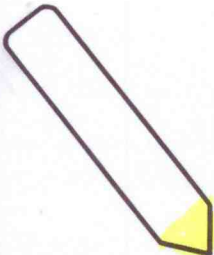


History of the  
Second  
connecticut  
volunteer heavy  
artillery.  
Originally the  
Nineteenth  
Connecticut vols

Vaill, Theodore  
Frelinghuysen





in the vicinity of Fort Lyon, on the Mount Vernon road, and commanding the land and water approaches to Alexandria on the South. About this time General Tyler was relieved in command by General De Russy, and all the fortifications from Alexandria to Georgetown received the name of the "Defences of Washington South of the Potomac,"—and the troops stationed therein constituted the Twenty-second Army Corps. During the entire season the Nineteenth was called upon for nothing more laborious than drilling, target practice, stockade building in Alexandria, picking blackberries, drinking a quarter of a gill of whiskey and quinine at Reveille and Retreat, and drawing pay from Major Ladd every two months. Yet a good many seemed to be in all sorts of affliction, and were constantly complaining because they could not *go to the front*. A year later, when the soldiers of the Nineteenth were staggering along the Pamunkey, with heavy loads and blistered feet, or throwing up breastworks with their coffee pots all night under fire in front of Petersburg, they looked back to the Defences of Washington as to a lost Elysium, and fervently longed to regain those blissful seats. Oh Happiness! why is it that men never recognize thy features until thou art far away?

Colonel Wessells resigned, on account of ill health, on the 16th of September. In October the regiment was withdrawn from the rebovts, and brigaded with the First Connecticut Heavy Artillery, under the command of Colonel Henry L. Abbott. The regimental headquarters were established at "Oak Grove House," and the companies distributed at three forts,—Ellsworth, Williams, and Worth,—where they remained until the following May.

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of supernumeraries, rehearse the coming battles. Fierce and doubtful is the fight, even on that mimic stage; but HOPE is always victorious in the last act, and is the ever encored favorite!

Unfading Hope! when life's last embers burn,  
When soul to soul, and dust to dust return,  
Heaven to thy charge resigns the awful hour!  
Oh! then thy kingdom comes! immortal power!

The day was passed in busy preparation for departure. In the evening the companies assembled near the Arlington House, and the regiment moved to the outskirts of Alexandria, where it bivouacked a little after midnight. Early in the morning\* we embarked for Belle Plain, at which place we arrived in the afternoon, in a pouring rain, and in mud knee deep,—in floundering through which many a soldier lost one or both of his shoes. Night found us curled up and shivering under shelter tents among the dripping bushes on the steep hill sides, each man supplied with five days' rations and one hundred rounds of ammunition, with orders to carry the same, *somehow*, on his person. About midnight the rain ceased, and Major Ladd, who had failed to reach us at Alexandria, and had followed right on, paid off the regiment. On the 19th we marched to Fredericksburg, at that time the hospital city, nearly every house of which was filled with wounded: and on the 20th, after passing Massaponax Church, and crossing the Mat, the Ta, the Po, and the Ny,—four small streams that form the Mattapony,—we reached the headquarters of the Army of the Potomac; and were at once assigned to the Second Brigade, First Division, Sixth Corps. The army had

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\* May 18, 1864.

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