MINNESOTA

IN THE

CIVIL AND INDIAN WARS

1861-1865.

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NARRATIVE OF THE FIRST COMPANY OF SHARPSHOOTERS.

BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL FRANCIS PETELER.

The First Company of Sharpshooters from Minnesota was organized, under permission direct from the secretary of war, by Captain Francis Peteler, who had seen service in Mexico (Company A, Eighth United States Infantry). The intention was to form an independent company of practical riflemen, who had had experience with the rifle by hunting, and were inured to hardship by a life on the frontier. Mustered into service by Captain A. D. Nelson, United States Army, at Fort Snelling, Minn., Oct. 5, 1861. Company officers: Captain, Francis Peteler; first lieutenant, Benedict Hippler; second lieutenant, Dudley P. Chase; sergeants, A. Wright, J. Stewart, S. Rogers, S. H. Hancock, G. W. Cummings; corporals, U. R. Penny, O. Evans, A. Howe, J. W. Walker, J. T. Veeder, D. P.

Craig, W. S. Collins and C. Rees.

The company left the state October 6th; arrived in Washington, D. C., October 10th; reported to Colonel H. Berdan, at camp of instruction, near foot of Seventh street. There were five companies of the First Regiment of United States Sharpshooters (Berdan's) in camp; we would have been Company F of that regiment, but owing to the fine appearance of the company it was made Company A of a new regiment. Feb. 10, 1862—The organization of the Second Regiment, United States Sharpshooters, was completed; one company from Minnesota, one from Maine, one from Michigan, one from Pennsylvania, two from Vermont, two from New Hampshire—eight companies. This organization was unfortunate; coming from six different states, it was found impossible to keep the regiment Regimental officers were: H. A. V. Post, colonel; Francis Peteler, lieutenant colonel; A. B. Jones, major; Lewis C. Parmelee, adjutant; Charles P. Hale, surgeon; B. S. Calef, quartermaster; Lorenzo Barber, chaplain. B. Hippler was promoted to captain of Company A, D. P. Chase to first lieutenant. James Doughty joined the company April, 1862, as second lieutenant. Colt's repeating rifles were issued, they being exchanged for Sharp's improved rifles, about June 6, 1862. March 18, 1862—Crossed the Potomac, assigned to General C. C. Auger's brigade, King's division, McDowell's corps. The history of the Minnesota company must necessarily be part of the regiment, brigade, etc., to which it be-Went into camp near Fort Ward for a short time, then marched to Bristow Station, through Manassas, where we encountered the formidable wooden April 18th — Auger's brigade, Sharpshooters in advance, guns left by the rebels. captured Falmouth and Fredericksburg, where the rebels burned all the bridges and shipping, and were seen marching in retreat. From the rapid advance and prompt action of Auger's brigade, it was called the "Iron Brigade," the first of that name in the Army of the Potomac.

The latter part of May McDowell's corps marched about fifteen miles south of Fredericksburg, intending to join McCleilan on the right; but the rebel general, Jackson, was reported to be advancing in four different directions. The corps returned and made a forced march toward Front Royal, to the assistance of General Banks. June 1st—The Sharpshooters were in a railroad collision near White Plains; forty-four men were injured several from the Minnesota com-

pany; the command returned to Fredericksburg.

General Pope taking command of the Army of Virginia June 26th, General Gibbons was ordered, July 24th, to make a reconnaissance toward Orange Court House. Company A from Minnesota, and C from Pennsylvania, Colonel Pete-

ler commanding, were with the command. The Sharpshooters, by their alertness and prompt action in breaking a charge, prevented a possible capture of part of the forces. August 6th—Sharpshooters were part of the command that made a reconnaissance to Guinea Station and Spottsylvania Court House.

