as to the distance we were from the front. This question was soon settled by the sharp crack of the rifles as the pickets fired upon each other. December 5 the corps moved into the intrenchments on the left of the Ninth Corps and relieved the Fifth Corps, who were sent to another part of the line. Our brigade was stationed between Battery Twenty-six and Fort Wadsworth.

This last was a large enclosed work built across the Weldon Railroad, and was garrisoned by details from our brigade with Battery E, First Rhode Island Light Artillery, commanded by Brevet Major William B. Rhodes. In front of our brigade we found a high and strong earthwork with a banquette for infantry to stand upon, while in front of the deep ditch was arranged an elaborate system of abatis and trip wires. The distance to the enemy's main lines at this point was nearly two

miles, but the rifle pits occupied by the pickets of each army were quite near to each other. The trees between the lines had been slashed and lay in all conceivable positions, rendering the space seemingly impassable.

The Fifth Corps left some very good quarters, but remembering my plans while in the valley to have the best camp in the army, I caused the entire camp to be reconstructed, and soon had a village of huts that were comfortable, if not ornate.

On our right firing was kept up on the Ninth Corps front and we could see constantly, both day and night, the bursting shells. In fact, from the hour of our arrival until the termination of the siege four months afterwards, we never knew a day that the roar of cannon was not brought to our ears. Day or night, it was always to be heard, and I remember well the pleasure I felt upon taking a trip down the James River during the winter, to be able to go to sleep without hearing the roar of the batteries.

Little progress had been made in the siege during our absence in the valley. The mine had been ex-

ploded and many lives had been lost, but the end seemed as far off as in the previous July, when we left the trenches to go to the relief of the Capital. On December 7 I took my first tour of duty as division officer of the day in charge of the picket line.

By an arrangement with the officer in charge of the enemy's line, firing was prohibited.

On the afternoon of the 9th I returned to camp and found the Sixth Corps under marching orders. At 4 p. m. we left camp, and marching on the Squirrel Level road, we reached the vicinity of Hatcher's Run about midnight, in the midst of a severe storm of rain and snow. Here we halted in a swamp filled with fallen timber and water. Oh, how cold it was! The clothing of the men soon became rigid with ice, and sleep was impossible. In fact, the snow and water was so deep that it was only after many failures that fires could be started. I remember this particular night as the most uncomfortable and distressing experience of my entire army life.

At daylight the next morning our brigade moved to the edge of the swamp and built a line of earth-

works. The enemy discovered our works and made a feeble attempt to take them, but were easily repulsed. In fact, it was too cold for either side to fight with any degree of spirit. Here we remained until about 5 P. M., when we marched back to our old camp in front of Petersburg, and the men entered their huts almost exhausted with cold and fatigue. We had just settled down in front of our fires when orders came for our brigade to move again, and this time in the opposite direction. We started off in the mud and water and marched to the vicinity of Fort Sedgwick on the Ninth Corps front. Here I put my troops into huts without roofs, and myself and staff sat by a fire all night, trying to keep from freezing.

The next day (Sunday) we remained in this camp until dark and then returned to our quarters. As soon as the men had recovered from the fatigue resulting from the severe work described above, regular camp duty was taken up, and we employed our time in battalion drills and movements in defence of our line of works.

Large details were daily made for fatigue, and an

important work was constructed on the left of the corps, named Fort Fisher. Inspections, reviews and brigade dress parades were held, and but for the continual firing on our right and the knowledge that only two miles of slashed timber separated us from the enemy, we might have supposed ourselves again in our camp near Washington.

The year 1864 at last came to an end, and with the anticipation of a speedy victory we entered upon a new year.

I find in my diary, under date of January 1, 1865, many bright anticipations of future victories and a glorious termination of the war. In fact, at this date we began to see the beginning of the end.

The Army of the Potomac was tightening its grip upon the doomed cities of Petersburg and Richmond, and it was only a question of time when we should receive the rewards of our four years of service. An event took place early in the year that produced such an impression upon my mind that I find that I recorded it with all its horrible details. Friday, January 6, a private of the Fourth New Jersey Volunteers was executed as a deserter

and the entire First Division was by order directed to witness the scene. I had always avoided military executions, and asked to be excused from attending this one, but my request was denied.

The condemned man, seated upon his coffin in an ambulance and attended by a chaplain, rode through all the camps of the division. The troops were then formed on three sides of a square, while the grave occupied the fourth side. The solemn procession escorting the prisoner soon entered the square and proceeded to the grave, where the prisoner was blindfolded and seated upon the rough box that was soon to contain his remains. The chaplain offered prayer and the last act was about to take place. During my service I had seen many thousand dead men, and while I knew that this man deserved his fate, yet I determined not to see him die. The firing party was stationed in front of the doomed man, and I heard the command of the provost-marshal, "Ready, aim," and then, notwithstanding my resolution, some horrible fascination caused me to turn my head as I was sitting upon my horse, just as the word "Fire" was given.

and I saw him fall dead upon his coffin. The troops were formed in column of companies and marched past the body as it lay upon the coffin, and as each company passed the command "Eyes right" was given. The troops then returned to camp, the bands and drum corps playing quick time.

Monday, February 5, found the regiment again upon an expedition to Hatcher's Run. Here we built a line of rifle pits, and as soon as they were finished we were ordered to cross the Run, and other troops had the benefit of our labors by occupying our intrenched line.

The Second Brigade attacked the enemy's line, while our brigade acted as a reserve. As the fight progressed we were ordered to take possession of a line of earthworks and shelter our men from the severe fire. This was certainly a fortunate move, for the attacking line was driven back, and but for the strong position occupied by the reserves, disaster must have followed. Darkness put an end to the fight, and we lay down to sleep, to be awakened by a severe storm of hail and snow. Fires were started to dry our clothing, but this brought

upon us a terrific fire of shot and shell from the Confederate batteries.

The next morning the Fifth Corps was sent forward into the woods in front of our line of works, and for a time the noise of the conflict was loud and unceasing. The entire day was passed under fire, and only at night did the iron storm cease. But the rain and hail continued, and again the attempt to get possession of the South Side Railroad failed. The troops quietly left the enemy's front at midnight and we returned to our permanent camp.

This South Side Railroad was an object of strife during the entire winter of 1864 and 1865, and several attempts were made to capture and hold it. But not until the last days of the siege did we succeed. Let me try to give you an idea of our daily life. The intrenchments in front of each regiment are divided into as many spaces as there are companies, and each company has its letter painted on the section. If an alarm is sounded, day or night, the soldier seizes his gun and equipments and hurries to his place. Several experiments were tried by sounding false alarms, but it was soon

found that the enemy, as a rule, would save us that trouble by giving us plenty of genuine ones. The men were obliged to sleep in their clothing, with gun and equipments by their sides. Just before daylight the officer in charge of the trench guards would cause the officers and men to be awakened, and the line would be quietly formed in rear of the works. Arms would be stacked, and then preparation be made as if for a march. Knapsacks would be packed, or blankets rolled, and haversacks and canteens made ready. At headquarters horses were saddled and baggage made ready for removal. The men remained in line until sunrise, and then were dismissed by a signal from brigade headquarters. All this, of course, if no attack was made by the enemy. It frequently happened, however, that an affair would take place upon the picket line in front, and reserves from the camps would be sent to the relief of the line. When this reserve was called for, the men would mount the parapet, and, clearing the ditch, make their way through the slashing to the front.

If the morning proved to be quiet, the usual

routine of camp life went on, with the exception that a portion of each regiment was kept on duty in the intrenchments.

February 21 we received the news of the fall of Charleston, and salutes were fired along the entire line. In order that there might be no waste of time or powder, the guns were shotted and trained on the enemy's works. This day was one of great rejoicing, and we began to predict a speedy termination of the war.

Washington's Birthday was celebrated in a suitable manner and was much enjoyed. The officers of the One Hundred and Nineteenth Pennsylvania Volunteers had a flag-raising in the camp, followed by a collation that excited the admiration of all who were so fortunate as to be present. In the evening the brigade commander gave a supper at his headquarters and caused the grove in front to be illuminated. The fun and frolic was at its height when an order was received for the troops to be held in readiness to repel an attack on the Sixth Corps front. This order broke up the party, and in sorrow and disgust we returned to our camps and

doubled the trench guards and made ready for a fight. The troops were formed in the midst of a severe rainstorm (it always rained at Petersburg), and we waited the attack that never came. Some of us thought that this order came from officers who were not invited to the supper.

On this night an officer and thirty men deserted from the enemy and came into our brigade line. Let me again quote from my diary: "February 25, 1865. If the news of to-day be true, the rebels are preparing to evacuate Petersburg. General Meade ordered all the batteries on the Ninth Corps front to open on the enemy's works, and as I write the guns are booming and the air is full of bursting shell. It is raining and very dark, but the artillery duel is kept up and I can trace the lighted fuses of the shells as they cross each other in their flight.

"I am on duty as Division Officer of the Picket, and this morning took a ride along the lines. The rebels were quiet and did not fire upon me. Last night one hundred and sixty rebel deserters came into our lines. We have a supply of printed circulars offering to pay each rebel deserter for his

musket and equipments and to give him a free passage north. These circulars are sent out between the lines at night and left among the trees, and in some way they get into the hands of the enemy."

