

# Nelson B. Gilbert

## 1st Regiment, Connecticut Heavy Artillery



Residence Chester CT;  
Enlisted on 5/22/1861 as a 2nd Lieutenant.

On 5/22/1861 he was commissioned into "H" Co. CT 1st Heavy Artillery  
He was discharged on 2/15/1864

On 10/27/1864 he was commissioned into CT 3rd Light Artillery  
He was Mustered Out on 6/23/1865 at Virginia

#### Promotions:

- \* 1st Lieut 12/11/1863
- \* 2nd Lieut 10/27/1864 (As of 3rd CT Light Artillery)
- \* 1st Lieut 12/6/1864

#### Intra Regimental Company Transfers:

- \* 1/15/1864 from company H to company C

# UNION CONNECTICUT VOLUNTEERS

## 1st Regiment, Connecticut Heavy Artillery

Organized at Washington, D. C., from 4th Conn. Infantry, January 2, 1862. Attached to Military District of Washington to April, 1862. Siege artillery, Army Potomac, to May, 1862. 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, 5th Army Corps, Army Potomac, to July, 1862. Siege artillery, Army Potomac, to August, 1862. Artillery defense Alexandria Military District of Washington, to February, 1863. Artillery defense of Alexandria, 22nd Army Corps, to April, 1863. 2nd Brigade, DeRussy's Division, defense south of the Potomac, 22nd Army Corps, to May, 1863. 3rd Brigade, DeRussy's Division, 22nd Corps, to December, 1863. 2nd Brigade, DeRussy's Division, 22nd Army Corps, to March, 1864. 4th Brigade, DeRussy's Division, 22nd Army Corps, to May, 1864. (Cos. "B" and "M" attached to Artillery Reserve, Army Potomac, October, 1862, to January, 1864.) Point of Rocks, Va., Dept., of Virginia and North Carolina to June, 1864. Siege artillery, Dept. of Virginia and North Carolina in the field, and siege artillery, Army Potomac, to May, 1865. Siege artillery, Dept. of Virginia, to July, 1865. 4th Brigade, DeRussy's Division, 22nd Army Corps, Dept. of Washington, to August, 1865. 3rd Brigade, Dept. of Washington, to September, 1865.

Duty at Fort Richardson, defense of Washington, D. C., till April, 1862. Ordered to the Peninsula, Va., in charge of siege train Army Potomac, April 2. Siege of Yorktown April 12-May 4. Battle of Hanover C. H. May 27. Operations about Hanover May 27-29. Seven days before Richmond June 25-July 1. Gaines' Mill June 27. Malvern Hill July 1. At Harrison's Landing till August 15. Moved to Alexandria, Va., August 16-27. Duty in the defense of Washington, D. C., till May, 1864, as garrison at Fort Richardson. Cos. "B" and "M" detached with Army Potomac, participating in battle of Fredericksburg, Va., Dec. 12-15. Chancellorsville Campaign April 27-May 6. Battle of Chancellorsville May 1-5. Stafford Heights June 12. Battle of Gettysburg, Pa., July 1-3. Bristoe Campaign October 9-22. Advance to line of the Rappahannock November 7-8. Brandy Station November 8. Mine Run Campaign November 26-December 2. Rejoined regiment in defense of Washington January, 1864. Regiment ordered to Bermuda Hundred, Va., May 13, 1864. Engaged in fatigue duty and as garrison for batteries and forts on the Bermuda front and lines before Petersburg during siege operations against Petersburg and Richmond, May, 1864, to April, 1865. Occupy Fort Converse, Redoubt Dutton, Batteries Spofford, Anderson, Pruyn and Perry on the Bermuda front, and Forts Rice, Morton, Sedgewick and McGilvrey, and Batteries 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, Burpee, Drake and Sawyer, on the Petersburg front, and at Dutch Gap, north of the James River. Assaults on Fort Dutton June 2 and 21, 1864 (Co. "L"). Attacks on the lines May 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 27, 30, 31, June 1, 2, 5, 9, 18, 20 and 23. Mine explosion July 30, August 25, November 17, 18 and 28, 1864. Repulse of rebel fleet at Fort Brady on James River January 23-24, 1865. Expedition to Fort Fisher, N. C., January 3-15, 1865 (Cos. "B," "G," "L"). Capture of Fort Fisher January 15 (Cos. "B," "G," "L"). Assaults on and fall of Petersburg, Va., April 2, 1865. Duty in the Dept. of Va. till July 11. Moved to Washington, D.C. and duty in the defense of that city till September. Mustered out September 25, 1865.

Regiment lost during service 2 Officers and 49 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 4 Officers and 172 Enlisted men by disease. Total 227.

# 1st Connecticut Heavy Artillery Regiment

The 1st Connecticut Heavy Artillery Regiment lost 2 officers and 49 enlisted men killed or mortally wounded and 4 officers and 172 enlisted men to disease during the Civil War.

1862	
January 2	Organized at Washington, D.C., from <u>4th Connecticut Infantry Regiment</u>
January -March	Duty at Fort Richardson, defenses of Washington, D.C. attached to Military District of Washington
April 2	Ordered to the Peninsula, Va., in charge of <u>siege train Army Potomac</u>
April 12-May 4	Siege of Yorktown. Attached to <u>3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, 5th Army Corps, Army Potomac</u>
May 27	Battle of Hanover C. H.
May 27-29	Operations about Hanover C. H.
June 25-July 1	Seven days before Richmond
June 27	Gaines' Mill
July 1	Malvern Hill
July	At Harrison's Landing. Assigned to Siege artillery, Army Potomac
August 16-27	Moved to Alexandria, Va. Duty in the defenses of Washington, D.C. as garrison at Fort Richardson. Assigned to Artillery defenses Alexandria, Military District of Washington. Companies B and M detached to <u>Artillery Reserve, Army Potomac</u> . Each battery was equipped with four 4.5" Siege Rifles.
Dec. 12-15	<b>Battle of Fredericksburg</b> (Detached Companies B & M)
1863	
February	Assigned to artillery defenses of Alexandria, 22nd Corps

April	Assigned to <u>2nd Brigade, DeRussy's Division, defenses south of the Potomac, 22nd Corps</u>
April 27-May 6	Chancellorsville Campaign (Detached Companies B & M)
May	Assigned to <u>3rd Brigade, DeRussy's Division, 22nd Corps</u>
May 1-5	<u>Battle of Chancellorsville</u> (Detached Companies B & M)
June 12	Stafford Heights (Detached Companies B & M)
July 1-3	<b>Battle of Gettysburg</b> Detached Companies B & M were not at Gettysburg, being held in reserve due to the mobile nature of the campaign. General Hunt afterwards regretted not having the heavy guns, which he felt could have done good service.
October 9-22	Bristoe Campaign (Detached Companies B & M)
November 7-8	Advance to line of the Rappahannock (Detached Companies B & M)
November 8	Brandy Station (Detached Companies B & M)
November 26-December 2	Mine Run Campaign (Detached Companies B & M)
December	Assigned to <u>2nd Brigade, DeRussy's Division, 22nd Corps</u>
<b>1864</b>	
January	Regiment reunited in the defenses of Washington
March	Assigned to <u>4th Brigade, DeRussy's Division, 22nd Army Corps</u>
May 13	Regiment ordered to Bermuda Hundred, Va. Engaged in fatigue duty and as garrison for batteries and forts on the Bermuda front and lines before Petersburg during siege operations against Petersburg and Richmond. Assigned to Siege artillery, Dept. of Virginia and North Carolina.  Occupied Fort Converse, Redoubt Dutton, Batteries Spofford, Anderson, Pruyn and Perry on the Bermuda front, and Forts Rice, Morton, Sedgwick and McGilvrey, and Batteries 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, Burpee, Drake and Sawyer, on the Petersburg front, and at Dutch Gap, north of the James River.

June 2 and 21	Assaults on Fort Dutton (Company L)
May 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 27, 30, & 31	Attacks on the lines
June 1, 2, 5, 9, 18, 20 & 23	Attacks on the lines
July 30	<b>Petersburg Mine explosion</b>
August 25	Attacks on the lines
November 17, 18 & 28	Attacks on the lines
<b>1865</b>	
January 3-15	Expedition to Fort Fisher, N. C. (Companies B, G & L)
January 23-24	Repulse of rebel fleet at Fort Brady on James River
January 15	Capture of Fort Fisher (Companies B, G & L)
April 2	Assaults on and fall of Petersburg, Va.
April-June	Duty in the Dept. of Va.
July 11	Moved to Washington, D.C., and duty in the defenses of that city. Attached to <u>4th Brigade, DeRussy's Division, 22nd Army Corps, Dept. of Washington</u>
August	Attached to 3rd Brigade, Dept. of Washington
September 25	Mustered out

# CONNECTICUT FIRST REGIMENT HEAVY ARTILLERY. (Three Years.)



WRITTEN BY BVT. BRIG.-GEN. HENRY L. ABBOT, LATE COLONEL FIRST  
C. V. HEAVY ARTILLERY.