August 10th—Left Falmouth for Cedar Mountain, arriving too late to take part in the battle; army falls back. August 21st, 22d and 23d—Skirmishes near Rappahannock Station. August 26th—Warrenton Springs. August 28th, 29th and 30th—Second battle of Bull Run; losses heavy; Lieut. Doughty and six men from Minnesota company captured; camped near Alexandria; first learn of the Indian outbreak in Minnesota. September 14th—Battle of South Mountain; Sharpshooters first to reach the top. September 16th and 17th—Battle of Antietam; Capt. Chase and ten men of Minnesota company wounded; the regiment lost about seventy men killed and wounded; Col. Post wounded and Adjutant Parmelee killed; regiment captured one stand of rebel colors. November 8th— Gen. Burnside takes command; army moves to Fredericksburg; battle. cember 13th, 14th and 15th - Sharpshooters on the left under Franklin. January, 1863, during Burnside's mud march, sent to the front to cover laying pontoon bridges; pontoons never came up to be laid; Sharpshooters returned to camp, after three nights, and two days' continuous rain. Jan. 26, 1863-Gen. Hooker takes command; battle of Chancellorsville. May 2d to 5th -Sharpshooters open the ball on the left in an attempt to cut off Stonewall Jackson at or near an old furnace; engaged in nearly every part of the field during the fight; recrossed the Rappahannock River night of May 5th; Capt. Chase wounded May 2d (died May 8th); Lieut. Wright promoted to captain. June 5th — Started on the march from Fredericksburg that ended with the great

BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG,

July 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1863; Gen. Meade takes command. June 28th—The First Division, Third Army Corps, to which the Sharpshooters belonged, reached Emmetsburg, ten miles distant, at 4 P. M. July 1st; division took up the line of march, occupying about four hours, going into bivouac to the east and south of Little Round Top; the Sharpshooters went to the front. July 2d - Before daylight had a light skirmish, when the rebel Gen. Longstreet made his famous charge on our left; the Second Regiment, United States Sharpshooters, was on the extreme left, covered Devil's Den one-half mile in advance; when the enemy's troops left cover, en masse, the Sharpshooters opened fire at six hundred yards and continued firing until they were within fifty yards. Even a small regiment of practical riflemen, armed with Sharp's breech-loading rifles, and supplied with one hundred rounds of ammunition to each man, is a fearful engine of destruction in such a position. Col. W. S. Oats, Fifteenth Alabama, wrote recently: "My regiment was the extreme right of the rebel line; I also had direction of the Fortyseventh Alabama, and directed to Round Top; twice did the Sharpshooters at tack me in the flank and rear, and compel me to change front; had they not, I think I would have captured Round Top and won the battle for the Confederates." July 3d — The Sharpshooters assisted in breaking Picket's great charge at the bloody angle; later they were ordered to dislodge a rebel battery; passing Gen. Stannard's headquarters, where surprise was expressed at the boldness of the move, they succeeded by close shooting. July 4th -On picket before daylight; this was the sharpest picket work ever done by them, except later at North Anna.

In the fall of 1863, while advancing toward Culpepper Court House, the regiment having the skirmish line moved too slowly. General Hancock stated to the officers in command that the army was waiting on them. The officer replied that he doubted if any other regiment could do better. General Hancock ordered Second Sharpshooters to the front. Riding to the side of the regiment, he said: "Boys, I have promised that you would go through there; I think you will." One hour later the general sent his compliments, requesting that they slacken their speed, as the army was not keeping in supporting distance. The rebels never liked the long-range rifles.

In December, 1863, nearly all the First Company, Minnesota Sharpshooters, present for duty, re-enlisted and returned to the state to enjoy a furlough. March, 1864, found them again at the front. In passing through Pittsburgh they met General Grant, who was on his way to Washington to take command of all the army.

In the reorganization of the Army of the Potomac by General Grant, the First and Third Army Corps, having lost their commanders at Gettysburg, were discontinued; divisions were made larger and transferred to other corps; First Division, Third Corps, was made Third Division, Second Corps. To this division, commanded by Gen. D. B. Birney, the Second Regiment of Sharpshooters was

assigned, General Hancock commanding Second Corps.