The division officer remains on duty for three days, and has a bullet proof hut on the line in which to sleep. The officers and men on picket are detailed for twenty-four hours of duty and are not allowed to sleep. A guard is stationed near the hut, while in front the reserves are in rifle pits. The picket line proper is about fifty yards in advance, while at a distance of three hundred yards the rebels can be plainly seen. We have agreed not to fire during the daytime, but as soon as darkness comes on the rebels open fire in order to prevent their men from deserting. After inspecting the lines of the three brigades I laid down to sleep, giving instructions to the sergeant in charge not to allow any one to enter the hut. After sleeping a short time, I heard some one say, "Colonel," and looking up I saw to my astonishment four rebel soldiers. My first thought was that I was a prisoner or about to become one, and I proceeded to

draw a revolver, but was stopped by the sergeant who was standing near. These four men were deserters, and belonged to the Thirty-seventh North Carolina Regiment. I examined them and took down their answers to certain questions that we were by orders directed to ask them, and then send them to corps headquarters. As they were leaving one of them gave me the name of a friend belonging to his company who was to try to desert that night, and requested me to send him along promptly in order that they might go north together.

Soon, in the midst of the firing a rebel picket shouted, "Halt and come back," while our boys replied, "Come in, Johnny," and a rebel soldier came crashing through the brush and was brought to my quarters. Suspecting who he might be, I addressed him by the name given me by the previous prisoner. He looked somewhat surprised, but admitted that I was right. I then told him his captain's name, the letter of his company, number of his regiment, brigade, division, etc., also the name of the officer in charge of their picket line. The man listened in a dazed sort of a way and then said, "I always heard

tell that you Yankees were right smart, but how did you find out so much about me?" I replied that it was all right, that we had ways of obtaining information that they knew nothing about.

He left, impressed with the idea that the Yankees were a mysterious people.

The end of the siege was evidently drawing near, and much anxiety was felt by commanding officers. The following order issued February 21 will explain the dispositions made to repel an attack:

“HEADQUARTERS THIRD BRIGADE

“FIRST DIVISION, SIXTH CORPS, February 21, 1865.

“GENERAL ORDER

No. 9.

EXTRACT

“To conform to General Order No. 27, Headquarters, 1st Division, 6th Army Corps, of this date, the following disposition of the line of defense of this brigade front is made:

“49th Pennsylvania Volunteers to garrison Fort Wadsworth and small section of rifle pit on its right.

“37th Massachusetts Volunteers, from centre of its camp to the left of rifle pit in its front.

“5th Wisconsin Volunteers, from centre of its camp and the centre of camp of 37th Massachusetts Volunteers.

“2nd Rhode Island Volunteers, from left of its camp to the centre of camp of 5th Wisconsin Volunteers.

“82nd Pennsylvania Volunteers, from sally port on right of its camp to the left of the 2nd Rhode Island Volunteers.

“119th Pennsylvania Volunteers, from Battery 26 to the sally port on the left of the Battery.

“The 49th Pennsylvania Volunteers will relieve the infantry guards in Fort Wadsworth, and after to-morrow will be relieved from details for picket duty.

“In case of a movement or attack from the enemy they will garrison the fort.

“The details, one-tenth (1-10) from each regiment for trench duty, will be as follows:

“From the 2nd Rhode Island Volunteers, 31 enlisted men.

"From 5th Wisconsin, 54 enlisted men.

"From 37th Massachusetts, 33 enlisted men.

"From 49th Pennsylvania, 35 enlisted men.

"From 82nd Pennsylvania, 61 enlisted men.

"From 119th Pennsylvania, 23 enlisted men.

"Only one third of the number will be allowed to sleep at one time. This guard will mount sentinels on the breastworks on their proper front, not more than fifty paces apart. A drummer will accompany each detail and the roll will be called every two hours while on duty.

"The detail will be put on duty at retreat and relieved every morning at Guard Mount.

"In case of attack the details will be deployed along the front to which the commands have been assigned, and so remain until the troops assume their positions, when they will take their proper places in the line of battle."

Notwithstanding the excitement of our daily life, and the constant exposure to death, the sad scenes which were witnessed began to have a depressing influence upon both officers and men. Daily drills were held when the weather and the enemy per-

mitted, and the enlisted men were encouraged to engage in sports of various kinds. At headquarters we held evening schools for the study of tactics, classes for reading, and Longfellow and Shakespeare became familiar to some who had not before manifested an interest in poetry. We also organized a council of the Union League, and amid the sound of cannon and rattle of the muskets we initiated officers into the secret mysteries of that now defunct patriotic society. The pickets were attacked almost daily, and these attacks merely excited a passing interest. We felt quite secure behind our walls of logs and sand, and rather lived in the hope that the enemy would make a serious attack upon our lines, and give us a chance to follow them into their own stronghold. March 11 General Grant reviewed our division, or so much of it as could be spared from the trenches. This event helped to relieve, for a time, the strain that was felt by all the troops.

On March 14 a party of gentlemen from Rhode Island, accompanied by a lady from Chicago, visited our camp. Having received timely notice that the

party would arrive by morning train, much preparation was made to give them a proper reception. Invitations were issued for dinner, and even the men entered into the spirit of the occasion and prepared for the unusual event of having a lady pass a day in the trenches. The party arrived in due time, and while the presentation of the officers was being made, the rebels opened fire from their batteries and made a bold advance upon our division line. My first thought was naturally for the safety of our guests, and hastily directing them to a refuge behind a hill in the rear of our camp, I joined my command in the trenches. Much to our astonishment, the lady refused to seek a place of safety and took her place with the men behind the parapet, where her presence was greeted with round upon round of cheers. The bullets whistled merrily for a few minutes, and then the attack was over, and only occasional shots were fired by the pickets.

This incident, so unusual in the history of wars, furnished a topic of conversation until the close of the siege.

St. Patrick's Day was celebrated with much en-

thusiasm by the troops of the Irish brigade, and on invitation I attended the ceremonies. Hurdle races and ditch jumping were the principal amusements, and after seeing one colonel and two enlisted men fatally injured, I returned to camp, satisfied to take my chances with the rebel shot and shell. One of our regular excursions was to the camps of the Fourth and Seventh Rhode Island Volunteers, then forming a part of the garrison of Fort Sedgwick. Here the opposing lines were only a few yards from each other, and the life led by the poor fellows in the principal forts of each side warranted the names bestowed, Fort Hell and Fort Damnation.

Monday, March 20, our division was reviewed by Major-General Meade, commanding the Army of the Potomac, accompanied by our Corps Commander, General H. G. Wright, and Admiral David B. Porter, of the United States Navy. This review was tendered as a compliment to Admiral Porter, and the officers and men felt that a compliment was paid to our division in being selected for this service.

On March 23 a severe gale raged, and was accompanied by clouds of sand which obscured the sun.

The woods and slashings on the rebel picket line caught fire and the enemy were driven from their rifle pits to their main line. The fire, which raged fiercely in our front, prevented our taking advantage of the misfortunes of the enemy.

On the morning of Sunday, March 26, the rebels made an attack upon the Ninth Corps front and captured Fort Stedman. The firing, which was more lively than usual, attracted our attention on the Sixth Corps line, and the troops were immediately formed, in anticipation of orders to go to the help of our comrades on the right. The orders to move soon came, and leaving the trench guards to protect our camp, our division moved at the double quick, a distance of about four miles, to the vicinity of the captured fort. A part of the way we were obliged to pass under fire of the Confederate batteries, and we arrived at the scene of conflict just in time to witness the recapture of Fort Stedman by the gallant division commanded by General John F. Hartranft, of Pennsylvania. It was a superb

sight: the long lines of infantry gradually closing in on the front, the clouds of smoke that marked the line, the grand rush and the cheers of victory as the troops passed the ditch, mounted the parapet and planted their colors. But we were not to share in this glory, and after enduring the fire of the rebel batteries for a while, we retraced our steps to our camps, only to be ordered to the left of the line near Fort Fisher, where the division was massed. Here we were visited by President Lincoln, General Grant and General Meade, who rode through the lines. The object of this move proved to be the gaining of ground from which to make the grand assault which took place a few days later.

The Second Rhode Island came into line upon the extreme right of the division, and we gradually forced the enemy's pickets back to their reserves, who were occupying a heavy line of rifle pits. Here the division made a rush and carried the line, and forced the rebels through the camps erected for the shelter of their pickets. In the confusion of the fight a column of the enemy concealed by the huts made an attempt to turn the right flank of our divi-

sion, but were handsomely stopped by the Second Rhode Island who, changing front to the right, opened a heavy fire, which caused the surrender of a large number of prisoners and the breaking up of the column of attack. We immediately sent for intrenching tools, and turning the enemy's works, we soon connected the line with our main line in the rear. At three o'clock the next morning the division was relieved and returned to camp. Tuesday, March 28, I made my last tour of duty as division officer of the day in charge of the picket line in front of Petersburg. During the previous night the rebels planted a new battery and massed a large force of infantry in our front. Reporting this fact to General Wheaton, commanding the division, that officer sent me a reserve of two thousand men. A deserter coming in reported that the enemy were apprehensive of an attack by us, which may account for the massing of their troops on our front. General Wheaton visited the picket line to-day and together we crawled through the slashing until we nearly reached the enemy's pickets, where, with our glasses, we counted the can-

non in their works, and tried to select positions for our troops to occupy in the coming assault.