The First Connecticut Artillery, originally the Fourth Connecticut Volunteers, Infantry, was raised in the enthusiastic response to the first call (April 15, 1861) of President Lincoln for 75,000 men for three months. Its companies gathered at Hartford, expecting to be included among those accepted, but the State quota had been already more than filled. The call of May 3, 1861, for 42,000 men, required that enlistments should be for three years, and the regiment, after going into camp at Hartford, was re-organized for this period, and was mustered into the United States service by Colonel Loomis on May 22d and 23d. It is believed to have been the first three-years regiment of any State ready for field service.

The regiment was composed of men from all parts of Connecticut, but the companies were credited to towns as follows: Company A, Hartford; Company B, Ansonia and Derby; Company C, Suffield, Windsor Locks, and vicinity; Company D, New London; Company E, New Haven; Company F, New Haven; Company G, Middletown; Company H, Middletown; Company I, Wolcottville; Company K, Hartford; subsequently Company L was raised and credited to Hartford, and Company M to Bridgeport.

On June 10th the regiment left Hartford to join General Patterson's command at Chambersburg, and on June 17th was there brigaded with the First Wisconsin and Eleventh Pennsylvania. On June 17th it moved to Hagerstown to perform guard duty. On July 4th the left wing was detached to Williamsport to hold the ford of the Potomac; on August 9th it was relieved and ordered to Frederick City. On August 17th the right wing joined, and the regiment soon went into camp at White Oak Springs, near the city. On September 6th it was ordered to report to General Banks at Darnestown, where it was brigaded with the 13th Massachusetts under General Hamilton. On September 9th Colonel Woodhouse resigned. Lieutenant Colonel White was in command until September 26th, when Colonel Tyler joined. The regiment was ordered to Washington, beginning the march on October 2d, and while enroute changed the State gray uniform for the army blue. On October 7th it camped near the Capitol, and on October 9th crossed the Potomac and went into camp for the winter, finishing and garrisoning Forts Richardson, Scott, and Barnard. On January 2, 1862, its organization was changed to artillery, with an aggregate of 1,839 officers and enlisted men. The new companies (L and M), with recruits for the rest of the regiment, arrived on March 15th.

This winter was a very important one in its history. The most rigid discipline was enforced by Colonel Tyler, and his training in every soldierly duty laid the foundation, for that reputation which distinguished the First Connecticut Artillery during the rest of its term of service. Study of text books and drills in artillery and infantry tactics were unceasing.

On April 3d the regiment embarked for the Peninsula, arriving on April 11th at Cheeseman's Landing, near Yorktown, 1,400 strong. Here, with the Fifth New York, it was detailed to serve the siege train. The following was the assignment to batteries: Company B to No. 1 (two 200-pounder and five 100-pounder Parrotts); Companies A and H to No. 2 (five 43-inch ordnance guns and five 30-pounder Parrotts); Companies F and G to No. 4 (ten 13-inch mortars); Company C to No. 6 (six 10-inch mortars); Companies D and E to No. 9 (ten 10-inch mortars); and Company I to No. 10 (five 4 1/2-inch ordnance guns). Much difficult work was performed in placing these guns in position. Battery No. 1 fired 141 shots with effect on April 30th and May 1st, 2d, and 3d; and all the others were ready to open on May 4th, when Yorktown was evacuated.

After re-embarking the material and leaving it in charge of Companies L and M, Colonel Tyler reported with ten companies to General Fitz-John Porter at White House on May 20th to serve as infantry. They were brigaded in Sykes's Division of the Fifth Corps, and were employed in reconnaissance, in destroying the means of crossing the Pamunkey, and at Hanover C. H. In following Stuart's cavalry raid in rear of the army they marched forty-two miles in thirty-seven hours, leading the infantry column. On June 2d General McClellan ordered a detachment to be made from the regiment to supply deficiencies in the regular batteries. One hundred and eighty-nine privates were detailed, viz.: from Company A, 12; B, 31; C, 42; D, 20; E, 4; F, 29; G, 21; H, 8; and from I, 22. They performed active and creditable service during the Peninsular campaign, and rejoined their regiment after its close.

On June 20th Colonel Tyler was ordered to bring up five 4 1/2-inch guns and five 30-pounder Parrotts. On June 24th they were in position near New Bridge, under Major Kellogg, served by Companies B, D, and F. On June 25th and 26th they fired effectively; and on the latter date were moved across the Chickahominy to Golding's farm, where, reinforced by two 10-pounder Whitworths

served by Company I, they were heavily engaged on June 27th. On that night they were withdrawn; and, across White Oak Swamp, joined the rest of the train under Major Hemingway, 8-inch consisting of two 8-inch howitzers, two 10-pounder Whitworths, and nine other heavy guns, which had been in position near Seven Pines and in depot at Orchard Station. The united train was moved to Turkey Bend, and during the night of June 30th Companies B, D, F, I, and K placed with great difficulty five 4 1/2-inch ordnance guns, five 30-pounder Parrotts, two 8-inch howitzers, and two 10-pounder Whitworths in position on Malvern Hill. These guns were gallantly and effectively served in the great battle of July 1st, although, in addition to the fire of the enemy, the men suffered from a rear fire from our gunboats, by which four men of Company F were wounded, three mortally. During the following night the train was retired to Westover Landing.

In the artillery attack upon Harrison's Landing, on the night of August 1st, Companies A, H, and I replied promptly from five 30-pounder Parrotts and four 10-pounder Whitworths which had been placed in position on the river bank to repel an expected attack from ironclads.

The services of the regiment during this campaign were highly commended by General McClellan in his official report. Out of twenty-six heavy guns brought from Yorktown, twenty-five arrived safely at Harrison's Landing; only one howitzer, of which the carriage was injured, was abandoned. This was accomplished "with mule teams constantly breaking down, driven by frightened civilian teamsters who deserted whenever the fire became heavy; frequently teams had to be pressed into service to replace those which had been exhausted by the labor of drawing the guns, and sometimes for miles the guns were drawn by hand by the different companies of the regiment." For this campaign the First Connecticut Artillery was authorized to place upon its colors: "Siege of Yorktown, Hanover C. H., Chickahominy, Gaines' Mills, and Malvern." On August 12th the regiment embarked for Alexandria, where it was distributed in the defenses from Fort Scott to Fort Ward inclusive. Here it remained (except Companies B and M) until the campaign of 1864. Colonel Tyler was promoted on November 29, 1862, and was succeeded by Colonel Abbot on February 27, 1863. Except when the depot of the Army of the Potomac at Alexandria was threatened by raiding parties in the Gettysburg campaign, this was a season of comparative inaction; advantage was taken of it to thoroughly practice the regiment in the use of all kinds of field and siege guns and mortars, and in infantry drill, including the School of the Brigade. When it again took the field, it was inferior neither in discipline nor efficiency to any regular regiment in service.

On December 5, 1862, Major Trumbull, with Company B, Captain Brooker, and Company M, Captain Pratt, was detached with seven 4 1/2-inch guns for duty at Fredericksburg. They fired 357 rounds in the battle of that month. Subsequently the companies joined the Artillery Reserve of the Army of the Potomac at Falmouth, equipped as light artillery batteries of four 4 1/2-inch siege guns. They followed the movements of the army during 1863, marching more than 500 miles. Company B was engaged at Fredericksburg in June, serving a 100-pounder Parrott, and at Wolf Run on November 30th. Company M was engaged at Fredericksburg in the battles of April, May, and June, at Kelley's Ford on November 7th, and at Mine Run. The use of such heavy guns with a marching army was an experiment, but they were never allowed to fall behind. The companies rejoined the regiment in April, 1864.

On April 20, 1864, Colonel Abbot was ordered by General Halleck to organize a large siege train upon a memorandum drawn up by General Hunt, Chief of Artillery of the Army of the Potomac. Captain Hatfield was detailed as its Ordnance Officer, and the material was essentially afloat by May 10th. At that date the regiment was ordered to report for temporary duty as infantry to General Butler, then advancing from Bermuda Hundred. It arrived on May 13th, 1,700 strong, and reinforced the Eighty-fifth Pennsylvania in holding the line against an expected attack from the direction of Petersburg. On May 16th the Army of the James fell back to the entrenchments, and the First Connecticut Artillery were placed in charge of its siege guns, seventeen in number. From that date

until the arrival of the Army of the Potomac, about a month, a heavy artillery fire prevailed along the lines, the regiment firing twenty-five tons (1,971 rounds). There was three sharp combats--on May 20th, when a demonstration was made upon the position; on June 2d, when Company L, Captain Pride, stationed in advanced redoubt Dutton, repulsed an assault of the Twenty-second South Carolina, killing its colonel and taking a lieutenant and twenty-two enlisted men prisoners; and on June 21st, when the Confederate rams engaged our James River fleet and land batteries.

