CHAPTER VI.

THE SECOND REGIMENT, CONTINUED.


On the 9th of November, the regiment, with a company of Pennsylvania cavalry and two field pieces, under Colonel Whiting, made an unopposed reconnoissance to Peacock Hill, four miles north of Vienna. On the 14th of November, the Second was selected, with three other regiments, to hold the position occupied by General Smith’s division, while the rest of the division took part in the grand parade and review by General McClellan.

During the months of November and December, a somewhat noteworthy controversy arose between Colonel Whiting and the State authorities. Several vacancies having occurred in the line by the resignations of Captain Burnham, Co. H, Lieutenants W. W. Henry, Co. D. and S. W. Parkhurst,

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1 The departure of Lieutenant Henry, who resigned in consequence of serious pulmonary trouble, was universally regretted. His health having become restored, he returned to the service ten months later, as Major of the Tenth Vermont.
Co. I., and others, Colonel Whiting forwarded various recommendations for promotions and appointments to the Governor. In view of the fact that company officers sometimes found it difficult to secure obedience from men who were their neighbors and equals at home, the Colonel, in making his list, had made it a point to transfer officers from one company to another. This did not meet the approval of Governor Holbrook, who had recently succeeded to the Governorship. Adjutant General Washburn informed Colonel Whiting that the principle of appointments of line officers, as opposed to the election system in vogue in the State militia, was at variance with the constitution and statutes of the State of Vermont. As the regiments were now in the service of the United States, the State authorities would, however, treat the regulations of the War Department as modifying those of the State. Yet the Governor would require that all recommendations for appointments of commissioned officers be made by a majority of the field officers; that in case of an appointment of a lieutenant, the concurrence of the captain of the company should be obtained; and that when transfers from one company to another were recommended, it should be shown that the transfers were approved by “the subordinates of the company.” Colonel Whiting replied that he recognized his obligation to meet the approval of his superiors; but that to submit his recommendations to his inferiors in rank and even to “subordinates” in the ranks, while in the field, was utterly without precedent in all military history; and that he could not waive his rank as commander of the regiment, nor consent to solicit the approval of the subalterns; nor could he be responsible for the discipline of the regiment “if the head was to be in the tail.” The point was obvious, and the State authorities saw it. The Governor replied that while it was something of a question to what extent the rules of the regular army ought to be applied to volunteer troops largely composed of men of property, education and stand-
ing, all that he required was that some good reasons should be adduced when promotions out of the regular order were recommended. As to obtaining the views of the subalterns he advised that they be consulted when they could be “with propriety.” This was more than Colonel Whiting would yield. He declined to modify his recommendations or to submit further statement of his reasons therefore, and his recommendations were accordingly hung up in the Adjutant General's office, for some time. The muddle was finally ended by the granting of a leave of absence to the Colonel, to visit his home in Michigan. During his absence, his recommendations were renewed by Lieutenant Colonel Stannard, commanding, with such representations as made them satisfactory to the Governor and Adjutant General, and the commissions were issued. The controversy had the effect of settling the system of recommendations and appointments, in the only way in which it could be settled; and thereafter, the recommendations of colonels in the field, for appointments and promotions in their commands, were, as a rule, approved by the Governors, without dispute.

During the month of November the men were supplied with overcoats and other needed clothing; the health of the regiment improved; and throughout the winter the Second was conspicuous among the regiments of the brigade for its comparatively small sick list, due in part perhaps to the more healthful location of its camp, and in part no doubt to the excellent care taken of the men by its colonel and his medical staff. About the middle of December the regimental band was disbanded. Its members had become sick of camp life, and were discharged from the service by order of the Secretary of War.

The regiment passed an uneventful winter, improving steadily in drill and in morale. The disaffection with the colonel almost died away; and in March a notable indication of the respect and confidence of the rank and file was
extended to him by the presentation of a handsome sword, with double scabbard, belt, sash, pistols, saddle and horse equipments, suitably encased and inscribed.²

When the spring campaign of 1862 opened, the regiment broke camp, March 10th, and marched with the brigade and with McClellan's army to Alexandria, went thence by transports to Fortress Monroe, and took its part in the first Peninsula campaign of the Army of the Potomac.

At Lee's Mill, April 16th, where the other regiments of the brigade received their first baptism of blood, the Second was held back as a support, and lost but two men.³

On the 30th of April, one of the most important reconnaissances made by General McClellan before the evacuation of Yorktown, was conducted by the Second regiment. It was sent, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Stannard—Colonel Whiting being engaged on a court martial—to reconnoiter some works which the enemy was supposed to be strengthening below the dams of the Warwick River. Colonel Stannard threw out A., I., and B. companies as skirmishers, who met the enemy's pickets and drove them back half a mile to the cover of their rifle pits. In this skirmish three men were killed.⁴ The enemy beat the long roll and two or three Confederate regiments marched out and deployed in line of battle; but it was not Stannard's purpose to bring on an engagement, and having gained the needed information he withdrew without further loss.

The regiment was with the brigade at Williamsburg,

³ William Fuller of Co. F., killed outright by a piece of shell, and John H. Savory, Co. B., mortally wounded. He died of his wound two days after.
⁴ All of Co. A. Louis Wood was killed outright by a bullet, L. M. Towsley was mortally wounded, and Lucius Carpenter, who with another man went to bring in Wood's body, was killed while stooping over the body of his dead comrade.
and did its share of marching and digging and picket duty on the march toward Richmond and in the operations on the Chickahominy, which occupied the months of May and June, 1862.