Thursday, March 30, 1865, I will again quote from my diary:

“It is raining hard, and far to our left we can hear the booming of cannon and rattle of musketry. We are waiting anxiously for news, as the result of the fight now going on at Five Forks and Hatcher’s Run will, it is said, govern our movements. General Sheridan with his cavalry and the Fifth Corps are upon the expedition and we expect great things from him. We are all packed up and only waiting as patiently as possible for orders.

“Last night I went to bed for the first time in nearly three days, but the long roll sounded and I had to turn out and look after my men. To our right the air seemed to be filled with bursting shell. We remained in line until after midnight, and were then dismissed to form line again at 4 P. M.

“March 31, 1865. Surely the end is drawing near. Last night all the regimental commanders were directed to report at brigade headquarters, where we were informed by the general commanding that the

Sixth Corps was to attack Petersburg this morning at 4 o'clock, and that the enemy's works must be taken, no matter what the cost. We have been expecting this for a long time, yet we returned to our camps in a solemn frame of mind and made our preparations. The canvas covers were taken off the huts, knapsacks and haversacks packed, and the troops stacked arms and awaited the order to move. About midnight a staff officer rode over and told me that the order to attack had been countermanded. The rain was falling steadily, and as we had no roofs to our huts, we passed a very uncomfortable night. At 3 A. M. order came for us to move to the assault, but the order was countermanded before we could get out of camp.

"The battle has raged fiercely on our left all day and our turn must come soon.

"Saturday, April 1st, 1865. Still packed up for the move, with orders to be ready to attack at a moment's notice. The enemy are evidently expecting some movement on our part, for their pickets are on the alert, and heavy firing is kept up. The strain upon our nerves is severe, and I feel that the

soon the suspense is ended, the better. We get no news from the left of our line, and our officers and men have anxious looks. I have made every preparation, and have written what may be my last letters."

My next record in my diary is as follows:

"Inside the rebel lines at Petersburg, Sunday evening, April 2, 1865.

"Thank God, Petersburg has fallen. Last night the regimental commanders were ordered to brigade headquarters and we received our final orders.

"Again we were told that we must succeed, for to fail after making the attack, might endanger the safety of the entire army. It was a solemn gathering, and as I left, General Edwards took me by the hand and said, 'God bless you, Colonel, give the rebels to-morrow what Paddy gave the drum, a good beating.' I returned to my camp, assembled the officers, and again tried to impress upon their minds the gravity of the situation. At 10 p. m. all the Sixth Corps batteries opened upon the enemy's works. The noise was deafening, and the shriek of the shot and shell gave us an idea of what we

might expect in the morning. Battery E, commanded by Lieutenant Ezra K. Parker, occupying Fort Wadsworth on the left of our camp, was hard at work. Soon after the firing began our brigade left our camp for the last time. The men were instructed to place their cups and pans inside of their haversacks to avoid noise, and under no circumstances to speak above a whisper or light a match. In silence we marched to Fort Fisher, where our boys had shoveled sand for many weary hours, and passed through its sally port, out on to the plain in front. Here the Sixth Corps was formed in double echelon, with our division upon the right. I passed down the front of the regiment and had the men remove the caps from their muskets, and instructed them not to prime or fire under any circumstances until ordered, as the officers were to lead in the attack, and did not wish to be killed by our own men.

“Before moving, a thick fog settled down, and it was impossible to see the length of a company. Our orders were to move at the sound of a bugle, silently, but straight to the front. While waiting

for the signal, the rebels, although unconscious of the presence of an entire corps in their immediate front, kept up a constant fire from their picket line and caused us great loss. We had with our brigade a mule, belonging to the Pioneer corps, and loaded with picks and shovels. A bullet striking him, he broke loose from his driver and made straight for the rebel line. The noise that he made evidently alarmed the enemy, for they opened a terrific fire from their trench guards. We found the mule this morning tied to a tree in rear of the rebel lines. But for this accident I think that the surprise would have been complete. Just as daylight began to appear, the signal was sounded, and notwithstanding the orders to move silently, the corps set up a mighty shout and dashed forward into the fog.

“The Second Rhode Island was in the second line of the brigade, and as we moved forward in the darkness, it was difficult to keep the position. We soon moved more to the right and reached the rebel picket line, and although receiving their fire, we captured the line without a shot being fired by our

men. Hastily rectifying the alignment in the picket rifle pits, I had just a moment to take in the situation: on our left a four-gun battery was firing canister over our heads, while to our right a two-gun battery was just opening fire. I decided to go in between the two and try to capture one or both. As we reached the enemy's abatis I happened to be on the right of the regiment, and seeing an opening left by the rebels to reach their picket line, I moved the regiment by the flank and then brought them into line in front of the two-gun battery: all this was done hastily and without halting; crossing the ditch, we scrambled and helped each other up the slope of the work and stepped upon the parapet amid the guns of the enemy, who fled to the rear. Here I gave the orders to prime and 'Commence firing' and a rattling volley was sent into the camp. First-Lieutenant Frank S. Halliday, acting-adjutant upon my staff, headed a party of about thirty men, mostly from Company E, charged the four-gun battery mentioned above, and captured three pieces of artillery. The fourth piece was run out of the fort, but before it could escape was captured by

Lieutenant Halliday's men. Private William Railton, Company E, loaded this piece to the muzzle with stones, and as the rebels made a counter-charge to retake the piece, fired it into their midst. The gun burst into fragments, but the enemy made no more charges. Lieutenant John K. Dorrance was wounded, but Lieutenant Halliday had the satisfaction of bringing down with his pistol the man who did it.

"After firing our volley we jumped into the rebel works and gradually forced the enemy to leave the cover of their huts, from behind which they were firing. My orders were to find the Boydton Plank road and then halt. We soon reached the road, and here the other troops of the brigade joined us. The Sixth Corps now found a line perpendicular to the rebel fortification, and we swept down towards Hatcher's Run, taking prisoners and cannon and driving the enemy into the hands of our troops, who had broken through the enemy's line on our left. After marching perhaps three miles, we retraced our steps and soon after midday we found ourselves in front of the enemy's interior lines. We slowly advanced and crowded the rebels, until at dark we could look

down the length of the main streets of the city. General Edwards asked permission to charge with his brigade into the town, but was refused. As darkness settled down upon the scene, the officers of the regiment gathered about the colors, when we sang with grateful hearts, 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow.'

"Monday, April 3, 1865. This morning at daylight General Edwards sent the Thirty-seventh Massachusetts into Petersburg. The brigade was under arms and watched the regiment, as, with skirmishers deployed, they entered the streets of the city. But all was quiet, and soon the news of the evacuation was known throughout the Sixth Corps. Mayor Towne and other city officials came out with a white flag and surrendered the city (as far as he had authority to do so in his civil capacity) to Brigadier-General Oliver Edwards." The Second Rhode Island met with many losses during the siege, including one officer, wounded. We were not permitted to visit the captured city, but turning our backs upon the place that had caused us so much hardship and sorrow, we took up our march in pursuit of the Army of Northern Virginia, which pursuit ended at Appomattox.

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OF

RHODE ISLAND

PERSONAL NARRATIVES

SEVENTH SERIES

Numbers 1 to 10

1905 - 15

CONTENTS

- No. 1. REMINISCENCES OF THE BURNSIDE EXPEDITION. By
WILLIAM H. CHENERY.
- No. 2. FROM THE RAPIDAN TO THE JAMES UNDER GRANT. By
EZRA K. PARKER.
- No. 3. AN INCIDENT IN THE BATTLE OF MIDDLEBURG, VA. By
CHARLES O. GREEN.
- No. 4. WAR REMINISCENCES. By MARTIN S. JAMES.
- No. 5. THE SAILOR ON HORSEBACK. By WILLIAM E. MEYER.
- No. 6. CAMPAIGN OF BATTERY D. FIRST RHODE ISLAND LIGHT
ARTILLERY, IN KENTUCKY AND EAST TENNESSEE. By
EZRA K. PARKER.
- No. 7. THE NEGRO AS A SOLDIER. By GEORGE R. SHERMAN.
- No. 8. THE MILITARY SERVICES OF MAJOR-GENERAL AMBROSE
EVERETT BURNSIDE IN THE CIVIL WAR. PART I. By
DANIEL R. BALLOU.
- No. 9. THE MILITARY SERVICES OF MAJOR-GENERAL AMBROSE
EVERETT BURNSIDE IN THE CIVIL WAR. PART II. By
DANIEL R. BALLOU.
- No. 10. THE SECOND RHODE ISLAND VOLUNTEERS AT THE SIEGE
OF PETERSBURG, VA. By ELISHA H. RHODES.

No. 10 of the seventh series completes one hundred printed papers of the Soldiers and Sailors Historical Society of R. I. General Elisha H. Rhodes wrote No. 1 and No. 100.

We are asked when this work will end. "The Guard dies, it does not surrender." These papers will be printed each year until the last old veteran interested in this work dies.

GEORGE N. BLISS,

Chairman of Publication Committee.

Brig.-Gen. Charles W. Abbot, Jr., has courteously furnished from the records in the Adjutant-General's office, data of the men who wrote many of these historical papers, which is given in the following as a resumé of their services.

