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A FEARLESS SET OF MEN

By Spencer Pirnik

Presented to the Graduate Faculty of
Claremont Graduate University in partial
fulfillment of the requirements for the degree
of Master of Arts in History

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FALL 2022

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A Fearless Set of Men

This project began with a phone call from my grandparents in the Spring of 2020. My grandparents had been cleaning out the basement of their home in preparation for selling the house and relocating out of state. In the process of cleaning out old boxes of papers and “stuff” as my grandfather had eloquently put it, they came across some papers from “The War” in my great-grandparents effects and wanted to know if the family history major would be interested in having them. At the time I had been operating under the assumption that “The War” in question was World War II and the papers in question were his father’s, or scrapbooks and clippings my great-grandmother had saved from the 1940’s. To my surprise what arrived, in a weathered manilla envelop a week later, had belonged to my grandmother’s mother! Since the memoir enclosed in the materials was *entitled* “My Recollections of the Civil War by Cpt. Thomas Sumner Greene”¹ it was made evident the “war” in question was actually the American Civil war.

My great-grandmother had married into the Greene family via her husband, Elbert Greene, who was one of Thomas’s grandchildren (Sumner, he preferred to go by his middle name), and the son of Henry Mather Greene, of the Greene and Greene Architecture firm. She

¹ Thomas Sumner Greene, *My Recollections of the Civil War*, 1861-1866. Carmel, CA, Unpublished Thomas Sumner Greene collection, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California. 1

had been married to Elbert for several years when he suddenly vanished, leaving my great-grandmother and their two children to fend for themselves. My great-grandmother would eventually re-marry, and have two more children, my grandmother, Juanita, and her sister. As the departure of Elbert was a source of shame for my great-grandmother, it was never really discussed much among my family.

At the time I came to possess the memoir I had been looking for a topic to focus my thesis on, and what captured my interest was the unit in which Greene served in the later stages of the War. This was the 47th United States Colored Infantry (USCI) Vols. A cursory search revealed scant information on the regiment. For example, it had initially been mustered in under the Designation 8th Louisiana infantry volunteers (of African Descent); it was commanded by Col. Hiram Scofield; that it trained at Lake Providence and was one of the USCT (United States Colored Troops) regiments that took part in the Battle of Fort Blakely, Alabama which was one of the very last major battles of the War. However, beyond this, I could find very little on the regiment itself or the men in it in comparison to other USCT regiments that were part of this War.

This project borrows the title “A Fearless Set of Men” from Greene’s memoir as he reflects on his overall impression of the Black soldiers of the USCT. Despite many factors working against them, such as poor equipment, racial prejudice, limited training, inferior leadership and pay, etc. the Black soldiers of the USCI when given the chance – as Greene’s 47th USCI were in the Battle of Fort Blakely at the very closing of the war- performed with a striking tenacity and bravery. Though like many other USCI regiments, the Black- enlisted left little in the way of writings on their own experiences, a voice of the 47th survives in the form of the writings and saved reports of its white officers, such as Greene, Horton, and Scofield. These

available documents can be examined against other USCT regiment accounts in order to attempt to illustrate the struggles and conditions the men in these regiments' faced and their extraordinary performances in spite of such conditions.

Greene's memoir provides an interesting and vivid look at his experiences over the length of the War; yet for all the details he lavishes on his early experiences during the War, he is largely silent about his time in the 47th US Colored Infantry. While there are seemingly infinite reasons for this silence, I was curious about the experiences of the 47th USCI, how they performed, persevered, and ultimately succeeded in the face of the challenges which marked the regiments existence. These challenges included obstacles such as the secondhand nature of its equipment, the poor health of the USCT troops and the threat posed to them by illness, as well as the wartime induced rushed nature of training for both the enlisted and officers alike. I will argue the 47th USCI's success as embodied by the regiment's performance in the Battle of Fort Blakely, Alabama was due in no small part to the determination and eagerness of the regiment's Black enlistees which in turn cultivated a high level of morale within the regiment for much of its existence. This elevated level of morale mixed with experience earned in combat over the roughly three years of the regiment's existence enabled these soldiers to perform beyond expectations as part of the besieging force at Blakeley.

The scholarship on the 47th has been dependent on primary accounts as the regiment lacks much secondary research. Frederick Dyer's *Compendium of the War of the Rebellion*, and most recently in William Dobak's *Freedom by the Sword: The United States Colored Troops 1862-1867* were two of the first works which actually make reference to the regiment.² The former

² William Dobak, *Freedom by the Sword: The United States Colored Troops 1862-1867* (Washington D.C.: United States Army Center for Military History, 2011). 1

provides an accurate listing of the regiment's postings and movements throughout its existence. It also provides the total casualty listings between officers and the enlisted which were due to disease or other causes. However, Dyer's work itself skirts the line between primary and secondary source. This ambiguity in the nature of the work impacts how it has been used by other scholars over time. Though an impressive piece of scholarship, Dyer mistakenly places the 47th as being present for the Yazoo River expedition, when in fact by both Greene and Scofield's accounts it was involved the Yazoo City expedition which occurred a year later. Dyer's efforts to incorporate this earlier expedition wind up throwing his timeline for the regiment off, slightly. As far as my research is concerned Dyer's *Compendium* factors in more as a secondary source than a primary one. From early on in the research process I chose to find accounts from the other officers of USCT Regiments. As Accounts from the Black enlistees are the proverbial "unicorn" of scholarship on USCT regiments because they are *exceedingly* rare in the historical record of this period, if not outright simply non-existent in most cases.

A Historiographic Outline

As a consequence of the Emancipation Proclamation at the start of 1863, enlistment in the United States Military was opened to allow former slaves to serve in combat positions, albeit under the command of white officers. Though the Civil War occupies a prominent place in American history, the historiographic and scholarly discussion of African American units was largely focused around a few very exceptional accounts. Most notable of these being Louis F. Emilo's account of the late Robert G. Shaw's 54th Massachusetts Vols, and Col. Thomas Wentworth Higginson's 2nd South Carolina (*Army Life in a Black Infantry Regiment*).³ The

³Louis F. Emilo, *A Brave Black Regiment: The History of the Fifty Fourth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers* (Mount Pleasant: Arcadia Press, 2017) Chap 1, eBook; Thomas Wentworth Higginson. *Army Life in a Black Regiment* (New York: Coiler Books, 1962).

scholarship is further more dependent upon The *OFFICIAL RECORDS OF US and Confederate Troops in the War of the REBELLION*, (OR) which spread across four series in 128 volumes covers the after-action reports, orders, and correspondence of US and Confederate forces during the war.⁴ Equally notable presences include: The *Unofficial* records (UFR) which holds materials outside of the OR's purview, as well as Fredrick Dyer's *Compendium of the War of the Rebellion*⁵, a four volume series which was the product of decades of meticulous research by Dyer to compile an accounting of all Union regiments and a more accurate causality count for the war. As primary sources these aforementioned works are a regular presence in secondary scholarship on USCT involvement in the civil war.

Secondary Scholarship

As Versilie F. Washington writes in the introduction to *Eagles on their Buttons: A Black Infantry Regiment in the Civil War*, "Historians have told the stories of some colored regiments and in particular the scholarly work focuses on the better-known regiments such as the 2nd South Carolina and the 54th Massachusetts. We know about the exploits of the 1st South Carolina Volunteer Infantry Regiment and Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson. However, until recently, historians wrote little on the subject of black participation in the war. Even so, many of those who realize that blacks served in the Civil War still perceive African American soldiers in the Union army to have been newly freed, largely illiterate, and primarily useful for fatigue and garrison duties".⁶

What Washington points out is that scholarly interest in the USCT is a recent trend. The perceptions he sets himself to be addressing are not without cause, many USCT regiments were

⁴ United States. War Department. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. (Washington: 1894).

⁵ Fredrick H Dyer, *A Compendium of The War of the Rebellion* (Des Moines, Dyer Publishing Company. 1908)

⁶ Versalle F. Washington, *Eagles on Their Buttons: A Black Infantry Regiment in the Civil War* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1999.) 1, 4-5.

relegated to reserve and fatigue duties -that is to say staffing rear-line positions and checkpoints and performing menial labor to expand and reinforce existing union positions. Such as the construction of breastworks, or in the case of the Yazoo River a canal to allow Union naval forces to bypass confederate held chokepoints along the river. rather than frontline combat, with reasons good and ill. Washington's introduction points out is the recent historical interest in African American and minority history which took off in the early 1990's and is itself a legacy of the Civil Rights movements of the 1960's.⁷

Similar to Washington, in regards to the seeming forgetfulness of the public and 'historiographic fading' around African American participation in the American Revolution, William Dobak writes in the preface to his 2003 book *Freedom by the Sword: The US Colored Troops: 1862-1867*: "much the same happened... "that anyone in 1863 would have asked 'Will they fight for their freedom?' shows how thoroughly white Americans had forgotten the service of black soldiers during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Much the same happened after 1865 when black Americans who had fought for the nation slipped again from the public consciousness even though more than two hundred thousand black men served the Union as soldiers and sailors and three contemporary black authors published books about them., the fact that black Americans had fought for the nation slipped once again from the public consciousness."⁸ Continuing on, Dobak writes:

Thus, by 1928 a biographer of Ulysses S. Grant could write: 'The American negroes are the only people in the history of the world, so far as I know, that ever became free without any effort of their own'. In the twenty-five years that followed, two historians devoted chapters of larger works to the black military role in the Civil War, but not until Dudley T. Cornish's *The Sable Arm* appeared in 1956 did the U.S. Colored Troops receive book-length treatment. Since then, historians have paid more attention to black

⁷ Versilie, *Eagles on Their Buttons*, 2.