During the spring and early summer of 1862, some important changes of field and staff officers took place. In April, Quartermaster Pitkin, having been promoted to be captain and A. Q. M. of volunteers, left the regiment, to the general regret, for a new field of duty, and Quartermaster's Sergeant Lauriston L. Stone succeeded him as quartermaster. On the 21st of May, Lieutenant Colonel Stannard was appointed colonel of the Ninth, then in process of recruiting, and returned to Vermont to assist in the organization of that regiment. His departure was a serious loss to the Second regiment; for he had the confidence of officers and men, and had shown himself a capable and trusty commander during the prolonged absences of Colonel Whiting upon military commissions and court martials. Major Joyce was promoted to the lieutenant colonelcy, and Captain Walbridge, the ranking captain in the line, became major. On the 21st of June, Assistant Surgeon Carpenter was appointed surgeon of the Ninth Vermont; but he remained with the Second through the Seven Days' Retreat, when he left to assume his new position. He had become endeared to the men by his faithful care, especially during the sickly time on the Chickahominy; while his coolness in danger—notably in the surprise and sudden cannonade at White Oak Bridge, where he was active in rallying the men when some in more responsible positions were seeking the shelter of friendly trees—gave him an added title to their respect. His departure was universally regretted in the regiment, and indeed throughout the brigade.

On the 8th of July, Chaplain Smith resigned and departed. He was succeeded in August by Rev. D. W. Dayton, a Methodist Episcopal clergyman, of high character, who held the office of chaplain for five months.
That the regiment was in excellent condition at this time, as regards drill and appearance, is indicated by the fact that it was selected to represent the Vermont brigade on the 9th of June, in a review of a portion of General Smith's division by the Spanish General Prim, who was accompanied by the Count De Paris, of General McClellan's staff, General Smith, and General W. T.H. Brooks. The troops reviewed consisted of one regiment from each brigade of General Smith's division.

The regiment had its share of hardship during the Seven Days' Retreat, and lost five men killed and 38 wounded at Savage's Station, June 29th. At the storming of Crampton's Gap, September 1th, the regiment had one man wounded. At Antietam, September 17th, the regiment lost one man killed and several wounded.

On the 11th of October, when General J.E.B. Stuart, with a force of 2000 Confederate cavalry, was for the second time riding round McClellan's army, the regiment, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Joyce, was, with the Fifth Vermont, detached from the brigade—which was at Hagerstown, Md., with the Sixth Corps—and sent by rail to Chambersburg, Pa., to head off Stuart, who had occupied the town, destroyed some public property, and had left on his winding way before he started. They remained there,

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5 Commander of the troops sent by Spain to Mexico, under the British, French and Spanish convention of October 31, 1861.
6 The men killed at Savage's Station were George Ballard, Co. B; William W. Clark, Co. C; Adam Smith, Co. E; Freeman Hunter and Calvin Clair, Co. K. Three others died of their wounds, viz; Henry K. Goodwin, musician, Co. E; Stephen Anderson, Co. F; and Curtis B. Moore, Co. G. Thirty-nine men were reported missing at the close of the Seven Days’ Retreat. Of these 25 were wounded men, captured at Savage's Station. The rest fell out on the march and subsequently rejoined their companies.
7 William Lecor of Co. A.
8 Colonel Whiting being absent on leave.
doing guard duty, for about a week, and then rejoined the brigade at Hagerstown. Two weeks later the regiment marched, with the army, back to Virginia, and went with the Sixth Corps to Acquia Creek, where on the 3d of December, the Second was detached from the brigade for a week, to guard the military telegraph line. It joined the brigade at Belle Plain, on the 10th of December. On the 13th of December, in Burnside's hopeless attempt to force the heights of Fredericksburg, the Second was deployed with the Fourth Vermont on the skirmish line of General Howe's division of the Sixth Corps—which was a portion of the Left Grand Division of the Army—and after crossing the river, held the crest of a hill near the spot where the Richmond Stage-road crosses Deep Run. The skirmish line was pretty constantly engaged during the day, and until nearly dark. The men behaved well and, though strongly pressed several times, gave no ground to the enemy. The regiment lost five men killed and mortally wounded, and 54 wounded, during the day. Before daylight next morning it was relieved by other troops, on the 15th it re-crossed the river, and on the 19th marched back to Belle Plain with the brigade. In the report of the brigade commander, Major Walbridge, commanding the regiment, and acting-Major Tyler were mentioned as deserving special praise for gallant conduct. A fortnight later, December 29th, the regiment was sent to Belle Plain Landing and was employed in fatigue duty, unloading forage and building roads, for three weeks. It was detached for picket duty, while the rest of the brigade participated in Burnside's second unsuccessful attempt to cross the Rappahannock. It rejoined the brigade on the 22d of January, and remained in camp

9 These were privates E. E. Balch and F. E. Smith, of Company A and Joseph S. Hastings, Alonzo E. Moore and Eben E. Whitney, of Company I.
near White Oak Church, during the remainder of that uneventful winter.

Some further important changes of officers occurred during the winter. On the 18th of December Surgeon Ballou was promoted to the medical directorship of the division, and was succeeded as surgeon by Assistant Surgeon Sawin.10

On the 6th of January, Lieutenant Colonel Joyce resigned under surgeon's advice, and Major Walbridge was promoted to the vacancy. On the same day Chaplain Dayton resigned, and from that time on the regiment was without a chaplain.

On the 9th of February, Colonel Whiting resigned. He had long been dissatisfied at the neglect of what he considered to be his just claim for promotion. The ranking colonel of the brigade, he had seen General Smith, his junior, rapidly advanced to the successive commands of the brigade, division and corps. He considered himself entitled to the command of the brigade when it was given to General Brooks, but submitted with good grace. General Brooks in time was promoted to the command of a division, and the command of the Vermont brigade devolved on Colonel Whiting, but still the expected promotion was withheld; and when Colonel E. H. Stoughton, the youngest colonel in the brigade, was promoted past him, Colonel Whiting thought it time to retire. At General Howe's request he postponed action in the matter for a few weeks and then sent in his resignation, which was accepted.11

10 Dr. Sawin entered the service in the Tenth Massachusetts Volunteers; was transferred from that regiment as a private, in September, 1861, to the Third Vermont, and from the ranks of that regiment was appointed assistant surgeon of the Second. He remained surgeon of the Second till June, 1864, when his term of service expired.