FIRST SERIES.

LT.-COL. ELISHA H. RHODES, Second Regiment, R. I. Volunteers. Residence, Pawtuxet, R. I. June 5, 1861, enrolled; June 5, 1861, mustered in. Originally served as Corporal, Co. D (old organization). November 6, 1861, detailed as Clerk at Division Headquarters, and so borne until March, 1862; March 1, 1862, promoted Sergeant-Major, and transferred to Non-Commissioned Staff; July 24, 1862, promoted Second Lieutenant, and assigned to Co. D; March 2, 1863, commissioned First Lieutenant, and mustered in as First Lieutenant, to rank as such from April 15, 1863; March 23, 1863, granted leave of absence for ten days; April, 1863, on daily duty commanding Co. B, and so borne until November, 1863; November 6, 1863, appointed Adjutant, and transferred to Field and Staff; February, 1864, on leave of absence for thirty-five days; mustered in as Captain, to date from June 26, 1864, and assigned to Co. B; June, 1864, ordered to command the regiment, and borne as in command until mustered out; December 5, 1864, appointed Brevet-Major, U. S. Volunteers for gallant conduct at the Battle of Winchester, Va., September 19, 1864; January 19, 1865, granted leave of absence for eighteen days; February 6, 1865, promoted Lieutenant-Colonel; Brevet-Colonel U. S. Volunteers, for gallant and meritorious service before Petersburg, Va.; July, 1865, commissioned Colonel, but never mustered as such; July 13, 1865, mustered out.

LT.-COL. J. ALBERT MONROE, Field and Staff, First Regiment, R. I. Light Artillery. Residence, Providence, R. I. June 6, 1861, commissioned; June 6, 1861, mustered in. Originally served as First Lieutenant, Battery A; September 7, 1861, commissioned Captain, mustered in as such to date from September 7, 1861, and assigned to Battery D; October 24, 1862, promoted Major; October 29, 1862, resigned as Captain to accept promotion; mustered in as Major to date October 21, 1862; November, 1862, in command of Camp

Barry, Washington, D. C., and so borne until October, 1863; commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel and mustered in as such to date December 4, 1862; October, 1863, commanding Artillery Brigade, Second Army Corps, Army of Potomac, and so borne until March, 1864; March, 1864, on recruiting service; April, 1864, Inspector of Artillery; May, 1864, commanding Artillery Brigade, Ninth Army Corps, and so borne until October 5, 1864, when mustered out near Poplar Grove Church, Va.

CAPT. GEORGE N. BLISS, Co. C, First R. I. Cavalry. Residence, Pawtucket, R. I. October 4, 1861, commissioned First Lieutenant, Co. G; originally served in Co. B as Private and Quartermaster-Sergeant; borne on extra duty as Quartermaster of regiment from October 14, 1861, to December 21, 1861; June, 1862, assumed command of Co. G; mustered in as Captain to date August 4, 1862, and assigned to Co. C; July 16, 1863, detached for service with detachment; August, 1863, detached for service at Conscript Camp, and so borne until May, 1864; August, 1864, sent to hospital at Annapolis, Md.; September 28, 1864, wounded and captured at Waynesboro, Va.; transferred to Co. C (new organization), by order dated December 21, 1864; February 5, 1865, paroled; honorably discharged to date May 15, 1865.

PAYMASTER'S CLERK FRANK B. BUTTS, U. S. Navy. Originally served as Corporal, Battery E, First Regiment, R. I. Light Artillery. September 30, 1861, enrolled; September 30, 1861, mustered in; discharged to date September 23, 1862; re-enlisted in U. S. Navy October 3, 1862, as Landsman; served on "North Carolina," Washington Station, "Monitor" and "Stepping Stones"; October 2, 1863, discharged from "Stepping Stones"; January 25, 1864, appointed Paymaster's Steward on "Flag," and served as such to March 12, 1865; March 14, 1865, appointed Clerk; April 23, 1865, discharged.

CAPT. CHARLES H. PARKHURST, Co. C, Eleventh R. I. Volunteers. Residence, Providence, R. I. September 19, 1862, enrolled; October 1, 1862, mustered in; July 13, 1863, mustered out.

LT.-COL. CHARLES H. PARKHURST, Third R. I. Cavalry. August 31, 1863, commissioned; February 4, 1864, mustered in; May, 1864, absent, sick; borne as absent on sick leave

from July 15, 1864, until October 28, 1864; February, 1865, in command of three companies of the regiment and so borne until May, 1865; resigned and honorably discharged by order dated May 26, 1865.

COL. EDWIN METCALF, Third Regiment, R. I. Heavy Artillery. August 27, 1861, commissioned; October 9, 1861, mustered in; originally commissioned Major; borne on leave of absence for thirty days from March 26, 1862; May, 1862, in command of Battalion at North Edisto Island; June, 1862, in command of Battalion at James Island; August 5, 1862, resigned; September 15, 1862, commissioned Colonel Eleventh R. I. Volunteers; October 1, 1862 mustered in; November, 1862, resigned; November 11, 1862, appointed Colonel Third Regiment, R. I. Heavy Artillery; July, 1863, Post Commandant at Hilton Head, S. C.; August, 1863, on detached service at New Haven, Conn., and so borne until September 29, 1863; October, 1863, on detached service at Morris Island, S. C., on examining board; November 22, 1863, ordered on detached service to command U. S. forces at Fort Pulaski and Tybee Island, Ga., and so borne until January, 1864; February 5, 1864, resigned.

SECOND SERIES.

ACTG. ASST. PAYMASTER SAMUEL T. BROWNE, U. S. Navy (Regular), appointed from Rhode Island. Originally served as Private, Co. D, Tenth R. I. Volunteers. Residence, Providence, R. I. May 26, 1862, enrolled; May 26, 1862, mustered in; September 1, 1862, mustered out; September 30, 1862, appointed Acting Assistant Paymaster, U. S. Navy; during service, served on "Montauk," "Onondaga," "Mackinaw," "Ashuelot," "Phlox," and "Powhatan"; December 20, 1864, resigned as Acting Assistant Paymaster; March 9, 1865, appointed Assistant Paymaster; May 4, 1866, commissioned Passed Assistant Paymaster; March 22, 1867, commissioned Paymaster; borne as Naval Storekeeper at Rio de Janeiro and at Naval Academy; June 11, 1870, ordered on special duty at Washington; June 15, 1881, died at Newport, R. I.

FIRST LT. CALEB H. BARNEY, Co. F, Fourteenth R. I. Heavy Artillery. Originally served as Sergeant, Co. A, Fifth R. I. Heavy Artillery. Residence, Providence, R. I. December 4, 1861, enrolled; December 27, 1861, mustered in; originally served as Private; promoted Corporal; June, 1862, absent on furlough, sick; July, 1863, on detached service by order, and so borne until January, 1864; January 14, 1864, discharged by reason of promotion in Fourteenth R. I. Heavy Artillery; November 15, 1863, commissioned First Lieutenant, Co. F, Fourteenth R. I. Heavy Artillery; mustered in to date December 2, 1863; originally served in Co. K; January 20, 1864, transferred to Co. F by general order dated December 26, 1863; January 21, 1864, detached as Battalion Adjutant, and so borne until March, 1864; detached as Post Adjutant by order dated March 27, 1864, and so borne until August, 1864; August 24, 1864, ordered on special duty as Adjutant, Second Battalion; borne on special duty as Battalion and Post Adjutant from September 23, 1864, until January, 1865; October 2, 1865, mustered out.

SECOND LT. PHILIP S. CHASE, Battery F, First R. I. Light Artillery. Residence, Portsmouth, R. I. October 7, 1861, enrolled; October 20, 1861, mustered in; originally served as Corporal; May, 1863, discharged as First Sergeant, by reason of promotion; May 14, 1863, commissioned Second Lieutenant; mustered in as Second Lieutenant; granted leave of absence for twenty-five days, from June 24, 1863; December, 1863, granted leave of absence for ten days by special order; borne in command of Battery from October 27, 1864, until November, 1864; November 2, 1864, mustered out at Chapin's Farm, Va., to date October 31, 1864.

ACTG. ENSIGN WILLIAM B. AVERY, U. S. Navy. Appointed from Rhode Island. Originally served in Co. A, First Regiment, R. I. Detached Militia. Residence, Providence, R. I. April 17, 1861, enrolled as Private; May 2, 1861, mustered in; August 2, 1861, mustered out; appointed Acting Ensign, U. S. Navy, June 15, 1863; served on "Dawn"; August 10, 1865, honorably discharged.

MAJ.-GEN. AMBROSE E. BURNSIDE, U. S. Volunteers. Appointed from Rhode Island. Originally served as Colonel,

First Regiment, R. I. Detached Militia. April 17, 1861, enrolled; May 2, 1861, mustered in; August 2, 1861, mustered out; August 6, 1861, commissioned Brigadier-General, U. S. Volunteers; March 18, 1862, commissioned Major-General; resolution of January 28, 1864, that the thanks of Congress be, and they are presented to Major-General Ambrose E. Burnside, and through him to the officers and men who fought under his command, for their gallantry, good conduct, and soldier-like endurance; April 15, 1865, resigned.

