



CWSAC Battle Summaries

The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP)

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Battles by State

Battles by Campaign

Philippi

Other Names: Philippi Races

Location: Barbour County

Campaign: Operations in Western Virginia (June-December 1861)

Date(s): June 3, 1861

Principal Commanders: Col. Thomas A. Morris [US]; Col. George A. Porterfield [CS]

Forces Engaged: Brigades

Estimated Casualties: 30 total (US 4; CS 26)

Description: Col. Thomas A. Morris, temporarily in command of Union forces in western Virginia, mounted a two-prong advance under E. Dumont and B.F. Kelley against a small Confederate occupation force at Philippi under Porterfield. Kelley marched on back roads from near Grafton on June 2 to reach the rear of the town, while Dumont moved south from Webster. Both columns arrived at Philippi before dawn on the 3rd. The resulting surprise attack routed the Confederate troops, forcing them to retreat to Huttonsville. Although a small affair, this was considered the first major land action in the Eastern Theater.

Result(s): Union victory

CWSAC Reference #: WV001

Preservation Priority: IV.1 (Class D)

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THE
West Virginia
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Battle of Philippi

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With the beginning of the Civil War, both the North and South saw the mountains of western Virginia as a strategically vital area. The region was seen as the source of thousands of tough recruits and of essential raw materials, an important staging area for attacks into the heartland of their opponents, and it was traversed by the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, one of only two east-west railroads in the country at that time.

When Confederate troops threatened the B&O at Grafton the federal government quickly moved troops into the area. On the night of June 3, 1861, the first land battle of the Civil War involving organized troops took place at Philippi, about 15 miles south of Grafton. Some 3,000 federal troops under the general command of Major General George B. McClellan and the immediate command of Colonels Benjamin F. Kelley and Ebenezer Dumont drove about 800 Confederates under Colonel George A. Porterfield from the town. While no one was killed in the battle, the Confederates suffered several severe wounds necessitating the first amputations of the Civil War, one each by Union and Confederate surgeons.

The Northern victory stiffened Unionist resolve in western Virginia. On June 11, the first Wheeling Convention voted to nullify the Virginia ordinance of secession, declared the offices of the state government at Richmond vacated, and named Francis H. Pierpont governor of the restored government of Virginia. The victory also secured the Baltimore & Ohio for the Union and played an important part in General McClellan's meteoric rise to the command of the Army of the Potomac.

The Federal strategy at Philippi included what was probably the first employment of the railroad to effect the convergence of divergent forces upon an enemy in world



History of the 6th Indiana



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The 6th Indiana was the first volunteer regiment mustered in to Federal service from Indiana during the Civil War. The 1st through 5th Indiana Infantry regiments had seen service during the Mexican War and were disbanded after that war. There were actually two 6th Indiana Regiments. The first one was mustered in for 3 months service, while the other was for 3 years.

✓ 3 Months Service

Organized at Indianapolis, Indiana, April 22-27, 1861. Left state for Grafton, West Virginia, on May 30. Attached to Kelley's Command. Saw action at Phillipi, June 3, 1861 as part of Morris' Indiana Brigade, Army of West Virginia. Took part in the West Virginia Campaign, July 6-16. Fought at Carrick's Ford, July 12-14. Took part in the pursuit of Garnett's forces, July 15-16. Mustered out on August 2, 1861. Total casualties: 3 (by disease).

✓ 3 Year Service

Organization:

Attached to 1st Brigade, McCook's command, at Nolin, Ky., October - November 1861.

4th Brigade, Army of the Ohio, November - December 1861.

✓ 4th Brigade, 2nd Division, Army of the Ohio, December 1861 - September 1862.

4th Brigade, 2nd Division, 1st Corps, Army of the Ohio, September 1862 - November 1862.

3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, Right Wing 14th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, November 1862 - January 1863.

3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, 20th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, January 1863 - October, 1863.

2nd Brigade, 3rd Division, 4th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, to October 1863 - September 1864.

Service and Battles

Regiment organized at Madison, Ind., and mustered in September 20, 1861.

Ordered to Louisville, Ky., September 20.

Duty at Muldraugh's Hill till October 14.

Moved to Nolin River, Ky. Duty at Bacon Creek and Green River till February, 1862.

Marched to Nashville, Tenn., February 14-March 3, 1862.

March to Duck River, thence to Savannah, Tenn., March 16-April 6.

✓ Battle of Shiloh, Tenn., April 6-7.

✓ Advance on and siege of Corinth, Miss., April 29-May 30.

Duty at Corinth till June 10. March to Iuka, Miss., thence to Tuscumbia, Florence, Huntsville and Stevenson, Ala., June 10-July 5.

Expedition to Tullahoma July 14-18.

- March to Pelham July 24, thence to Altamont August 28.
- Reconnaissance toward Sequatchie Valley August 29-30.
- March to Louisville, Ky., in pursuit of Bragg, August 30-September 26.
- Pursuit of Bragg into Kentucky October 1-15.
- March to Nashville, Tenn., October 16-November 7, and duty there till December 26.
- Advance on Murfreesboro December 26-30.
- Battle of Stone's River December 30-31, 1862, and January 1-3, 1863.
- Duty at Murfreesboro till June.
- Middle Tennessee (or Tullahoma) Campaign June 23-July 7.
- Liberty Gap June 24-27. (Guard Ammunition Trains through Liberty Gap.)
- Occupation of Middle Tennessee till August 16.
- Passage of the Cumberland Mountains and Tennessee River and Chickamauga (Ga.) Campaign August 16-September 22.
- Battle of Chickamauga (September 19 - 20, 1863)
- Siege of Chattanooga, Tenn., September 24-November 23.
- Reopening Tennessee River October 26-29.
- Brown's Ferry October 27.
- Chattanooga-Ringgold Campaign November 23-27.
- Orchard Knob November 23-24.
- Missionary Ridge November 25.
- March to relief of Knoxville, Tenn., November 28-December 8.
- Operations in East Tennessee December, 1863, to April, 1864.
- Atlanta Campaign May 1 to August 22.
- Demonstrations on Rocky Faced Ridge and Dalton May 8-13.
- Battle of Resaca May 14-15.
- Adairsville May 17.
- Near Kingston May 18-19.
- Near Cassville May 19.
- Advance on Dallas May 22-25.
- Operations on line of Pumpkin Vine Creek and battles about Dallas, New Hope Church and Allatoona Hills May 25-June 5.
- Pickett's Mills May 27.
- Ruff's Station, Smyrna Camp Ground, July 4.
- Chattahoochie River July 5-17.
- Pace's Ferry July 5.
- Peach Tree Creek July 19-20.
- Siege of Atlanta July 22-August 22.
- Ordered to Chattanooga, Tenn., August 22.
- Mustered out September 22, 1864. Expiration of term. Veterans and Recruits transferred to 68th Indiana Infantry.

The 6th Indiana Infantry Regiment lost during service 9 Officers and 116 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 2 Officers and 140 Enlisted men by disease. Total 267.

Muster Rolls

Regimental Officers and Staff

Company A