

Austins of America Files

ACTIONS OF THE 31ST IOWA INFANTRY IN WHICH JEREMIAH AUSTIN SERVED

The following is derived mainly from the Adjutant General's Reports. Jeremiah Austin's family appears on *Austins of America* page 796.

Iowa's thirty-first infantry was mustered into service at Davenport by Capt. Hendershoot on 13 October, 1862, and under the command of Col. William Smyth took transport and moved down the river on 1 November, arriving at Helena, Arkansas on the 20th. On 27 November they joined Hovey's Expedition (attached to the 1st Division 3rd Brigade) to the Cold Water river in Mississippi, returning to Helena on 7 December. Two weeks later the regiment started on Sherman's Yazoo River Expedition (attached to the 11th Division, 2nd Brigade), and was partially engaged in the battle of Chickasaw Bayou on 27-29 December.

On the 2 January 1863 they started for a point near Arkansas Post where they arrived on the 9th, and on the night of the 10th marched through swamps and mire to the rear of the enemy's works, where on the 11th, they hotly engaged in the capture of the place.

From this point the regiment was ordered to Young's Point, Louisiana, where they remained in camp until 2 April, when they moved again up the river to Greenville, Mississippi. After some skirmishing and considerable foraging for mules, cattle, horses, hogs and even Negroes, they returned to Young's Point on 26 April. From here they moved with Grant's whole army towards Grand Gulf, arriving on 7 May, when they again moved toward Jackson, Mississippi. The regiment was under fire at Raymond on the 12th; was at the taking of Jackson on the 14th; and again under fire at Black River, on the 16th, reaching the rear of Vicksburg on the 18th, where it was engaged on the 23rd in a terrible but successful charge on the enemy's works and was from this time steadily under fire till the fall of Vicksburg on the 4th of July.

The regiment, under General Sherman, started for Jackson, Mississippi, on 5 July, being under fire until the second evacuation of that place, when it was moved to Canton, Mississippi, where it was again engaged, when it went into camp at Black River until the 22nd of September. From here it moved to Vicksburg, thence to Memphis, thence to Corinth, MS, where it remained till 11 October; thence marched to Iuka and to Cherokee on the 20th and on the morning of the 21st had a severe engagement with the rebel cavalry. On the 26th and 27th, they had a running fight with the enemy, again returning to Cherokee Station. On 24 November they were in the battle of Lookout Mountain, and on the following day and had equally hard fighting at Mission

Ridge, and on the 27th was again engaged at Ringgold and Taylor's Hills where the regiment suffered severely. Here they remained until 1 December when moving by way of Chattanooga, and Bridgeport, they reached Woodville, Alabama on the 27th, and went into Winter quarters where they remained until the 1 May, 1864.

On the morning of 1 May, they moved east, reaching Snake Gap, Georgia on the 9th, where they encountered the enemy in force. On the 13th, they had a severe fight at Resaca, in which Lt. Col. Jenkins was severely wounded. The regiment laid in camp at Kingston, Georgia from the night of the 19th until the morning of the 23rd, awaiting supplies. They then moved on, encountering the enemy at Dallas, on the night of the 26th, and the following morning, after a short but sharp conflict the enemy was driven back; and again on the 28th, the enemy charging on their works, were driven back. The fighting lasted during the 29, 30th, and 31st. On the 1 June, the regiment moved to New Hope Church and occupied rifle pits under fire of the enemy, until the 6th, when the regiment moved to Ackworth, remaining there until the 10th, when they marched to Big Shanty, ten miles distant, again engaging the enemy in force. Guarded wagon train until the 15th, when they moved into rifle pits near Kenesaw Mountain, and were constantly under fire until the evening of 3 July, when the enemy evacuated Kenesaw Mountain.

On July 4th they again encountered the enemy at Chattahoochie River, and building works they remained under fire until the 11th, when they moved to Roswell, Georgia. From there they went to Vining Station, thence to a point near Atlanta. On 26 August they moved toward Jonesboro, on the Macon Railroad. On the 31st, the enemy made a desperate fight. The regiment was again under fire until the 2nd of September, when Jonesboro was evacuated. On 4 October the regiment, with a large portion of Sherman's army, moved north in pursuit of Hood, skirmishing with him at Resaca, Snake Gap, Little River, etc.; after this, went to Atlanta on November 15th, thence into the heart of Georgia. Marching about fifteen miles per day, they reached the rear of Savannah, on the 10th of December 1864, and ten days later the whole army entered that city. By this victory the army was severed into three parts, and the enemy compelled to loosen its grasp over a vast territory. The Thirty-first was actively engaged in North Carolina Campaigns from this time till March 8th when General Grant's famous dispatch, "Let us finish the job now" was announced, when the final blow as soon struck, and the year which promised to be so full of bloody strife was the end of the war of the rebellion.