⁸ William A. Dobak, *Freedom by The Sword the U.S. Colored Troops, 1862-1867*(Washington DC: CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY UNITED STATES ARMY, 2011) 1-4.

troops' service. James M. McPherson's: *The Negro's Civil War* (1965) and the massive documentary collection compiled by Ira Berlin and his colleagues, *The Black Military Experience* (1982), preceded Joseph T. Glatthaar's: *Forged in Battle* (1990). The years since 1998 have seen the publication of a battle narrative, a study of the Colored Troops' ... as well of a collection of essays (*Black Soldiers in Blue*, edited by John David Smith). In addition, there have been regimental histories, studies of the atrocities Confederates committed on their black opponents, and a narrative of one of the earliest campaigns in which black troops took part. Nevertheless, the focus of scholarship has not changed a great deal since 1997.⁹

Dobak's work serves as one of the more comprehensive works on the USCT. In the opening chapter of the body of the book, he goes into the issues that plagued the formation and existence of USCT regiments from the quality of the selection process, the officers it produced, as well as the men they were placed in charge of. Dobak goes out of the way to cover and discuss the involvement of many of the 'smaller' regiments like the 47th in the course of the various theaters of the War. Dobak discusses the importance of morale in USCT regiments and hints at its importance in the performance of the 47th in particular.

Herbert Aptheker's 1954 article "Negro Casualties in the Civil War" is worth noting because it is one of the very few sources that explicitly deals with the hardships faced by African American regiments, specifically in terms of disease, illness, and treatment or rather lack thereof. Drawing largely off his own analysis of causality listings in Dyer's Compendium and OR , as well as primary source material housed in the National Archives, Aptheker in keeping with his radical Marxist political leanings, looks to the higher percentage of enlisted casualty ratings among USCT Regiments due to disease as a product of failure and racial attitudes amongst the overwhelmingly white command structure of the time. "Negro Casualties" offers a striking look at the challenges faced by USCT regiments. As well as providing a quality of diversity in the otherwise uniform scholarly landscape of this subject. Aptheker's focus on the health and

⁹ Dobak, *Freedom by The Sword the U.S. Colored Troops*, 4-5.

survival of Black soldiers is valuable as it corroborates what is seen in the primary source's such as the 47th's Muster Rolls, about the threat that illness posed to USCT regiments.

Further, rounding out this list is John and David Eicher's 2001 reference work *Civil War High Commands*¹⁰, which provides brief biographies for the 3,336 officers which made up the high commands of both USA and CSA forces. Though the work does not deal with the 47th or USCT specifically in and of itself, it sheds some light on the command structure and senior officers of these regiments through the biographies, with the rank of Col. (As Scofield was) being on the lower end of its area of interest.

Emilo Louis

The 54th Massachusetts and its late commander Col. Robert Gould Shaw, were not the first African American Regiment formed during the war, but it was easily one of the most well-known, due in no small part to the regiments story becoming popularized in the 1989 film *Glory*. Like Higginson's regiment, the leadership of the 54th reflected clear abolitionist bent, which in the case of the 54th was explicitly intentional in its establishment. The 54th Massachusetts was best known for its ill-fated assault on Fort Wagner. This assault on the Confederate-held fort cost the regiment dearly, with many of its officers (including Col. Shaw) being killed alongside the enlisted. Among the surviving officers was Emilo Louis. Born to a pair of Spanish Immigrants in Salem Massachusetts, Emilo had, according to the National Parks Service biography on him been, selected along with the other officers during the formation of the 54th Massachusetts, for his anti-slavery views.¹¹ The Governor of Massachusetts at the time had

¹⁰ David Eicher, and John H. Eicher, *Civil War High Commands*, (Redwood City: Stanford University Press, 2002) 1-5.

¹¹ "54th Massachusetts Regiment (U.S. National Park Service)." Accessed June 15, 2022. <https://www.nps.gov/articles/54th-massachusetts-regiment.html>.

wanted the leadership of the regiment to reflect his states stronger abolitionist sympathies and had ‘encouraged’ as such during the formation of the regiment. Though one of the better known Black regiment of the Civil War, it was not a USCI regiment as it was never redesignated. As such it remained the 54th Massachusetts until the regiment’s deactivation. Its better-known nature aside, as a non-USCT black regiment the 54th offered an interesting contrast to the other regiments investigated particularly in its formation and the selection of officers which differed notably from that of designated USCI regiments, because they were chosen with an intent to reflect abolitionist sympathies over anything else. Emilio Louis’ *History of the Fifty-Fourth* covers the length of the regiments Civil war service. As important of a contrast this particular regiment’s creation provides when compared with that of its USCT counterparts, equally important is the 54th’s existence after its decimation at the battle of Fort Wagner. The later chapters of Louis’ history detail the experiences they had after the devastating losses at Wagner, though Louis and his regiment were notably shaken by the severe losses in the immediate aftermath of the battle, in the long term the regiments morale remained surprisingly high.

Thomas Sumner Greene

Turing now to the author of the memoir, Thomas Sumner Greene was born on September 19th, 1842, to Elihu and Matilda Greene of Cincinnati, Ohio. He was one of five siblings. Sumner, would, like so many other Americans, be drawn into the Civil War. Fighting for the Union first as part of the 5th Ohio Light Artillery Volunteers which saw combat on the battlefields of Shiloh and Corinth. In the later stages of the war, Greene eventually was given the brevet promotion to Captain and would eventually command “A Company” of the 47th United States Colored Infantry Volunteers during the final battles of the war in Louisiana. In 1917, at the age of 56, Sumner chose to put his experiences of the war into writing for the sake of his

sons: Charles Sumner Greene and Henry Mather Greene. The memoir draws from Sumner's own recollections as well as saved correspondence. The memoir opens with then Private Sumner's brief encounter with President-elect Lincoln when his regiment was tasked with providing a security detail while Lincoln was passing through Cincinnati en route to his inauguration. Sumner spends several pages describing Lincoln's handshake, however he soon fast-forwards to his initial deployments in the opening stages of the War where he worked as company clerk in a light artillery regiment. As a company clerk, he was often out of the line of fire, but also largely distanced from anything that would allow him to advance to a more prestigious position.

Based on his letters home, Sumner took the promotion and transferred to the 47th USCT out of a desire for personal advancement. He wanted to move out of the position of a company clerk and take on more leadership. Sumner is not unique for transferring to a USCT regiment as a means to advance his career. The desire to advance in rank, with comparatively lower risk was what drove the 47th's company surgeon, Newman N. Horton to transfer to a USCT regiment.¹² Furthermore, Dobak points out in the opening of *Freedom By the Sword*, similar sentiments drove white soldiers to seek appointment in the USCT at large.¹³ This was encouraged by the Army in light of the severe shortage of qualified officers to staff these regiments. Sumner believed that while his current position kept him 'safe' in that it kept him largely out of the line of fire, it offered him little opportunity for advancement. As he mentions in letters home to his parents from Corinth, Vicksburg, and Lake Providence, he had been under the impression that his family's connections had him on track to becoming a Brigadier General.¹⁴ Untypically, (Hiram

¹² Newman N. Horton, "Letter to Brother" (7th, July 1863), Letters 1857-1864, Folder 1, Bentley Historical Library Civil War Collections Online, <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/b/bhlcivilwar/2011364.0001.001/54?page=root;rgn=full+text;size=100;view=image> 54-55.

¹³ Dobak, *Freedom by the Sword*, 17-18.

¹⁴ Greene, *My Recollections of the Civil War*, 30.

Scofield, Sumner's Commanding Officer in the 47th entered the service as a Private and mustered out as a (Brevet) Brigadier General.) By 1863 writing from camp at Lake Providence, Sumner's correspondence suggests that by this point he had come to the realization that leveraging his families' connections were not going to provide him the career advancement he was seeking and thus took matters into his own hands by securing a transfer to a USCT regiment. The extreme need for personnel to fill the newly formed USCT regiments meant that a white soldier who passed the Review Board's qualifications could rapidly advance to a brevet captaincy and higher when they otherwise would not be on track to become an officer.

Only in his memoir do we see him discuss the formation and organization of the African American soldiers into the USCT, which he does so with a degree of respect, tempered by the hindsight of knowing that his old unit (2nd Ohio Light Artillery) went on to become a much more active participant in the war as it fell under Shermans leadership.

Challenges

Quality of the Equipment

Coming into being mid-war, the 47th USCT was not born into a situation where they were to be afforded the best equipment or leadership available. Prevailing racial attitudes and war time shortages ensured that Black regiments would be allotted the leftovers and 'hand-me-downs' of other union regiments. In the opening chapter of *Freedom By the Sword*, Dobak briefly describes the firearms USCT regiments were issued as being both in poor-condition and equally poorly handled by fresh USCT Regiments during the war; pointing to mishandling and poor-maintenance as a cause of problems with arming the black regiments.¹⁵ Dobak also discusses the

¹⁵ Dobak, *Freedom by the Sword*, 19-21.

problems caused by the excessive number of ‘personal’ firearms of varying quality acquired by USCT soldiers, which resulted in some regiments instituting bans and confiscation of such weapons.¹⁶ The quality of government issued firearms likewise would have varied across regiments based on what was available; Largely older muskets and percussion cap rifles which were drawn from surplus stocks after being phased out of use by other, non-USCT, regiments. In addition to simply being what was readily available to outfit these new regiments, an argument can also be made that this secondhand outfitting was also keeping with the reserve and auxiliary duties such as garrison and fatigue details, which were intended to be filled by USCT regiments. There is little purpose in outfitting a soldier with better equipment when they will be working away from frontline combat, when the surplus equipment, on paper, would prove more than adequate for such posting. This would help explain why during the late-war Mobile Campaign, where USCT regiments were used extensively in combat, we see USCT regiments, such as the 47th USCI, being supplied and trained with newer, fresh equipment, at Pensacola prior to their joining of the Union offensive.¹⁷

Quality of the men

Enlisted

USCT Regiments such as the 47th were not intended to be frontline regiments. This is reflected in the quality of the equipment and manpower they were supplied with at first. Given the southern states, and by extension the Confederate States of America’s attitudes towards or more aptly prohibition of educating its enslaved population, the soldiers of the 47th would have

¹⁶ Dobak, *Freedom By the Sword*, 20-22.