11 His letter of resignation was as follows:
Camp near the Rappahannock,
Headquarters Second Brigade, Feb. 2, 1863.
Sir,—Having esteemed it my duty on account of having received a military education, to offer my services in this war, and having found that though the regiment which I have had the honor to command is admitted to be one of the best in the service, it having at all times performed all that has been asked of it, as well as the Second Brigade since I have commanded it;--it is therefore believed by me that my undertaking has not been a failure, in point of a full, hearty and effectual service. Still I now find myself at that point where I have no doubt that it is my duty to resign.
I do therefore hereby resign my commission as Colonel Second Vermont Infantry, and consequently the command of the Second Brigade. Though the first colonel mustered into service in the first five Vermont regiments, I am the only one now holding that office, and of the field and staff of the first three Vermont regiments I am the only one. I have served an age and entitled to an honorable discharge. I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully your obedient servant,
H. Whiting.
Colonel Whiting returned to his home in Michigan with the reputation of a careful and conscientious officer, who looked faithfully to the welfare of his men and meant to do his duty. He had survived the early prejudice against him among his men and carried with him the friendship and best wishes of many of the officers who at one time signed a petition requesting him to resign. On his part he held the Vermonters under him, with a few individual exceptions, in high esteem, and never lost his regard for them.12

Lieutenant Colonel James H. Walbridge succeeded to the colonelcy. He was of patriotic lineage, being the grandson of General Ebenezer Walbridge, who was one of the pioneers in the settlement of Bennington County active in the early struggles of Vermont for independence, an officer of Seth Warner's regiment of Green Mountain Boys in the campaign against Quebec in 1776, adjutant of the regiment in the battle of Bennington, and subsequently a colonel and general of militia, during and after the War of the Revolution. He followed the sea for several years in his youth and then went to California, and was employed in the State

12 "With regard to the Vermont troops, I feel like the boy who was directed to skim the milk, put up the cream and take the milk for his dinner. He said the cream was good enough for him. So I say the Vermonter troops are good enough for me." Letter of Colonel Whiting.
printing office in San Francisco, when, in 1856, the famous Vigilance Committee was organized to put down ruffianism and maintain order in that City. Of this he was an active member, received his first military training in the drills by which the committee prepared itself to use arms if necessary. At the outbreak of the civil war, he was at his former home in Bennington; was among the first to respond to the call for three years' men, was chosen captain of his company, and received the first commission issued in Vermont to an officer of a three years' regiment. He had shown himself cool and efficient in action, and capable in command in the intermediate grounds of rank, and now brought to the colonelcy, experience, fidelity, and recognized ability. Major Newton Stone succeeded him as lieutenant colonel and Captain John S. Tyler, of Co. C, was appointed major.

No other changes in field officers took place till the vacancies made by the slaughter in the Wilderness, more than a year later, were filled.

The Winter of 1862-3 and the Spring were occupied in picket and guard duty and drill, till May brought a resumption of active hostilities, in the Chancellorsville campaign. In the storming of the heights of Fredericksburg, on the 3d of May, by Howe's Division, which was so glorious a feature of that inglorious campaign, the Second, under Colonel Walbridge, was distinguished by its gallantry and its loss. Though forming part of the second line in the assault, it was one of the first regiments which gained the crest of Marye's famous heights and drove the enemy from his works, capturing three guns, and, supported by the Thirty-Third New York and Seventh Maine, it held the position, with a loss of 11 men killed and 94 wounded, five of them mortally.13

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13 The killed were Josiah W. Norcross of Company A; Robert P. Lord and George A. Rice of Company C; Frederick W. Chamberlain and Thomas R. Williams of Company E; Amos N. Bennett, Harry Hall and Franklin E. Minard of Company F; Sumner E. Parker of Company H; Philip W. Crosby of Company I; and Daniel McKinn of Company K. C. S. Samson of Company A; Patrick Burgin of Company D; Truman O. Brown of Company E; L. K. Harris of Company F; and R. M. Worthing of Company H died of their wounds.
the entire loss of the rest of the brigade being one killed and 15 wounded. Among the severely wounded were Captain Horace F. Crossman, of Montpelier, Company F, who lost a leg,14 and Captain A. S. Tracy, of Middlebury, Company H. In the battle near Banks's Ford, next day, when the Vermont brigade repulsed superior numbers and covered the crossing of the Sixth Corps, the regiment was again sharply engaged, and held its ground against repeated assaults, with a loss of six killed and 20 wounded,15 four of whom died of their wounds. Among the latter was First Lieutenant F. A. Gleason of Company C, who died of his wounds May 30th.

Colonel Walbridge and Lieutenant John J. Bain, acting Aide-de-Camp on Colonel Grant's staff, were especially mentioned for gallantry, in Colonel L. A. Grant's official report.

The regiment remained in camp with the brigade at White Oak Church, for a month, till on the 5th of June Howe's division was again thrown across the Rappahannock in order to ascertain whether or no General Lee, whose northern march for the invasion of Pennsylvania had now begun, had withdrawn the division which had been stationed around Fredericksburg. The Second crossed the river in pontoon boats, and advanced with the brigade half a mile beyond the river, pushing back the enemy; the latter was found to be there in force, and the brigade re-crossed the river 48 hours later, and remained in camp on the eastern side till the 13th,

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14 Captain Crossman's leg was amputated a few days after the engagement. He was honorably discharged, for disability resulting from this wound, October 30th, 1863.
15 The killed were Madison Cook, Warren Houghton and John M. Lamphere, of Co. C; Chauncey L. Church, of Co. G; William Higgins and John P. Perry, of Co. K; D. Hazelton and J. Ryan of Co. G, and H. E. Soule of Co. H. died of their wounds.
when it started for the north with the Sixth Corps. It shared in the toilsome
march over the familiar route through Fairfax and Centreville, and on
through Maryland and to Gettysburg.