May 3, 1864, at Brandy Station, Va., marching orders were received at about 7 P. M.; about two hours later General Hancock's corps was in motion. The night of May 4th it camped upon the old Chancellorsville battle ground; Sharpshooters on picket that night; drew off 4 A. M., the Fifth Corps moving to the front; enemy discovered at Brock's Cross-roads at about 4 P. M; Sharpshooters deployed as skirmishers; more or less fighting until 9 P. M. of the 5th. About 11 P. M. orders came; there was some push to them: "The skirmish line will advance promptly at 5 A. M. and press the enemy." We now understood General Grant's policy. Skirmishing nearly all day on the 6th; on picket that night; enemy within gun-shot, which required the vigilance of every man; opened the fight again at 5 A. M.; the fighting was very severe and destructive. Up to May 13th the Sharpshooters were engaged some part of every day; 14th and 15th, Spottsylvania Court House; 18th and 19th, at Po River; 23d, North Anna, crossing the Pamunky May 28th; 31st, near Hanover Court House, regiment took fifty rebel prisoners; crossed James River at Wilcox Landing June 14th; fighting all day on the 16th in front of Petersburg; Captain Wright wounded; Sharp-shooters used as skirmishers and for special service; constantly in service at some point; no action engaged in by Second Army Corps that they did not take part: Yellow House, Deep Bottom, Welden Railroad, etc. The Second Regiment, United States Sharpshooters, was disbanded and transferred into other regiments. Feb. 20, 1865, the men remaining in First Minnesota Company were transferred to First Minnesota Battalion and mustered out with that battalion. All supernumerary officers were mustered out Feb. 23, 1865.

The company participated in the following battles and skirmishes, besides many days of special service: Capture of Falmouth and Fredericksburg, Va., April 18, 1862; Orange Court House, July 27th; Guinea Station, August 6th; Rappahannock Station, August 21st, 22d and 23d; Warrenton Springs, August 26th; Second Bull Run, August 28th, 29th and 30th; South Mountain, September 14th; Antietam, September 16th and 17th; Fredericksburg, December 13th, 14th and 15th, all in 1862. Burnside's mud march, January, 1863; Chancellors-ville, May 2d, 3d and 4th; Gettysburg, July 2d, 3d and 4th; Wapping Heights, July 23d; Kelly's Ford, November 7th; Brandy Station, November —; Locust Grove, November 27th; Mine Run, November 30th, all in 1863. Wilderness, May 5th to 7th; Spottsylvania, May 8th to 21st; North Anna, May 23d to 27th; Totopatomoy, May 27th to 31st; Cold Harbor, May 30th to June 12th; Peters-

burg, June 16th, 1864, to close of war, 1865.

The company organized with 3 commissioned officers and 93 men; 1 officer and 11 recruits were added, making the total strength of the company 104 enlisted men. The six captains were F. Peteler, promoted lieutenant colonel Feb. 10; B. Hippler, resigned July 18, 1863; D. P. Chase, wounded, Chancellorsville, May 2, died May 8, 1863; A. Wright, mustered out Oct. 6, 1864, expiration term of service; O. Evens, mustered out Feb. 22, 1865; James E. Doughty, promoted

to major December, 1864.

CASUALTIES.

The regiment having been employed habitually on the skirmish line and the outpost, did not suffer the heavy losses in killed and wounded incident to fight-

ing in heavy columns, and yet it is more than probable that they rendered more of the enemy's best troops hors de combat than any other three regiments in the field.

Four men died of disease; 33 men were discharged for disability on surgeon's certificate, 8 of whom saw some service; 8 men were killed; Captain Chase died of wounds; 23 were wounded in action; 3 injured in railroad collision at White Plains, Va., June 1, 1862.

ROSTER OF THE FIRST COMPANY OF MINNESOTA SHARPSHOOTERS.