¹⁷ Hiram Scofield, *Scofield Diary 1865-1866*, (1865), VAULT Ruggles 426, Box 1, Folder 7, Hiram Scofield papers, Newberry Library, Chicago, https://archive-org.ccl.idm.oclc.org/details/ruggles_426_box_01_fl_007/page/n3/mode/2up, 40-52; Greene, *My Recollections of the Civil War*, 20-25; Dobak, *Freedom by the Sword*, 146.

been uneducated and largely illiterate. Bringing with them, truly little in the way of personal possessions if anything at all. These “Contrabands” -to use the official U.S. Army euphemism for the escaped slaves, were far from ideal soldier material at first.

As Dobak points out in Chapter One of *Freedom by the Sword*, many USCT regiments enlisted were often poorly disciplined. Dobak suggests that this was reflected in the propensity amongst the enlisted to “wander the neighborhood” scrounging or outright robbing in the case of the 26th USCI, for food and ‘supplies’ when not under the direct supervision of an officer. Even while under direct supervision, Dobak calls attention to the dismal trigger discipline and firearm safety displayed by fresh USCT soldiers during training (i.e. carelessly playing and pointing loaded firearms at one another while in camp), which resulted in severe injuries and loss of life.¹⁸ Dobak notes that these incidents were not unique to USCT regiments. The incidents he examines are, furthermore specifically mentioned as being newly mustered regiments and fresh recruits rather than experienced regiments and men which one could expect would have a better level of discipline.

¹⁸ Dobak, *Freedom by the Sword*, 20-21.

Records of muster rolls of 47th USCT (8th LA)						
NAME	AGE	NOTES/Origin/state of enlistment/Death	DOB	Enlistment Date	Company	Rank
Dennis Carroll	40*	No other information			G	
Sharper Brock		On Extra Duty working on new Shingles for Barracks AUG 1865			K?	
Jerry Brown		Discharged due to disability July 1865			?	PVT
Dewitt C. Wilson	37	initially a 1st Lt with 18th Wisconsin White	Abt 1826	5/1/1863	A	Cpt
Douglass Brown	36	Enlisted in Louisiana	abt 1827	5/1/1863	A	SGT
Eliska Carrington	18	Enlisted in Louisiana	abt 1845	5/1/1863	A	CPL
Ephram Brooks		Died of Disease, July 1865			A	Pvt.
George Campbell	31	Born: Virginia, Enlisted in Alabama. Fell ill and Left at Mobile May 28 1865	Abt 1834	5/8/1865	A	PVT
James Cannon	22	Enlisted in Alabama. Born in Darlington South Carolina	Abt 1843	5/8/1865	A	PVT
James Carter	18	Enlisted in Louisiana	abt 1845	5/1/1863	A	PVT
Joseph Chapman	18	Clark Alabama		1847 5/8/1865	A	
Thomas Brooks	25	Born in "Luabewer County" Virginia (Lunenburg?)	Abt 1839		A	Pvt.
Anderson Busby (AKA ANDREW)	18	Born Mobile Ala, Enlisted in Alabama. AWOL declared Desserter JULY 1865	abt 1847	4/25/1865	B	PVT
Elijah Chapman	20	"Jefferson County" Alabama (Jefferson?)	abt 1845	4/19/1865	B	PVT
George Brown	33	Born in Mason County, Ky	abt 1830	5/1/1863	B	Cpl.
Grandson Brooks	42	Born: Mason County, KY	aby 1822	2/24/1864	B	PVT
Jacob Boyle	30	Born in Lexington, Ky Discharged due to disability July 2nd 1865	abt 1833	5/1/1863	B	Pvt
John Bradford	24	Born Cleveland County Miss.		1839 5/1/1863	B	Pvt -> Cpl.
John C. Calhoun	20	Born in "Meruphis, Tennessee" Memphis?	Abt 1843	5/1/1863	B	PVT
John Willis	20	Born: "Bayou Sara, La."	Abt 1843	5/1/1863	B	Pvt.
Joshua Bradford		KIA Blakely Ala. April 9th 1865			B	Cpl
Martin Camper	30	Born Cambridge County (MD?)	abt 1833	5/1/1863	B	PVT
Moses Childs		AWOL April 30 1864 Declared a Deserter May 31 1864			B	PVT
Oscar Carter	28	Born: Dixson County Tennessee		1835 5/1/1863	B	SGT
Squire Royal	40	Born: "Ricelando" Virginia. Died of Disease 12/5/1863		5/1/1863	B	Pvt
Thomas Chaine	25	Born Claiborne County	Abt 1839	2/24/1864	B	PVT

Though the 47th USCI was in theory, formed from a majority of former slaves from Louisiana, in practice, looking at the Muster rolls and Service records for the 47th USCI, archived in Microfilm in National Archives and Record USCT military Service Records, 1863-1865 accessed Via Ancestry.com/Ancestor Library, suggest that is not necessarily the case. It is worth noting that, first and foremost within the service records, the forms which would detail a

soldier's place of birth: "Muster and Descriptive Roll of a Detachment of ____ reg. US Col'd Infantry" are scarce for both officers and enlisted alike. Furthermore, when a location of birth does appear, it is often only detailed as far as a county level.¹⁹ Enlistment location, as it is a far more commonly featured field on the muster rolls, can provide a rough idea of an individual soldier's origins. As the south, already leery of granting their black population unsupervised mobility, for the not-unwarranted fear of resistance or escape, put further limits on this as the war progressed, can give some indication of origins. Alabama in particular as a result of the Union efforts to take Mobile Bay also seems to have been the source for several late war additions to the regiment. On an interesting note, one soldier, a private James W. Williams, is listed as being born in Lancaster County, PA and having a previous occupation as a banker, has the complexion field on his Descriptive Roll left blank. While his origin and previous occupation would suggest he was either white or was otherwise a free black from the north (the former case is unlikely as he mustered in and out of the 47th as a private) the latter is, though more likely, which is surprising because in earlier attempts to raise African American regiments in the north (such as the 54th Massachusetts and the 33rd USCI), recruiters were hard pressed to find enough free northern blacks to fill a regiment to its full complement. Something seen notably in *The History of the 54th Massachusetts*. As Emilio Louis noted in the very beginning of his work, the 54th in particular having struggled to recruit from Massachusetts and from other northern states had to draw in volunteers from Canada to bring it up to strength. Returning to the 47th, regiment was mostly, if not entirely made up of enlisted southern Black men, who were drawn from all across the South and Southeast. Thus, many of them were escaped or otherwise 'confiscated' slaves.

¹⁹ "U.S., Colored Troops Military Service Records, 1863-1865 - AncestryLibrary.Com." Accessed March 9, 2022. https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/510046:1107?_phsrc=XpJ35&_phstart=successSource&ml_rpos=139&queryId=fca812aef0eb9017bf9bc282bcd4a487.

They managed to bring with them aspects of the culture they had developed while enslaved.

Spirituals and barbeques, which were born from enslaved plantation life, became a regular part of camp life and point of fascination for Thomas W. Higginson's account.

Officers

On paper, the selection and approval process for officers to lead USCT regiments would appear to have been set up to select quality and qualified men for the positions. However, the realities of war-time shortages, and 'corner cutting', lead to a deeply flawed and inefficient system that more often produced officers that were equally flawed and ill-fit to lead, than it did effective leaders such as Scofield and his officers. The 47th was in fortunate in this regard.

The 47th USCI would have possessed a total strength of around 1,000 men which included both officers and enlisted personnel. As mentioned previously, as a USCT regiment, the officers were white, drawn from other non-USCT regiments and often promoted rapidly from enlisted ranks themselves. In theory, these white officers would have met and exceeded the requirements of the review board. As an 1863 pamphlet put out by the Supervisory Committee for Recruiting Colored Regiments (Philadelphia, PA) on the selection process of officers for USCI regiments lists that it constituted of a Board of Examiners,

Whose duty it is to examine all persons, whatever their rank, who make application for commissions in that branch of the public service. Major- General Silas Casey is the permanent President of the Board. The other members of the Board, consisting of two Colonels, one Lieutenant-Colonel, one Surgeon, and one Lieutenant, who is ex officio the Recorder, are changed from time to time...Up to the present date, one thousand and fifty-one applicants have been examined; of these five hundred and sixty have passed, four hundred and ninety-one rejected. The applicants are first examined in Infantry tactics, Army Regulations, and in regard to their general information. Then they were turned over to the surgeon for Physical Examination. Every Candidate must stand upon their own

merits – the most obscure corporal or private stands an equal chance with the most favored and influential citizen.²⁰