CAPT. JOSHUA M. ADDEMAN, Co. H, Fourteenth R. I. Heavy Artillery. Residence, Providence, R. I. Originally served as Private, Co. B, Tenth Regiment, R. I. Volunteers. May 26, 1862, enrolled; twenty-sixth day of May, 1862, mustered in; September 1, 1862, mustered out; commissioned Captain Co. L, December 19, 1863; mustered to date November 23, 1863, by order dated January 12, 1864; January 13, 1864, transferred to Co. H; November 17, 1864, ordered on special duty, Judge Advocate, Military Commission; October 2, 1865, mustered out.

SECOND LT. GEORGE B. PECK, JR., Co. G, Second R. I. Volunteers. Residence, Providence, R. I. December 13, 1864, enrolled; December 13, 1864, mustered in; April 6, 1865, wounded at the battle of Salor's Creek, sent to hospital, and borne as absent sick until June, 1865; June 30, 1865, resigned.

HORATIO ROGERS, JR., Brevet Brigadier-General of Volunteers. Residence, Providence, R. I. Originally served as Major, Field and Staff, Third Regiment, R. I. Heavy Artillery. August 27, 1861, commissioned; originally served as First Lieutenant, Co. D; commissioned Captain to date October 9, 1861; October 9, 1861, mustered in as Captain, and transferred to Co. H; January 4, 1862, ordered to Fort Sewall; May, 1862, ordered to North Edisto; August 18, 1862, commissioned Major; December 27, 1863, commissioned Colonel, Eleventh R. I. Volunteers; January 10, 1863, resigned; January 22, 1863, reported for duty; February 6, 1863, resigned; January 31, 1863, commissioned Colonel Second R. I. Volunteers; February 6, 1863, mustered in; on leave of absence for twenty days from March 19, 1863; January, 1864, resigned and honorably discharged January 15, 1864; March 13, 1865, Brevet

Brigadier-General of Volunteers, for gallant and meritorious services during the war.

CHAPLAIN FREDERICK DENISON, First R. I. Cavalry. Residence, Pawtucket, R. I. November 7, 1861, commissioned; borne on leave of absence (sick), from November 14, 1862, until December 4, 1862; January 19, 1863, resigned and honorably discharged; appointed Chaplain, Third Regiment, R. I. Heavy Artillery, January 20, 1863; January 20, 1863, mustered in; granted leave of absence by order dated May 9, 1863; September 29, 1863, returned to duty; October, 1863, on detached service with Battalion at Morris Island, S. C.; January, 1864, at Fort Pulaski, and so borne until September, 1864, when he was ordered to Rhode Island for muster out; October 5, 1864, mustered out.

PRIV. WILLIAM A. SPICER, Co. B, Tenth R. I. Volunteers. Residence, Providence, R. I. May 26, 1862, enrolled; May 26, 1862, mustered in; July 1, 1862, detailed for special service as Clerk for General Pope, at Washington, by order from Headquarters; September 1, 1862, mustered out.

SECOND LT. CHARLES H. WILLIAMS, Co. B, Third R. I. Heavy Artillery. Residence, Providence, R. I. August 20, 1861, enrolled; August 20, 1861, mustered in; originally served as Sergeant, Co. A; January 1, 1863, promoted First Sergeant; January 16, 1864, granted furlough of twenty-five days; February 3, 1864, commissioned Second Lieutenant, and mustered in as such to date February 15, 1864, and assigned to Co. F, by order dated February 14, 1864; September, 1864, with Co. H; October 6, 1864, transferred to Co. B; August 23, 1865, commissioned First Lieutenant (never mustered); August 27, 1865, mustered out.

CHAPLAIN AUGUSTUS WOODBURY, First Regiment, R. I. Detached Militia. Residence, Providence, R. I. April 17, 1861, enrolled; May 2, 1861, mustered in; August 2, 1861, mustered out.

FIRST LT. JOHN K. BUCKLIN, Battery E, First R. I. Light Artillery. Residence, Providence, R. I. September 30, 1861, enrolled; September 30, 1861, mustered in; originally served as Quartermaster-Sergeant; March 1, 1862, commissioned

Second Lieutenant, and discharged as Quartermaster-Sergeant to accept commission; September 3, 1862, sent to General Hospital, and borne as in General Hospital until December, 1862, when he returned; December 31, 1862, commissioned First Lieutenant; January 6, 1863, discharged as Second Lieutenant to accept commission; July, 1863, wounded at the battle of Gettysburg, Pa.; August, 1863, commanding Battery, and so borne until April, 1864; October, 1863, on detached service as A. A. A. G., Artillery Brigade, Third Corps; borne on detached service as A. D. C., Headquarters, Artillery Brigade, Sixth Corps, from May 4, 1864, until February, 1865; January 11, 1865, commissioned Captain (never mustered); February 2, 1865, mustered out; Brevet-Captain for gallant, meritorious and oftentimes distinguished service throughout the campaign before Richmond and the Valley of the Shenandoah, to date from October 19, 1864.

THIRD SERIES.

CAPT. THOMAS SIMPSON, Captain Battery F, First R. I. Light Artillery. Residence, Providence, R. I. Originally served as Corporal, First Light Battery, R. I. Volunteers, April 17, 1861, May 2, 1861; August 6, 1861, mustered out; October 17, 1861, commissioned Second Lieutenant, Battery F, First R. I. Light Artillery; October 29, 1861, mustered in; borne on detached service from April 14, 1862, until May, 1862; July 30, 1862, ordered on detached service; August 1, 1862, returned to Battery; November 5, 1862, commissioned and mustered in as First Lieutenant; April 9, 1863, assumed command of Battery, and borne as in command until September 25, 1863, when granted leave of absence for twenty days, by order dated September 18, 1863; November 28, 1863, assumed command of Battery; December 23, 1863, assumed command of Battery; commanding Battery from May 16, 1864, until October, 1864; October 2, 1864, captured at Charles City Courthouse; February 2, 1865, paroled at James River, Va.; February 23, 1865, reported at Annapolis, Md.; March

31, 1865, commissioned Captain; April 15, 1865, exchanged and ordered to regiment; mustered in as Captain to date April 12, 1865; June 27, 1865, mustered out.

CAPT. OSCAR LAPHAM, Co. K, Twelfth R. I. Volunteers. Residence, Burrillville, R. I. October 10, 1862, commissioned; October 13, 1862, mustered in; originally served as First Lieutenant, Co. B; November 7, 1862, detached from regiment as A. D. C. to D. R. Wright, Colonel commanding First Brigade, Casey's Division; December 10, 1862, returned to regiment; December 27, 1862, appointed Adjutant; March, 1863, absent on furlough; March 24, 1863, commissioned Captain; April 15, 1863, mustered in, and assigned to Co. K; June 29, 1863, detached for duty as Judge Advocate on Court Martial at Jamestown; July 29, 1863, mustered out.

G. M. SGT. PARDON E. TILLINGHAST, Twelfth Regiment, R. I. Volunteers. Residence, Pawtucket, R. I. September 13, 1862, enrolled; October 13, 1862, mustered in; July 29, 1863, mustered out.

CAPT. WILLIAM W. DOUGLAS, Co. C, Fifth R. I. Heavy Artillery. Residence, Providence, R. I. November 30, 1861, commissioned; December 14, 1861, mustered in; originally served as Second Lieutenant, Co. B; borne in command of Co. D from April 10, 1862, until June 7, 1862; June 7, 1862, commissioned First Lieutenant, and assigned to Co. D; borne on detached service as Provost Marshal, District of Beaufort, from June 30, 1862, until August 7, 1862; September 26, 1862, ordered on recruiting service at Providence, R. I.; February 14, 1863, commissioned Captain and assigned to Co. C; on recruiting service from July 6, 1863, until February 14, 1864; borne in command at Fort Union, N. C., from May 5, 1864, until May 20, 1864; borne in command at Fort Gaston, N. C., from May 21, 1864, until December 20, 1864; September, 1864, on sick leave for twenty days, same extended thirty days, by order dated October 19, 1864; December 22, 1864, mustered out at Varina, Va., at expiration term of service.

FIRST SGT. ALONZO WILLIAMS, Battery A, Third R. I. Heavy Artillery. Residence, North Scituate, R. I. September 5, 1861, enrolled; October 5, 1861, mustered in; May 4, 1862,

promoted Corporal; promoted Sergeant to date January 1, 1863; re-mustered as a Veteran Volunteer, to date January 30, 1864; June and July, 1864, absent North on furlough; January 1, 1865, promoted First Sergeant; July 6, 1865, commissioned Second Lieutenant (never mustered); August 4, 1865, mustered out.

FOURTH SERIES.

CORP. WILLIAM H. NICHOLS, Co. A, Seventh Squad, R. I. Cavalry. June 18, 1862, enrolled; June 24, 1862, mustered in; October 2, 1862, mustered out.

PRIV. ALBERT R. GREENE, Co. K, Eleventh R. I. Volunteers. Residence, Warwick, R. I. September 22, 1862, enrolled; October 1, 1862, mustered in; July 13, 1863, mustered out.

PRIV. GEORGE C. SUMNER, Battery D, First R. I. Light Artillery. Residence, Providence, R. I. September 4, 1861, enrolled; September 4, 1861, mustered in; September 3, 1864, mustered out at Charlestown, Va.

