

GEORGE W. McVEIGH DIARY AND LETTER
Mss. 3871

Inventory

Compiled by
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Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

2013

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SUMMARY

Size.	1 letter, 3 v.
Geographic locations.	Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky
Inclusive dates.	1863-1864, 1893
Language.	English
Summary.	The collection is comprised of a Civil War diary in two volumes, a Civil War letter and a printed roster of the 63rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry.
Restrictions on access.	If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm.
Copyright.	Copyright of the original materials in this collection has expired, and they are therefore in the public domain.
Citation.	George W. McVeigh Diary and Letter, Mss. 3871, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack locations.	V:62

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

George W. McVeigh, born Oct. 16, 1841, was a resident of McConnelsville, Ohio. He joined the 63rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Co. G as a private on Aug. 7, 1862 at Clear Creek, Miss.

The 63rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry organized on December 1, 1861, at Camp Worthington in Columbus and at Camp Marietta in Marietta. Because there were only enough men to fill four companies, it was not officially designated as a regiment. On January 23, 1862, it was consolidated with a battalion of the Ohio 22nd in Marietta, Ohio under the command of Colonel John W. Sprague.

First attached to the Dept. of the Mississippi, the 63rd joined Major General John Pope in Missouri. At New Madrid, the regiment was combined with other Ohio regiments into Ohio Brigade. It took part in all the operations resulting in the surrender of Island No. 10 on April 8, 1862. In April 1862, the 63rd OVI joined Maj. Gen. Henry Halleck's forces near Corinth, Mississippi. After the evacuation, it operated in Northern Alabama, and participated in the battles of Iuka and Corinth in the army of William S. Rosecrans. Colonel Sprague was promoted to brigadier general, and Oscar L. Jackson assumed command of the regiment. The regiment was then attached to the Dept. of Tennessee beginning in December 1862.

During 1863, the 63rd operated mostly in Northern Alabama and Tennessee. In January 1864, most of the men re-enlisted for three years, and the regiment went to Ohio on veteran furlough. In May, it joined Sherman's Atlanta Campaign and shared in all the battles to the end of the campaign. In the autumn, the 63rd took part in Sherman's March to the Sea. In early 1865, the 63rd participated in the Carolinas Campaign. It took part in the Grand Review of the Armies in Washington, D.C. in May and then went by train to Louisville, Kentucky, where the men mustered out on July 8, 1865.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The diary of George McVeigh provides a daily account of his life as a United States Army private during the Civil War. Entries document history of the 63rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Co. G, from May 1, 1863 until Dec. 31, 1864. McVeigh refers to major military engagements, and the movement of both the Union and Confederate troops. During this time, the regiment was stationed at Memphis, Tenn., and then marched through Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, and Kentucky. Among the recurring topics are weather, camp life, McVeigh's duties as a soldier, and news on the progress of war. Entries relate to the confiscation of livestock, the availability of food, deserters on both sides, enemy infiltrators, war refugees and slaves. He also writes about road conditions and destruction the railroads. Additionally, McVeigh notes the numerous diseases that afflicted the troops, including small pox, yellow fever and dysentery.

McVeigh refers to major military engagements, and the movement of both the Union and Confederate troops. Entries give news on prisoners taken, loss of life, and the outcome of battles. He reports on the siege of Vicksburg, Miss. and General Grant's march on Richmond, Va. (May-July 1863). He also reports on C.S.A. General Braxton Bragg and U. S. General William Rosecrans battle for control of Chattanooga, Tenn. (Sept.-Oct. 1863). Entries for July 1864 tell of General Sherman marching on Atlanta.

He gives a detailed account of the movement of Company G, from Memphis through Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, and Kentucky. He describes the Battle of Resaca (May 1864) and the Battle of Dallas (June 1864) in which he participated. Stationed in Jonesborough, Ga., McVeigh also saw action in Decatur in July 1864.

In January 1864, he describes his trip back to Ohio on furlough, commenting on the harsh winter's effect on the troops. While at home, he tells of social activities, the progress of the war, and the call for 500,000 more Union troops. He returns to his regiment in mid-February 1864.

The diary volumes are accompanied by a letter home, in which McVeigh gives a general description of a soldier's life, a march south and a skirmish with Confederate troops (May 3, 1863), and a roster of the 63rd Ohio Regiment (1893).

INDEX TERMS

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865, Personal narratives.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.

United States. Army.--Ohio Infantry Regiment, 63rd (1861-1865). Company G.

United States. Army--Military life.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Regimental histories--Ohio Infantry--63rd.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
V:62	1	v. 1-2	Diaries, May 1, 1863-Dec. 31, 1864
		1	Letter, May 3, 1863.
		v. 3	Roster of the 63 rd Ohio Regiment, 1893.