Continuing on the qualifications listed for the white officers based on the position the candidate was seeking, “*If a Lieutenant*, he should understand and be able to explain the principles laid down in Casey’s *Infantry Tactics*... He should comprehend the duties of sentinels, guards &c, as contained in the army Regulations. He should know all about “Muster for Pay,” “Muster and Pay Rolls,” “Descriptive List,” and how to keep “Company Books.” ... and withal, should have at least such education as can be obtained at a common school.”²¹ The author notes that the qualifications for a Lieutenancy are supposed to be “exceedingly moderate” and thus attainable by any “bright young man with a fair common school education”. The requirements for the rank of Captain are simply summarized as being able to meet the requirements of a Lieutenant, but to a significantly greater degree of competence and education. For Field Officers (Major, Lieutenant Colonel, and Colonel) the key trait the examination board sought is the ability and speed with which a candidate can identify and correct, “deficiencies” in the officers under him; should be able to impart instruction to all, and to decide correctly on the instant all questions referred to him. “These troops have no knowledge of arms, and no acquaintance with the duties of the soldier, and unless well officered the whole experiment will prove worse than a failure. No talents, no zeal, no sympathy for the colored race, unless attended with military knowledge, and power to command men in battle, can avail; and no amount of pretense or number of testimonials of influential friends will answer the purpose; the applicant must give reason- able evidence of his ability to command. If pretense without merit, or zeal without

²⁰ Silas Casey, the aforementioned president of this examination board, was the author of several volumes of the US Army’s manual on infantry tactics at the time. His manuals were among the recommended reading for the applicants. John H. Taggart, “Free military school for the applicants for commands of Colored troops.” (Philadelphia, The Advisory Committee for Recruiting Colored Regiments, 1863), ,2-4

²¹ Taggart, *Free Military School*, 4-5.

knowledge, or mere recommendations of personal and political friends would be sufficient evidence of fitness to command, an examination would be an idle and useless ceremony.”²²

Though Aptheker, and others are quick to point out that this process was far from perfect, as the applicants were all too often approved or of declined based upon the whims of the final examination board, whom despite the urgency of the need for officers to lead these regiments as a whole could be seen as gatekeeper’s rather than choosers and thus contributing to the issues of quality or lack thereof which plagued USCT regiments.

The candidates, once approved, were offered the opportunity to attend a two-week training course at Casey’s officer school. However, given the state of the war in 1863 when the school opened, very few of the officers could be spared their duties for the full length of the course. Which in turn sought to condense and distill months of peace-time training and instruction into a two-week window. The results of such a condensed course, though certainly better than no instruction at all, paled in comparison to the full instruction of a military academy. As good as some of the USCT’s officers were, they were still inferior in terms of training when compared to other (non-USCT) officers.

Further complicating matters is the fact that the ideals expressed in the *Free Military School* Brochure, and the reality of the selection process often sat on opposing sides of a wide gulf. As Dobak, and to a lesser extent Aptheker point out, the reality of the appointment process was incredibly ineffective and inefficient, producing officers that were likewise just as ineffective and inefficient. One of the most critical failings Dobak’s analysis of the selection process highlights is “Appointment as an officer of Colored Troops came before—often, long before—a candidate’s appearance before an examining board. While inspecting the 74th USCI in the fall of 1864, an

²² Taggart, *Free Military School*, 5.

officer in New Orleans commented on the regiment's adjutant, 1st Lt. Dexter F. Booth: "If he was examined by the Board, he certainly was not by the Surgeon." Booth's ill health was one of the factors that resulted in his dismissal."²³ The extreme shortage of officers, let alone *qualified* officers, to lead USCT meant that officers who otherwise would, and should, not have passed the examination were pressed into command of their regiments without actually passing the review board. This is without delving into the equally concerning instances of fraud which Dobak also points to as a frequent problem within USCT regiments particularly those hailing from Kentucky.²⁴ Evidence would suggest that the 47th was one of the 'successful' cases of the USCT officer selection process. As its officers were, though not necessarily equivalent to their non-USCT counterparts in terms of training. Scofield and his officers proved nevertheless to be rather competent over the course of the War.

Health

Illness and disease were some of the most threatening challenges endured by both sides of the Civil War and perhaps one of the most keenly felt by the men of the USCT who, in escaping slavery in the south were often in poor condition when they arrived in Union territory. This already poor state of health was further exacerbated by the conditions faced as the USCT regiments began to move through the humid and marshy regions of the south.

The health of the men was a major issue. Illness and disease in particular were often a much greater threat to USCT regiments than enemy action. Looking at the accounting of the 47th USCI's losses over the course of the War as reported in Dyer's *Compendium* that the "[47th USCI] lost during service included 1 officer and 30 enlisted men killed and mortally wounded ,

²³ Dobak, *Freedom by the Sword*, 17-18; Herbert Aptheker, "Negro Casualties in the Civil War" (Washington, D.C.: The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, Inc., [1945-1947?]), 8.

²⁴ Dobak, *Freedom by the Sword*, 18.

and 3 officers and 389 enlisted men by disease.”²⁵ Though the significantly higher losses due to disease suffered by the 47th USCI reported by Dyer, which resonates with the trend seen amongst the surviving service records of the regiment, is not necessarily unique among African American regiments or of US regiments (White and Black) as a whole. Herbert Aptheker’s article notes “Indeed the disproportion is so great in view of the circumstances, that it is incumbent upon the historian to attempt to offer some explanation for the condition. As has been shown by far the greatest single cause of death, for all troops, was disease, and this was particularly true among Negro troops.”²⁶ Aptheker first and foremost points to a lack of qualified medical personnel available and willing to work with the USCT regiments, which he attributes to racial attitudes of the time, and the limited ability and opportunities available to free blacks in the north to peruse such qualifications, more so than mid-war shortages of qualified personal or any other factor.

Arriving at the Lake Providence Camp of the 47th USCI (then the 8th Reg. La. Vols of African Descent) regiment in late April-early May 1863 Newman N. Horton, the regimental surgeon writes to his brother about the transfer to the new regiment. Horton notes Adj. General Lorenzo Thomas’s tour of the Department of the Mississippi inspecting the USCT regiments, among other things he expresses some degree of surprise at the fact that these regiments are “officered entirely by White Men - that is all the officers even the Orderly Sergeants are white men.”²⁷ He then goes on to suggest that while he is looking forward to the benefits of his new

²⁵ Fredrick H. Dyer, *A Compendium of The War of the Rebellion*, (Des Moines, Dyer Publishing Company. 1908) 1731.

²⁶ Herbert Aptheker, “Negro Casualties in the Civil War”, 9-11.

²⁷Orderly Sergeant as term was used interchangeably with hospital stewards. According to the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, they performed numerous duties:” While this position does not exist today as a single individual, at the time of the Civil War this man was commonly seen as the druggist/chemist (pharmacist today) and the hospital administrator. He was the druggist or chemist who worked in the dispensary (equivalent of the apothecary shop in civilian life then, or the drug store or pharmacy today). He compounded prescriptions rather than filled them.... The term Hospital Steward was replaced with Pharmacist in 1902. If assigned to a hospital, he was also the Hospital Administrator. He functioned as the clerk, the COO, and the CFO, see “Meet the Hospital

post, particularly and ironically that he doesn't foresee the 8th LA/47th USCI being on the move as much as his old regiment, he will have his work cut out for him as while the black soldiers are, even as raw recruits, conditioned by slavery to heed orders without question, he implies that their physical health leaves much to be desired.²⁸

Of Schofield's diary, in the entries for June 6th -9th, 1863 during the battles around Lake Providence, Col. Schofield notes that only one Officer a Captain Frank Bishop of K Company, as having died from injuries sustained in action while on picket. Looking at the available service records at least one other soldier Pvt. Ruben Bradford of K company is listed as having died in "early June 1863"²⁹ at Milken's Bend albeit, his cause of death is listed as disease. Around June 10th, other unspecified elements of Schofield's regiment are noted in his diary as having been briefly engaged by a rebel ambush, potentially. Schofield's own diary seems to question the accuracy of the reports he was receiving nor is there any further information about an engagement near Macon Bayou around this date. On June 18th Surgeon Newman Horton is reported to have fallen ill, and unable to perform his duties, though Schofield was informed by Horton's temporary replacement that he would recover.

Again, turning to Higginson, his Dec 19th, 1863, recollections of camp life notes "last night the water froze in the tent. Though the Black people say they do not feel the cold as much as the white officers do, and perhaps it is so, their health seems to suffer from the dampness all

Steward." National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Accessed March 11, 2022, <https://www.civilwarmed.org/surgeons-call/steward1/>; See also, Newman N. Horton, "Letter to Brother April 1863", (April 1863), Letters, 1857-1864, Folder 1, Bentley Historical Library Civil War Collections Online, Bentley Historical Library, Ann Arbor. <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/b/bhlcivilwar/2011364.0001.001?view=toc>.

²⁸ Newman N. Horton, "Letter to Brother April 1863", 51-54.

²⁹ Schofield, *Diary* 1863, (18th, June 1863), VAULT Ruggles 426, Box 1, Folder 4, Hiram Schofield Papers, Newberry Library, Chicago. https://archive-org.ccl.idm.oclc.org/details/ruggles_426_box_01_fl_004/page/n49/mode/1up, 52.

the same. Yet on the other hand while drilling on very warm days they seem to suffer more than the officers.”³⁰ Higginson goes on to posit that while the Black soldiers of his regiment were able to endure camp conditions in the summer or winter with little complaint, it was not necessarily a product of the individual soldier’s constitution, as disease and sickness became more prevalent in fall and winter.

Unlike other challenges faced by USCT regiments, the toll inflicted by poor health was not one that was necessarily overcome, in so much as it was one that was endured and outlasted. Though training and experience of a regiment’s medical personnel, as well as access to supplies certainly mitigated the issue to a degree, looking at the 47th USCI’s muster rolls suggest that while the regiment certainly fared better, over time and with fresh supplies, more than combat, illness still remained the greatest threat to the regiment’s survival.