On May 23d an incident occurred illustrating the spirit which pervaded the regiment. Six soldiers returning from veteran volunteer furlough were passing Wilson's Landing when an attack was made upon a small garrison there stationed. The boat landed and these men most gallantly served a 10-pounder Parrott, which had been abandoned, until the enemy was repulsed. Theirs was the only gun not silenced.

On June 23d the regular train arrived from Washington, and the siege began in earnest. Space is lacking to adequately describe what, in many of the batteries, was for days at a time a continuous engagement. For details and especially for mention of individuals, reference is made to the reports of General Abbot in the annual reports of the Adjutant-General of Connecticut for the years 1865 and 1866; and for the professional results of the regimental experience, to Prof. Papers No. 14, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A.

During these operations the siege train was organized as a separate brigade under Colonel Abbot, such additional troops as were needed being temporarily attached. The aggregate at times exceeded 3,500 men; the train contained 127 guns and seventy-three mortars; the line of batteries was seventeen miles long; over 1,200 tons of ammunition (63,940 rounds), hauled an average distance of seven miles by wagon, were fired during the siege.

The depot, under command of Major Hatfield, was at Broadway Landing on the Appomattox River, where the needful wharves and some strong earth-works for defense were built. The guns not in use were kept afloat, and he was supplied with about twenty schooners and barges, a steam tug, and a permanent train of fifty Government wagons, often largely increased. The guns were moved by four light artillery teams of Company M, First Pennsylvania Artillery, attached to the depot. Ammunition was forwarded daily as needed; the amount being regulated by telegraph.

For batteries serving on the lines of the Army of the Potomac, Colonel Abbot reported to the Chief of Artillery, General Hunt; and for those on the lines of the Army of the James, direct to its commanding general. Orders at times were received from General Grant in person. The batteries, in groups, were commanded by the field officers of the regiment; rations were supplied by the regimental commissary; and the sick were cared for in a special field hospital at Broadway Landing. This system worked admirably, and gave to the First Connecticut Artillery an independent and responsible position.

The first siege operations culminated in the battle of Petersburg Mine, on July 30th. On this occasion eighty-one guns and mortars were served by Companies A, B, C, D, F, G, I, and M, First Connecticut Artillery, and Companies C, H, and K, Fourth New York Artillery. About seventy-five tons of ammunition (3,833 rounds) were fired in the battle, and 225 tons (12,229 rounds) in the preliminary work. This battle was probably the first in which spherical case-shot was used from mortars. The novel expedient of putting thirty 12-pound canister shot under the bursting charge of a 10-inch shell proved very effective.

Immediately after the battle a projected movement of the Army of the Potomac required fifty-two heavy guns and mortars, with all their ammunition, etc., to be moved with urgent haste from the fronts of the Fifth, Ninth, and Eighteenth Corps to the depot, a distance of eight miles. This was accomplished in twenty-seven hours. Twenty-two light artillery and mule teams, and 170 wagons,

were employed. The aggregate weight removed was 225 tons, and the work was done by the companies which had served the guns in the action. The enemy did not discover the movement, which began at midnight of July 30th.

The siege now took the form of bombardment. The average weight of metal thrown daily was: August, 5.2 tons; September, 7.8 tons; October, 4.5 tons; November, 2.7 tons; December, 2.1 tons; January, 1.6 tons; and February, 1.1 tons--aggregating 793 tons (37,264 rounds). Near Petersburg sudden artillery battles occurred at all hours of the day and night, often involving the entire line. To check an annoying enfilade fire from the left bank of the Appomattox, a 13-inch seacoast mortar was mounted on a reinforced platform car, and served on a curve of the railroad track by Company G. This novelty was widely known as the "Petersburg Express."

Dutch Gap was also the scene of much firing, occasionally with the Confederate fleet and often with their land batteries. At the canal, Company C fired about 4,000 shots. Captain Pierce, on the night of October 21st, surprised the rebel fleet lying in Graveyard Bend. Three 30-pounder and four 20-pounder Parrotts were placed in position under cover of darkness, and fire was opened at daylight at a range of 1,500 yards. It is stated in "The Confederate States Navy," by J. T. Scharf, that a gun-carriage was stuck on the gunboat "Drewry," wounding five men; that the "Virginia" (ironclad) was struck seven times; that the "Richmond" (ironclad) was struck more frequently, her smoke-stack being shot away; and that the "Fredericksburg" (ironclad) fared still worse, a few plates being started and six men wounded. We are also credited by the author with having "several 100-pounder Parrotts," in this action, which he calls "the most severe test to which the squadron had been subjected."

Still more valuable was the service rendered by the First Connecticut Artillery on the night of January 23, 1865, when the Confederate fleet made a determined attempt to pass down James River to destroy our base at City Point. The only United States monitor present withdrew and left the defense to the land batteries, unsupported. These were four in number: Fort Brady, Company C, Captain Pierce, two 100-pounders and three 30-pounders; Parsons and Wilcox, Company H, First Lieutenant Pratt, one 100-pounder, and one 10-inch seacoast mortar; Spofford, Company H, Second Lieutenant Silliman, one 30-pounder; and Sawyer, Company H, First Lieutenant Mason, one 100-pounder and two 10-inch seacoast mortars. The fire from the Confederate land batteries was very heavy, but did not divert attention from the fleet. The gunboat "Drewry" was sunk by a shell from Battery Parsons, the torpedo launch "Wasp" was destroyed, and finally the fleet retired baffled in its object. This service of the regiment was highly commended by General Grant, and he ordered the armament of the James River batteries to be at once largely increased.

Companies B, G, and L, under General Abbot, accompanied General Terry's expedition to Fort Fisher, N. C., in January, 1865, carrying a siege train of sixteen 30-pounder Parrotts and twenty Coehorn mortars, with an ample supply of ammunition; but the fort was stormed before the train could be landed, and the detachment soon returned to the lines before Richmond.

The assault upon Fort Steadman, on March 25, 1865, was the next notable incident in the history of the regiment. The fort was only two hundred yards distant from the enemy's lines, and General Gordon's columns poured over the parapet at 4 A. M. Company K, Captain Twiss, and Company L, First Lieutenant Lewis, stationed in it and the adjacent batteries, No. 10 and No. 12, suffered severely, losing 65 men. The heavy guns which could be brought to bear from batteries 4, 5, 8, 9, and Fort Haskell (all served by the First Connecticut Artillery), and the light batteries brought up by Colonel Tidball, delivered so heavy a fire upon the captured works that the enemy was driven into the bombproofs, and was finally captured about 8 A. M. by our reserves under General Hartranft. Lieutenant Lewis with Company L joined the charge, capturing one lieutenant and twelve privates of the Twenty-sixth Georgia with their battle flag, for which a medal of honor was awarded to Private G. E. McDonald. Company K, although Captain Twiss had been wounded and First Lieutenant Odell

killed, rallied gallantly under Second Lieutenant Casey, joined the charge, and recaptured their mortars.

On April 2d the final assault upon the enemy's position was delivered. The First Connecticut Artillery occupied eleven forts and batteries, serving forty-nine guns and mortars, and did effective service, firing 4,257 rounds. A special detail of 100 men from Companies E, I, K, L, and M, under command of First Lieutenant Rogers and Second Lieutenants Smith, Couch, and Reynolds, armed with muskets and equipped with lanyards, fuses, primers, etc., joined the assaulting column near Battery No. 20 and entered, among the first, the enemy's works in front. They immediately reversed four captured light 12-pounder guns, and opened fire upon the retreating masses before they were out of the works. These guns, and two others, moved across the battery under a heavy fire, were served by the detachment all day and during the night most gallantly, about 800 rounds being fired. The men not required at the guns used their muskets, and captured about fifteen prisoners in the different assaults upon their position. Before daylight on April 3d the enemy evacuated his lines, and for the First Connecticut Artillery the war was ended.

The removal of the train and of the captured ordnance (176 guns and mortars, mostly heavy) consumed the time until July 13th, when the regiment was transferred to the defenses of Washington. Here it was held, engaged in experimental firing with 15-inch guns, until all danger of trouble with the French army in Mexico was over. On Sep. 25th the regiment was mustered out of the United States service; and after a reception at Hartford worthy of the State, and a review and brigade drill before his Excellency Governor Buckingham, was finally discharged on Oct. 1, 1865.

It has been found impossible in the space allotted to this history of the regiment to give due credit to individuals. For these and many other details reference is made to the reports mentioned in the foot notes. Thirty-four officers received brevets for services rendered in the last campaign.