In the famous affair with Anderson's Georgia brigade at Funkstown,
Md., on the 10th of July, described in a subsequent chapter, the Second took
an honorable part and had one man killed.16 On the 1st of August, the
regiment being then in camp with the brigade near Warrenton, the morning
report showed an aggregate of 801 men, of whom 141 were sick. The health
of the regiment improved rapidly during its stay at Warrenton. On August
14th the regiment went with the brigade to New York, to maintain order
during the draft, and after a stay of two weeks in the city was sent by
steamer to Poughkeepsie, N. Y., where it remained eight days. It won high
praise from the press and people of both those cities, for its discipline and
good conduct.17 A number of the officers and men took advantage of their
nearness to home at Poughkeepsie, to send for their wives and families, and
many pleasant family reunions marked their stay in that city.

On the 13th of September the regiment returned to New York, went
thence to Alexandria, where the brigade concentrated on the 16th, next day
marched out to Fairfax Court House, and on the 22d joined the Sixth Corps
encamped near Culpeper Court House. The Second accompanied the brigade
in the various marchings and counter-marchings of the Sixth Corps in the
region between Bull

16 Corporal Walter J. Hurd, Company K.
17 The appearance of the rank and file of these war-scarred veterans [of the Second Vermont] as they marched up the
street with heavy tread in the dead of night, was grand and imposing. * * * They have been on duty in the city of New York
during the draft in that district, and their presence in that city was marked by politeness and orderly conduct. The citizens
among whom they were quartered speak highly of their character as a regiment, and regret that they left so soon.—
Poughkeepsie Eagle, Sept. 6th, 1863.
Run and the Rappahannock during the month of October. On the 18th of October, it was marching from Centreville to Gainesville over the turnpike across which it made its first advance into battle, and in sight of the slope on which it met the enemy at the first Bull Run.

On the 26th, the regiment being then in camp with the brigade at Warrenton, it had the misfortune to lose its quartermaster, who was captured by Mosby, the guerrilla chieftain. Quartermaster Stone was near New Baltimore, five miles northwest of Warrenton, on his way to camp with a supply train of twenty wagons, when he was overtaken by Colonel Mosby with a hundred men of his irregular cavalry. These were dressed in the Federal army blue, and at first represented themselves to be a squadron of the Eighteenth Pennsylvania cavalry. Soon announcing himself, Mosby made Stone a prisoner, together with his brother, J. P. Stone, who accompanied him, his cook, trainmaster, blacksmith, and twenty teamsters. The mules were run off, the train plundered and destroyed, and a considerable sum in money belonging to the government, in the quartermaster's possession, was confiscated by his captor.

The regiment was under artillery fire at Rappahannock Station on the 7th of November, without loss, and had a similar experience on the 27th of November, during General Meade's advance to Mine Run, south of the Rapidan. On the 28th, a large part of the regiment was on picket on the right of the army, near Mine Run, and all suffered severely from a cold rain storm. The next night men froze at their posts. The men suffered from exposure, and occasionally

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18 Sons of Rev. L. H. Stone of Northfield, the chaplain of the First Vermont. Lieutenant Stone was a prisoner for over 13 months, being finally exchanged at Charleston, S. C., December 4th, 1864.

19 "Many of the men who were on the picket line that day, [November 30th] and the night before, were found when the relief came around, dead at their posts, frozen. –Surgeon Stevens, Three Years in the Sixth Corps, p. 297."
from hunger during this, the last offensive movement of the Army of the Potomac in the fall campaign of 1863; but came out of it in better condition than might have been expected. On the 1st of December the sick numbered 124 in an aggregate of 934 officers and men, and on the 1st of January, 1864, 110 were on the sick list in an aggregate of 931.

On the 18th of December, the regiment had the novel and painful experience of witnessing the execution of one of their number for desertion. He was a young recruit, named George E. Blowers who had enlisted three months previously and has been assigned to Co. A., of the Second regiment. He and a man of the Fifth Vermont named John Tague, had been convicted by a General Court Martial of desertion under aggravated circumstances. That military crime was becoming frequent and the army authorities had decided that some examples must be made. The men were sentenced to be shot to death by musketry, and the sentence was executed in the presence of the entire division. At three o'clock in the afternoon, Howe's division was formed in three sides of a hollow square, enclosing the commanding general and his staff. The prisoners were brought in an ambulances, guarded by 4 men of the Provost guard, to whom was entrusted the execution of the sentence. The prisoners were brought in an ambulances, guarded by 4 men of the Provost guard, to whom was entrusted the execution of the sentence. After the reading by the Asst. Adjutant General of the division of the findings and sentences of the court martial, prayer was offered by Chaplain Mack of the Third Vermont; the men knelt on their coffins; and each placing his right hand over his heart as a signal that he was ready for death, the muskets rang out at the word of command, and both fell forward and expired instantly. It was a solemn transaction and made a deep sensation in the regiment. Blowers was the only man of the Second Vermont executed for desertion during the war, though several members of the regiment were sent to the Dry Tortugas and otherwise punished for the same offence.
During the month of December 167 men of the Second re-enlisted, under an order of the War Department authorizing (and paying a bounty of $402 for) the re-enlistment of men having less than one year of the original term of enlistment to serve; and in the following months of January and February, 14 more re-enlisted, making a total of 181.