Reasons the 47th Regiment Succeeded

Training

USCT regiments were not intended to be frontline regiments but rather to be used to free up other trained (white) regiments for combat by taking up reserve rolls. Many USCT regiments were relegated to reserve and fatigue duties-such as manning rear-line positions and checkpoints and performing menial labor in order to expand and reinforce existing Union positions. For example the construction of breastworks, or in the case of the Yazoo River a canal to allow Union naval forces to bypass Confederate-held chokepoints along the river rather, than frontline combat with reasons both good and ill.

³⁰ Thomas Wentworth Higginson, *Army Life In a Black Regiment*, (New York: Coiller Books: 1962), 52.

Initially designated the 8th Louisiana Infantry of African Descent, the 47th regiment had been mustered into service on May 5th, 1863, at Lake Providence LA. There alongside other black regiments (9th LA, 10th LA, 11th LA, and 13th LA) were underwent basic training. On June 7th, Lake Providence and Milken's Bend came under attack by rebel forces. The CSA force of about 1,500 men attacked the camps. "Though the defending USCT were not fully trained", as David Miller writes in his 2019 work *Vicksburg: Grants Campaign That Broke the Confederacy*, "The African American soldiers at the Bend were former slaves in the initial stages of training none had handled a firearm until they were outfitted only three weeks prior and ill-equipped at that. On June 7th a rebel force of 1,500 men under command of McCulloch attacked Union positions on a levee near Milken's bend. Of the 1,100 Union defenders 900 were African American soldiers who had been issued "badly outdated firearms."³¹ Though Confederate forces were ultimately beaten back in the ensuing close quarter melee, the USCT Regiments, and the 9th LA, in particular paid a heavy price losing roughly 60 percent of its strength.

Though initially very poorly equipped and trained, Scofield appears to have taken the heavy losses suffered by 47th's sister units at Milken's Bend and Lake Providence as an impetus for further improvement in his own regiment. As Greene notes coming out of Lake Providence, the regiment began an increased daily regimen of training and drills at every given opportunity.³² This training regimen continued into the regiments deployment to garrison detail at Algiers, Louisiana where the 47th would be stationed until December 1864, when it would be ordered to Pensacola, Florida to undertake additional supplies and equipment in preparation for the Mobile Campaign.

³¹ David Miller, *Vicksburg: Grants Campaign That Broke the Confederacy* (New York Simon and Schuster, 2019), eBook, chp 22.

³² Thomas Sumner Greene, *My Recollections of the Civil War*, 21.

Morale

USCT regiments had notably high morale despite their unfavorable circumstances. The 47th USCI was no exception. From its very inception at Lake Providence, Greene, and Scofield noted the seemingly unshakeable eagerness with which their regiment took to training. This is something that resonates strongly with the accounts of Emilo Louis' and Higginson's respective units, and more broadly of the USCT as a whole. Though even at the time, the officers could only speculate as to the root of this high morale, it provided the USCT a spark with which to drive further effort and ultimately triumph in the course of the war. Though largely spared of the heavy combat, in the battles at Lake Providence and Milliken's Bend, the heightened morale and eagerness of the USCT would come to play a more noticeable role in the Battle of Fort Blakely.

By this point, which is the build up to April 9th, 1865, the 47th USCI had been fully trained. It had also earned some experience both in doing the unspectacular and uneventful assignment of garrison and fatigue duties, as well as some off and on combat experience. They had been recently equipped in preparation for the Mobile campaign at camp in Pensacola, Florida. Despite poor weather causing delays turning the USCT column's advance into a slog through the mud, the 47th and its sister regiments arrived at Blakely in good spirits and high morale, eager to join the fight. The impact of these high spirits can be seen in the final assault on the fort, where the 47th, along with the other USCT pickets took the initiative and began their final advance on Confederate defenses ahead of the official orders and were not only successful but also instrumental in breaking the Confederate defenders' will to fight. Though in terms of planning, particularly on a more macro -strategic- scale, preempting orders particularly in a coordinated effort such as the assault on a fort can be problematic to say the least; the USCI regiments were not reprimanded for what could be viewed as poor discipline amongst the USCT

ranks, but in fact were praised for taking the initiative at Blakely. In the aftermath as Hawkins reported in the *Official Records*, he expressed his gratitude to his brigade commanders (Scofield, Pile, and Drew) for the “Zealous energy displayed by them in making their approaches and the good judgement by which their troops were handled.”³³ His praise likewise trickles down to Scofield who in turn points to Ferdinand Peebles for channeling the energy of the 47th in making the advance. The reason the 47th succeeded and performed spectacularly in the fall of Fort Blakely was that with the regiments high morale and eagerness to perform, condition of the regiment had been otherwise inverted from what it was at Lake Providence. The 47th was now well-equipped, well trained, and well organized, in support of the large Union force assaulting the fort.

Departing Pensacola on March 20th, 1865, after nearly three weeks of rearming and re-equipping the USCT regiments as part of Brigadier Gen. Steele’s force, the 47th would begin the 60-mile slog to link up with the other Union forces assaulting Blakely. With poor weather contributing to severe delays in the column’s advance as Dobak notes, Col. Schofield (...) reported that “the mud and the quicksand are bottomless.’ Horses, Mules, and Wagon’s sink down’, he went on “and an advance is impossible except by corduroying’ -the slow laborious process of cutting down logs and laying them across the road way to provide a surface”³⁴ The limited amount of supply the 47th and its sister units had been issued were rapidly depleted, forcing the regiment to scour their surroundings for whatever nourishment they could find. Summers notes that despite being forced to ration and scrounge for moldy, trampled corn and

³³ United States War Department, *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1897), Vol. XLIX, 1: 287-291.

³⁴ William A. Dobak, *Freedom by The Sword the U.S. Colored Troops, 1862-1867* (Washington DC: Center of Military History UNITED STATES ARMY, 2011) 146-147.

potatoes in one of the most impoverished regions he had laid eyes upon, the morale of the men was “in good spirits despite the painfully slow advance.”³⁵ This level of morale, despite the circumstances, was at par with the behavior of other USCT Regiments.

Fort Blakely:

Arriving at Fort Blakely on March 31, the 47th along with the rest of their brigade were initially kept in reserve while the other 2 USCT brigades (under command of Col. Pile and Col. Drew) took up position situated along the right side northern most end of the Union battle lines. As Brig. Gen John P. Hawkins’ report to General Steele’s Headquarters in the OR states:

From the 2nd to the 9th [of April] the troops were busy night and day making approaches toward the place, all this time under a heavy tire from the fort and from the gunboats of the enemy. From the hither the fire was particularly annoying and destructive. On the evening of the 8th a battery was completed for four 30-pounder Parrotts and the guns put in position. After a few fires from these guns the boats were driven away, one of them being apparently seriously disabled. (...) On the afternoon of the 9th, instant orders were sent to the brigade commanders [Scofield, Drew and Pile] to strengthen and advance their skirmish lines at 5:30 and drive the enemy as far as possible. Before this order reached them their lines had been put in motion at 5 o’clock, and skirmishing continued until 6.30, when, taking up the yell and forward movement commenced by the other divisions on the left, the whole front, re enforced with other troops from the rear, went at the works of the enemy and were soon piling over the parapet, and the rebels con-fronting us threw down their arms. The prisoners captured amounted to 21 officers and 200 men — a small number, owing to the fact that when we entered many of the enemy, fearing the conduct of my troops, ran over to where the white troops were entering. Of cannon captured there were nine batteries of different kinds. I learned from the letter book of the rebel commander that he had ordered his best troops to oppose my division. To my brigade commanders — Brigadier-General Pile, Colonel Drew, and Colonel Scofield — my thanks are due for the zealous energy displayed by them in making their approaches and the good judgment with which their troops were handled.³⁶

Whereas Hawkins report to Steele is apparently satisfied with and approving of the initiative shown by the USCT regiments regarding their advance on the fort, Scofield’s own

³⁵ Greene, *My Recollections of the Civil War*, 24-27.

³⁶ United States War Department, *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1897), Vol. XLIX, 1: 526.

report to Hawkins is in turn out right ecstatic. Though it paints their final assault as having been met with much more resistance than other accounts with confederate guns still crewed and loading canister shot to counter the infantry advance. Scofield's report is also worth noting that it claims the USCT regiments under his command had to contend and taking casualties from minefield of "infernal machines" and "Torpedo's", which in the 1860's context referred to crude naval mines; while naval mines were employed in defense of mobile bay itself by confederate forces, and gave rise to the apocryphal tale of US Admiral Farragut's "Damn the Torpedo's", Col. Scofield's report of a minefield guarding Ft. Blakely is not found in other narratives of the battle. At any rate, Scofield's report of his command is glowing, emphasizing the black soldier's morale as being at an all-time high.