The regiment owed much to General Barry and General Hunt, under whom it so often served; and still more to Governor Buckingham, who used his power of appointing officers in a manner to serve as a model even in these days of civil service reform. The following letter addressed by General Barry to General Abbot forms a fitting close to the official record of the regiment: "As Chief of Artillery successively of the two principal armies of the United States during the four years of war now happily ended, I have enjoyed unusual opportunities for observation. You will on this account value my opinion when I assure you that the First Connecticut Artillery, in intelligence and the acquirements and services of its special arm, stands unrivaled in the armies of the United States."

#### ENGAGEMENTS.

Siege of Yorktown, Va., April 30 to May 4, 1862.

Hanover Court House, Va., May 27, 1862.

Gaines' Mills, Va., May 31 to June 20, 1862.

Chickahominy, Va., June 25, 1862.

Golden Hill, Va., June 27, 1862.

Malvern Hill, Va., July 1, 1862.

Siege of Fredericksburg, Va., Dec. 11 to 15, 1862 (Cos. B & M).

Before Fredericksburg, Va., April 28 to May 6, 1863 (Co. M).

Before Fredericksburg, Va., June 5 to June 13, 1863 (Co. M).

Kelley's Ford, Va.(Co. M), Nov. 7, 1863.

Orange Court House, Va.(Co. B), Nov. 30, 1864.

Siege of Petersburg and Richmond, Va., May, '64, to Apr., 1865.

Fort Fisher, N. C., Jan. 14 and 15, 1865 (Cos. B, G, and L).

Source: Connecticut: Record of Service of Men during War of Rebellion

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Gettysburg after battle report:

Report of Capt. Franklin A. Pratt, Battery M, First Connecticut Artillery, Second Volunteer Brigade.

Camp near Berlin, Md., July 17, 1863. Capt.: I have the honor to report that during the late movements my battery was with the Artillery Reserve until July 2, when it was ordered from Taneytown to Westminster, where it remained until the 6th instant, when, by orders from Gen. Tyler, it started to join the Artillery Reserve at Taneytown, but when part way there it was ordered back to Westminster, and went into position there, an attack from the enemy's cavalry being anticipated. The enemy not appearing, was ordered after dark to proceed to Frederick; moved to Uniontown, and encamped.

July 7, moved on as far as Liberty.

July 8, joined Artillery Reserve near Frederick; continued with it to Jones' Cross-Roads, at which place remained until the 15th instant, when rejoined Artillery Reserve at Boonsborough, and moved with it to this place.

I have had no difficulty in moving my guns over the worst roads we have passed, but have worn down my caisson teams and met some delays with the caissons, which I respectfully submit should be furnished with 8 horses to a carriage.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. PRATT, Capt. First Regt. Conn. Arty., Comdg. Siege Batty. M.

Capt. C. H. Whittelsey, Assistant Adjutant-Gen., Artillery Reserve.

Source: Official Records: Series I. Vol. 27. Part I. Reports. Serial No. 43

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Report of Capt. Franklin A. Pratt, Battery M, First Connecticut Heavy Artillery, of action at Kelly's Ford.

KELLY'S FORD, VA.,  
November 12, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of the part taken by my battery in the action of the 7th instant at Kelly's Ford:

In compliance with orders from headquarters Army of the Potomac, the battery moved from the camp of the Artillery Reserve, near Catlett's Station, at 4 a. m. of the 7th instant, reporting at the headquarters of General French, near Germantown, at daybreak, from which place it moved at the rear of the First Division, Third Corps, by way of Morrisville, to Mount Holly Church. When near the latter place I was ordered to move at once to a position on the road about 500 yards to the left of the church, and 1,500 yards from Kelly's Ford, which it commanded with the plains beyond: As I came up there was a scattering musketry fire at the ford, and the enemy were throwing forward infantry from the woods into the rifle-pits and buildings on the opposite bank. Being directed by General Birney to "open on them as soon as possible," the battery was soon in position, and the second to open fire.

The enemy being under cover, General Birney directed me to fire on the brick store in which their riflemen were sheltered. My first shot struck the building between the second-story windows, passed through it and into the woods beyond. But two other shots were thrown at the building; one exploded at the corner, the other passed through the roof of the one intended. My fire was then directed at a battery of brass pieces the enemy were using on our infantry from the edge of the woods, distant from me about 2,500 yards. They soon ceased firing and did not again open. After the crossing was effected, the enemy advanced a line of infantry from the edge of the woods to oppose the advance of our forces. I threw three shells at them that apparently struck their line, which broke in much confusion, so much of it as was not covered by rising ground.

The ammunition used was Schenkle percussion shell I expended but 15 rounds, but its effectiveness was very evident. They carried with great precision, few failing to explode.

In closing the report I have to express my belief that the merit of the 4 1/2-inch rifle for field service is not properly considered, and that if more generally brought into action, they would add much good to the results.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. A. PRATT,  
Captain, First Regt. Conn. Arty., Comdg. Siege Battery M.

P. S. JASTRAM,  
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

Source: Official Records  
PAGE 573-48 OPERATIONS IN N. C., VA., W. VA., MD., AND PA. [CHAP. XLI.  
[Series I. Vol. 29. Part I, Reports. Serial No. 48.]

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Report of Capt. William G. Pride, First Connecticut  
Heavy Artillery, of operations June 2.

BATTERY PRIDE (Redoubt Dutton), June 6, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report that on the morning of June 2, 1864, between the hours of 5 and 6 a. m., the enemy appeared and drove in the pickets on our front, composed of the Seventh Connecticut, and compelled them to take shelter under the guns of this redoubt. After some brisk skirmishing the rebels appeared in numbers at the edge of the woods to the right and opposite our front, and I opened upon them a fire of canister, which made them beat a hasty retreat. Finding they did not advance, I ordered forward about 40 men of the cavalry supports under a lieutenant and 21 men from Company L, under the first sergeant, with instructions to form a junction with our pickets on the left. Judging that this support was not enough I sent forward the remainder of Company L., under Lieut. Rogers (retaining 21 men, sufficient to serve the pieces in the fort), with orders to deploy on the right. At this moment I discovered a white flag waving in the bushes at the spot at which the canister had been fired. The line of skirmishers advanced, and on coming up to the flag they found a squad of the enemy concealed in the underbrush, who were ordered to surrender, which they accordingly did by giving up their arms. I cannot state positively which party came upon the prisoners first, as they were considerably scattered through the edge of the woods and kept coming in until the whole number (23) had arrived. I may state here that there was not a rifle fired by either company L or the cavalry

support, and that these prisoners were captured merely because, being under a direct fire from our howitzers, there was no way of retreat for them without causing a heavy loss of life on their part. This fact they acknowledge to me. In the meantime, my 21 men, under the first sergeant, on the left and the cavalry supports in the center, had advanced and occupied without resistance our original picket-line. On the right I had instructed Lieut. Rogers not to advance up to the rifle-pits, fearing they might be in the woods in force, as it was at this point that the enemy had advanced to the attack. The pickets of the Seventh Regt. at this time lay just in advance of the fort in charge of a captain and lieutenant, to whom I went and ordered them to rally their men and advance to their original line, also telling them that I had sent out sufficient force to hold the picket-post. They then advanced beyond Lieut. Rogers' line of skirmishers, but the captain in charge of the Seventh Connecticut remarking that he could not hold the line without assistance, Lieut. Rogers advanced his men in conjunction with the Seventh and posted them in the rifle-pits. I then sent a dispatch to Gen. Terry stating the circumstances and asking for sufficient force to relieve my men and the supports. Company L men were relieved in the course of half an hour, the cavalry remaining an hour longer.

In this affair we sustained no casualties, although by all accounts the enemy suffered severely from our destructive fire of canister. The body of Col. Dantzler, Twenty-second South Carolina Regiment, was brought in by 2 men from Company L, and 2 cavalrymen under charge of one of my sergeants, who also took charge of his personal effects, excepting a gold watch, which was taken from his person by one of the men of the Seventh Connecticut and afterward sent for by men and received by the captain in charge of the cavalry supports, all of which were forwarded from this post with the body.

I am, sir, most respectfully, yours,

WM. G. PRIDE,  
Capt. Company L, First Connecticut Artillery.  
First Lieut. B. P. LEARNED,  
Adjutant.

Source: Official Records  
PAGE 194-68 OPERATIONS IN SE. VA. AND N. C. [CHAP. XLVIII.  
[Series I. Vol. 36. Part II, Reports, Correspondence, Etc. Serial No. 68.]

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Report of Capt. Henry H. Pierce, First Connecticut  
Heavy Artillery, of operations October 22.

FORT BRADY, VA., October 23, 1864.

