

43rd GEORGIA REGIMENT INFANTRY

Although you state Company C of this Regiment may have been formed in June of 1862, at least a part of the Regiment existed before that time.

The first mention of the Regiment in the "Official Records" comes in a report of Major General E. Kirby Smith, dated April 13, 1862, in which he states the following.

"I have two regiments at Bridgeport and two at Chattanooga, under the command of General Leadbetter. One of the latter, the 43rd Georgia, is awaiting the arrival of arms from Richmonds".

Shortly after this the Regiment was to have its first contact with the enemy. General Leadbetter states the following in his report concerning an action which took place at West Bridge, Alabama, on April 29th.

"I have the honor to report that the enemy 1100-1200 strong advanced against Bridgeport on the 29th ultimo. My command guarding the bridges at that place consisted of 450 infantry of the newly raised regiments, the 39th and 43rd Georgia, with 150 cavalry employed only as scouts. The infantry was posted on the heights in advance of the west bridge."

When the enemy advanced and drove in Leadbetter's scouts, his men made some attempts to destroy the bridges but were unsuccessful. Towards evening Leadbetter felt that his position was untenable and decided to evacuate. He retired in the direction of Chattanooga.

The Regiment had apparently been armed well before this time and Leadbetter also states in his report that he collected arms from the sick of the 49th and 43rd Georgia Regiments to help arm a new command under Colonel Glenn.

An organizational report dated May, 1862, shows the regiment as part of the Department of East Tennessee, under the overall command of Major General Kirby Smith. They are part of the First Brigade commanded by Brig. General D. Leadbetter. The Regiment is under the direct control of Colonel S. Harris. The First Brigade, under Leadbetter, contained a varied force. Along with the 43rd Georgia, it also consisted of Captain J. R. Holmes, Company A, Battalion of Alabama Cavalry under Major Estes, the First Florida Cavalry under Colonel Davis, the First Georgia Cavalry under Major Harper, Captain Leuty's Cavalry Company, McBride's Cavalry Company, Jackson Artillery, (Georgia), under Captain Dure Lookout, Artillery (Tennessee), under Captain Barry, the Mabry Artillery (Tennessee) under Captain Kain, and a group of Sappers and Miners under Lt. Margrave.

The total number present for duty for the brigade is given as 93 officers and 1,333 men, aggregate present is 2,027. The total present for duty is a rather small number for such a brigade.

Regarding the size of the various units, General Smith, in June, 1862, wrote a letter to Governor Joseph Brown of Georgia in which he lists all the Regiments from that State, including the enemy action.

In September they moved from the gap and were ordered to

43rd, which are now under his command.

He states, "The Regiments have now been reduced, chiefly by sickness, to an average effective strength of about 400 men. Can you not take measures for adding to them from conscripts and by calling upon all absentees who are now able for duty to rejoin their regiments, so that the muskets be kept constantly in use?"

Perhaps it was his request, coming in June of 1862, which brought the men of Pickens County into the ranks of the 43rd Georgia. Also, during the month of June, there was a change in the organization of the Department. The 43rd Georgia was now part of the Third Brigade commanded by Colonel A.W. Reynolds. In addition to the 43rd, this brigade also consisted of the 36th Georgia under Colonel Glenn, the 39th Georgia under Colonel McConnell, and the 3rd Maryland Battery under Captain Latrobe.

Shortly after this there was another change in the organization and Reynolds' Brigade, as of July 3rd, is shown as the 4th Brigade.

Also, in addition to the above mentioned troops, the 4th Brigade also contained the 20th Alabama under Colonel Garrott and the 39th North Carolina under Colonel Coleman. In time for the

After the Union withdrawal from the Cumberland Gap, the Regiment, as part of the Fourth Brigade, was sent to that area. Throughout the late Summer there are several reports which mention possible movements of the Fourth Brigade, but no mention of any enemy action. General Barton at Indian Mound on Fishing Lake:

In September they moved from the gap and were ordered to halt Louisiana Volunteers."

at Georgetown. Barton, in his report, states:

In October, General Smith reports that Colonel Reynolds is located at Mershon's Cross Roads. By the end of October, there was still another reorganization of the forces under now Lt. General E. Kirby Smith. The Regiment was now part of the Second Division under the command of Major General J.P. McCown, the First Brigade, under the command of Brig. Genera. E. D. Tracy.