In Scofield's Report to Hawkins regarding the performance of the units under his command, we see a similar expression of pride and satisfaction in the performance of his troops, when presented with a major engagement. Writing that

Upon this last day of the siege (day 8) our hearts were made glad by the report of the capture of the Spanish Fort, and each one seemed animated by a desire to emulate the example of our comrades in arms. The enemy's skirmish line yielded less stubbornly today and the artillery fire was not so heavy as formerly. This caused a general belief that the place was being evacuated, and fears were entertained and expressed that the prize was slipping through our fingers. About 4 p.m. the skirmish lines were almost simultaneously advanced around the whole line, and without, so far as I can learn, any orders; and as the enemy rallied, offering a more stubborn resistance, our skirmishers were strengthened, and such was the enthusiasm of the troops that had there been concert of action it is believed the place might then have been captured. Just at this time other portions of the line advancing, permission was obtained to move forward and assault the enemy's works. The order was at once given to the Forty-seventh and Fiftieth Regiments to advance, supported by five companies of the Fifty-first Regiment... The command moved with a yell through the abatis and over torpedoes, several of which exploded, driving the rebels from their works and guns, and in conjunction with the regiments of the other brigades which entered the works almost simultaneously, captured a large number of prisoners. The day was won, and Blakely, with all its garrison and munitions of war, was ours. I cannot mention with more praise than they merit ... Lieut. Col. Ferdinand E. Peebles, commanding Forty-seventh U.S. Colored Infantry, who led their regiments in

the thickest of the fight, racing with each other, though in the friendliest manner, in deeds of noble daring. Instances must be very rare in which better officers than those named were supported by better officers and men. The spirit and enthusiasm of the troops could not be excelled. Men actually wept that they were placed in reserve and could not go with their comrades into the thickest of the fight. To the impetuosity and bravery of the charge may, I think, be attributed the comparatively small number of killed and wounded. The ground covered by the fire of the enemy's guns was soon passed over, and the enemy, intimidated by the determined bravery of the men, sought safety in flight. Quite a number of men were killed or wounded by the explosion of torpedoes, which were exploded by stepping upon them. One-man, Private Josias Lewis, Company K, Forty-seventh U.S. Colored Infantry, was, while under my own observation, severely wounded, losing a leg by the explosion of one of these infernal machines while guarding prisoners to the rear after they had surrendered, claiming the rights of prisoners of war.³⁷

The reason the 47th succeeded and performed more spectacularly in the fall of Fort Blakely was that with the exception of the regiments high morale and eagerness to perform, the circumstances and condition of the regiment had been otherwise inverted. The 47th was now well-equipped, trained, and organized, further supported/supporting the large Union force assaulting the fort.

Conclusion

Mustered into existence during the War, the 47th was not intended to be an elite unit but rather to fulfill a reserve or otherwise auxiliary role. This is reflected in part in the second-hand nature of their equipment, leadership, training, etc. Though that being said, contemporary scholarship in the wake of *Eagles on their Buttons*,³⁸ is all-too-quick to point out and dispel the

³⁷Infernal Machine's, also called Torpedo's were stationary anti-ship mines, while they had been used by rebel forces in the defense of Mobile Bay, leading to Admiral Farragut's apocryphal exclamation "Damn the Torpedo's!" Scofield's report is the only one to mention their use in defense of Fort Blakely, and while the Confederacy using crude landmines would not be all that surprising, Naval mine's possessing a typically much larger powder charge, would have been grossly overkill for anti-infantry use. It is likely that what he was observing were low-flying cannon shot impacting the dirt, or powder supplies being detonated by retreating confederate forces. See United States. War Department. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. Vol. XLIX. 1. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1897), <http://archive.org/details/warrebillionaco25offigoog>. 287

³⁸Versalle, Washington. *Eagles on Their Buttons*, Xii.

notion that these USCT regiment's existence was solely defined by the back-breaking labor of fatigue or otherwise uneventful garrison duties. However, as evidenced by Sumner's and Schofield's writings the 47th's record was nevertheless defined in large part both by combat as well as the less glamorous duties.

The second-rate nature of the outfitting of many USCT regiments meant that disease was an even greater threat to USCT regiments, who often were lacking in medical personnel. Despite the efforts of Dr. Horton and others sickness, was in many aspects a greater threat to the men of the 47th than combat. While officers benefited from the improved living and dining conditions afforded by their rank, the enlistee's, many of whom in escaping slavery arrived in military service in poor health, did not.

The 47th USCI in the course of its war-time service had struggled with numerous challenges which marked its existence. From poor-quality surplus equipment, the quality and discipline of the officers and enlisted alike, to the ever-present threat posed by illness, the experiences of a USCT were often ones that would not appear conducive to success. Yet, in spite of the challenges stacked against them, the men of the 47th endured and overcame, relying on rigorous training, high morale, and no small amount of luck to see them through. The 47th USCI saw a significant amount of combat compared to other better known USCT regiments such as Col. Higginson's. Elements of the 47th saw combat at Lake Providence before they were fully trained and later the in unsuccessful Yazoo City Expedition. They were, in the very last battle of the war, first to follow the 45th USCI's initiative in launching the final push on Fort Blakely which would successfully capture the Confederate fort. Coming from nothing and having all the more to lose these men fought fiercely when given the chance leaving a lasting impression on many of their officers, and thus cementing a reputation as truly a fearless set of men.

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Appendix 1.

Records of muster rolls of 47th USCT (8th LA)													
MAK E A LIST													
NAM E	AGE	NOTES/Origin/state of enlistment/Death	DOB	Enlist ment Date	Com pany	Rank	other						
Aaron Willia ms	21	Born: Monre Ala. Enlisted in Mobile	Abt 1844	5/8/186 5	k	Pvt							
Abram Brooks	22		1841		K	Sgt							
Albert Wiles	19		Abt 1844	5/1/186 3	D	Pvt							
Albert Willia ms	42			5/1/186 3	K	Pvt							

Anders on Busby (AKA ANDR EW BUSB Y)	18	Born Mobile Ala, Enlisted in Alabama. AWOL declared Deserter JULY 1865	abt 1847	4/25/18 65	b	PVT		
Andre w Burke	33		abt 1830	5/1/186 3	G	Cpl		
Anton y Butler	30	Born/Enlisted in LA	abt 1833	5/1/186 3	F	PVT		
Armste ad Brooks		Discharged For Disability Sept 23 1864			K	PVT		
Benja min Brown	40	Born in Montgomery County, KY. Drowned in River March 1864		2/24/18 64	K	Pvt		

Bennet t Boswe ll	18	Died of Disease Jun 16th, 1863, at Milliken's bend		5/1/186 3	D	PVT		
Charle s Borwel l	45	"Reduced In rank due to Incompetence" per Orders dated June 1 1865	Abt 1818	5/1/186 3	F	Cpl -> Pvt?		
Charle s Brown	34	Enlisted in LA	abt 1829	5/1/186 3	H	CPL		
Charle s Brown	30		Abt 1833	5/11/18 63	D	PVT		
Charle s Campb ell	30		Abt 1833	5/1/186 3	F	PVT		

Charles Carroll	38	August 4th, 1864, Assigned as Company Cook	abt 1825	5/1/186 3	G	Pvt		
Charles H. Carroll	38	See Charles Carroll						
Chas Bozwe ll		Absent Sick March 1864			F			
Daniel Carter		Assigned To Teamster July 1864-oct 1865			G	PVT		
David E. Chase	32	Enlisted in Mississippi	abt 1831	12/3/18 63	K	1st SGT-> 2nd LT.		
Dennis Carroll	40*	No other information			G			
Dewitt C. Wilson	37	initially a 1st Lt with 18th	Abt 1826	5/1/186 3	A	Cpt		

		Wisconsin ____ White						
Dick Butler	25	Born: Virginia, Enlisted in Miss.	abt 1839	2/24/18 64	E	PVT		
Doctor Todd	30				I	Pvt.	Not Actually a Dr.	
Dougla ss Brown	36	Enlisted in Louisiana	abt 1827	5/1/186 3	A	SGT		
Edmun d Carter	40	Enlisted in Louisiana, Company Cook, Name also Appears as Edward Carter	1818	5/1/186 3	E	PVT		
Edwar d Carter		See Edumnd Carter						
Edwin Brown	28	Appointed by Presidential		8/12/18 63	F	1stSgt -> Cpt.		

		order, promoted to fill vacancy						
Elijah Brooke s		On Duty as a Musician May 1864			H	PVT		
Elijah Chapm an	20	"Jefferson County" Alabama (Jefferson?)	abt 1845	4/19/18 65	B	PVT		
Eliska Carrin gton	18	Enlisted in Louisiana	abt 1845	5/1/186 3	A	CPL		
Eliska Carrin gton			Abt 1845					
Elmo Bedfor d	18	Born: Lake "Wathington" (Washington?) Miss.	abt 1846	9/6/186 4	G	Pvt		
Ephra m Brooks		Died of Disease, July 1865			A	Pvt.		

Folly Carter					F	PVT		
Frank Bishop		KIA Milliken's Bend			unkn own poss. K	Cpt		
Frank Casey	19	Lost July 5th, 1863, Milliken's Bend, died of disease Enlisted in Louisiana	abt 1844	5/1/186 3	C	PVT		
Ferdin and E Peeble		White, was placed in command of the 47th during Mobile Campaign when Scofield was placed in charge of brigade				Lt Colone l	Mustered in as 1st Lt. in 1st Minn. Arty Battery	

French Brage	20	Apprehended following AWOL June 30th 1863			C	Pvt		
George Brooks	18		Abt 1845	5/1/186 3	F	PVT		
George Brown	33	Born in Mason County, Ky	abt 1830	5/1/186 3	B	Cpl.		
George Buckn er	38	Born in Miss.	Abt 1827	1/5/186 5	K	PVT		
George Campb ell	31	Born: Virginia, Enlisted in Alabama. Fell Ill and Left at Mobile May 28 1865	Abt 1834	5/8/186 5	A	PVT		
George Wisely	20		Abt 1843	9/1/186 3	I	Pvt.		
Grands on Brooks	42	Born: Mason County, KY	aby 1822	2/24/18 64	B	PVT		

Granville Bullett		Enlisted in Mississippi		3/4/1864	E	PVT		
Handy Whelis	23	Born: "Yazer" (Yazoo?) County Mississippi	Abt 1841	2/24/1864	D	Pvt		
Henry Brown	18	Born in Miss.	abt 1847	1/13/1865	H	PVT		
Henry Carter	39	Enlisted in Louisiana	abt 1824	5/1/1863	C	PVT		
Henry Carter	22		abt 1841	5/1/1863	I	Cpl* PVT*		
Hulley Carter	20		abt 1843	5/1/1863	G	PVT		
Isaac Chambers	18	Born: "Wapn", Miss.	abt 1847	5/8/1865	D	PVT		
Jackson Brashears	28		1835	3/28/1864	k	Pvt. -> Cpl.		

