

Thumbnail Sketch of the 77th O.V.I. (O.V.V.I) – Camden Expedition

(from various sources)

The 77th was organized from Sept. 1861 – Jan. 1862 in Marietta, Ohio. In April and May 1862, the 77th fought at Shiloh and at the Siege of Corinth. From August 1862 through the end of July, 1863, the regiment was on prison duty in Alton, Illinois. On July 31, the 77th moved to Helena, Ark., and then onto Duvall's Bluff on August 22.

The 77th participated in Maj. Gen'l Frederick Steele's Little Rock Expedition to capture the Arkansas capital, Sept 1–10. On Sept. 10, they fought at Bayou Fourche, and Little Rock was taken that day. The regiment served at Little Rock until Sept 23.

The 77th reenlisted on Dec. 20, 1863 and mustered-in as Veterans on January 22, 1864. The veterans went on furlough to Columbus, Ohio, and returned to Little Rock over March 1–17, 1864. They arrived back in time to step off on Steele's Camden Expedition on March 23, in support of Bank's Red River Campaign.

On the Camden Expedition, the regiment served in the:

- 2nd Brigade (Col William McLean), with the 43rd Indiana and 36th Iowa (previously the 1st Brigade)
- 3rd Division (Brig. Gen'l Frederick Solomon),
- 7th Army Corps (Maj. Gen'l Frederick Steele).

The 7th A.C. was the second corps of that designation. The first 7th, organized in July 1862, was composed of troops assigned to garrisons in and about Suffolk, and Norfolk, Va., and discontinued in Aug. 1863. The 7th A.C. on the Camden Expedition was created by General Order No. 14, Adj't Gen'l's Office, January 6, 1864. The corps badge for the 7th was not adopted until June 1, 1865. (no corps badges should be worn at Camden).

The Federal column that left Little Rock consisted of the 3rd Division, and Brig. Gen'l Eugene Carr's Cavalry Division (Carr's artillery was composed of mountain howitzers). They would be joined by Brig. Gen'l John Thayer's "Frontier Division" marching from Fort Smith. Thayer's brigade included the 1st and 2nd Kansas Regiments (Colored). Steele's column consisted of approximately 11,000 officers and men. Maj. Gen'l Sterling Price commanded a mostly-cavalry force attempting to slow Steele down.

The Camden Expedition (March 23–May 3) was mounted in support of Bank's Red River Campaign. If all went well, the commands would meet at Shreveport. All did not go well. Banks was defeated at Mansfield (April 8), and while Confederate Maj. Gen'l Richard Taylor was repulsed at Pleasant Hill (April 9), Banks retired to Grand Encore. Meanwhile, Steele's command was hampered by ration shortages. The 7th A.C. was marching through poor foraging country, and went on half-rations the second day out of Little Rock¹, even before being joined by Thayer's division from Ft. Smith, which itself was having supply difficulties.

The 77th fought at Okolona (April 2–3) and Prairie D'Ane (April 9–12), and at the capture of Camden (April 15–18). At Prairie D'Ane, Steele fainted south-westerly towards Washington, Ark., then the rebel state capital, but stealthy reversed direction westward to Camden to resupply.

Steel received word at Camden on April 21 that Banks had been stopped in Louisiana, and that Banks would definitely need Steele's help to take Shreveport. In the meanwhile, Confederate Maj. Gen'l E. Kirby Smith led three infantry divisions northward from Louisiana to reinforce Price's primarily-mounted force facing Steele. Kirby's redirection of forces left Taylor but one division to watch Bank's larger invasion force (as well as Porter's river squadron, then trapped on the lower-running Red River).

¹ "On the evening of the second day, camping early in a good place, we drew our first rations for the trip, and learned that during the march, but half-rations would be issued except that with commendable care and prudence the General had ordered a full allowance of coffee for all the time. For this we always thanked him. Coffee is the soldier's friend. ... the army style of making it would make a woman smile with scorn. If a large amount is to be made, as enough for a company, a doubly-generous quantity of ground coffee is put into an iron camp-kettle, and left to boil till the strength is all out of it; and when this plan is not adopted, each man makes it for himself, on the same principle, in a little tin can." A.F. Sperry, *History of the 33d Iowa Infantry Volunteer Regiment 1863-6*, (1866).

To ensure supplies necessary to continue the campaign, Steele sent about 2,000 men under the 36th Iowa's Lieut. Col. Drake to escort over 200 wagons to Pine Bluff. The 77th was part of this force, joined by its sister regiments of the 2nd Brigade – the 43d Indiana and 36th Iowa – as well as the 1st Iowa Cav., detachments of the 1st Ind. Cav., the 5th and 7th Mo. Cav., and Battery E, 2nd Mo. Light Artillery (4 guns) to escort the train. The command was attacked on April 25 by Brig. Gen'l James Fagan's 4,000 rebel cavalry at Mark's Mills, where most of the 77th was captured. The campaign could advance go no further, and Camden was evacuated on April 27.

From Camden, the 7th A.C. retired northward towards Little Rock. The 7th A.C., soundly defeated Smith and Price at Jenkin's Ferry, retreated across the Sabine River, and then onto to Little Rock. The remnants of the 77th had formed an ad-hoc company, of which about half were casualties at Jenkin's Ferry.

On the Camden Expedition, Steele sustained about 3,000 casualties, and lost eight pieces of artillery, 2,500 animals, and 700 wagons, either captured or destroyed to prevent capture. The Confederates suffered about 2,000 casualties and lost 35 wagons on the campaign, and lost three guns at Jenkin's Ferry.

Those in the 77th captured at Mark's Mills were held at Camp Ford, Texas, until exchanged in February 1865. The 77th was then ordered to New Orleans. The regiment moved to Mobile, Ala., and was at the siege of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely (March 26–April 9).