PRIV. WILLIAM WHITMAN BAILEY, Co. D, Tenth R. I. Volunteers. Residence, Providence, R. I. May 26, 1862, enrolled; May 26, 1862, mustered in; July 15, 1862, discharged at Fort De Russy on surgeon's certificate.

SGT. JOHN H. RHODES, Fifth R. I. Heavy Artillery and Battery B, First R. I. Light Artillery. Residence, Providence, R. I. August 13, 1861, enrolled; August 13, 1861, mustered in; November 18, 1862, promoted Corporal; August 12, 1864, discharged near Petersburg, Va.; re-enlisted as Private, Battery B, Fifth R. I. Heavy Artillery, July 28, 1863; July 28, 1863, mustered in; borne as absent in hospital at Washington, N. C., from November 17, 1863, until December, 1863; transferred to Third North Carolina Colored Volunteers, by order dated January, 1864.

FIFTH SERIES.

SECOND LT. CHARLES M. SMITH, Co. C, First R. I. Detached Militia; Co. D, Tenth R. I. Volunteers; Co. I, Eleventh R. I. Volunteers, and Co. L, Fourteenth R. I. Heavy Artillery. Residence, Providence, R. I. April 11, 1861, enrolled as Private; May 2, 1861, mustered in; August 2, 1861, mustered out; May 26, 1862, enrolled as Private; May 26, 1862, mustered in; September 1, 1862, mustered out; September 15, 1862, enrolled as Sergeant; October 1, 1862, mustered in; July 13, 1863, mustered out; enrolled in Fourteenth R. I. Heavy Artillery at Dutch Island, R. I.; January 12, 1864, appointed Second Lieutenant; January 30, 1864, mustered in; detached for duty in Co. K, by order dated November 17, 1864; October 2, 1865, mustered out.

SECOND LT. BENJAMIN H. CHILD, Battery H, First R. I. Light Artillery. Residence, Providence, R. I. June 6, 1861, enrolled as Sergeant, Battery A; June 6, 1861, mustered in; July 21, 1861, wounded at the battle of Bull Run, Va.; September 17, 1862, slightly wounded at the battle of Antietam; July 2, 1863, severely wounded at the battle of Gettysburg, Pa., sent to hospital, and borne as in hospital until December 26, 1863, when he joined for duty; January 8, 1864, discharged by reason of promotion to Second Lieutenant, Battery H; November 6, 1863, commissioned Second Lieutenant, Battery H; mustered in to date January 8, 1864; promoted from Sergeant, Battery A; August, 1864, in Rhode Island on leave of absence (sick), for thirty days; November 23, 1864, discharged.

SGT. WILLIAM GARDINER, Co. A, First R. I. Cavalry. Residence, Pawtucket, R. I. October 29, 1861, enrolled; October 29, 1861, mustered in; originally served as Sergeant, Co. F (old organization); June 18, 1863, captured near Middleburg, Va.; subsequently paroled; January 5, 1864, re-mustered as a Veteran Volunteer; June, 1864, absent sick, and so borne until September, 1864; transferred to Co. A (new organization), by order dated December 21, 1864; borne on detached service at Providence Cavalry Brigade Headquarters from March 23, 1865, until June, 1865; August 3, 1865, mustered out.

CAPT. SUMNER U. SHEARMAN, Co. A, Fourth R. I. Volunteers; August 27, 1862; originally served as second Lieutenant; December 7, 1862, mustered in as First Lieutenant; March 2, 1863, mustered in as Captain; July 30, 1864, captured before Petersburg, Va.; December 8, 1864, released from Columbia, S. C.; discharged to date December 18, 1864, by order.

SIXTH SERIES.

CORP. LEVERETT C. STEVENS, Co. E, First R. I. Cavalry. Residence, Providence, R. I. December 9, 1861, enrolled; December 9, 1861, mustered in; originally served as Private; June 23, 1862, discharged for disability, at Washington; re-enlisted in Co. B, September 10, 1862; mustered in September 10, 1862; originally served as Private, Co. E (old organization); June 18, 1863, captured; exchanged; October 12, 1863, taken prisoner at Sulphur Springs, Va.; transferred to Co. B (new organization), by order dated December 21, 1864; April 22, 1865, paroled at Vicksburg, Miss.; July 10, 1865, mustered out.

SGT. WILLIAM J. CROSSLEY, Co. C, Second R. I. Volunteers. Residence, South Providence, R. I. June 5, 1861, enrolled; June 5, 1861, mustered in; July 21, 1861, wounded and captured at the battle of Bull Run; May 25, 1862, paroled at Washington, D. C.; exchanged and returned to the regiment, October 10, 1862; June 10, 1863, promoted Corporal; August 2, 1863, promoted Sergeant; June, 1864, wounded in left hip at Cold Harbor, and admitted to Depot Field Hospital, Sixth Army Corps, Army of Potomac, White House, Va.; rejoined the regiment and mustered out with company, June 17, 1864.

FIRST LT. AND ADJ. HENRY J. SPOONER, Fourth R. I. Volunteers. August 27, 1862, appointed Second Lieutenant and Adjutant; October 5, 1862, mustered in as First Lieutenant, and borne as Adjutant until February 25, 1864, when he was transferred to Co. E, as First Lieutenant; July, 1863, detached at New Haven, Conn., the rendezvous of conscripts

from Rhode Island, and so borne until November, 1863; borne as absent sick from October 23, 1863, until February, 1864; February, 1864, Assistant Commissary of Subsistence, Third Brigade, Heckman's Division, Eighteenth Army Corps, and so borne until April, 1864; April, 1864, Assistant Commissary of Subsistence on Staff of Colonel Steere; April 30, 1864, ordered to act as Assistant Commissary of Subsistence, Second Brigade, First Division, Eighteenth Army Corps, and so borne until November, 1864; November, 1864, Acting Adjutant, Seventh R. I. Volunteers; and mustered out as First Lieutenant and Adjutant February 3, 1865, being rendered supernumerary by consolidation.

COL. JAMES SHAW, JR., Brevet Brigadier-General, Tenth R. I. Volunteers, and Lieutenant-Colonel, Twelfth R. I. Volunteers. May 26, 1862, enrolled at Providence, R. I.; mustered in to date May 26, 1862; originally served in the Tenth Infantry as Lieutenant-Colonel; August 11, 1862, promoted Colonel; September 1, 1862, mustered out; December 31, 1862, commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel, Twelfth R. I. Volunteers; mustered in to date January 5, 1863; July 29, 1863, mustered out; October 27, 1863, appointed Colonel of the Seventh U. S. Colored Troops, and mustered in as such November 14, 1863; In command of Post at Jacksonville, Fla., and Brigadier in expedition at Cedar Creek and Camp Melton; from August 13 to August 21, August 25 to September 25, and October 26 to December 4, 1864, in command of First Brigade, Third Division, Tenth Army Corps; December 4, 1864, in command of First Brigade, Second Division Twenty-fifth Army Corps, and so borne until the Brigade was disbanded by the muster out of the other regiments of the Brigade, February 13, 1866; February 21, 1865, commanding Second Division, Twenty-fifth Army Corps, and so borne until March 13, 1865; January 16, 1866, in command of Sub-District, Victoria, Tex., and so borne until February 21, 1866, when he assumed command of General District of Texas, and remained in command until May 9, 1866; September 30, 1864, wounded in action by rifle ball (contusion of head); March 13, 1865, Brevet Brigadier-General for meritorious service during the war; October 13, 1866, paid and discharged with regiment at Baltimore, Md., the same being then and there disbanded.

CORP. PATRICK EGAN, Co. C, Third R. I. Heavy Artillery. Residence, Providence, R. I. August 22, 1861, enrolled; October 5, 1861, mustered in; August 12, 1863, promoted Corporal; August 22, 1864, discharged.

SEVENTH SERIES.

FIRST LT. WILLIAM H. CHENERY, Fourteenth R. I. Heavy Artillery. Residence, Providence, R. I. December 11, 1861, enrolled in Co. D, Fifth R. I. Heavy Artillery; December 16, 1861, mustered in; May 1, 1862, promoted Corporal; June 13, 1863, promoted Sergeant; August, 1863, on detached service, and so borne until December, 1863; December, 1863, discharged by reason of promotion in the Fourteenth R. I. Heavy Artillery; December 14, 1863, commissioned First Lieutenant, Co. F, Fourteenth R. I. Heavy Artillery; December 21, 1863, mustered in; June 17, 1864, temporarily assigned to Co. E; November, 1864, ordered on duty in Co. G, and so borne until January, 1865; October 2, 1865, mustered out; October 5, 1865, detailed to take command of Co. E, and borne as responsible for ordnance and ordnance stores until disbandment of regiment in November, 1865.

FIRST LT. EZRA K. PARKER, Battery E, First R. I. Light Artillery. Residence, Coventry, R. I. September 7, 1861, commissioned Second Lieutenant, Battery D; September 9, 1861, mustered in; November 30, 1862, mustered out, and re-commissioned Second Lieutenant by Governor of Rhode Island same day; again mustered in to date December 15, 1862; borne on detached service at Knoxville, Tenn., from December 8, 1863, until January, 1864; March, 1864, absent with leave; April 23, 1864, mustered out by reason of promotion to First Lieutenant, Battery E; April 8, 1864, commissioned First Lieutenant, Battery E; mustered in to date April 23, 1864; September, 1864, commanding Battery; granted leave of absence for fifteen days, by order dated November 23, 1864; December, 1864, commanding Battery, and so borne until June, 1865; June 14, 1865, mustered out.