NAMES.	Atile	Mustr In		MUSTERED OUT.	REMARKS.
OFFICERS,	-				
Captains —		۱			m_ w a. m. m. a. m
Francis Peteler	33	Oct.	5, '61	June 23, '63	Pro. Lieut. Col. Feb. 10, '62; granted 30 days' furlough after second Bull Run on account of Indian outbreak in Minn.; in command of Fort Abercrombie, D. T., winter '62 and '63; resigned June 23, '63; Corp. Co. A, 8th U.S. Inf. in Mex. War.
Benedict Hippier	40			July 18, '62	Originally mustered Oct. 5, '61, as 1st Lieut.; pro. Captain Feb. 10, '62; resigned. (Served several years in German army.)
Dudley P. Chase	43				Orig. mustered Oct. 5, '61, as 2d Lieut.; pro. 1st Lieut. Feb. 10, '62; Capt. July 18, '62; wnd. at Antietam; died May 8, '62, from wounds received at Chancellorsville.
Abraham Wright	29	Oct.	5, '61	Oct. 6, '64	Orig. mustered Oct. 5, '61; 1st Serg.; 1st Lieut. July 18, '62; Capt. May 8, '63; wnd. at Gettysburg; at North Anna May 24, '64; also at Petersburg June 16, '64.
James E. Doughty	21	Feb.,	162	Feb. 25, '65	
Owen Evans	36	Dec.,	764	Feb. 22, '65	Corp. Oct. 5, '61; Serg., 2d Lieut., 1st Lieut.; wnd. May, '64.
John T. Walker	32	Dec.,	*64		Private Oct. 5, '61; wounded May 6, '64.
Aldritt, Edwin	21	Oct.	5, '61	July, '63	Pro. Corp.; never lost a day by sickness in nearly four years' service; transf. to 1st Bat., Minn. Vols., Jan. 30, '63,
Ackley, Chas. R	24	Oct.	5, '61	Aug. 20, 162	Discharged for disability.
Bugbee, John G		Oct.	8, '61 8, '61	Apr. 16, '62	Wounded in the Wilderness May, '64. Discharged for disability.
Blake, Geo	24	Oct.	5, '61		Killed in Wilderness May 6, '64.
Babecck, John W	24 19		5, '61 5, '61		No. 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Bell, Lucius Baily, Wesley F		Apr.	5, '61 3, '62		
Bertram, James		Apr.	2, '62		Transferred to Minnesota Battalion.
Charles, Edward	21	Apr.	2, '64 5, '61	July, '65 June, '62	
Crippen, Robert	30	Oct.	5, '61	June, '62	Discharged for disability,
Caidweil, Asa B	22	Oct.	5, %1	Dec. 26, '62	Wounded second Bull Run; taken prisoner; escaped same night.
Charltan, Richard		Oet.	5, '61 5, '61	Sept. 22, '64 Mch. 26, '62	Wounded at Antietam. Discharged for disability.
Collina, William T	23	Oct.	5, 61	May 2, %3	Corporal; lost leg at Rappahannock Station August, '62.
Corwin, Albert W	24	l	5, '61	Nov., '63	Pro. to Serg. March, '62; wounded at Rappahannock Station; transferred to Invalid Corps.
					turned; transferred to Invalid Corps.
Craig, David P		Oct.	5, 161	***************************************	Corp., Serg.; in). by r.r. collision; dis. for disability Sept. 25, '62. Serg.; pro. Orderly; transf, to U.S. A. as Hosp. Stew. Jan. 5, '63,
Doison, John O	19	Oct.	5, %1		Received three wounds at Gettysburg; died Sept. 3, '63.
Donion, Thos		Oct.	5, '61	**************	Dropped from rolls in '62. Taken prisoner June, '64.