The regiment was in camp with the brigade and the corps, at Brandy Station, during the winter of 1836-4, with the exception of five days, from February 27th to March 2d, during which the Sixth Corps was sent to Madison Court House, to support General Custer's cavalry expedition to Charlottesville. There was no fighting, but the march back from Madison Court House in the mud was a trying one. The winter was on the whole a cheerful and comfortable one, and the health of the regiment improved, till on the 30th of April, 18864, but 77 men were reported sick, in an aggregate of 941—the smallest proportion of sick men ever reported while the regiment was in the field.

On the 1st of April, Colonel Walbridge, who had been for some time a sufferer from chronic rheumatism affecting his lower limbs, resigned, and Lieut. Colonel Newton Stone succeeded him as colonel.

Colonel Stone was the son of Rev. Ambrose Stone of Readsboro. He had selected the law as his profession and Bennington as his place of residence and business, and had before him the prospect of a successful professional career, when, at the age of 23, he enlisted and went out as First Lieutenant of Co. A of the Second Vermont. He had repeatedly distinguished himself in battle, and reached the colonelcy by successive promotions through all the intermediate ranks. His term of command was brief but glorious, ending a month later in the murderous Wilderness.

On the 4th of May, 1864, the regiment marched with the Sixth Corps and the army, to take its share of the perils and glory of General Grant's overland campaign. In the battles of
the Wilderness, May 5th and 6th, the Second fought with the old brigade on the left of the Orange Plank-road. It was on the first day placed in the second line, its right resting on the Plank-road, but moved forward into the front line, after the fighting became severe, and did some of the hardest and best fighting that was done in those two bloody days, at a fearful cost. Its gallant young commander was killed on the 5th. About five o'clock in the afternoon Colonel Stone received a flesh wound in the leg, and was taken to the rear. As soon as the wound was dressed he called for his horse, and rode back to the front. The men greeted him with cheers, as he rejoined his command, which was sturdily holding its ground under a fearful fire of musketry. He addressed them as follows: “Well, boys, this is rough work; but I have done as I told you I wished you to do, not to leave for a slight wound, but to remain just as long as you can do any good. I am here to stay as long as I can do any good.” He then rode along the line, speaking a word of cheer to every company. As he halted to address Company B, a musket ball entered his head, and he fell from his horse a corpse. When the regiment was withdrawn forward over the ground it had held, and Colonel Stone’s body fell into their hands. The enemy again falling back, it was soon after recovered, and was finally taken to Bennington for burial.20

After Colonel Stone's death the command devolved upon Lieutenant Colonel Tyler, a boy in years, but a brave and capable officer. He did not hold it long, for just before dark, as he was directed the movement of the regiment to the position on the Brock Road which it held at nightfall, a musket ball passed through his thigh, inflicting a wound which proved mortal. Though conscious that it was a very

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20 General L. A. Grant in his report said of Colonel Stone: “He was a good officer, gallant by nature, prompt in his duties, and urbane in his manners. He was beloved by his command, and by all who knew him.”
dangerous injury he ordered the men who ran to help him back to the ranks, telling them that every musket was needed in the line. He was assisted to the rear and taken to Fredericksburg; and thence, at his own desire, was removed to his home in Vermont; but did not reach it alive. In recognition of his services and merit a commission as colonel was issued to him by Governor Smith after his death, and his name thus stands enrolled among the colonels of the Second.

Colonel Tyler was the son of Rev. Pitman Tyler of Brattleboro. He enlisted at the age of nineteen years, and went out as first lieutenant of Company C. He showed especial gallantry and aptitude for command, and was advanced as vacancies occurred, through the successive grades of captain, major and lieutenant colonel. He was barely of age at his death. He died in the Metropolitan Hotel in New York, May 21st, sixteen days after he was wounded. He was buried at Brattleboro with military honors.21

In the second day of the battle of the Wilderness, the regiment having no field officer left, Major Tracy having been disabled by injuries received May 3d by a fall from his horse, it was placed under the capable command of Lieutenant Colonel S. E. Pingree of the Third Vermont, and fought under him with unabated resolution. The losses of the regi-

21 General L. A. Grant in reporting Colonel Tyler's death said: “He was an officer of great promise. Always cool, especially in battle, he could be relied upon. His loss is deeply felt.” In a letter addressed to Hon. Royal Tyler of Brattleboro, John Gregory Smith said: “As a slight testimonial of my high appreciation of the services rendered by your nephew, the late John S. Tyler, Lieutenant colonel of the Second Regiment, Vermont Volunteers, I have directed a commission to be issued, dating the same at a period prior to his death, and promoting him to the colonelcy of his regiment, a position which by his valor he had so gallantly won, and to which he was justly entitled. The tribute to his memory thus conferred, while it cannot reach him or add to his laurels, may be a source of gratification to his numerous friends, as it is of pleasure to me, and is but a fitting recognition of the noble sacrifice which he made for his country.”
ment in this battle, were greater than in any other battle of the war, and showed both the desperate character of the service required of it, and the spirit with which it stood up to its work. Its casualties exceeded those of any other regiment in the brigade. They numbered but three less than 300, in a total of about 800 present for duty, or about 37 per cent. Of these 57 were killed and mortally wounded, 208 less severely wounded, and 32 missing—total 297. Hardly any unwounded men were taken prisoners, and most of the “missing” belong in the lists of killed and wounded. Among the killed were Captain Orville Bixby and Sergeant-Major Z. Ufford, and among the wounded were ten line officers—viz: Captains E. Wales, P. E. Chase, D. S. White, E. G. Ballou and W. H. Cady, and Lieutenants J. P. Sawyer, James Allen, George Bridgeman, E. M. Drury and John J. Bain, the latter being acting Aid-de-Camp to the Brigade Commander. Among those captured was Lieutenant Henry Carroll, of Co. K. Lieutenant Carroll remained for six months in the enemy's hands till, on the 1st of November 1864, he escaped from the prison at Columbia, S.C., and made his way to the Union lines at Nashville, Tenn., after a toilsome foot journey of two months' duration.22