PRIV. CHARLES O. GREEN, Co. M, First R. I. Cavalry. September 28, 1862, enrolled at Providence, R. I.; October 8, 1862, mustered in; transferred to New Hampshire Cavalry, by order dated January 7, 1864.

CAPT. MARTIN S. JAMES, Co. C, Third R. I. Heavy Artillery. Residence, Providence, R. I. August 20, 1861, enrolled; August 20, 1861, mustered in; originally served as Second Lieutenant, Co. A; January 15, 1862, appointed Post Adjutant; borne on leave of absence for sixty days from April 25, 1862; July 19, 1862, ordered on detached service as A. D. C. on General Terry's staff, and so borne until relieved by order dated August 10, 1863; December 29, 1862, commissioned First Lieutenant; mustered in as such to date January 1, 1863; February 21, 1863, assigned to duty in Co. E; November 2, 1863, commissioned Captain; November 17, 1863, transferred to Co. C, and mustered in as Captain Co. C, to date November 20, 1863; borne on leave of absence for twenty-five days from January 7, 1865; June 9, 1865, mustered out.

CORP. WILLIAM E. MEYER, Co. H, First R. I. Cavalry. October 28, 1861, enrolled at Newport, R. I.; December 14, 1861, mustered in; originally served as Private; November 13, 1863, taken prisoner at New Baltimore; April 30, 1864, relieved at City Point, Va.; October 27, 1864, mustered out near Strasburg, Va.

SECOND LT. DANIEL R. BALLOU, Co. C, Twelfth R. I. Volunteers. Residence, Burrillville, R. I. August 23, 1862, enrolled; October 13, 1862, mustered in; originally served as Private, Co. K; November 9, 1862, promoted Sergeant-Major; mustered out as Sergeant-Major, and mustered in as Second Lieutenant to date November 20, 1862; November 29, 1862, assigned to Co. G; December 13, 1862, wounded at the battle of Fredericksburg, Va.; sent to hospital, and borne as absent sick until February, 1863, when he returned to company; December 30, 1862, transferred to Co. C, as Second Lieutenant; April 25, 1863, resigned.

THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDALS OF HONOR AWARDED TO RHODE ISLAND SOLDIERS.

Of the sixteen Medals of Honor in this list nine were won by men who were in this charge of the Sixth Corps at Petersburg, Va., April 2, 1865.

WILLIAM J. BABCOCK.—Sergeant, Co. E, 2d R. I. Inf., March 2, 1865; Petersburg, Va., April 2, 1865.—Planted the flag upon the parapet while the enemy still occupied the line; was the first of his regiment to enter the works.

JAMES A. BARBER.—Corporal, Co. G, 1st R. I. A., June 20, 1866; Petersburg, Va., April 2, 1865.—Was one of a detachment of twenty picked artillerymen who voluntarily accompanied an infantry assaulting party, and who turned upon the enemy the guns captured in the assault.

GEORGE N. BLISS.—Captain, Co. C, 1st R. I. Cav., August 3, 1897; Waynesboro, Va., September 28, 1864.—While in command of the provost guard in the village he saw the Union lines returning before the attack of a greatly superior force of the enemy, mustered his guard, and without order joined in the defense and charged the enemy without support. He received three saber wounds, his horse was shot, and he was taken prisoner.

ZENAS R. BLISS.—Colonel, 7th R. I. Inf., December 30, 1898; Fredericksburg, Va., December 13, 1862.—This officer, to encourage his regiment, which had never before been in action, and which had been ordered to lie down to protect itself from the enemy's fire, arose to his feet, advanced in front of the line, and himself fired several shots at the enemy at short range, being fully exposed to their fire at the time.

JOHN K. BUCKLIN.—First Lieutenant, B. Co., 1st R. I. L. A., July 13, 1899; Chancellorsville, Va., May 3, 1863.—Though himself wounded, gallantly fought his section of the battery

under a fierce fire from the enemy until his ammunition was all expended, many of the cannoneers and most of the horses killed or wounded and the enemy within twenty-five yards of the guns, when, disabling one piece, he brought off the other in safety.

JAMES H. BURBANK.—Sergeant, Co. K, 4th R. I. Inf., July 27, 1896; Blackwater, near Franklin, Va., October 3, 1862,—Gallantry in action while on detached service on board a gunboat.

BENJAMIN H. CHILD.—Corporal, Battery A, 1st R. I. L. A., July 20, 1897; Antietam, Md., September 17, 1862,—Was wounded and taken to the rear insensible, but, when partially recovered, insisted on returning to the battery, and resumed command of his piece, so remaining until the close of the battle.

JOHN CORCORAN.—Private, Co. G, 1st R. I. L. A., November 2, 1887; Petersburg, Va., April 2, 1865,—Was one of a detachment of twenty picked artillerymen who voluntarily accompanied an infantry assaulting party, and who turned upon the enemy the guns captured in the assault.

CHARLES D. ENNIS.—Private, Co. G, 1st R. I. L. A., June 28, 1892; Petersburg, Va., April 2, 1865,—Was one of a detachment of twenty picked artillerymen who voluntarily accompanied an infantry assaulting party, and who turned upon the enemy the guns captured in the assault.

JOHN H. HAVRON.—Sergeant, Co. G, 1st R. I. L. A., June 16, 1866; Petersburg, Va., April 2, 1865,—Was one of a detachment of twenty picked artillerymen who voluntarily accompanied an infantry assaulting party, and who turned upon the enemy the guns captured in the assault.

SAMUEL E. LEWIS.—Corporal Co, G, 1st R. I. L. A., June 16, 1866; Petersburg, Va., April 2, 1865,—Was one of a detachment of twenty picked artillerymen who voluntarily accompanied an infantry assaulting party, and who turned upon the enemy the guns captured in the assault.

ARCHIBALD MOLBONE.—Sergeant Co. G, 1st R. I. L. A., June 20, 1866; Petersburg, Va., April 2, 1865,—Was one of a

detachment of twenty picked artillerymen who voluntarily accompanied an infantry assaulting party, and who turned upon the enemy the guns captured in the assault.

THOMAS PARKER.—Corporal, Co. B, 2d R. I. Inf., May 29, 1867; Petersburg, Va., April 2, 1865; Sailors Creek, Va., April 6, 1865.—Carried the regimental colors over the creek after the regiment had broken and been repulsed.

GEORGE W. POTTER.—Private, Co. G, 1st R. I. L. A., March 4, 1886; Petersburg, Va., April 2, 1865.—Was one of a detachment of twenty picked artillerymen who voluntarily accompanied an infantry assaulting party, and who turned upon the enemy the guns captured in the assault.

JOSEPH TAYLOR.—Private, Co. E, 7th R. I. Inf., July 20, 1897; Weldon Railroad, Va., August 18, 1864.—While acting as an orderly to a general officer on the field, and alone, encountered a picket of three of the enemy and compelled their surrender.

JAMES WELSH.—Private, Co. E, 4th R. I. Inf., June 3, 1905; Petersburg, Va., July 30, 1864.—Bore off the regimental colors after the color-sergeant had been wounded and the color-corporal bearing the colors killed, thereby saving the colors from capture.

APPENDIX

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Historical Society of Rhode Island was organized March 17, 1875, for the purpose of putting in the Public Libraries of this and other States printed narratives of personal experiences of soldier life in the war that resulted in saving the Union.

INDEX

FIRST SERIES.

- No. 1. The First Campaign of the Second Rhode Island Infantry. By ELISHA H. RHODES.
- No. 2. The Rhode Island Artillery at the First Battle of Bull Run. By J. ALBERT MONROE.
- No. 3. Reminiscences of Service in the First Rhode Island Cavalry. By CAPT. GEORGE N. BLISS.
- No. 4. My First Cruise at Sea and the Loss of the Iron Clad Monitor. By FRANK B. BUTTS.
- No. 5. Kit Carson's Fight with the Comanche and Kiowa Indians. By GEORGE H. PETTIS.
- No. 6. A Trip to Richmond as Prisoner of War. By EDWARD P. TOBIE.

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By CHARLES H. PARKHURST.
- No. 8. The Bay Fight. A Sketch of Mobile Bay.
By WILLIAM F. HUTCHINSON.
- No. 9. Personal Incidents in the Early Campaigns
of the Third Regiment, Rhode Island
Volunteers. By EDWIN METCALF.
- No. 10. The Battle of the Mine. By ERVIN T.
CASE.

SECOND SERIES.

- No. 1. First Cruise of the Montauk. By SAMUEL
T. BROWNE.
- No. 2. A Country Boy's First Three Months in the
Army. By C. HENRY BARNEY.
- No. 3. Battery F, First Rhode Island Light Artil-
lery. By PHILIP S. CHASE.
- No. 4. The Marine Artillery with the Burnside
Expedition and the Battle of Camden,
N. C. By WILLIAM B. AVERY.
- No. 5. The Battles of Roanoke Island and Eliza-
beth City. By LORENZO TRAVER, M. D.
- No. 6. The Burnside Expedition. By AMBROSE E.
BURNSIDE, late Major-General, United
States Army.