SIR: Pursuant to instructions, I have the honor to report that the three 30-pounder and the four 20-pounder Parrotts (the latter belonging to Ashby's battery) were placed in position in the new work above Fort Brady during the night of the 21st, and everything put in order to open fire on the morning of the 22d. At daylight discovered what appeared to be one of the enemy's wooden gun-boats lying quietly in plain sight from my pieces, distant 1,000 yards, according to Col. Abbot's computations. Fearing the distance might be greater or the powder prove weak (as it often does), ordered three and a half degrees elevation, which by the tables gives a range of 1,506 yards. The first shell (percussion) struck apparently about six feet from her hull and did not explode; added one-fourth degree to the elevation and worked all the pieces as rapidly as possible, concentrating the fire upon that single boat. Evidently taken by surprise, it took her some time to get in readiness to move. Had the satisfaction of seeing sixteen shell strike her and burst before she was fairly under way. Sent some six or eight shots after her with good effect while getting out of sight; consider her somewhat

damaged. In the meantime, the rebel rams and iron-clads, seemingly startled by the sudden attack, had got up steam and moved farther out into the stream for the purpose of following in the wake of the wooden vessel. Turned all my attention to them. Deeming the fire too hot to permit of their crossing the open space, they gave up the attempt and sought the shelter of the bank below as rapidly as possible, giving us one or two rounds as they went. The bank did not prove high enough, however, to hide their smokestacks into four or five feet, and we aimed at them, striking one. Not thinking it prudent to remain longer in that position, after steaming up and down the river several times seeking a safer hiding-place, but failing, they finally mustered courage sufficient to pass the open space. Paid strict attention to them as they sailed by. After the boats were out of danger the rebel heavy-gun batteries on the opposite shore opened on us with great vigor, bursting three 10-inch columbiad shell on the parapet, two inside the work, the remainder far in rear. One of the shells which went over cut off a man's foot and killed a horse belonging to Capt. Ashby's battery; all the casualties that occurred. Returned the fire of the land batteries with the only piece (a 30-pounder) that I could bring to bear. Expended 145 rounds of ammunition, all of which took the grooves and burst, but two. Am happy to state that the affair was more successful than I at first expected. Deem it just to say that I am greatly indebted to Mr. Woodruff, of my company, for his valuable assistance.

I am, sir, very respectfully your obedient servant,

H. H. PIERCE,  
Capt., First Connecticut Artillery.

Lieut. PETER S. MICHIE,  
U. S. Engineers, Acting Chief Engineer.

Source: Official Records  
PAGE 215-87 OPERATIONS IN SE. VA. AND N. C. [CHAP. LIV.  
[Series I. Vol. 42. Part I, Reports. Serial No. 87.]

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Report of Maj. George Ager, First Connecticut Heavy Artillery, of  
operations March 25.

HDQRS. SIEGE BATTERIES,  
Before Petersburg, Va., March 27, 1865.

LIEUT.: I have the honor to transmit the following as the part  
taken by the batteries under my command in the action of March 25, 1865:

About 4 a.m. the garrison of Battery No. 10, consisting of about sixty men of Company K, Capt. John M. Twiss commanding, were alarmed by the sentinel on guard, that the enemy were assaulting our lines. Before the mortars could be brought into action the enemy had captured the picket-line, and were advancing over the parapet. Small-arms were brought into use, and for a short time the enemy were held in check by a hand-to-hand conflict. Owing to the darkness the entire garrison of this advanced battery was captured. Capt. Twiss having been wounded, went to the rear, where a portion of his company was stationed, formed them, and continued the action from bomb-proof. By this time the enemy had flanked him on the right and left, and receiving no support he conducted his men to Battery No. 4, where he reported to me. Lieut. Odell, commanding one section of this battery, was killed at the commencement of the assault. At daylight I was informed that Fort Sterdam, including Battery No. 10, was in possession of the enemy, and that they were massing troops there. immediately ordered Batteries No. 4, 5, 8, and 9 to concentrate their fire on the fort and vicinity. This

was done with good effect until our troops prepared to charge and retake the line. Battery No. 12, on the left of Stedman, opened fire at the first alarm, and continued until the enemy had formed a line of battle in their rear, when the mortars were turned and several shells thrown among the troops there forming. But finding themselves the particular object of the enemy's fire, and it being impossible to serve the pieces any longer, Lieut. Lewis, commanding, led his men by the left to Fort Haskell, where this company with small-arms assisted in repulsing the assaults on this fort, at the same time directing their mortar fire on the battery previously occupied. Having been informed that a charge was to be made by the infantry retake the line, I ordered Lieut. Casey, who had reported to me with the remainder of K Company, to follow up, and, if successful, to take possession of Battery No. 10 and prepare for immediate action. This was done with promptness. He and his small detachment, arriving at the works with the charging column, found the implements destroyed and carried off, making it impossible to use the mortars.

The following is a list of casualties and ammunition expended at the several batteries:

	.....Casualties.....						.....Ammunition expended.....				
	KO	KEM	WO	WEM	MO	MEM	30-PPS Rounds.	8-IMS Rounds.	CMS Rounds.	4.5-IPS Rounds.	10-IMS Rounds.
Battery 4, Company I....	...	...	...	...	...	...	136	...	...	...	...
Battery 5, Company E....	...	1	...	...	...	...	178	89	...	...	...
Battery 8 and 9.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	266	...	...
Battery 10.....	1	4	1	2	...	36	...	...	...	...	...
Battery 12.....	...	1	...	5	...	13	...	...	240	...	...
Fort Haskell.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	225	...	...
Fort Morton.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	43
Fort Emery.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33	...

K=Killed. W=Wounded. M=Missing. O=Officers. EM=Enlisted Men. 30-PPS=30-pounder percussion shells. 8-IMS=8-inch mortar shells. CMS=Coehorn mortar shells. 4.5-IPS=4.5-inch percussion shells. 10-IMS=10-inch mortar shells.

In conclusion I take great pleasure in saying that the conduct of both officers and men is deserving of the highest praise, and for promptness and energy could not be excelled. Especially I may mention Capt. Twiss, commanding Company K, at battery No. 10; also Lieut. Casey. Through the energetic efforts of these officers the enemy were kept in check long enough to enable the works on their right and left to prepare for action and repulse the assaults.

Lieut. Lewis, commanding Company L, at battery No. 12 and Haskell, Lieut.'s Bingham and Couch, of the same company, are deserving of much credit for the manner on which these batteries were served. Lieut. Bangs, Company E, at Battery No. 5, deserves to be mentioned, for through the fire of three separate batteries was directed on his work, it was entirely ignored, and his concentrated fire of four 8-inch mortars and two 30-pounder guns was directed on Fort Stedman, and with terrible effect. At his battery one of the enemy's shells penetrated and burst inside the magazine, and through there were four barrels of powder in it at the time, strange to say it failed to ignite, and no injury was done.

GEORGE AGER,  
Maj. First Connecticut Artillery, Cmdg.

Lieut. C. W. FILER,  
First Connecticut Arty., Acting Assistant Adjutant-Gen.

[First indorsement.]

HDQRS. SIEGE ARTILLERY,  
Broadway Landing, Va., March 29, 1865.

Respectfully forwarded to artillery headquarters, Army of the Potomac.

I proceeded to the spot when notified of the attack, and was personally cognizant of the accuracy of most of Maj. Ager's report. The only thing which should be added is, that he himself exhibited great judgment and skill in commanding his batteries and that his exertions contributed much to the successful result of the affair. By his concentric fire the enemy were severely cut up and demoralized both while trying to form and when on their retreat.

HENRY L. ABBOT,  
Brevet Brig.-Gen. of Volunteers, Cmdg.

[Second indorsement.]

ARTILLERY HDQRS., ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,  
June 1, 1865.

This report, received after the active operations of the recent campaign commenced, is respectfully forwarded to be placed amongst the other reports of the action of the 25th of March, when the enemy attacked and for a short space held Fort Stedman. The reports of the siege batteries were not made to Maj.-Gen. Parke, commanding the lines at that point.

HENRY J. HUNT,  
Brevet Maj.-Gen., Cmdg.

Report of Capt. Henry H. Pierce, First Connecticut  
Heavy Artillery, commanding Fort Brady, of operations January 23-25.

FORT BRADY, VA.,  
January 26, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to report that, pursuant to written instructions from headquarters Department of Virginia and North Carolina, dated January 21, 1865, every available officer and man in command was put hard at work to get my fort, then much damaged by recent rains, in readiness to receive the rebel rams. All hands worked with a will, and, as far as possible, everything was in good and seasonable order. Previous to their coming had verbal notification from the same course as the written.