In the twelve trying days before the lines of Spottsylvania, the Second participated in the hard fighting and almost harder night and day marching of the old brigade. On the 10th of May it formed a part of the storming column of twelve picked regiments, which, under Colonel Upton, charged the enemy's centre, carried the works in front of them for a quarter of a mile, and captured a brigade of over a thousand men and a battery. Some of the men of the Second remained in the works till late in it formed a part of the storming column of twelve picked regiments, which, under Colonel Upton, charged the enemy's centre, carried the works in front of them for a quarter of a mile, and captured a brigade of over a thousand men and a battery. Some of the men of the Second remained in the works till late in

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22 Captain Wales was brevetted major for gallantry in this battle. Private Thomas J. Colby, Co. F, served as mounted orderly and received honorable mention in General L. A. Grant's official report.
the evening, long after the column had fallen back. It fought at the famous
“bloody angle” on the 12th of May, under the command of Captain Dayton
P. Clarke—23—the regiment having no field officer of its own, and Lieut.
Colonel S. E. Pingree, its temporary commander, being then in command of
the picket line on the right—and sustained losses which increased the total
of its casualties in the campaign to 440, or over one half of its aggregate for
duty when it crossed the Rapidan. Among the wounded in this affair were
Captain Ward of Co. B and Lieutenants Estes, Co. A., Worcester Co. F., and
Priest, Co. I.

During the last day of severe fighting at Spottsylvania on the 18th, the
regiment was under sharp artillery fire, south of Spottsylvania Court House,
and had ten men killed and wounded by the explosion of a single shell,24
besides other casualties.

At Cold Harbor, June 1st, the regiment again distinguished itself,
under command of Lieutenant Colonel Pingree, charging the enemy's works
under heavy fire, and establishing itself within speaking distance of the
enemy; and during the ten days of constant and active hostilities which
followed, the Second took its turns in the front line, with the other regiments
of the Old Brigade. In the assault of June 3d, Lieutenant Hiram Bailey, of
Brandon, Co. B, was killed; and when the fighting of Grant's Overland
Campaign ended on the 12th of June, the casualties of the regiment

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23 Captain Clarke is mentioned by General L. A. Grant in his report, as having specially distinguished himself on that
occasion. Quartermaster A. J. Robbins is also specially mentioned. He was seriously wounded in the engagement of May
12th.
24 Two killed, H. P. Ford and Joseph Kehoe, and eight wounded. One of the latter, Henry Amblow, of Co. G, lay on the
field with a shattered ankle for eight days, before he was found, sustained during the time only by the small amount of
food in his haversack. When found by the enemy mortification had set in, and he died, after amputation, a week later.
aggregated 477—82 killed, 359 wounded, 50 of whom died of their wounds, and 40 missing.25

In the action of the 18th of June in front of Petersburg the regiment was on the skirmish line, with the Fifth regiment, and had two men wounded.

On the 19th of June 1864 the term of service of the original members of the regiment expired, and as man of them as had not re-enlisted—being 19 officers and 200 men—were relieved from duty, and started next day for Vermont, where they were mustered out, at Brattleboro, on the 29th of June. The officers so retiring from the service were Adjutant Edgerton, Surgeon Sawin, Captains W. H. Cady, D. P. Clark, and P. E. Chase; First Lieutenants E. O. Cole, J. P. Sawyer, James Allen, J. J. Bain, A. Worcester, E. A. Priest, and E. N. Drury; and Second Lieutenants O. V. Estes, A. J. Robbins, B. W. Hight, E. A. Tilden, H. R. Hayward, G. W. Bridgeman, and O. G. Howe. Most of these officers, and many of the men, bore the scars of honorable wounds, some not yet healed; and their departure took some of the best soldiers in the regiment. The general regret felt thereat not only in

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25 The list of rank and file who were killed or died of wounds received in the campaign from the Wilderness to Cold Harbor, is as follows:
the Vermont brigade but throughout the Second division, and indeed throughout the Sixth Corps, was expressed in the following handsome order from their division commander:

Headquarters Second Division, Sixth Corps,
June 20th, 1864

General Order No. 36—it is not necessary that any regiment of the Vermont brigade should have their deeds recounted, or their praises sung in general orders. How many well fought and bloody fields bear witness to their bravery! Least of all do you, the soldiers of the Second Vermont, the veterans of the brigade, who have shed your blood on almost every field from the first Bull Run, need a panegyrist. Your deed speak for themselves, and will keep your memory green, while courage, steadiness and devotion to duty are honored among men. But that you may know how your general and your comrades regret and mourn your departure, and to bid you farewell and Godspeed, this order is written. Again farewell, brave and noble men. For three years you have borne the burnt of battle, and now returning home with scarce a tithe of your original numbers, with just pride you can proclaim that you have done your duty. You have fulfilled your compact. History will record your services. Let this order express the feelings of those you leave behind.

By order of Brig. General Neill.
Hazard Stevens, A. A. G.

The end of the three years' term, found but 370 of the 866 original members of the regiment left. The rest, 496 in number, had been killed or had died of disease, been discharged, or had deserted. The re-enlisted veterans, originally 181 in number, but now reduced by death to 150, some thirty of them having been killed since their re-enlist-
ment, with the recruits, 410 in number who had been from time to time, made a regiment of 560 men, which remained in the field. Its field and staff officers were Lieut. Colonel Amasa S. Tracy and Major Enoch E. Johnson, who had been promoted to those position on the 17th of June; Surgeon Melvin J. Hyde, Assistant Surgeon E. R. Brush, and Quartermaster L. L. Stone. Four captains remained, viz: Rollin C. Ward, Elijah Wales, John T. Bass, and Daniel S. White. As Captain White had been disabled by a wound in the Wilderness, no less than seven of the companies were commanded at this time by lieutenants or sergeants. The companies did not average over 25 rank and file for duty, and some of them had but about half that number of muskets in line. It was the lowest period, as regarded numbers present for duty, in the entire history of the regiment.

