

Union Corps Histories - 17th Corps

Port Gibson; Hankinson's Ferry; Raymond; Jackson (May 14th);
Champion's Hill; Assault On Vicksburg, May 19th; Assault On
Vicksburg, May 22d; Fort Hill; Vicksburg Trenches; Siege Of Jackson;
Meridian Expedition; Missionary Ridge; Big Shanty; Kennesaw Mountain;
Chattahoochie River; Nickajack Creek; Battle Of Atlanta; Ezra Church;
Jonesboro; Lovejoy's Station; Sherman's March; Ogeechee River; Siege
Of Savannah; Combahee River: Pocatigo; River's Bridge; Edisto
River; Orangeburg; Cheraw; Fayetteville; Bentonville; Benton*;
Vaughn's Station*; Jackson (July 6, 1864)* ; Fort De Russy*;
Cloutiersville*; Cane River*; Marksville*; Bayou De Glaize*;
Nashville*

The Seventeenth Corps was organized December 18, 1862, under the same order which created the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Corps. It was composed of the divisions of Logan, McArthur and Quinby,- formerly the Third, Sixth and Seventh Divisions of Grant's Army, - and Major-General J. B. McPherson was assigned to its command. It was engaged in the operations on the Mississippi River prior to the campaign in the rear of Vicksburg, and then took a prominent part in the series of battles which resulted in the investment of that place. Its three divisions entered upon that campaign with 37 regiments of infantry, and 12 batteries (60 guns) of light artillery, - numbering, in all, 15,848 officers and men present for duty. Its total enrollment, present and absent, amounted to 23,154.

Logan's Division was engaged at the battle of Port Gibson (Magnolia Hills), where it lost 6 killed, 41 wounded, and 2 missing; also at Raymond, where it was the only division in action, losing there 66 killed, 339 wounded, and 37 missing. At the battle of Jackson, May 14th, the brunt of the fight fell on the Seventeenth Corps and on Quinby's Division, which lost 36 killed, 229 wounded, and 3 missing; total, 268. General Quinby being absent on account of illness, his division was commanded there by General Crocker. At Champion's Hill, both Logan's and Crocker's Divisions were engaged, losing in the aggregate 179 killed, 857 wounded, and 42 missing; total, 1,078. During these battles McArthur's Division had been absent on duty, but joined the corps in time for the first assault on Vicksburg, May 19, in which it lost 16 killed and 113 wounded. In the general assault of May 22d, the corps lost 150 killed, 880 wounded, and 36 missing; total, 1,066. It also sustained a severe loss in the trenches during the siege, and was engaged in the affair at Fort Hill, a strong earthwork in front of the corps position. This fort was successfully mined and blown up, June 25th, but the assaulting column was unable

to retain their lodgment in the crater. Upon the surrender of Vicksburg, Logan's Division was accorded the honor of first entering and occupying the city, while the rest of the corps marched away with Sherman's Expedition against Jackson.

That place having been captured, the Army returned to Vicksburg, where, in September, 1863, the Fourth Division of the Sixteenth Corps (formerly Lauman's) was transferred to the Seventeenth, and placed under command of General M. M. Crocker. At the same time, Quinby's Division was transferred to the Fifteenth Corps. During the fall of 1863, the corps took part in various raids and marches, and in February 1864, Crocker's and Leggett's Divisions accompanied Sherman's Army on the expedition from Vicksburg to Meridian, Miss., and on the return. Soon after this the corps became divided, two divisions joining Sherman's Army in the advance on Atlanta, while the rest of the corps remained in the Mississippi Valley.

In May 1864, the Third and Fourth Divisions were assembled at Huntsville, Ala., from whence they marched through Georgia, and joined Sherman's Army on the 8th of June, at Ackworth, Ga. The corps was under the command of Major-General Frank P. Blair, General McPherson having been promoted to the command of the Army of the Tennessee, which comprised the Fifteenth, Sixteenth, and Seventeenth Corps. Blair's two divisions - the ones with Sherman's Army - were commanded by Generals Leggett and Gresham, the latter officer succeeding General Crocker, who relinquished his command, May 27th, on account of ill health. Although Sherman's Army was well on its way to Atlanta, there was plenty of hard fighting left for the Seventeenth Corps. It was engaged with honor in the battle of Atlanta, July 22nd, which was one of the hardest contested fields in that campaign. General Gresham was badly wounded in this action, and General Giles A. Smith succeeded to the command of the Fourth Division. After the fall of Atlanta, Fuller's Division of the Sixteenth Corps was transferred to the Seventeenth, becoming its First Division, to the command of which General Joseph A. Mower was soon after assigned.

While on the March to the Sea, and during Sherman's march through the Carolinas, the corps remained under the command of General Blair, with its three divisions - First, Third, and Fourth - under Generals Mower, Leggett, and Giles A. Smith. Just before starting on the March to the Sea its morning reports showed 11,732 present for duty; it then contained 32 regiments of infantry and five light batteries. It encountered little or no fighting as it went marching through Georgia, but its advance through the Carolinas was marked by several

minor engagements, culminating in the battle of Bentonville in which it was partially engaged. There were long, toilsome marches, also, with wide rivers to cross and swamps to wade, many of which were forded under the enemy's fire.

After participating in the Grand Review at Washington at the close of the war, the Army of the Tennessee - Fifteenth and Seventeenth Army Corps - was ordered in June 1865, to Louisville, Ky. On the 6th of July, orders were issued to prepare the Army of the Tennessee for muster-out; in a few weeks the ranks which had fought at Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth, Vicksburg, Atlanta, and in the Carolinas, moved northward and disappeared.

When the Seventeenth Corps started on the Atlanta campaign it left the First and Second Divisions in the Mississippi Valley, and the corps thus separated was not reunited. The place of the First Division was filled at Atlanta by the transfer from the Sixteenth Corps; the place of the Second Division remained vacant, for that division continued to serve in the Department of the Mississippi as a part of the Seventeenth Corps. Six regiments from this division served on Banks' Red River Expedition in April, 1864, the six regiments - formed into two brigades - being known then as a Provisional, or as the Red River Division of the Seventeenth Corps. It was commanded by General T. K. Smith. Parts of this division served, also, on McArthur's Yazoo City Expedition, May 4-13, 1864, and on General Slocum's Expedition to Jackson, July 5-6, 1864. A few regiments were engaged, also, under Sturgis, at Brice's Cross Roads, and in General A. J. Smith's Expedition to Tupelo. The fighting in some of these campaigns was severe on certain regiments.

In November 1864, the Red River Division of the Seventeenth Corps accompanied General A. J. Smith's forces to Nashville, and took part in that famous battle and victory. Smith's troops consisted of two divisions of the Sixteenth Corps and this provisional division of the Seventeenth; but the whole command was officially designated as a "Detachment, from the Army of the Tennessee," instead of by their corps numbers. Upon the reorganization of the Sixteenth Corps, prior to the Mobile campaign of 1865, this division of the Seventeenth was merged in the larger organization of the Sixteenth; hence, the Seventeenth Corps, in 1865, consisted of the three divisions then marching with Sherman northward through the Carolinas.

* Second, or Red River Division

Source: Regimental Losses in The American Civil War, William Fox, Lt.
Col., U.S.V. 1898