Dunsmore, Irving A		Oct.	5, 61	Nov. 19, '62	Discharged from hospital.
Dickey, James C		Oct.	5, 61	Nov., 62	Wounded at Antietam; discharged.
Frederick, Sylvester		Apr.	5, '61	July, '65	Cap. 2d Bull Bun; ret. Mar. 6, '63; transf. to 1st Bat. Jan. 30, '65. Discharged.
Horton, John W	21	Oct.	5, '61	management began	Captured second Bull Run; dis. from parol camp Columbus, O.
Hartford, Elder B		Oct.	5, °61	July, '65 Oct. 6,'64	Pro. Corp. and Serg.; wnd. May 11, '64; transf. to Minn. Bat.
Hershberger, Martin	25	Oct.	5, 61		Died from injuries received at r.r. collision at White Plains, Va.
Hamlet, Alfred W	26	Oct.	6, '61		Captured second Bull Run; killed in Wilderness May 6, '64.
Hamlet, Benjamin O Hancock, Samuel H	21 31	Oct.	5, '61		Killed at Gettysburg July 3, '63. Sergeant; transf, to a battery Sept. 22, '64.
Hanks, Gilbert E	21				Dropped from roll September, '63,
Heald, Daniel	38	Oct.	5, '61		Died May 5, '63, at Alexandria, Va.
Hawes, James C Howe, Abraham	24	Oct.	5, '61	Feb. 10, '62	Pro. Chief Bugler of reg.; dis. on account of throat trouble. Corporal; discharged for disability.
Jacobs, Chas. M	89	Oct.	5, 61		Killed second Bull Run Aug. 29, '62.
James, Geo. E	19		5, 61	May, '63	
Jones, Oliver J	37	Oct.	5, 161		
Johnson, Richard M	23	Mch.	1. '64	4 July - 165	Transferred to Minnesota Battailon.
Kerr, Vm. S	18	Oct.	5, '61	Nov. 6, 64 Sept. 22, 64	Wounded in the Wilderness; also at Petersburg. Wounded May 15, '64.
Kerr, John		Nov.	5, 62		Captured at Spottsylvania May, "64; killed on steamer Sul-
Kelley, Benjamin G	l			Jan., '65	Transferred to Invalid Corps July 8, '64.
Lang, James	1 24	Sept. 1	12, 164		Transferred to Minnesota Battalion Jan. 30, '65,
Livingston, Alex Livingston, John	27	Oct.	5, 161	May 25, 169	Died of wounds received at Antietam Sept. 17, '62, Discharged for disability.
Liule, Albert	27	Oct.	5, 51	May 25, 162 July, 165	Transferred 1st Battalion Jan. 30, '65.
Little, Francis W	29	Oct.	5, '61	Nov. 30, '62	Injured by railway collision June, '62,
Maricle, Abraham	34		5, 161		Wounded at Antietam; captured at Gettysburg; discharged. Wounded at Antietam; transferred to Minn, But. Jan. 30, '65.
Martell, Nelson	. 35	Sept_	164	July, 265	Transferred to Minnesota Battalion Jan. 30, '65.
McKellup, Geo. W	26	Oct.	5, %1	July 19, '64	Re-enlisted: mustered out July 14, '65,
McGaffy, Henry C		Uet.	5, '61 5, '61	July, 165	Wounded at Autietam; transferred to 1st Minnesota Battation.
ASSESSED BY THE PARTY OF THE PA	25	Oct.	20.00	Secretary to the second	Killed June 10, '64, at Cold Harbor.
Mixter, Horace	2.1	[1,00E-	0, '61	Beeps, 26, 364	atuncian.
Mixter, Horace Moriarty, Eugene	. 18	Oct.	6, '61 6, '61	July, '65	
Mixter, Horace	18	Oct.	5, %1	July, '65	Sent to hospital.