Jackson China	25	Born Toyon County, Mississippi AWOL Deserter	abt 1839	2/24/18 64	D?	PVT		
Jacob Boyle	30	Born in Lexington, Ky Discharged due to disability July 2nd 1865	abt 1833	5/1/186 3	B	Pvt		
James Bradford	45	Died of "Congestive Chills" (Malaria + Diarrhea) May 20th, 1863, Lake Providence		5/1/186 3	K	Pvt		
James Bradley	23		Abt 1840	5/1/186 3	I	Pvt.		

James Brown		Enlisted in Mississippi		2/24/18 64	E	PVT		
James Calvey	23	Discharged June 1864 for disability	Abt 1840	5/1/186 3	F	PVT		
James Canno n	22	Enlisted in Alabama. Born in Darlington South Carolina	Abt 1843	5/8/186 5	A	PVT		
James Carter	18	Enlisted in Louisiana	abt 1845	5/1/186 3	A	PVT		
Jason Cayton	21	Mississippi	1843	3/10/18 64				
Jayson Cayton	21	Enlisted in Mississippi	Abt 1843	5/10/18 64	D	PVT		
Jeffers on Carroll	45*	No other information	1818 about		D			
Jeffers on Carroll	NA	May Be duplicate, or same name			D	PVT		

Jerrel Brookings		Died of Disease 1/28/1864			G	PVT		
Jerry Brown		Discharged due to disability July 1865			?	PVT		
Joe Casmerr	32	Enlisted in Louisiana	1831	5/1/186 3				
John Bradford	24	Born Cleveland County Miss.	1839	5/1/186 3	B	Pvt -> Cpl.		
John Bradley	20	Appointed Cpl. July 1st, 1863. Sgt Jan 24, 1864, Reduced to the	Abt 1843	5/1/186 3	I	Pvt-> Sgt.		
John Briggs	40	Born: "Breling Gru" (Bowling Green), Ky. Died of	Abt 1823	2/24/18 64	C	Pvt		

		Disease Aug 23 1865						
John C. Calhou n	20	Born in "Meruphis, Tennessee" Memphis?	Abt 1843	5/1/186 3	B	PVT		
John W. Boyd	22	Born in Scott County Miss.	Abt 1842	9/6/186 4	G	Pvt		
John Willis	20	Born: "Bayou Sara, La."	Abt 1843	5/1/186 3	b	Pvt.		
Jonas Carrey	20	KIA March 8th, 1864, Yazoo City Expedition	abt 1843	5/1/186 3	F	PVT		
Joseph Chapm an	18	Clark Alabama	1847	5/8/186 5	A			
Joseph Chapm an	'	'	'	'		'		

Joshua Bradford		KIA Blakely Ala. April 9th 1865			B	Cpl		
Julius Butler	24	March-April 1865 on duty as Teamster	1839	5/1/186 3	H	PVT		
Lafayette Carter	20	No other information	1843	5/1/186 3	D?	PVT		
Larkin Bradford					D	Pvt		
Lawrence (Lawrence?) Brown		Assigned from Powell's Detachment		3/4/186 4	E	PVT		
Lipe Brown	19	Died in Milliken's bend from Illness Aug 12 1863	Abt 1844		C	Pvt.		

Lorenz o Brown	23	Enlisted in LA	abt 1840	5/1/186 3	F	PVT		
Maddi son Carroll	45	Enlisted in Louisiana, Discharged Due to Disability Aug 7 1865	abt 1818	5/1/186 3	F	Cpl		
Madis on Brown	29		Abt 1834	5/1/186 3	E	Sgt -> Pvt.		
Maiso n Borier	21	Died in Hospital Oct 14th 1863	Abt 1842	5/1/186 3	C	Pvt		
Martin Campe r	30	Born Cambridge County (MD?)	abt 1833	5/1/186 3	B	PVT		
Mitche l Brown	30		Abt 1833	5/1/186 3	H	PVT		

Morgan Brown	24		abt 1839	5/1/1863	G	PVT		
Moses Childs		AWOL April 30, 1864, Declared a Deserter May 31 1864			B	PVT		
Ned Cannon	22	Born Putnam Georgia	Abt 1843	5/8/1865	D	PVT		
Nelson Brosheer	23		abt 1840	5/1/1863	I	CPL		
Nelson Carter	21		abt 1843	10/23/1864	K	PVT		
Neuman Horton (also listed as		White, acting regimental surgeon at first.			Regimental Surgeon ...	Surgeon	Letters are scattered between University of Michigan,	

Norma n)							and Kansas	
Orange Buckn er	45	Enlisted in LA	abt 1818	5/1/186 3	F	PVT		
Oscar Carter	28	Born: Dixson County Tennessee	1835	5/1/186 3	B	SGT		
Patrick Branch	43	Enlisted in Mississippi	1821	4/10/18 64	I	Pvt		
Perry Wilbur n	27	Enlisted Mississippi	abt 1837	3/10/18 64	H	PVT		
Peter Chase	40	Absent Dec 1864 Jan 1865 Assigned as guard at Vicksburg Miss Since Dec 3, 1864, Absent Sick Feb 8 1865	abt 1823	5/1/186 3	C	PVT		

Phillip Burton (Buston?)		Enlisted with the 8th LA in NOV 1863 Died March 7, 1864, Vicksburg, COD?			E	PVT		
Phillip Buston	26	Enlisted in LA	abt 1837	5/1/186 3	K	PVT		
Richard Green		Enlisted Lake Providence, LA		5/5/186 3		PVT		
Robert Campbell		White, Wounded in Yazoo City March 1864			F	1ST LT -> CPT		
Robert Chapman	42		1821	5/1/186 3	G	PVT		
Ruben Bradford	18	June 1863 Died of Disease in	1845	5/1/186 3	K	Pvt		

		Milliken's Bend						
Samuel Branch	45	Born: "Cuntnedura", VA	Abt 1824	2/24/18 64	G	Pvt		
Samuel Williams	32	Born Green, Va., Enlisted in Mobile	abt 1833	5/8/186 5	K	Pvt.		
Sharper Brock		On Extra Duty working Shingles for Barracks AUG 1865			K?			
Silas Baltzel (21	White, Born: Marrion County. Joined Service with 11th Illinois Inf., Appointed 1st LT, Nov 10, 1864,	abt 1842		B	Sgt -> 1stLt - >2nd Lt	Photo of him available in LOC's digital collection s	

		Assigned duty as QM at Alexandria as per Special Order No 56- 2nd brig. 4 div						
Squire Royal	40	Born: "Ricelando" Virginia. Died of Disease 12/5/1863		5/1/186 3	B	Pvt		
Stanwi cks Brown				5/1/186 3	H	Pvt.		
Thoma s Brooks	25	Born in "Luablewer County" Virginia (Lunenberg?)	Abt 1839		A	Pvt.		
Thoma s Broshe r	27	Company Clerk? Cook?	Abt 1836	5/1/186 3	I	Sgt		

Thomas Chaine	25	Born Claiborne County	Abt 1839	2/24/18 64	B	PVT		
Thomas Chime	NA	No other information			B	PVT		
Thomas China		Died of Disease in Pineville LA Oct 1865		2/24/18 64	B	PVT		
Thomas Sumner Greene		Born in Ohio. White. Acting adjutant		June 1863		1ST LT -> CPT		
Weavers Childs	20	Born: Louisa County, Mississippi	abt 1844	2/24/18 64	B	PVT		
Wesley Brown	18	Enlisted In LA	Abt 1845	5/15/18 63	D	PVT		
William	30	Mustered in with the 1st	Abt 1833	6/5/863	H-> A	PVT- >1SGT		

Brockl esby		Kansas Vols before transferred to the 8th LA, Promoted to 1st SGT Sept 1863, White?				->2nd LT		
Willia m Brown	45	Woodford County Ky	abt 1819	2/24/18 64	I	Pvt.		
Willia m Carter	33	Dupe? Enlisted in Louisiana KIA March 15, 1864, Vicksburg Miss	abt 1830	5/1/186 3	D	Cpl		
Willia ms James W.	23	Born Lancaster County Penn. Enlisted in Illinois	Abt 1842	2/23/18 65	I	Pvt.	Occupati on Banker? Complexi on field left blank on form	

							"name not taken up on the muster rolls of Company I	
Mathe w Adir	22	Enlisted in Mississippi	Abt 1842	2/15/18 64	A	PVT		
Richar d Aglest on	24	Enlisted at Lake Providence LA	Abt 1839	5/1/186 3	C	Pvt		
Alexan der Plenge		Enlisted in Mississippi		3/31/18 64	K	Pvt		
Anders on Fulton	14	Mustered in in Vicksburg, Mississippi	1850	9/13/18 64	D	PVT		
Aaron Aps	27	Enlisted in Louisiana (Lake Providence)	1863	5/1/186 3	K	Pvt		