Along with the 43rd, this brigade consisted of the 20th, 23rd, and 46th Alabama Infantry, and Waddell's Artillery. The next two months were quiet with no mention made of the Regiment.

By late December the Regiment had been transferred to the area of Vicksburg, Mississippi. Here they were part of Barton's Brigade, which also consisted of the 40th, 42nd, and 52nd Georgia Regiments.

A letter from Lt. General Pemberton commanding at Vicksburg, dated December 27th, states that the Regiment as part of Barton's Brigade, have arrived while other Georgia Regiments are still en route. This provides a fairly good estimate to the time of the Regiment's transfer to this area. They arrived here just in time for Union General Sherman's attack on Chickasaw Bayou which took place on Dec. 28-29th, 1862.

Major General M.L. Smith, commanding the Division to which the Regiment was attached, states in his report of the battle:

"With General Barton at Indian Mound on Fishing Lake: 40th, 43rd, and 52nd Regiments Georgia Volunteers, 31st Regiment Louisiana Volunteers."

General Barton, in his report, states:

"Soon after my arrival here on the 27th, I was ordered by Major General Smith to take post with a part of my brigade on the road in rear of the rifle pits on the lake, some 3 miles north of the City, and take charge of the positions there...The line of skirmishers to the right and left was strengthened and the troops placed in position. At 4:30 a.m. on the 28th, the enemy opened with six pieces and sharpshooters on the works and road and with few intermissions kept up his fire with increased force and vigor until night fall.....At daylight on the 29th the attack recommenced in heavy force, slackened in vigor about 7 a.m., but renewed about 11 a.m. and lasted until after dark, the enemy made five efforts to take the breastworks by storm, three times gained the crest of the parapet, once made a lodgement and attempted to mine, but on every occasion was repulsed with heavy loss.....Great praise is due.....Lt. Colonel Hiram P. Bell (wounded) commanding the 43rd Georgia and Major Henry C. Kellogg, same Regiment."

During this engagement the Regiment lost only one man wounded, the above mentioned Lt. Colonel. The other Regiments of the brigade suffered much higher casualties. No mention is made of the absence of Colonel Harris in command of the Regiment. However, it may be assumed he travelled apart from the Regiment and arrived shortly after the engagement.

In a strength report dated January 2, 1863, Colonel Harris is again shown in command of the Regiment and the total strength is given as 404 men.

A letter of Robert Guld, Confederate agent of exchange, dated September 1863, states that on the following day, "I shall be following the following Confederate officers and men captured by the Union Army on July 7, 1863, and since then paroled, to wit: First, Division is also referred to as part of the Army of East Tennessee, with headquarters at Vicksburg. In the organization reports for March and April, Colonel Harris is shown in command of the Regiment.

Following their reorganization, the Regiment next participated in the Chattanooga-Big Rock Campaign, which lasted from Oct. 20th to December 31, 1863. At this time they were part of the Army of Tennessee under the overall command of General Braxton Bragg. They were part of Breckinridge's Army Corps, Stewart's Division, Stovall's Brigade, and under the direct command of Colonel Hiram P. Bell.

There is no regimental level report on this battle, but we are including a report of General Barton, the brigade commander, covering the actions of the brigade.

Following their defeat at Chickamauga in September, the Union Army retreated to Chattanooga and were besieged by the following Confederates. The 3rd joined that besieging force sometime before July 4th, the Regiment was under the direct command of Captain M.M. Grantham. Also, along with General Barton, the following officers of the brigade were surrendered: 3 colonels, 2 lt. colonels, 3 majors, 39 captains, 37 first lieutenants, 39 second lieutenants, 25 third lieutenants, 25 third lieutenants, and 2 chaplains.

Following their surrender, the men were given paroles. Most were driven from Chattanooga. During this time the Regiment suffered no killed or wounded, but had two enlisted men missing in action. The war has reports at any level concerning the actions of the Regiment during these battles. However, correspondence just prior to the start of the battles gives some indication to their position. On November 23rd, General Stewart commanding the Division received the following letter from the commanding General.

"I am directed by the Major General commanding to desire you

A letter of Robert Ould, Confederate agent of exchange, dated Sept. 11, 1863, states that on the following day, "I shall declare exchanged the following Confederate officers and men captured at Vicksburg, July 4, 1863, and since then paroled, to wit: First, the officers and men of General Stevenson's Division, consisting of Generals Bartons, Lees, Reynolds and Cummings Brigades...."