- No. 7. Reminiscences of Two Years with the Colored Troops. By J. M. ADDEMAN.
- No. 8. A Recruit before Petersburg. By GEORGE B. PECK, JR.
- No. 9. Personal Experiences of the Chancellorsville Campaign. By HORATIO ROGERS.
- No. 10. The Battle of Cedar Mountain; A Personal View. By REV. FREDERIC DENISON, A. M.
- No. 11. Reminiscences of the War of the Rebellion, 1861-5. By J. ALBERT MONROE.
- No. 12. A Cruise along the Blockade. By FRANK B. BUTTS.
- No. 13. The High School Boys of the Tenth R. I. Regiment, with an Appendix, The High School in the Civil War. By WILLIAM A. SPICER.
- No. 14. Service of the Cavalry in the Army of the Potomac. By EDWARD P. TOBIE, late Second-Lieutenant First Maine Cavalry.
- No. 15. Prison Life of Lieut. James M. Fales. By GEORGE N. BLISS.

* Lieut. James M. Fales and I were together when this paper was written. As Comrade Fales told the story of his prison life, I wrote it down as nearly as possible in his own words, and then condensed the narrative as much as possible.

—G. N. BLISS.

- No. 16. The Last Tour of Duty at the Siege of Charleston. By CHARLES H. WILLIAMS.
- No. 17. Ambrose Everett Burnside. By AUGUSTUS WOODBURY.
- No. 18. Incidents of Service with the Eleventh Regiment, R. I. Volunteers. By CHARLES H. PARKHURST.
- No. 19. Battle of Cedar Creek, October 19, 1864. By JOHN K. BUCKLYN, late Captain First R. I. Light Artillery.
- No. 20. A Cruise along the Blockade. By FRANK B. BUTTS.

THIRD SERIES.

- No. 1. Life on the Texan Blockade. By W. F. HUTCHINSON, M. D.
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- No. 4. A Private's Recollections of Fredericksburg. By EUGENE A. CORY.
- No. 5. Camp and Hospital. By GEORGE B. PECK, JR.
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- No. 7. Service with Battery F, First Rhode Island Light Artillery, in North Carolina. By PHILIP S. CHASE.
- No. 8. Gunboat Service on the Nansemond. By FRANK B. BUTTS.
- No. 9. The Battle of Groveton, August 28, 1862. By FREDERIC DENISON.
- No. 10. Recollections of Monocacy. By ALFRED S. ROE.
- No. 11. Recollections of Service in the Twelfth Regiment, Rhode Island Volunteers. By OSCAR LAPHAM.
- No. 12. The March to the Sea. By CHARLES A. HOPKINS.
- No. 13. Reminiscences of Service with Colored Troops in the Army of the Cumberland, 1863-65. By THOMAS J. MORGAN.
- No. 14. Frontier Service during the Rebellion, or a History of Company K, First Infantry, California Volunteers. By GEORGE H. PETTIS.
- No. 15. Reminiscences of Service with the Twelfth Rhode Island Volunteers, and a Memorial of Col. George H. Browne. By PARDON E. TILLINGHAST.

- No. 16. Battery D, First R. I. Light Artillery, at the Battle of Antietam, September 17, 1862. By J. ALBERT MUNROE.
- No. 17. Relief of Washington, North Carolina, by the Fifth Rhode Island Volunteers. By WILLIAM W. DOUGLAS.
- No. 18. A Private's Reminiscences of the First Year of the War. By E. BENJAMIN ANDREWS.
- No. 19. Battle of Kelly's Ford, March 17, 1863. By JACOB B. COOKE.
- No. 20. The Investment of Fort Pulaski. By ALONZO WILLIAMS.

FOURTH SERIES.

- No. 1. From Monocacy to Danville. By ALFRED S. ROE.
- No. 2. Siege and Capture of Harper's Ferry by the Confederates. By WILLIAM H. NICHOLS, Third Corporal Co. A, Seventh Squadron, Rhode Island Cavalry.
- No. 3. Service with Battery F, First R. I. Light Artillery. By PHILIP S. CHASE.
- No. 4. First R. I. Cavalry at Middleburg, Va., June 17 and 18, 1863. By GEORGE N. BLISS, late Captain Troop C, First Rhode Island Cavalry.

- No. 5. Personal Recollections of General Sheridan. By EDWARD P. TOBIE, formerly of the First Maine Cavalry.
- No. 6. The Monitor and the Merrimac. By FRANK B. BUTTS, formerly Paymaster's Clerk, U. S. Navy.
- No. 7. From Bridgeport to Ringgold by way of Lookout Mountain. By ALBERT R. GREENE.
- No. 8. Duffie; and the Monument to his Memory. By GEORGE N. BLISS, late Captain Co. C, First Rhode Island Cavalry.
- No. 9. The Burnside Expedition, and the Engagement at Roanoke Island. By WILLIAM L. WELCH, late of Twenty-third Massachusetts Infantry.
- No. 10. Battery D, First Rhode Island Light Artillery, at the Second Battle of Bull Run. By J. ALBERT MONROE, late Lieut.-Colonel First Rhode Island Light Artillery.
- No. 11. Recollections of Service in Battery D, First Rhode Island Light Artillery. By GEORGE C. SUMNER.
- No. 12. My Boyhood at West Point. By PROF. WILLIAM WHITMAN BAILEY.

- No. 13. From Memphis to Allatoona; and the Battle of Allatoona, October 5, 1864. By GEORGE W. HILL.
- No. 14. Recollections of the United States Naval Academy. By JOHN C. PEGRAM.
- No. 15. With the Ninth Army Corps in East Tennessee. By W. A. NASON.
- No. 16. In a Rebel Prison; or, Experiences in Danville. By ALFRED S. ROE.
- No. 17. Richmond, Annapolis, and Home. By ALFRED S. ROE.
- No. 18. John Albert Monroe, First Rhode Island Light Artillery. A Memorial.
- No. 19. The Gettysburg Gun. By JOHN H. RHODES.
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FIFTH SERIES.

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- No. 2. Kearsarge and Alabama. By WILLIAM H. BADLAM.
- No. 3. From Andersonville to Freedom. By CHARLES M. SMITH.

- No. 4. From Fredericksburg to Gettysburg. By BENJAMIN H. CHILD.
- No. 5. Operations of the Cavalry Corps, February 27, to March 8, 1865, Participated in by the First Rhode Island Cavalry. By WILLIAM GARDINER.
- No. 6. The Organization and First Campaign of Battery E, First Rhode Island Light Artillery. By FRANCIS B. BUTTS.
- No. 7. Assault on Fort Gilmer and Reminiscences of Prison Life. By GEORGE R. SHERMAN.
- No. 8. Battle of the Crater and Experiences of Prison Life. By SUMNER U. SHEARMAN.
- No. 9. Reminiscences of the Signal Service in the Civil War. By HENRY S. TAFFT.
- No. 10. From Spottsylvania to Wilmington, N. C., by Way of Andersonville and Florence. By SIDNEY S. WILLIAMS.

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- No. 4. Extracts from my Diary, and from my Experiences while Boarding with Jefferson Davis, in Three of his Notorious Hotels in Richmond, Va., Tuscaloosa, Ala., and Salisbury, N. C., from July, 1861, to June, 1862. By WILLIAM J. CROSSLEY.
- No. 5. The Maryland Campaign with the Fourth Rhode Island. By HENRY J. SPOONER.
- No. 6. The Sword of Honor. From Captivity to Freedom. By HANNIBAL A. JOHNSON.
- No. 7. Through Chancellorsville, into and out of Libby Prison. By CLAY MACCAULEY.
- No. 8. The Storming of the Lines of Petersburg by the Sixth Corps, April 2, 1865. By HAZARD STEVENS.
- No. 9. Our Last Campaign and Subsequent Service in Texas. By JAMES SHAW.
- No. 10. The Florida Campaign with Light Battery C, Third Rhode Island Heavy Artillery. By PATRICK EGAN.

SEVENTH SERIES.

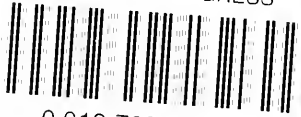
- No. 1. Reminiscences of the Burnside Expedition.
By WILLIAM H. CHENERY.
- No. 2. From the Rapidan to the James, under
Grant. By EZRA K. PARKER.
- No. 3. An Incident in the Battle of Middleburg,
Va. By CHARLES O. GREEN.
- No. 4. War Reminiscences. By MARTIN S. JAMES.
- No. 5. The Sailor on Horseback. By WILLIAM E.
MEYER.
- No. 6. Campaign of Battery D, First Rhode Is-
land Light Artillery, in Kentucky and
East Tennessee. By EZRA K. PARKER.
- No. 7. The Negro as a Soldier. By GEORGE R.
SHERMAN.
- No. 8. The Military Services of Major-General
Ambrose Everett Burnside in the Civil
War. Part I. By DANIEL R. BALLOU.
- No. 9. The Military Services of Major-General
Ambrose Everett Burnside in the Civil
War. Part II. By DANIEL R. BALLOU.
- No. 10. The Second Rhode Island Volunteers at
the Siege of Petersburg. By ELISHA H.
RHODES.

62

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104

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