ROSTER OF THE FIRST COMPANY OF MINNESOTA SHARPSHOOTERS - Continued.

Names.		MUSTERED In.		REMARKS.	
	Aug	15.	OUT.		
Page, Henry C	21	Oct. 5, '61	July, '65	Transferred to Minnesota Battalion.	
Pierce, Joseph		Oct. 5, '61	May 9, '62	Discharged for disability,	
Powers, John M	24	Oct. 5, 61	Jan. 14, 68	Discharged for disability.	
Pickard, Dan. O	23	Oct. 5, '61		Promoted to Regimental Hospital Steward in '63.	
Pettijohn, D. B		Oct. 5, '61		Pro. Corp., Serg., 2d Lieut., but not mustered; cap. at Gett	
Property Tames on T	94	Out # NH	Oct., 162	burg; imprisoned at Charleston, S.C., until close of war.	
Prescott, Lawrence T				The state of the s	
Parmeter, Silas S		Oct. 5, 61		Discharged for disability.	
Palmer, Geo	22	Atca. 29, 64	4-1 7 500	Killed May 23, '64.	
Penny, Uriah R	24	Oct. 5, 61	Apl. 1, '63 Sept. 22, '64	Corporal; discharged for disability.	
Reese, Thus. M	24	Oct. 8, '61	Nept. 22, '64	Discharged expiration of term.	
Reese, Sam. B		Oct. 8, '61	Nov. 26, '62	Wounded at Antietam Sept. 17, '62.	
Reese, Charles		Oct. 5, 61	Feb. 4, 62	Corporal; discharged for disability.	
Rand, Julian		Oct. 5, 61	Sept. 22, '64	Discharged expiration of term of service.	
Rogers, Levanson		Oct. 5, 61	The second	Sergeant; died at Philadelphia Dec. 1, '62.	
Sarver, Wm. F	32	Oct. 5, 61	Dec., '61	Discharged for disability.	
Sampson, Henry W		Oct. 5, 61	Mch. 3, '68		
Sampare, Edmund		Oct. 5, '61		Killed at Antietam Sept. 17, '62.	
Scoville, Everett		Oct. 5, 61	July, '65		
Seward, Watson	21	Oct. 5, '61	Feb., '62		
Seamons, W. H	30	Oct. 5, 61	Sept. 22, '64	Discharged expiration term of service.	
Sexton, Wm. S	34	Oct. 5, 61	Aug. 20, '62	Discharged from injuries received in railroad collision.	
Slocum, Geo. F		Oct. 5, '61		Discharged for disability.	
Smith, Anson		Oct. 5, 61	Mch.11, '63	Re-enlisted March 1, '64; trausf, to 1st Minn. But. Jan. 30, '6	
Smith, Almon P	21	Meh. 1, '64	July, '65	Transferred to 1st Minnesota Battalion Jan. 20, '65.	
Storrs, Francis		Oct. 5, 61	*************	Killed at second Bull Run Aug. 29, '62,	
Storrs, Orin D		Oct. 5, '61	June, '62	Discharged for disability.	
Stacey, Wm. H	21	Oct. 5, 61	July, '65		
Stewart, Jackson	24	Oct. 5, 61		Sergeant; died in hospital June 28, 162.	
Swartout, Eugene		Apl. 2, 64	July, '65		
Thompson, Terrance	18	Oct. 5, 61	Sept. '61	Discharged for disability September, '61.	
Veeder, John T	38	Oct. 5, 61	Sept. 22, '64	Corporal, Sergeant; wounded at second Bull Run.	
Wales, James D			449	Discharged to enlist in Missouri regiment.	
Walker, Joseph W			Sept. 22, '64	Corporal; transferred to Quartermaster's Department.	
Weaver, Simeon	36	Feb. 20, '64	July, 65	Transferred to Minnesota Battalion in '65,	
Wheaton, Willard		Oct. 5, 61	Sept. 22, '64	Discharged expiration term of service.	
White, Jacob		Oct. 5, '61	Oct. 5, '64'	Discharged expiration term of service.	
Whitmore, James A		Meh. 1, 64	July, '65		
Young, John M	98	- Det 5 501	Feb. 5, '63	Wounded at Antietam Sept. 17, '62.	