About 8 p.m. January 23 my lookout man, stationed on the parapet, discovered the rams approaching, floating, not steaming, down the river. Thanks to the vigilance of my own officers and men and those of Capt. Bach, commanding colored supports, I was not taken by surprise, as no alarm was given by our pickets on the opposite shore nearly a mile above, and the first shot fired at the enemy's boats was from my own heavy guns. Gave them in the neighborhood of twenty-five shots while floating a distance of thirty or forty rods; should have given them more had my best gun, left 100-pounder, not been dismounted at the second shot by one of the enemy's shell and my two left 30-pounders been run off the platforms, owing to their (platforms) being too narrow to admit of any but direct fire. Put the latter pieces in position again and fired them; also moved my right 30-pounder,

previously so placed as not to bear on the river, by hand, outside the fort into the ditch, but, owing to the extreme difficulty of moving it in the mud, was unable to get it there in season to use before the boats had passed; this gun, however, did good service on their return.

In consequence of the mal-construction of Fort Brady, was unable to fire down the river; and by reason of the embrasures having been built special reference to the enemy's land batteries, my left 100-pounder being destroyed, was prevented from injuring the boats after passing a certain point, and that point above my work.

The rams came down by twos, lashed together, which was the cause of my mistaking, in the obscurity of the night, the actual number for three, as I reported by orderly to department headquarters.

The construction and position of my battery with regard to the crest of the river-bank renders it little adapted for protection against gun-boats, and my parapet is so low on the down-river side that they could completely enfilade me with their stern guns without receiving a shot in return. Filled and placed sand-bags there during the night of the 23d to form a slight barrier.

During all this time the enemy were incessantly annoying us from their land batteries, comprising sixteen or more heavy guns, making good shots all the while. Did not pay much attention to them until the next day morning, when they opened one gun from Semmes in direction of our Sawyer battery. As I could get a good range, opened and dismantled it; all the enemy's guns replied to my fire, but should not have stopped had I not received orders from department headquarters to cease; dismantled another of their pieces before the order reached here.

After the boats went down, apparently somewhat crippled, had verbal and written instructions from Gen. Turner, chief of staff, to be on the watch for their return. Had all my serviceable pieces loaded and pointed, and threw out pickets as far down as Dutch Gap. Am greatly indebted to captain Bach and the officers under him for their coolness and willingness to take every pains to give me timely warning. About 3 a.m. January 25 was apprised by Capt. Bach's pickets of the return of the boats; was on the lookout and had all prepared; waited until they came directly opposite, fired, and knocked over the smoke-stack of the leading one (this was accomplished by the gun in the ditch); thought she was sinking, but the next boat took her in tow. Sent one shot at each of the rams and iron-clads, five, in all, from the same piece as they passed by, then had to wait until they arrived in front of my three remaining pieces. Worked them as rapidly surely as possible, and succeeded in sending some 125 solid shot at them before steaming out of range. Struck them time after time, as the sound showed, but the shots crumbled or glanced off. All this was under a terrific fire; the enemy putting from 1,000 to 1,500 heavy shell in and around my battery. Was at no time silenced by their guns. Consider the rebels boats to have been much crippled in their passage down and up.

Looking at the caliber and position of my guns, the weakness of my parapet, and the security of the enemy's fire, cannot but deem it fortunate that the affair turned out so favorably.

But three men--two engineers and one colored support--were killed inside the works upward of forty of my company were knocked down by splinters, &c., and slightly scratched, but some none so injured as to be unfitted for immediate duty.

Cannot help speaking again and again of the splendid behavior of my officers, Lieut.'s Deming and Miller, and of my men. Am accountable in a great measure to them for the entire success of the whole affair.

Since writing the above, have discovered that my other and only 100-pounder was cracked at the muzzle by one of the enemy's shell; can use it in case of necessity.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. H. PIERCE,  
Capt., First Connecticut Artillery.

First Lieut. C. A. TRUESDELL,  
Adjutant First Connecticut Artillery.

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Report of Capt. William C. Faxon, First Connecticut  
Heavy Artillery, commanding Fort Emery, of operations March 25.

FORT EMERY [AVERY], VA.,  
March 25, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to report that in the engagement this morning I fired thirty-three percussion shell--ten at a body of the enemy's troops occupying a position in rear of Fort Stedman and the remainder in reply to the 8-inch columbiad and light guns immediately in my front, which opened on this fort and on our own troops passing in rear, and which were silenced.

The firing on the enemy's troops was by direction of a major on the staff of Maj.-Gen. Parke, who pointed out the position, and who reported that it did considerable damage to the enemy. I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. C. FAXON,  
Capt., First Connecticut Artillery, Cmdg. Battery.

Lieut. W. S. MALONY,  
Acting Assistant Adjutant-Gen., Siege Batteries.

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Reports of Lieut. Henry A. Pratt, First Connecticut Heavy Artillery,  
commanding Batteries Parsons and Wilcox, of operations January 23-24.

BATTERY PARSONS, VA.,  
January 28, 1865.

LIEUT.: I have the honor to forward the following report of the part taken by Batteries Parsons and Wilcox in the late engagement with the rebel rams:

About 10 p.m. January 23 intelligence was brought that one ram had passed the picket-line and that another was in sight. Owing to the extreme darkness they were not visible from my batteries until close at hand. One was so far down that my guns could not be brought to bear upon it. I therefore opened on the lower one with my mortar and on the river above with my 100-pounder. The lower one put out anchor at the instructions and began to clear a passage. I placed six men at the river edge to watch them. To annoy the working party, my spare men opened with musketry. Lieut. Bergin, in charge of the mortar, fired thirty-one rounds at the obstruction; of these twenty-nine burst a few

feet above the water, just over the obstructions two did not burst. At about midnight the first ram passed the obstructions, and was soon followed by a second. Meantime the fire from the 100-pounder continued, but owing to the darkness it was impossible to observe the effect. After an hour or two the rams returned and returned and proceeded a short distance up the river. Two other boats were reported as lying together under the Howlett Battery, landing troops on the left bank of the river. Both batteries continued their fire until morning—the mortar firing with long forces at the rams; the gun directing an occasional shell at the rams when their smoke revealed their position, but mostly using case-shot to annoy the supposed landing party; solid shot were reserved for daylight. The night firing was very uncertain, as there was no means of correcting the range. It is probable that several shots from the gun may struck the rams, as they were heard to strike and ricochet, and it was observed during the day that shots which struck the water did not ricochet. During the night forty-four rounds were fired from the gun, fifty-five from the mortar--thirty-one at the instructions as before stated, the remaining twenty-four at the rams on their return from below. At daybreak I discovered that two rams and one wooden gun-boat were apparently aground on the left side of the James. The largest ram and the gun-boat were together, the boat partly behind the ram. Some 300 or 400 yards to the right was the smaller ram. I estimated the distance from Battery Parsons at about 1,500 yards. The rams were so situated that the line of fire from my battery was very far from perpendicular to their broadside; this caused the projectiles to easily glance off. As soon as the breach-sight could be used I opened with long percussion-shell, Sergeant Fox pointing the gun; the second struck the wooden boat, the third, forded at an elevation of four degrees, penetrated it, causing a magnificent explosion. As soon as the smoke lifted struck the ram with a percussion shell, which bounded off; we then tried solid shot; of six fired at the larger ram, one did not take the grooves, five struck it fair. I then directed to fire at the smaller ram, Corporal Hunt pointing; of nine shots, one did not take the grooves, one went over, seven struck the ram. I then used long shell again, next short shell, last case-shot. Fired in all, after daybreak, from the 100-pounder, fifty-seven rounds. While firing the last fourteen the rams were in motion and the last disappeared as I fired my last round. Of the forty-three rounds fired at the boat and rams, while stationary, three did not take the grooves, four went, ten fell a little short, twenty-six struck fair. Of the fourteen fired while the rams were moving, four struck fair, ten fell short; probably nearly every shot would have struck the mark had I not been obliged to change the ammunition so many times; some which fell short struck the rams, I think, below their water line. I wished, if possible, to get under their armor. I deem the long shell superior in accuracy to the other ammunition, solid shot come next; out of thirteen solid shot which took the grooves, after daybreak, only one failed to strike the rams. Sergeant Fox struck them six times in succession, Corporal Hunt, five, with long shell and solid shot. During the forenoon twenty-five mortar shells were fired with long fuses--two struck a ram, others struck very close; the charge used was two pounds and upward. The engagement closed about noon, the 24th, the flood tide enabling the rams to float. The rebel land batteries opened on Battery Parsons with mortars, columbiads, and light pieces, about a dozen in number; the smaller ram fired one shot, the only one fired by the rebel navy. Officers on picket directly opposite the rams state that most of my shots glanced off, but that the armor of the rams was started and partially ripped off in a number of places.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. A. PRATT,  
First Lieut., First Connecticut Artillery, Cmdg. Batteries Parsons and Wilcox.

Lieut. T. J. BEERS,  
Acting Assistant Adjutant-Gen.