Austins of America Files

The Thirty-first was mustered out of service at Louisville June 27, 1865, and came to Davenport, where they were paid off and disbanded.

31st REGIMENT INFANTRY SUMMARY

Organized at Davenport and mustered in October 13, 1862. Moved to Helena, Ark., November 1-20, 1862. Attached to 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, District of Eastern Arkansas, Dept. of Tennessee, to December, 1862. 2nd Brigade, 11th Division, Right Wing 13th Army Corps (Old), Dept. of Tennessee, to December, 1862. 2nd Brigade, 4th Division, Sherman's Yazoo Expedition, to January, 1863. 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 15th Army Corps, Dept. of Tennessee, to September, 1864. 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, 15th Army Corps, to June, 1865.

SERVICE.--Hovey's Expedition from Helena, Ark., to Coldwater, Miss., November 27-December 5, 1862. Sherman's Yazoo Expedition December 22, 1862, to January 2, 1863. Chickasaw Bayou December 26-28, 1862. Chickasaw Bluffs December 29. Expedition to Arkansas Post January 3-10, 1863. Assault on and capture of Fort Hindman, Arkansas Post, January 10-11. Moved to Young's Point, La., January 17-23, and duty there until April. Expedition to Greenville, Black Bayou and Deer Creek April 2-14. Deer Creek April 7. Black Bayou April 10. Demonstration on Haines and Snyder's Bluffs April 28-May 2. Moved to join army in rear of Vicksburg, Miss., via Richmond and Grand Gulf May 2-14. Fourteen-Mile Creek May 12-13. Jackson, Miss., May 14. Siege of Vicksburg May 18-July 4. Assaults on Vicksburg May 19 and 22. Advance on Jackson, Miss., July 5-10. Siege of Jackson July 10-17. Briar Creek, near Canton, July 17. At Big Black until September 22. Moved to Memphis, thence march to Chattanooga, Tenn., September 23-November 21. Operations on the Memphis & Charleston Railroad in Alabama October 20-29. Cherokee Station October 21 and 29. Cane Creek October 26. Tuscumbia October 26-27. Battles of Chattanooga November 23-27; Lookout Mountain November 23-24; Mission Ridge November 25; Ringgold Gap, Taylor's Ridge, November 27. March to relief of Knoxville November 28-December 8. Garrison duty in Alabama until April, 1864. Atlanta Campaign May 1 to September 8. Demonstration on Resaca May 8-13. Snake Creek Gap May 10-12. Battle of Resaca May 14-15. Operations on the line of Pumpkin Vine Creek and battles about Dallas, New Hope Church and Allatoona Hills May 25-June 5. Operations about Marietta and against Kenesaw Mountain June 10-July 2. Bushy Mountain June 15-17. Assault on Kenesaw June 27. Nickajack Creek July 2-5. Chattahoochie River July 6-17. Battle of Atlanta July 22. Siege of Atlanta July 22-

August 25. Ezra Chapel, Hood's second sortie, July 28. Flank movement on Jonesboro August 25-30. Battle of Jonesboro August 31-September 1. Lovejoy Station September 2-6. Pursuit of Hood into Alabama October 1-26. Ships Gap October 16. March to the sea November 15-December 10. Griswoldsville November 23. Siege of Savannah December 10-21. Campaign of the Carolinas January to April, 1865. Reconnaissance to Salkehatchie River January 25. Salkehatchie Swamps, S.C., February 3-5. South Edisto River February 9. North Edisto River February 12-13. Columbia February 15-17. Lynch's Creek February 25-26. Battle of Bentonville, N. C., March 20-21. Occupation of Goldsboro March 24. Advance on Raleigh April 9-13. Occupation of Raleigh April 14. Bennett's House April 26. Surrender of Johnston and his army. March to Washington, D.C., via Richmond, Va., April 29-May 20. Grand Review May 24. Mustered out June 27, 1865.

Regiment lost during service 1 Officer and 27 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 3 Officers and 272 Enlisted men by disease. Total 303.