
6th Regiment, 3 Months Service, Indiana Volunteers

The Sixth regiment was organized and mustered into service, for three months, at Indianapolis, Indiana April 25th, 1861, with Thomas T. Crittenden, of Madison, as Colonel. It was one of the six regiments of three months' men organized under the call of President Lincoln for 75,000 men. On the 30th of May the Regiment left Indianapolis, Indiana, via Cincinnati, Ohio and Parkersburg, West Virginia for the scene of conflict in Western Virginia being first fully armed, equipped and clothed. Arriving at Webster, West Virginia on the 2nd of June, it was marched with other troops, the same night, through a drenching rain, a distance of fourteen miles, and on the morning of the 3rd of June took part in the first battle of the war, at Philippi, West Virginia. Returning to Grafton, West Virginia it was made part of General Thomas A. Morris' Brigade, and participated in the march to Laurel Hill and the engagement with Granett's rebel command at Carrick's Ford on the 12th of July. The latter part of the same month the Regiment returned to Indianapolis, Indiana where it was finally discharged August 2, 1861.

SOURCE: REPORT of the ADJUTANT GENERAL of the STATE OF INDIANA 1861-1865

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The Sixth Regiment was re-organized for the three year's service, at Madison, on the 20th of September, 1861. On the same day Colonel Thomas T. Crittenden, its commanding officer, obtained permission to take what men were then in camp (about five hundred), to Kentucky, then invaded by the rebel forces under Buckner. Without waiting for uniforms, this portion of the Sixth Regiment took steamer for Louisville, reaching there the same evening, and was the first body of troops to enter Kentucky from a Northern State. Immediately on its arrival it was dispatched, by way of the Nashville Railroad, to Muldraugh's Hill, forty miles from Louisville, and camped at a point a few miles north of Elizabethtown, on the 22nd of September. On the arrival of the Louisville Legion, and the 38th and 39th Indiana Regiments, the Sixth was moved beyond Elizabethtown and posted in the advance near Nolin creek. Here it was joined by three hundred recruits, which had left Madison on the 9th of October, in charge of Lieutenant Colonel Hiram Prather. A large force of Union troops was soon concentrated in this vicinity, where Brigade and Division organizations were perfected. The Sixth was assigned to Rousseau's Brigade on McCook's Division, and marched with this portion of Buell's army to Munfordsville, Woodsonville, and Bowling Green, remaining at the latter place until March, 1862, when it marched to Nashville, and went into camp near that city. On the 29th of March, it left for the Tennessee river, reaching Savannah, Tennessee, after a march of one hundred and forty miles in seven days, on the morning of the 7th of April, in time to take a steamer and reach the Field of Shiloh early in the morning of the second day of that great battle. Rousseau's Brigade was assigned a position near the center of the line of battle. The Sixth fought gallantly, and at a critical period saved one of our batteries from capture, following this up with a charge that aided in turning the tide of victory in favor of our arms. After the battle, it encamped upon the field, remaining there until the march upon and siege of Corinth was commenced, in which it participated. The Regiment then marched, with Buell's army, to Nashville, by way of Tusculumbia, Florence, Huntsville, Stevenson, and Cowan's Station, and from thence to Louisville, Kentucky, reaching the latter place on the 2d of October, 1862. November found the Sixth again in Tennessee, when it participated in Rosecrans march upon Murfreesboro, and in the battle of Stone River, December 31st, 1862, and January 1st and 2d, 1863.

During the spring and summer of 1863, the Sixth Regiment was engaged in campaigning in the district of country lying between Murfreesboro and Chattanooga, Tennessee. On the 19th and 20th of September it participated in the battle of Chicamauga. The commanding officer, Colonel P. P. Baldwin, was killed on the first day of the engagement. It was, also, engaged in a severe skirmish with the enemy at Brown's Ferry, Tennessee, on the 27th of October, and in the successful engagement at Mission Ridge on the 25th of November. The Regiment was then marched into East Tennessee, and remained in that locality until the following spring.

In the march upon Atlanta, Georgia, and the severe fighting that ensued, from day to day, the Sixth bore an honorable part. It was engaged in the battles at Tunnell Hill, Rocky Face Ridge, Resacca, Buzzard Roost, Dallas, New Hope, Allatoona Ridge, Kennesaw Mountain, Marietta, and before Atlanta. The latter part of August, 1864, it returned to Chattanooga, Tennessee, where the non-veterans were mustered out of service on the 22d of September 1864. The veterans (of whom there was but a small number,) and the remaining recruits, whose term of service had not expired, were transferred to the 68th Regiment Indiana Volunteers. On the final muster out of the last names Regiment, nineteen men of the old Sixth were found to be still in service, and these were again transferred to the 44th Regiment Indiana Volunteers, and were finally mustered out with that organization on the 14th day of September, 1865.

SOURCE: REPORT of the ADJUTANT GENERAL of the STATE OF INDIANA 1861-1865

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