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Report of Lieut. Frank D. Bangs, First Connecticut Heavy Artillery,  
commanding Battery No. 5, of operations March 25.

BATTERY 5,  
March 25, 1865.

LIEUT.: In obedience to Orders, No. 11, from headquarters Siege Batteries, I have the honor to report, that I was aroused about 4 o'clock this a.m. by firing in the vicinity of Fort Stedman; upon going out found that the enemy had broken our line at that point and taken the fort. I immediately ordered my company to fall in; stacked arms; manned the pieces; caused the company rations to be brought inside the enclosure, but refrained from firing (except one gun on Chesterfield) until I was certain of the position of our own and the enemy's troops. The enemy's batteries, both guns and mortars, fired hotly upon me, but I preferred keeping my ammunition for their infantry, excepting to be cut from communication with headquarters and not knowing when I could get any more. As soon as I was sure of the enemy's whereabouts I opened upon them with two 30-pounder guns and three 8-inch mortars, and continued the fire until they were driven back to their own line. From my own observation, and the report of others who were nearer, I am confident that the fire of this battery was very effective and aided materially in hastening the retreat of the enemy from Fort Stedman. The only serious damage received by this battery was by a 30-pounder shell from the Chesterfield, which penetrated the right magazine and exploded inside, killing one man; but by the what I consider a providence in our favor, the powder, of which there was four barrels in the magazine, did not explode. After the repulse of the enemy from Fort Stedman, I turned the battery on the battery of the enemy, who had been annoying me, their fire soon slackened, and finally ceased entirely, when, after shelling out a sharpshooter who has been giving me some trouble, I gave the order to cease firing and repair damages. The amount of ammunition expended you will find in the report of the day.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FRANK D. BANGS,  
First Lieut., First Connecticut Artillery, Cmdg. Battery.

Lieut. W. S. MALONY,  
Acting Assistant Adjutant-Gen., Siege Batteries.

I would mention that both officers and men behaved in the most gallant manner, never flinching, always at their posts, cool, brave, and efficient.

F. D. BANGS,  
First Connecticut, Cmdg.

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Report of Lieut. Henry D. Patterson, First Connecticut Heavy Artillery, commanding Fort Morton, of operations March 25.

FORT MORTON, VA.,  
March 26, 1865.

LIEUT.: I have the honor to report that I fired forty-three mortar shell and five 4 1/2-inch percussion-shell yesterday. I opened two mortars on Cemetery Hill battery, which was firing on our troops in rear Fort Haskell. The other mortars were directed on the batteries near the Petersburg pike. They burst a large number of shells in the fort, wounding four men of the Fifty-first Pennsylvania; no casualties in Company A. They opened one new mortar where they were digging day before yesterday, in rear of the Crater.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. D. PATTERSON,  
Lieut., First Connecticut Artillery, Cmdg. Battery.

Lieut. W. S. MALONY,  
Acting Assistant Adjutant-Gen., Siege Batteries.

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Report of Lieut. Ebenezer P. Mason, First Connecticut Heavy Artillery,  
commanding Battery Sawyer, of operations January 23-24.

BATTERY SAWYER,  
James River, Va., January 29, 1865.

SIR: Pursuant to instructions from headquarters Siege Artillery, Line of Bermuda Hundred, dated January 28, 1865, I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by this battery in the engagement with the rebel rams on the 23d and 24th instant:

About 8 p.m. the 23d Fort Brady opened fire; the Cox Ferry batteries replied; I opened, hoping to draw the enemy's fire from Fort Brady, in order to enable Capt. Pierce to serve his guns more rapidly on the rebel rams, if they were in the river. I was partially successful, drawing the fire of two 10-inch columbiads and one 8-inch rifled gun. I expended five case-shot, six percussion-shell, 100-pounder, and five 10-inch mortar shell.

At 10 p.m. Lieut. Reed, commanding navy picket detachment, reported to me that a high-pressure side wheel steamer lay at the obstructions and was attempting to remove them, and that two rams lay in the channel about 400 yards above. The night was so dark that I was unable to discover their exact positions excepting by the explosion of the shell from Battery Parsons. I fired at the rams three 100-pounder solid shot, at intervals of about fifteen minutes, with what effect I am unable to tell, and at the steamer nine 10 inch mortar shell, nearly all of which burst well, annoying the men at work on the instructions very much. At 12.30 a.m. the rams dropped down the river to the obstruction where my 100-pounder would not bear on them. At 3 a.m. the 24th one ram dropped down the stream opposite Sleepy Hollow, about 550 yards from the battery, and remained there at anchor about forty-five minutes. While she lay there one mortar shell, fired at 60 degrees elevation, charge twelve ounces, without bursting charge, struck her on the deck without any visible effect; immediately after, however, she hove up her anchor and changed her position. Thinking it might be her intention to land a force of marines and attack the battery and destroy the signal tower, I posted the supernumerary men (about thirty), with muskets, near the wharf, to prevent any boats landing. The ram, after dropping down stream about 100 yards, changed her course and steamed up the river out of sight; not being able to discover her position I ceased firing daylight. While she lay opposite Sleepy Hollow I fired at her nineteen mortar shell, at 60 degrees elevation, without bursting charge; I cannot state positively that but one struck her. The firing was very accurate, all the shell striking within a radius of ten yards. Soon after daylight I discovered the rams in the channel, about 2,000 yards distant, and partially covered by the bank of the river and a grove of trees. I again opened and fired from the 100-pounder six case-shot, three percussion, two case-shot, and two mortar shells struck the rams. From this point the only visible damage was by the case-shot, which perforated the smoke-stacks; the percussion-shell burst against her side. The solid shot did not appear to penetrate--some of them after striking rolled back into the water, others ricocheted beyond.

I also fired after daylight at the land batteries (not being able to bear on the rams), with the 100-pounder, eleven case-shot. At about 12 m. the rams succeeded in getting off the bar and steamed around the bend. During the morning of the 24th battery received the fire of three 10-inch columbiads, one 8-inch and one 7-inch rifled gun.

No casualties occurred.

The men behaved with the utmost coolness and served the pieces with skill and alacrity.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. P. Mason,  
First Lieut., First Regt. Connecticut Arty., Cmdg. Battery.

Lieut. CHARLES A. TRUESDELL,  
Adjutant First Connecticut Artillery.

Source: Official Records  
PAGE 174-95 N. AND SE. VA., N. C., W. VA., MD., AND PA. [CHAP. LVIII.  
[Series I. Vol. 46. Part I, Reports. Serial No. 95.]

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Report of Lieut. William H. Rogers, commanding  
detachment First Connecticut Heavy Artillery.

BROADWAY LANDING, VA., April 14, 1865.

LIEUT.: I have the honor to forward the following as a statement of the part taken by a detachment of the First Connecticut Artillery under my command, in the assault of Sunday, April 2, upon the enemy's lines in front of Petersburg:

On March 31 I was, by order of Maj. Ager, temporarily relieved from the command of Company K and ordered to take charge of a detachment of 100 men who would report to me at Fort Stedman; with them follow a charging column, and serve the guns taken in the attack then contemplated. The men were divided into three divisions, commanded respectively by Lieut.'s Smith, Couch, and Reynolds; each division was divided into three-gun detachments of the men, and a chief of piece each. All the detachments were provided with lanyards, primers, fuses, and all necessary articles for the prompt and efficient serving of the guns that might be captured.

During the night of the 31st the detachments were under arms at Fort Stedman; no attack being made they were in the morning (April 1) dismissed, but reported to me again in the afternoon, when, by order of Maj. Ager, I moved to Fort Emery; there awaited orders from Gen Tidball. About 3 o'clock in the morning of April 2 received orders from him to move to Fort Rice, at which place I halted until he arrived, and gave his final instructions. I then moved to the left of Battery 20, arriving just as the column was moving out to the attack. My men at once sprung over our works, charged across the space between the lines with the entered the enemy's works at the same time as the charging column. A very few minutes elapsed after entering the works before four of the captured guns were turned upon and doing great execution among the enemy. The other two could not be served where they were taken, and they were ordered to the right of the fort; the moving of them, owing to the peculiar construction of the work and the heavy fire of the enemy, was an undertaking that tried the

nerve of all engaged, but which was successfully accomplished. Within half an hour from the time of gaining possession six guns, manned by the First Connecticut, were playing their part in holding the work taken.

During the day most of the guns were served near where they were captured, but at night all but one was moved to the side of the work nearest the enemy, and so placed as to sweep its entire front, in which positions they were kept and served until the next morning, when, by order of Gen. Tidball, the detachments were relieved and ordered to join their respective companies. During the engagement the detachments not serving on the pieces were stationed at the parapet with their small-arms, aiding materially in the defense of the work.