On the 19th of June, the regiment, what was left of it, was under an active but ineffective artillery fire, in front of Petersburg. On the 23d it participated in the movement of the Sixth Corps against the Weldon Railroad, in which, the Fourth and Eleventh Vermont suffered so severely. It was a Reams's Station, with the Sixth Corps, on the 29th, and when the corps was detached from the army on the 10th of July, to protect Washington from capture by General Early, it marched with the Vermont brigade to City Point, went thence by transport to Washington; assisted in driving the enemy from before the defences of the national Capital, and shared the fatigues of the next month of hard marching.

26 Of this number, however, only 273 were present for duty.
27 Co. G crossed the Rapidan May 4th, with 64 men. On the 7th of June, first Sergeant Aldrich, commanding company, reported ten men present for duty. In this one company in five weeks the casualties were: killed and mortally wounded, 7; severely wounded, 30, of whom 7 subsequently died; slightly wounded, 9; missing, 5, of whom 2 were supposed to be killed, and 3 prisoners Co. H had 68 men for duty May 4th; after Spotsylvania it had 14. Its killed and wounded numbered 42, and missing, 6. Co. D lost still more heavily. So of other companies.
to Snicker's Gap, Harper's Ferry, into Maryland and in the Shenandoah Valley.

Near Strasburg, Virginia, on the 14th of August, the Second formed part of the force with which General Sheridan was feeling the enemy on Fisher's Hill, and lost two men, wounded, on the skirmish line. In the notable engagement of the 21st of August, at Charlestown, the regiment, under command of Lieut. Colonel Tracy, was sharply engaged and lost five men killed and 11 wounded.

In the battle of Winchester, on the 19th of September, the regiment distinguished itself and lost five men killed and mortally wounded and 29 wounded. Lieutenant Colonel Tracy superintended for a time a portion of the line, though suffering from a disability, which shortly compelled him to relinquish the command to Major Enoch Johnson, by whom it was gallantly led. It participated with the brigade in the battle of Fisher's Hill, and though suffering no loss earned its fair share of the glory of that splendid victory.

At Cedar Creek, on the 19th of October, the regiment, under command of Captain Elijah Wales, Lieut. Colonel Tracy being for the time in command of the brigade, held the skirmish line in front of Getty's division of the Sixth Corps, when it made its final stand and checked Early's advance. During the rest of the day it marched and fought, in retreat and in advance, with the brigade, losing three men killed, 31 wounded and four missing. Among the wounded was Lieut. Colonel Tracy, whose services are especially mentioned in General L. A. Grant's report. While inspecting the skirmish line after General Sheridan's arrival on the field he received a serious wound from a fragment.

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29 Major Johnson's services on this occasion were especially recognized in the report of the brigade commander, as were those of Lieut. Colonel Tracy.
of a shell in his left hip, previously injured by a fall from his horse. His wound disabled him for several months, during which the command of the regiment devolved on Major Enoch E. Johnson, who was brevetted lieutenant colonel for his gallantry at Cedar Creek.

The morning report of October 31st, at Strasburg, showed an aggregate of 560 men, of whom 227 were sick and 19 prisoners.\textsuperscript{30}

The regiment remained in the Shenandoah Valley till December 9th, when with the rest of the Sixth Corps the brigade was removed by rail and transports to Petersburg, and went into winter quarters on the lines on the south side of Petersburg, near the Weldon Railroad, the Second holding the right of the brigade. The rest of the winter was spent in severe picket service and fatigue duty on the forts. In February, Lieut. Colonel Tracy sent in his resignation on account of disability from his wound received at Cedar Creek, but withdrew it at the request of his superior officers.

On the 25th of March, 1865, the regiment (with the brigade), charged and carried and held the enemy's entrenched picket line in front of Fort Fisher, with a loss of two men killed and 10 wounded. In the repulse of the enemy's attempt to retake this line on the 27th, five men of the Second were wounded.

In the final victorious assault on the defences of Petersburg on the 2d of April, the Second once more distinguished itself and lost eight men killed and 33 wounded. Among many individual instances of gallantry, that of Captain Wales in capturing, with two men, a field piece which they

turned and discharged upon the enemy, was conspicuous.\textsuperscript{31}

The regiment joined in the pursuit of Lee's army after the fall of Richmond, and had a skirmish with the rear guard of the enemy in the evening of April 6th, at Sailor's Creek, in which the last shot discharged in action by the Sixth Corps is claimed, and so far as known without dispute, to have been fired by the Second Vermont.

Lieut. Colonel Tracy was commissioned as colonel on the 7th of June, Major Johnson being promoted to the lieutenant colonelcy and Captain E. G. Ballou to be major.\textsuperscript{32}

The regiment participated in the review of the Vermont troops, by Governor Smith, at Bailey's Cross Roads, on the 7th, and in the review of the Sixth Corps by the President of the United States on the 8th of June, 1865. The regiment then had an aggregate of 495 men, 149 of whom were on the sick list, and 312 present for duty.

On the 19th of June, the recruits whose terms of service were to expire previous to October 1, 1865, about 300 in number, were mustered out. The remainder of the regiment remained at Ball's Cross Roads, near Washington, till the 15th of July, when it was mustered out of the U.S. service. On the 16th the regiment left Washington for home. It arrived at Burlington on the morning of July 19th, with 20 officers and 213 men, 60 of whom were original members of the regiment. The filed and staff officers so returning were: Colonel A. S. Tracy, who went out with the regiment as a first lieutenant of Co. K; Lieut. Colonel E. Johnson, who went out as second lieutenant of Co. B; Major E. R. Ballou,

\textsuperscript{31} The killed and those who died of wounds in front of Petersburg in March and April, 1865, were as follows: Co. A., L. Carpenter, L. L. Jackson; Co. B, J. W. Bromley, H. B. Ross; Co. D, T. Gormand; Co. E, W. Hurlburt, C. C. Morey, A. D. Spaulding; Co. G, G. W. Sharpley; Co. I, A. L. Benson, Albert Hathorn.