Following their reorganization, the Regiment next participated in the Chattanooga-Ringgold Campaign, which lasted from Oct. 20th to December 31, 1863. At this time they were part of the Army of Tennessee under the overall command of General Braxton Bragg. They were part of Breckinridge's Army Corps, Stewarts' Division, Stovall's Brigade, and under the direct command of Colonel Hiram P. Bell.

Following their defeat at Chickamauga in September, the Union Army retreated to Chattanooga and were besieged by the following Confederates. The 43rd joined that besieging force sometime before the major battle of this campaign which took place on Nov. 23-25, 1863. There were battles at Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, Orchard Knob and Missionary Ridge.

The outcome of these battles was that Bragg and the Confederates were driven from Chattanooga. During this time the Regiment suffered no killed or wounded, but had two enlisted men missing in action.

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On November 23rd, General Stewart commanding the Division received the following letter from the commanding General.

"I am directed by the Major General commanding to desire you

to rest the right of your division on the position of Slocumb's Battery and to organize any excess of men which this new disposition may give you into a reserve, subject to move in any direction required at short notice. Your men need not actually occupy the trenches until an alarm."

On November 25th, a second letter states, "The Major General commanding directs that you abandon the valley at once, and take position on the ridge, in prolongation of General Bates' line. He directs that you place a battery and two regiments at Rossville to guard that point. Your artillery will take position in rear of your division passing through the dip in the ridge near Rossville. He directs that you withdraw your pickets a little before daylight and throw them in prolongation of General Bates with a reserve at the foot of the bridge."

During the retreat from Chattanooga, another letter gives the position of Stewart's Division. This letter to Major General Wheeler states:

"The general has established a position about 3 miles in front of Dalton, on which the rear guard can fall back should the ridge occupied by my division open on them and Colonel Henderson become necessary, he has placed there the division of General Stewart."

An organizational chart for December, 1863, shows that command structure as basically the same except that Colonel Henderson is in command of Stovall's Brigade, and the Regiment is under the direct command of Col. Henry C. Kellogg. A strength report for the month this engagement.

The organizational - 9 - for April, 1864, shows the Regiment of December shows that the Regiment had an effective total of 231 men, a total present of 283 men. They had 251 rifles, and 40 rounds of ammunition per man.

The opening of 1864 showed another reorganization of the forces. The Army of Tennessee was now under the command of General Joseph E. Johnston. The Regiment was part of Hindman's Corps under Major General Thomas C. Hindman. The only other change is that Major William C. Lester is now shown as in direct command of the Regiment.

During the month of February, the Regiment participated in the engagement at Rocky Faced Ridge, Georgia. General Stewart in his report of this engagement states: "The right of the position -- the Gap in Rocky Face Ridge through which pass the Western and Atlantic Railroad and the dirt road leading from Dalton to Tunnel Hill and Lafayette -- was held by Stovall's, Gibson's and Moore's Brigades... At about 4 p.m. on Thursday (25th) two regiments of the enemy (the 10th Michigan and 16th Illinois), advanced opposite Stovall's Brigade. The line of skirmishers fell back until the enemy came within easy range when the artillery on the ridge occupied by my division opened on them and Colonel Henderson of the 42nd Georgia... advanced his line driving back the enemy's line in great confusion.... On Saturday the 27th.... My division was advanced to the vicinity of Tunnel Hill, when finding the enemy had retired to Ringgold we were ordered to return."

Stovall's Brigade lost two men killed and 17 wounded during this engagement.

The organizational chart for April, 1864, shows the Regiment is now part of Lt. General John B. Hood's Army Corps, and that Brig. General M. A. Stovall is again in command of the brigade to which the Regiment belongs. All other commanders remained the same.

On May 5, 1864, Union General Sherman opened his Atlanta Campaign. See the enclosed report of Major Lester commanding the 43rd Georgia concerning the Regiment's operations during the month of May.

Again there are no reports concerning the actions of the Regiments during the month of June, 1864. Again, letters to General Stewart commanding the division to which the Regiment belonged give some idea to the Regiment's operation.

A letter to Stewart dated June 17th states:

"The Lt. General commanding directs that you will put your division in motion tomorrow morning at 4 o'clock by the left flank following General Hindman. You will move only with your ambulances. The ordnance wagons will be turned to the left on arriving at the Big Shanty and Marietta Road, and go into park at the base of Kenesaw Mountain, on the south side. The artillery will move under the direction of Colonel Beckham. You will withdraw your skirmish line and have your troops in rear of the ridge they are now on before daylight, so that the enemy may not see them."