To the officers, Lieut.'s Smith, Couch, and Reynolds, for their encouragement of the men, and by their example keeping them at the pieces under a heavy fire during several severe charges of the enemy, and for the prompt execution of all orders, great credit is due. Where all behaved so nobly it is difficult to award individual praises, but for encouraging his men, coolness under fire, prompt serving of his piece, Corporal Hogan, of Company K, is especially deserving of mention.

A list of the killed and wounded I am unable to give, as I am unacquainted with the names of those injured.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. H. ROGERS,  
First Lieut., Cmdg. Company K.

Lieut. C. W. FILLER,  
Acting Adjutant First Connecticut Heavy Artillery.

[Indorsement.]

HDQRS. SIEGE BATTERIES,  
Before Petersburg, April 18, 1865.

Respectfully forwarded to headquarters Siege Artillery, with the following additional information: In obedience to orders from Gen. Tidball, received on the 31st of March, a detail of 4 officers and 100 enlisted men was made from the companies under my command, as follows: Lieut. Couch, with 10 men from Company K; Lieut. Smith, with 25 men from Company E; Lieut. Couch, with 20 men from Company M and 25 men from Company I; all of the First Connecticut Artillery. They were held in readiness to take possession of and serve any of the enemy's guns that might by any circumstances fall into the enemy's line; Lieut. Rogers' command, accompanying the assaulting column, were among the first to tender the works of the enemy. They turned the captured guns and delivered a terrible fire on their retreating columns, and during the entire day of the 2d continued the fire from six 12-pounder guns. About 400 rounds of ammunition were captured with the pieces. At about 11 a.m. I visited the captured work; found about half the detachment which was not required for the service of the guns manning the parapet and with their small-arms assisting in the repulse, capturing some fifteen prisoners during the many assaults many by the enemy to retake the work. Some 800 rounds were fired from the guns captured, and the men with small-arms supplied themselves with ammunition from prisoners captured and the dead and dying in the fort. Singular to say, the casualties of this detachment were very light, considering that they were exposed to an enfilading fire of case and canister, and, besides, were very much exposed to sharpshooters; only 1 man killed and 6 slightly wounded. I may be brief in speaking of the conduct of officers and men, for it is well known

that all did nobly, particularly Lieut. Rogers, to whose courage and daring in the assault, and good judgment in the disposition of his command after the capture of the work, much credit is due, and to whom the succeeds of holding the work may be attributed.

GEORGE AGER,  
Maj., First Connecticut Artillery.

Source: Official Records  
CHAP. LVIII.] THE APPOMATTOX CAMPAIGN. PAGE 671-95  
[Series I. Vol. 46. Part I, Reports. Serial No. 95.]



# CONNECTICUT THIRD C. V. LIGHT BATTERY

WRITTEN BY CAPTAIN THOMAS S. GILBERT.

The history of the Third Connecticut Light Battery is necessarily brief.

The Battery was organized during the summer and early fall of 1864. Some of its members enlisted for one year and others for two years' service. It naturally attracted a number of men who had served terms of enlistment in other commands, notably in the First Connecticut Heavy Artillery, who, after a short period of civil life-- the excitement of the war period still continuing--were easily induced to re-enter the service as an independent body of artillerymen. Soon, therefore, as authorized, the work of enlistment went briskly on; the Battery was organized, its officers commissioned, and, in pursuance of Special Order No. 126, from Headquarters Volunteer Recruiting Service of Connecticut, left the State. According to instructions I reported the Battery to Brig.-Gen. Henry L. Abbott, commanding the First Connecticut Heavy Artillery, at his headquarters, Broadway Landing, Va., on the 19th day of November, 1864, and was instructed by him to disembark the Battery and encamp at City Point, Va., near the line of artillery defenses then nearly completed. On the 26th of November we were assigned to these defenses as the permanent garrison, and occupied Redoubts Nos 2, 5, 7, and 8 of this line.

The Battery was divided into detachments under the command of lieutenants, as follows: Lieutenant Middlebrook was assigned to No. 2 on the right of the line, with a detachment of twenty-three men, and an armament of six 30-pounder Parrott guns; No. 5, near the railroad, was headquarters of the Battery. I was assisted here by Lieutenant Gilberts, who acted as adjutant of the command. This redoubt was armed with eight 4 1/2-inch siege guns, commanding the railroad and a wide range on either side. No. 7 was commanded by Lieutenant Beecher, with a detachment of twenty men and an equipment of six 30-pounder Parrott guns. No. 8 was under the command of Lieutenant Hayden, with a force of twenty men and an armament of six 4 1/2-inch Rodman guns. The Battery was also provided with infantry muskets and equipments. These redoubts were very complete fortifications, connected by a line of infantry parapet, and furnished with excellent magazines and a full complement of ammunition.

All the officers, most of the non-commissioned officers, and many of the enlisted men of the Battery, had been in the service prior to this, and were, therefore, fairly instructed in soldierly duties and inured to the trials of the camp and field. A short time sufficed to familiarize ourselves with our surroundings and get into soldierly harmony with our work, so that although these separate garrisons were small, but within supporting distance, we sought to make them efficient as possible by learning to work together according to our best knowledge and ability.

We drilled constantly, and every man of the Battery was soon taught the special duty he would have to perform in any emergency.

The position to which we were assigned was of great honor and responsibility. These defenses protected the vast army stores at City Point, the hospitals, charitable commissions, and the headquarters of Lieut.-General Grant. Under the observant eyes of great chieftains and notables the Battery drilled and worked, keeping the redoubts neat and the personnel of the camp free from reproach.

To "be always ready," was the brief instruction given us, and no pains were spared to obey the injunction. The men were instructed to maneuver the guns, to fix and prepare ammunition, taught soldierly deportment and conduct, instructed in the laws of health, and commanded to be alert and vigilant, quick to respond to any call, and occupy the place to which previous training had accustomed them. In this attitude the Battery watched and waited. When the rebel iron-clads attempted to force a passage by the batteries and obstructions in the James River, a section of the Battery, with four 4 1/2-inch siege guns, was stationed in front of General Grant's headquarters, covering the wharves and storehouses, ready for action. The attempt of the rebels did not succeed, and the battery was returned to the redoubts.

At the time of the grand advance of the army upon the Rebel lines our works were strengthened by the addition of a section of light guns which could be readily moved along the line of breastworks that adjoined the redoubts, and the entire line was left wholly dependent upon the officers and men of our Battery. By day and by night, resting on our arms, we stood by our guns watching and waiting. The roar of battle was in our ears, its mortal wreckage drifted past us, and our veins beat in unison with the tempest. This was all. Lee surrendered; the war was finished. It had been ours to watch and to wait, to "be ready"; this was all.

We were soon ordered to work with a battalion of the First Connecticut Artillery, commanded by Major Brooker, of pleasant memory, in dismantling the rebel fortifications in the vicinity of Chapin's Bluff on the James River. There we worked, relieved from the strain of constant anxiety, and looking cheerfully forward to the hour of release from the exacting duties of military life. On the 22d of June, 1865, I was directed by the commissary of musters, Department of Virginia, to prepare muster-out rolls of all the enlisted men of the Battery whose terms of service expired prior to October 1, 1865. These rolls contained the names of ninety-three (93) men, and were furnished on the 23d. With the exception of twenty-seven (27) men who were transferred to the First Connecticut Heavy Artillery, in accordance with instructions from the Department of War, the Battery was mustered out.

A transport steamer took us to New York, and thence by boat we went to New Haven, Conn. We were met at the dock by the New Haven Grays, under command of Col. Samuel E. Merwin, and escorted in a drenching rain to the Union House, where a splendid feast awaited us, all of which "home cheer" was gratefully partaken.

On the 3d of July, 1865, the officers and men of the Battery were paid and the command disbanded. The Battery lost but one man by death during its period of service, Corporal Beecher, who died from exposure a few days after our arrival at City Point. Only one man was severely injured, and that by accident--Private Hubbell--who was burned by the bursting of a buried shell in front of one of the rebel works.

The service of the Third Connecticut Independent Battery was all rendered in considerably less time than one year, but it witnessed the collapse of the Great Rebellion, and there were officers and men in the organization who had witnessed its advent, as an armed power, and now rejoiced to see its downfall.

# Nelson B. Gilbert Sword

This sword belonged to Lieutenant Nelson B. Gilbert of the 1<sup>st</sup> Connecticut Heavy Artillery. The characteristics of the sword indicate that it most likely was made by Sauerbier. The leather grip and twisted wire, as well as the hilt and pommel cap, are 100% original and tight. The blade shows wear, but the etching is strong. The original top-stitched leather scabbard has crazing, but is strong and firm, and retains all original mounts, which show a high copper content.

The top mount is engraved as follows:

*Lt. N B Gilbert*  
*1st Arty C V*