Anthony Marzette	24	Born, Monroe LA Enlisted in Blakely, Al	1841	5/8/1865	A	Pvt		
Thomas Archey (AKA Toney Archey)	32	Born: Charleston, MO enlisted in Alabama	1833	4/19/1865	A	Pvt		
Barton Atkins		Enlisted in Mississippi died of disease at Vicksburg June 4, 1864.		3/12/1864	G	Pvt		
Alvin Glass	45	Born: Shelly County, KY	Abt 1819	2/24/1864	K	Pvt		
Cato Golden (Kato Golden)	44	Enlisted in LA AWOL June 4th 1863	Abt 1819- 1820	5/1/1863	A	PVT		

Darbs Hinton		Enlisted in Mississippi		2/24/18 63	K	PVT		
Lutten P. Fitch	27	Enlisted in La	Abt 1836	8/12/18 63	Assi stant Surg eon	Assista nt Surgeo n		
George Flaneg an	20	Born Wilcox, Alabama Occupation listed as Farmer	abt 1845	5/8/186 5	D	Pvt		
Willis Flewin s	18	Enlisted in Louisiana (Lake Providence)	Abt 1847	5/1/186 5	A	PVT -> "PVT/ Musici an"	Drummer	
Eli Finkle y	21	Born Wilcox, Alabama	1844	5/8/186 5	A`	Pvt		
Olmste ad Elzy	19	Born Blue MT, VA Enlisted in Mobile, Al Occupation Farmer	Abt 1846	5/8/186 5	D	Pvt		

Promis e Flinn	21	Born Clark, Al. Enlisted in Mobile Mustered out in Baton Rouge, LA	Abt 1844	5/8/186 5	D	Pvt		
Allen Fayes (Allen Fays)	26	Born Wilcox, Al. Occupation: Farmer Mustered in at Mobile	Abt 1839	5/8/186 5	F	Pvt	Absent Sick at Division HQ July 6th 1865	
Feelin g Rivers (River Feelin gs?)	46	Mustered in at Lake Providence, LA	Abt 1818		I	Pvt	Absent Sick at Vicksbur g, Miss Feb 8, 1865. Discharge d due to disability by order of Maj.	

							Gen. (Illegible) at Memphis Tenn. 2/20/1865	
Levi Eglin	22	Enlisted in Lake Providence LA. Died June 16th, 1863, from illness	Abt 1841	5/1/186 3	A	Pvt	Died of Disease at Lake Providenc e	
John Edwar ds	30	Wounded in action at Yazoo City, with injuries resulting in serious illness	Abt 1833	5/1/186 3	E	Pvt	"Detailed to Artillery Battery at Milliken' s bend 8/12/1863 - 1/29/1864 " WIA Yazoo	

							City April 1st, 1864, Wounds became infected	
Merrick Knox	45		Abt 1845					
Wyatt Awkey	20	Enlisted at Lake Providence LA	Abt 1843	5/1/186 3	B	Cpl -> Pvt?	Reduced to rank from Cpl. May 17th, 1864,	
Peter Baily	20	Born "Weslunlle", Virginia. Enlisted at Mobile Ala.	Abt 1845	5/6/186 5	A	Pvt		
Samuel Baily	21	Born in Miss. Enlisted in Fl.	Abt 1841	12/16/1 862	K	Pvt	Muster Roll lists him as a Substitute	

							for A draftee: James Renswick	
Noah Aiken	20	Enlisted at Lake Providence LA	abt 1843	5/1/186 3	F	Pvt		
Simas Allen	21	No other information (Enlisted presumably at Lake Providence due to date)	abt 1842	5/1/186 3	B	PVT		
Glasca r Bartlay		Enlisted at Vicksburg transferred from Powells detachment		2/15/18 64	I	Pvt		
Charle s Hurd	19	Enlisted in Miss.	Abt 1845	4/10/18 64	F	Pvt		

Husker Hezcki ah	21	Enlisted at Lake Providence LA Died of Illness in Reg. Hospital 1/10/1864	Abt 1842	5/1/186 3	H	Pvt		
Abram Marset te	19	Born in Perry, Alabama Enlisted at Mobile Alabama	Abt 1846	5/8/186 5	E	Pvt		
Alexan der Mason	28	Born: Wilcox, Alabama	abt 1837	5/6/186 5	E	Pvt		
Enoch Mason	30	Born Charleston, SC	Abt 1833	5/1/186 3	B	Pvt		
Richar d Mathe ws	31	Born Warren County Mississippi	Abt 1833	1/1/186 4	C	Pvt		
Benja min	30	enlisted at lake providence LA	Abt 1832	5/1/186 3	D	Pvt		

mayham								
James Mayors	25	Born Cherter, SC enlisted in Alabama	Abt 1840	4/19/18 65	K	Pvt		
Thomas Mays	40	Born in Washington County, New York	Abt 1824	2/24/18 64	E	Pvt		
Charles Mayweathers	31	Enlisted at Lake providence	abt 1832	5/1/186 3	H	Pvt		
Calvin James	20	Born Carrola, Mississippi Enlisted in Miss.	abt 1844	2/24/18 64	G	Pvt		
Henry James	23	Born: "Call A" Mississippi	Abt 1841	2/24/18 64	A	Pvt		
Samuel James	18	Born: Cahaula, Alabama	Abt 1847	5/8/186 5	C	Pvt		

Wesley T James	25	Born Holmes County Miss.	Abt 1839	2/24/1864	C	Pvt		
Freeman Jamison	20	Born: Mississippi	Abt 1845	1/4/1865	H	Pvt		
John Jefferson	19	Born Mobile Ala, Enlisted in Mobile Ala former occupation Farmer	Abt 1846	4/25/1865	I	Pvt		
Adam Jenkins	18	Born: "Lake Providence"?	Abt 1845	5/1/1863	D	Pvt		
Richard Jenkins	30	Born: Lake Providence	Abt 1833	5/1/1863	K	Pvt		
William	19	Born Lake providence	Abt 1844	5/1/1863	D	Pvt		

Jenkins								
Samuel Jennings	20	Born Lake providence	Abt 1843	5/1/1863	D	Pvt		
Levis Jermison (Lewis Jamison)	23	Born/Enlisted in Vicksburg	Abt 1841	4/10/1864	A	Pvt		
Albert Johnson	23	Born: Cleveland County, Miss	Abt 1840	5/1/1863	B	Pvt		
Andre Johnson	20	Born/Enlisted: Lake Providence	Abt 1843	5/1/1863	I	Pvt		
Austin Jonson	18	Born Miss. Deserted at Vicksburg	abt 1846	2/24/1864	B	Pvt		

		Mississippi 5/30/1864						
Benya min Johnso n (Benja min Johnso n)	29	Born: Bourbon County, Ky	Abt 1834	5/1/186 3	B	Pvt -> Cpl.		
Burrell Johnso n	41	Born/Enlisted Lake Providence	Abt 1822	5/1/186 3	B	Pvt		
Charle s Johnso n	25	Born Cleveland County Miss.	Abt 1838	5/1/186 3	B	Pvt		
Daniel Johnso n	18	Born/Enlisted: Lake Providence	Abt 1845	5/1/186 3	K	Pvt		
Lycurg us Johson	36	Enlisted Lake Providence	Abt 1827	5/1/186 3	D	Sgt-> Pvt	Died of Disease at Vicksbur	

							g 7/20/1864	
George Johnso n	19		Abt 1844	5/1/186 3	A	Pvt	Died of Disease at Milliken' s Bend 6/24/1863	
George Johnso n	18	Born in Virginia, Enlisted in Illinois	Abt 1846	1/2/186 5	K	Pvt		
Jerin Johnso n	19	Born Charleston, SC. Enlisted at Mobile Ala. occupation listed as Waiter	Abt 1846	4/24/18 65	I	Pvt		
Joseph Johnso n	18	Enlisted at Lake Providence	Abt 1845	5/1/186 3	A	Pvt	Died of Disease at Milliken' s Bend 6/22/1863	

Lemuel Johnson	14	Born" Howard A, MO". Enlisted at St. Louis Mo, there was apparently some issue with his mustering into service however the information as to the What and Why are not present with muster Rolls.	1850	10/23/1864	I	Pvt	Note on back of muster roll reads 10/23/1864: this Solider could not be mustered before the present date
Lewis (Lewis Johnson)	26	Born Cleveland County Miss. Occupation Laborer	Abt 1837	5/1/1863	B	Pvt->Cpl-Pvt	Apparentl y promoted at Vicksbur g only to

							be shortly afterward s reduced back to Pvt	
Plesant Johnso n	21	Enlisted at Lake Providence	Abt 1842	5/1/186 3	G	Cpl	Died of Disease at Lake Providenc e June 1, 1863	
Samue l E. Johnso n	28	White, originally attached to the 13th Iowa Infantry	Abt 1835	5/5/186 3	D	1st Sgt-> Sgt		
Poole Jones	40		Abt 1823	5/1/186 3	H	Pvt		
Willis Johnst on	18	Born Tennessee	Abt 1846	5/20/18 64	G	Pvt		
Frank Junior	20	Enlisted in Alabama	Abt 1845	4/19/18 65	H	Pvt		

Edward Keels	20	Born Washington County, Miss.	Abt 1843	5/1/186 3	B	Pvt		
Handy Keels	35	Enlisted in Louisiana (Lake Providence)	Abt 1828	5/1/186 3	A	Pvt		
James Kelley	30	Enlisted in Louisiana (Lake Providence)	Abt 1833	5/1/186 3	D	Pvt		
Robert Kelley	29	Enlisted in Louisiana (Lake Providence)	Abt 1834	5/1/186 3	G	Pvt		
Jordan Knox	45	Enlisted in Louisiana (Lake Providence)	Abt 1818	5/1/186 3	D	Pvt	Died of Wounds in Regiment al Hospital at Vicksbur	