By the Summer of 1864, the Regiment was among those troops in the trenches about Atlanta. Also by July General Hood replaced

General Johnston in command of the Army. One letter during this time period states that a truce has been declared between the pickets of Stoval's brigade and those of the enemy by which when they must fire on each other they do not fire to take effect, but rather to shoot over each others heads. Also, at the time of the transfer of command of the Army, General Stewart was removed from the command of the division to which the 43rd belonged. They were now part of Clayton's Division, commanded by Major General Henry D. Clayton, Lee's Army Corps.

On Sept. 1st, following the defeat at the battle of Jonesboro, they were among the troops which marched out of the lines about Atlanta. Also, by this time, Henry Kellogg evidently recovered from his wound and now promoted to Colonel, was in command of the Regiment.

Following the fall of Atlanta, Hood first began his raid in force on the lines of communication of Union General Sherman, and then at the end of October began his Tennessee Campaign. Due to the actions of the Army and the attrition of the various commands and commanders during this period, there are very few reports available. Again the correspondence between the various commanders offers some indication to the position of the Regiment. On October 16th a letter from General Hood states:

".....Should it be necessary for the protection of our trains moving from Jacksonville to Edwards Ferry, you must place Stovall's brigade in the vicinity of Cave Springs with a battery."

Another letter dated later the same day also from Hood states:

An organizational report for March, 1865, shows Colonel
"General Hood directs that you send Stovall's brigade to
Edwards Ferry for the protection of the bridge there."

On October 20th, Hood orders Stovall's Brigade to move
immediately to the area of Gadsden, Alabama.

By November 7th, a strength report states that the Regiment
now has an effective total of 97 men out of a total present of 130.
They have 95 guns with 40 rounds per man. The aggregate present
and absent for the Regiment totals 568 men.

This large number of absent is explained by Major General
Clayton. He states:

"Of those reported absent without leave in Stovall's
Brigade, 19 officers and 300 men are prisoners of war."

The enclosed report of General Stovall covers the period
of Nov. 20th to Dec. 27, 1864, and includes the battles of Franklin
and Nashville.

After the losses incurred during the Tennessee Campaign, many
of the Regiments were mere skeletons and were consolidated with other
units. The Regiment did continue to be involved in action with the
enemy. A Union report dated Feb. 14, 1865, near Sandy Run Post
Office, South Carolina, states that a force of the 9th Illinois
routed a Confederate force which was guarding a bridge over the
Congaree River. When the Confederates burned the bridge, some of
their men, including the 43rd Georgia, were left on the enemy side
, the report states, "those who were cut off except for two of the
43rd Georgia, who were captured, took to the swamp and could not
be found."

Report of Brig. Gen. Seth M. 13 - C.S. Army, commanding 1st Brigade

An organizational report for March, 1865, shows Colonel Kellogg of the 43rd now in command of Stovall's brigade, and the Regiment again under the command of Major Lester.

The final report mentioning the Regiment comes on April 9th, 1865, when the forces under Johnson were again reorganized.

In this report they are shown as part of S. D. Lee's Corps, Stevenson's Division, Brig. General Henderson's Brigade.

The Regiment, at this point, had been consolidated with the 40th and 41st Georgia, and was listed as the 40th Georgia Battalion. Captain James Stallings is shown in command. No doubt, this was still the structure when the Army surrendered at Greensboro, North Carolina, on April 26th, 1865.

on Lee's left, and advanced as rapidly as the nature of the ground would admit. (M.V.D.) Corput's battery (four rifles) was posted near the road, about 500 yards from the bridge, my left resting on it and my right on Lee's left. The position was not a good one; the country much broken and covered in most part with dense woods. The enemy having turned Lee's left flank, were already in the timber, pressing vigorously forward. With impetuous gallantry the 40th, 41st, and 42nd Georgia Regiments dashed upon the enemy's line, broke, it and drove it back about 300 yards. It was here re-enforced by his second and third lines, and my farther advance was checked. I had reserved the 52nd Georgia on the left to protect that flank; it was now moved up rapidly, and in handsome style engaged a brigade that was turning the left. The troops on the right now gave way, and my right flank

