

116th Infantry Illinois Volunteers

The 116th Infantry regiment was recruited almost entirely in Macon and McLean Counties and was mustered into the service at Fairview Park, Decatur, Illinois, September 30, 1862. On November 8, 1862, it moved via Cairo to Memphis, Tennessee. On December 1, 1862, it marched with the army under the command of General Sherman to the Tallahatchie River to form a junction with a column under Grant at College Hill, near Oxford, Mississippi. On December 20, 1862, General Sherman returned with one division of his army to Memphis (this regiment included) and embarked for Milliken's Bend and the Yazoo River. It participated in engagements around Chickasaw Bayou and Chickasaw Bluffs. On January 1, 1863, it moved with the army down the Yazoo and up the Mississippi Rivers to Arkansas Post and on January 10th and 11th, 1863, took part in the attack and capture of that place.

On January 22, 1863, it arrived at Young's Point, Louisiana, and for the next two months it was engaged in digging on the canal across the peninsula. In March it engaged in the Deer Creek and Black Bayou expeditions and served in extricating Admiral Porter's fleet from its precarious position near Rolling Fork. Early in May of 1863, after having participated in the feigned attack on Vicksburg from Haines' Bluff, on April 29, 1863, it took up its route of march down the Louisiana side of the Mississippi River and crossed that river at Grand Gulf and was in time to assist in the battle of Champion's Hill May 16, 1863. It reached the line of defenses around Vicksburg on May 18, 1863, and participated in the assaults on the 19th and 22nd of May and also took part in the siege operations until the surrender, July 4, 1863.

The next day it started, under General Sherman's command, in pursuit of General Joseph E. Johnston's Confederate relieving army and, after the evacuation of Jackson, followed him across Pearl River to Brandon, Mississippi. It returned to Camp Sherman, near Big Black River Bridge, July 25, 1863, and remained there until October, at which time it embarked for Memphis and thence marched via Corinth, Mississippi, to Chattanooga, where it arrived on the 21st of November and went into a concealed camp.

At midnight on the 23rd of November, 1863, it floated down the Tennessee River in pontoon boats to the mouth of Chickamauga Creek, landed, and held this position during the laying of the pontoon bridge and the crossing of Sherman's army. The next day it advanced and was engaged in the battle of Mission Ridge and then became part of the army that went to the relief of General Burnside in the siege of Knoxville, Tennessee. After its return from Knoxville, it went into winter quarters on January 19, 1864, at Larkinsville, Alabama.

In May of 1864, the regiment moved through Snake Creek Gap and on the 14th was hotly engaged at Resaca, Georgia. It then participated in the battles of Dallas, Big Shanty, and Kenesaw Mountain from May 26th through June 27, 1864. It crossed the Chattahoochie River, was engaged at Stone Mountain, fought in the battle before Atlanta on July 22nd, fought at Ezra Chapel on July 28, served through the whole Atlanta campaign, and in the engagements at Jonesboro, August 31st and September 1st of 1864.

After the fall of Atlanta the regiment went north in pursuit of Hood's army and then returned to Atlanta on November 15, 1864. It became part of the army that marched to the sea and arrived near Fort McAllister, Georgia on December 12th. It was in the column of attack and capture of that fort the next day, and soon after that it entered the city of Savannah. After this it participated in the campaign of the Carolinas, was at the burning of Columbia, and engaged in the battle of Bentonville.

It moved thence by way of Goldsboro, Raleigh, Richmond, and Alexandria to Washington, D.C., where on May 24, 1865, it took part in the Grand Review. It was then mustered out of the United States service near Washington, D. on June 7, 1865, and returned to Springfield, Illinois, for final disbandment.

Ebenezer Werkheiser

1826 - 1866

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