\textsuperscript{32} Under the rules prescribed by the War Department, however, these officers were mustered out with the rank respectively, of lieutenant colonel, major, and captain.
who went out as first sergeant of Co. I; Surgeon M. J. Hyde, who joined the regiment as assistant surgeon in September 1863; and Assistant Surgeon E. A. Brush, who went out as a drafted man in July, 1863, and was appointed assistant surgeon in October, 1863. The line officers returning were: Captain and Bvt. Major Elijah Wales, Captain and Bvt. Major E. W. Harrington, Captains William Bond, H. H. Prouty, W. B. Hurlbut, D. C. Dunham, and H. F. Taylor, and First Lieutenants James Howard, E. H. Fifield, A. Lessor, N. Fassett, G. W. Flagg, George Buck, and A. D. Beckwith.

The regiment was met at the railroad station in Burlington, on its arrival, by a committee of citizens with the old band of the First brigade, N. D. Adams, leader, which though long since mustered out of the service had retained its organization till now. At the city hall the veterans were received by Major Albert L. Catlin and welcomed home by Hon. George F. Edmunds in an eloquent address. After a breakfast, served by ladies and citizens in the hall, the regiment marched to its quarters at the U.S. Marine Hospital, where on the 25th and 26th the men were paid off for the last time, were mustered out, and then separated to their homes.

A list of names, a list of battles and a table of significant figures, will close this regimental record.

The following men, in addition to those who died of wounds in Confederate prisons or hospitals, whose names have been included in previous lists of mortally wounded, are known to have died in the enemy's hands:

**DIED IN CONFEDERATE PRISONS.**

Company A—James Bailey, captured May, 64, died at Andersonville, July 11, 64; Enos Blair, captured May 21, 64; George A. Shumacker, captured May 26, 64.

Company B—Silas L. Hart, captured May 5, 64, died at Andersonville, October 12, 64; David B. Bateman, died at Andersonville, July 15, 64; Giovanni Arbitraca, captured May 21, 64.
Company D—Nelson E. Dodge, captured May 10, 1864, died at Andersonville; William Cooley, captured May 12, 1864, died at Andersonville, November 23, 1864; Oren Bickley, Jr., captured May 10, 1864, died at Andersonville.

Company G—Myron C. Palmer, captured May 21, 1864, died at Savannah, October, 1864; James McGuire, captured May 21, 1864, died at Andersonville, September 20, 1864.

Company E—Azro Buzzell, captured October 19, 1864, died February 27, 1865; Charles C. Richardson, captured May 12, 1864, supposed dead.


The battles and engagements in which the Second regiment participated, as officially recorded, were as follows:

**THE BATTLES OF THE SECOND VERMONT.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Battle</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bull Run</td>
<td>July 21, 1861</td>
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<td>Lee's Mill</td>
<td>April 16, 1862</td>
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<td>Williamsburg</td>
<td>May 5, 1862</td>
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<td>Golding's Farm</td>
<td>June 26, 1862</td>
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<td>Savage's Station</td>
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<td>White Oak Swamp</td>
<td>June 30, 1862</td>
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<td>Crampton's Gap</td>
<td>Sept. 14, 1862</td>
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<td>Antietam</td>
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<td>Fredericksburg</td>
<td>Dec. 13, 1862</td>
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<td>Marye's Heights</td>
<td>May 3, 1863</td>
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<td>Salem Heights</td>
<td>May 4, 1863</td>
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<td>Fredericksburg</td>
<td>June 5, 1863</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gettysburg</td>
<td>July 3, 1863</td>
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<td>Funkstown</td>
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<td>Rappahannock Station</td>
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<td>Wilderness</td>
<td>May 5th to 10th, 1864</td>
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<td>Spottsylvania</td>
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<td>Cold Harbor</td>
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<td>Petersburg</td>
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<td>Charlestown</td>
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<td>Opequon</td>
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<td>Winchester</td>
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<td>Fisher's Hill</td>
<td>Sept. 21st, 1864</td>
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<td>Mount Jackson</td>
<td>Sept. 24, 1864</td>
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<td>Cedar Creek</td>
<td>Oct. 19, 1864</td>
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<td>Petersburg</td>
<td>March 25, 1864</td>
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<td>Petersburg</td>
<td>April 2, 1865</td>
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<td>Sailor's Creek</td>
<td>April 6, 1865</td>
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The final statement of the Second Vermont is as follows:

Original members—officers, 38; enlisted men, 828; total 866
Gain—recruits, 984; transferred from other regiments, 8; total 992
Aggregate 1,858
Losses
Killed in action—officers, 4; enlisted men, 134; total 138
Died of wounds—officers, 2; enlisted men, 80; total 82
Died of disease—enlisted men 139
Died in Confederate prisons, not of wounds 22
Died from accidents, (enlisted men), 3; executed, 1; total 4
Total of deaths 385
Promoted to other regiments—officers, 6; enlisted men, 2; total 8
Honorably discharged—officers, 35; enlisted en, 399; total 434
Dishonorably discharged—officers, 5; enlisted men, 18; total 24
Deserted—enlisted men 178
Dropped from roll, 2; finally unaccounted for, 5; total 7
Transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps and other organizations 120
Total loss 1,156
Mustered out, at various times—officers, 55; men, 647; total 702
Aggregate 1,858
Total wounded 613