

60th New York Infantry Regiment

The 60th formed, mustered and trained at Ogdensburg, New York. The core of the 60th was the 33rd New York militia. Its training camp was named Camp Wheeler. It was made up of soldiers from St. Lawrence, Franklin, Jefferson and Clinton counties. Many Canadian men came down to the States to enlist. The first colonel was William Hayward.

The regiment left for Washington in November 1861. Its first duty was to guard the railroad at the Relay house near Baltimore. There, January 18th, 1862, they got a new colonel, George Sears Greene. Col. Greene improved the discipline, training and spirit of the regiment. They continued on Railroad duty until June of 1862. Col. Greene was promoted to Brigadier General, April 28th, 1862 and William Goodrich was promoted to colonel. They were then transferred to Harper's Ferry, VA. They were with Banks Corps, Sigal's division, Greene's brigade. After a few marches and small skirmishes their first battle was Cedar Mountain, where they only had a support role. That summer they were decimated with typhoid fever and the diseases that accompany that fever. They were sent to White Sulphur Springs, VA to recover. Their first big battle was Antietam. There, the colonel, William Goodrich, was killed. They were with Mansfield's 12th Corps, Greene's division, Goodrich's brigade. Goodrich's Brigade was sent to the right of Hooker's line to assist the 1st Corps, and charged up the Hagerstown Pike into the West Woods. The regiment lost one officer killed and 7 men killed or died of wounds, 14 men wounded but recovered.

After Antietam they went back to Harper's Ferry. They were without much action except a couple of skirmishes at Hillsboro Virginia on Nov. 9th and Dec 1. After participating in the infamous Mud March, they went in to winter quarters at Aquia Creek. On April 26th they started out with the Twelfth Corps and crossed the Rappahanock River and were heavily engaged at Chancellorsville. There they lost 14 killed and mortally wounded, 40 wounded and recovered and 12 missing. During this time Lt.Col J.C.O. Redington temporarily commanded them. From June 1863, until after Atlanta, Sept. 1864, Col. Abel Godard commanded them.

Then they marched to Gettysburg arriving there at 4:00P.M. the 1st day of July. They camped near Little Round Top that night but were ordered to join the rest of the 12th Corps at Culp's Hill at daybreak on the 2nd. They spent the day fortifying the hill. At 6:30, after all but Greene's brigade was withdrawn to help out on the Union left, Johnson's division of Ewell's Corps attacked. Greene's brigade consisted of the 60th, 102nd, 78th, 137th and the 149th, all Regiments from New York State, about 1300 men. Johnson's division of Ewell's confederate Corp's sent in about 4000 men to take the hill. After three separate attacks Greene's brigade held the hill. Most of the attack was after dark and the fighting kept up until about 10:30 P.M. The next day, Greene's brigade was reinforced by the rest of the 12th Corps. Johnson's division, enforced by a few more brigades, was driven back down the hill and across the Rock Creek and the 60th's part in the battle of Gettysburg was done. At Gettysburg, the 60th lost 17 killed and mortally wounded, 34 wounded but recovered.

In September, the 11th and 12th corps were transferred out west to Grant's command near Chattanooga. On the 24th of November, they led Geary's [Brigadier General John Geary, commander of the second division of the 12th corps] charge up Lookout Mountain, captured a battle flag and drove the rebels off the mountain. The fog had rolled in around the mountain and

from observers in Chattanooga, it looked like a battle above the clouds. They were in Ireland's brigade; Geary's Division, 12th Corps and that part of the battle for Chattanooga was under the command of General Joseph Hooker.

After that day, they moved on and helped capture Missionary Ridge and chased the rebel army until Ringgold Gap. During these three days they lost 10 killed and mortally wounded, and 40 wounded but recovered. They went in to winter camp at Stevenson, Alabama. There most re-enlisted and they were reformed as a Veteran Regiment. The re-enlisted men were sent back to Ogdensburg for thirty days leave. The men who didn't re-enlist were temporarily assigned to the 137th New York, until the Veterans, who went home, came back. Those soldiers who did not re-enlist were mustered out about the 30th of October 1864 after the capture of Atlanta.

During that winter the 12th corps was consolidated with the 11th corps and formed the 20th Corps. Major General Joseph Hooker commanded the 20th Corps. They marched with Sherman and participated in the battles of Mill Creek Gap, Resaca, Dallas, and Kenesaw Mountain and were one of the first regiments to march into Atlanta.

During the Atlanta Campaign the 60th lost 14 killed and mortally wounded, 46 wounded but recovered, as well as 1 missing. Just before Atlanta was captured General Joseph Hooker resigned and General Henry Slocum took command of the 20th Corps. During the Atlanta Campaign Col. Abel Godard was sick at times and some of the time Capt. Thomas Elliott was in command of the Regiment. On Sept 18th, 1863 Abel Godard was discharged for disability and the command of the regiment was in charge of Thomas Elliott.

The 60th marched with Sherman to Savannah and up the Carolinas until the end of the war. They participated in the victory march in Washington and were mustered out on the 17th of July 1865. They had very few casualties during the later part of the war, mostly men missing. Confederate cavalry probably captured them. As you can see the 60th has a proud record in the Civil War and should be remembered for their great service.

I am gathering all the information that I can get on the 60th and its soldiers. I have a database with all the soldiers that were listed on the New York Adjutant General's Report, 1901 and have been listing every source that I have found for the Regiment and soldiers that served with it. I will be glad to hear from descendants and other interested researchers at smaine@northnet.org I am interested in finding out what happened to the soldiers after they mustered out or were discharged. Many were listed as deserters but I am finding out that many of these really didn't desert. I am also want to list where and when the soldiers died and where they were buried.

Stan Maine
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