In June 1864, the regiment moved to Texas, and served at Brazos Santiago and Brownsville until March 1866, when it was mustered out, the last Ohio Volunteer Infantry organization to muster out.

Significant Engagements

Date	Event
1862	
April 6–7	Shiloh, Tenn.: 51 killed, 116 wounded
April 8	Fallen Timbers, Tenn.
April 29–May 30	Siege of Corinth, Miss.
1864	
Sept. 10	Little Rock, Ark.
April 2–3	Okalona, Ark.
April 9–12	Prairie d'Ane, Ark.
April 25	Mark's Mill, Ark.
April 30	Jenkin's Ferry
1865	
March 26–April 9	Spanish Fort, Mobile, Ala.

Service (Dyer's *Compendium*)

Organization	Date
Organized at Marietta, O.	Sept 28, '61 to Jan. 5, '62
Left for Paducah, Ky	Feb. 17, 1862
District of Paducah (under Sherman)	to March, '62
3 ^d Brig., 5 th Div. (Sherman), Army of the Tenn.	to May '62
2 ^d Brig., 5 th Div., Army of the Tenn.	to July '62
2 ^d Brig., 5 th Div., Dist of Memphis	to Aug. '62
Alton, Ill. (prison duty)	to Aug. '63
1 st Brig., 3 ^d Div., Dept. of Arkansas (Steele)	to Jan. '64
1 st Brig., 3 ^d Div., 7 th Army Corps (Steele)	to April '64 or March '64 from McKeever's <i>Civil War Battle Flags of the Union Army and Order of Battle</i> (1887).
2 ^d Brig., 3 ^d Div., 7 th A.C. (Steele)	to May '64
3 ^d Brig., 1 st Div., 7 th A.C.	to Feb '65
3 rd Brig., 3 rd Div., 13 th A.C., Mil. Div. of West Mississippi	to June '65
3 rd Brig., 3 rd Div., 13 th A.C., Dept. of Texas	to March '66

Counties of Origin

The 77th O.V.I. was organized between Sept. 28, 1861 and Jan. 5, 1862, in **Marietta, Ohio**.

Marietta, the first permanent settlement in the territory northwest of the Ohio, was founded in 1788. Marrieta (named for Marie Antoinette) was (and remains) the county seat of **Washington County** (named for George Washington), the oldest county in Ohio. Marietta is on the confluence of the **Ohio and Muskingum Rivers**, both navigable. Marietta was connected by rail to Cincinnati by 1857. Oil was first drilled in 1860. The county population in 1860 was 36,268.

The companies of the 77th were drawn primarily from the following counties:

Company	County(ies)
A	Monroe
B	Noble; Washington
C	Washington
D	Washington
E	Belmont
F	Morgan
G	Monroe, Washington
H	Monroe, Washington
I	Monroe
K	Morgan, Washington

From Dyer's *Compendium*, 77th Regiment Infantry.

Organized at Marietta, Ohio, September 28, 1861, to January 5, 1862. Left State for Paducah, Ky., February 17, 1862. Attached to District of Paducah, Ky., to March, 1862. 3rd Brigade, 5th Division, Army of the Tennessee, to May, 1862. 2nd Brigade, 5th Division, Army Tennessee, to July, 1862. 2nd Brigade, 5th Division, District of Memphis, Tenn., to August, 1862. Alton, Ill., to August, 1863. 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, Arkansas Expedition, to January, 1864. 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, 7th Army Corps, Dept. of Arkansas, to April [**March from other sources**] 1864. 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division, 7th Army Corps, to May, 1864. 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, 7th Army Corps, to February, 1865. 3rd Brigade, 3rd Division, 13th Army Corps (New), Military Division West Mississippi, to June, 1865. Dept. of Texas, to March, 1866. **SERVICE.**-- Moved from Paducah, Ky., to Savannah, Tenn., March 6-10, 1862. Expedition to Yellow Creek, Miss., and occupation of Pittsburg Landing, Tenn., March 14-17. Expedition to Eastport, Miss., and Chickasaw, Ala., April 1. Battle of Shiloh, Tenn., April 6-7. Corinth Road April 8. Advance on and siege of Corinth, Miss., April 29-May 30. March to Memphis, Tenn., via LaGrange, Grand Junction and Holly Springs June 1-July 21. Duty there till August 27. Ordered to Alton, Ill., and duty there as guard of

Military Prisons till July 31, 1863. Moved to Helena, Ark., July 31, thence to Duvall's Bluff August 22. Steele's Expedition to Little Rock, Ark., September 1-10. Bayou Fourche and capture of Little Rock September 10. Duty at Little Rock till September 23. Regiment reenlisted December 20, 1863, and mustered in as Veterans January 22, 1864, and moved to Columbus, Ohio. Returned to Little Rock March 1-17. Steele's Expedition to Camden March 23-May 3. Okalona April 2-3. Prairie D'Ann April 9-12. Camden April 15-18. Mark's Mills April 25, most of Regiment captured. Evacuation of Camden April 27. Jenkins' Ferry April 30. Duty in the Dept. of Arkansas till February, 1865. Regiment exchanged February, 1865, and ordered to New Orleans, La., February 9. Moved to Mobile Point, Ala., February 20. Campaign against Mobile and its defenses March 17-April 12. Siege of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely March 26-April 9. Occupation of Mobile April 12. Advance to Mt. Vernon April 13-22. Moved to Mobile May 12, thence to Texas June 1-9. Duty at Brazos Santiago and Brownsville and in the Dept. of Texas, till March, 1866. Mustered out March 8, 1866. Regiment lost during service 2 Officers and 68 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 2 Officers and 208 Enlisted men by disease. Total 280.

SOURCES

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