



Chaplain Dean Collins sports a replica of his ancestor's Corps badge. At Chickamauga, Pvt. George Verhalen of the 24th Wisconsin Infantry was in the XX Corps, 3rd Division, and thus his badge had a blue background. The 1st Division had a red background and 2nd Division white. Verhalen was wounded and captured at Chickamauga.

C. K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SUVCW



C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SERIES 2017 **CAMP ORDERS** AUGUST 2017

TWO-TIME RECIPIENT OF THE MARSHALL HOPE NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

25TH WISCONSIN HAD STATE'S WORST DEATH TOLL

Of the 70 Wisconsin units in the Civil War, which one had the highest death toll?

Was it one of the three Badger regiments in the Iron Brigade, with its long string of huge battles? Or one of the four cavalry units? The 1st Wisconsin Heavy Artillery or maybe one of the 13 light artillery groups? Or any of the other four dozen infantry regiments?

This research may surprise you: The Wisconsin unit with the highest death toll was the little-heralded 25th Infantry, with a total of 460 deaths (409 from disease).

This is derived from each unit's statistics at <http://www.civilwararchive.com/unionwi.htm> The 25th was in the siege of Vicksburg, Miss., and suffered from malaria, typhoid, dysentery, heat, humidity and other stresses of the period, including a particularly tough march in June 1863, three weeks before Vicksburg fell.

"The great amount of sickness which afflicted the regiment ... is attributed to the hardships of the rapid march from Satartia to Snyder's Bluff, the regi-

The rankings here and on page 4 were calculated by PCC Tom Mueller, a researcher and author for more than three decades. He also is the Wisconsin GRO, and has entered several thousand of our state's graves into the national database.

ment having accomplished two days' march in one," E.B. Quiner said in his definitive 1866 book "Military History of Wisconsin."

Satartia, Miss., is east of Vicksburg on the Yazoo River, and its

population today is not even 100. Snyder's Bluff, Miss., is on the Yazoo River north of Vicksburg.

"The excessive heat, and the exhausted condition of the men, with the unhealthy position at Snyder's Bluff to which they were assigned, was productive of disease, which, for many months, afflicted the command to a frightful extent," Quiner said. "On the 16th of August, the daily report showed but 90 men fit for duty."

Disease was the main determinant for most of the five Wisconsin units that had the worst total number of deaths. The table on page 3 shows the top five for total deaths were the 25th Infantry, 4th Cavalry, 7th Infantry (an Iron Brigade unit), the 1st Cavalry and the 16th Infantry.

Continued on page 3

The next Camp meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 6, at the Machinists Union hall at 1650 S. 38th St., Milwaukee. Chaplain Dean Collins will have the patriotic presentation.



Summer full of work, and some play

The Wisconsin delegation to the National Encampment in Lansing, Mich., included five from Camp 1, here gathering with new CinC Mark Day of Lynchburg, Va. We cast long shadows for an appreciative and patriotic crowd in South Milwaukee's Heritage Days Parade.



PDC Tom Brown educates a patron in C.K. Pier's native Fond du Lac about reloading for another shot. Auxiliary President Lisa Avila (right) and Past President Susan Fallon cook up the main course at the picnic, which at the Fallon house in Mount Pleasant.



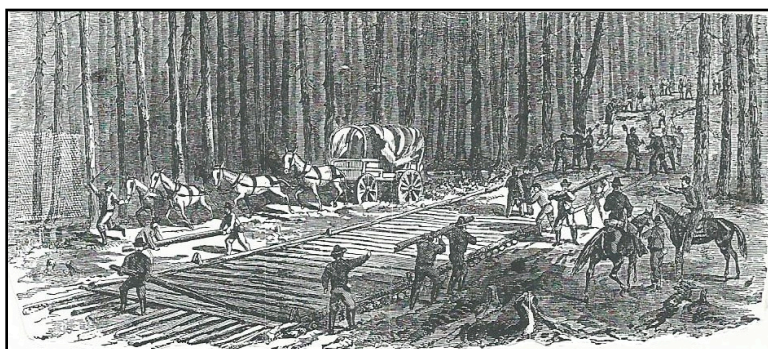
Photos by Steve Michaels and Danielle Michaels



REMEMBERING COL. PIER: WELDON RAILROAD

These monthly articles about our Camp namesake are written by PCinC Steve Michaels. This item first was published in the August 1997 Camp Orders.

On Aug. 19, 1864, Col. Colwert K. Pier and the 38th Wisconsin came off siege and picket duty before Petersburg. The men accompanied the movement to the left for the capture of Weldon Railroad. After a fatiguing march through mud and rain, they met the enemy in the afternoon, and captured a number of prisoners in the action that ensued.



Building a corduroy road near Weldon Railroad.

Early on the 22nd, they moved forward and rapidly threw up a line of entrenchments, with the 38th's group occupying a position directly across the track. Before noon, the enemy attacked the position from three directions simultaneously, but after a severe engagement lasting two hours, it was repulsed. The Union troops fortified the position.

Pier later said, "... we went for the Weldon Railroad and walked into a pocket surrounded by rebels. The ablest straggler in the army could not find the rear, for there was none. But we held the road all the same."

From The Military History of Wisconsin by E.B. Quiner, Clarke & Co., Chicago 1866; Soldiers & Citizens Album of Biographical Record by Brown & Brown, Grand Army Publishing Co., Chicago 1888

DISEASES TOOK HUGE TOLL ON 25TH WISCONSIN

Continued from page 1

More tables on page 4 give the top units for total battle deaths and total disease deaths, along with explaining how all of that was determined for these stories.

The status of the 25th Wisconsin is of particular interest to Camp 1 Brother Glen Grippen, who had two relatives in the regiment. His g-g-grandfather and relative of record in the Sons, Pvt. Adoniram Judson Grippen, is one of the statistics, dying of dysentery in Nashville, Tenn., on June 6, 1864. He is buried in Nashville National Cemetery, section J, grave 13789.

Brother Glen says he did not know of the 25th's unique place in history until being contacted for this story.

Pvt. Alexander Grippen, who like his brother Adoniram was in Co. G, was commissary sergeant – and thus would have been very involved in trying to curb diseases caused by sanitation issues – and served in that role from the start to April 1, 1864. Alexander died in 1892 and is buried in Walworth County.

Alexander and Adoniram were from Durand in Pepin County. The 25th was largely from western Wisconsin.

Overall, the regiment lost three officers and 46 enlisted on the battlefield or mortally wounded, plus seven officers and 402 enlisted to disease. The history gives the total as 460, although that individual breakdown falls two short of that number.

The 25th is little-heralded in the sense that no book has been written about it, although two of its soldiers wrote letters that were compiled into small books. Neither gives time to any substantial discussion of illnesses in the regiment as a whole.

Pvt. John Brobst of Co. G often wrote to towns-girl Mary Englesby, and the letters were compiled into “Dear Mary” in 1960 by their great-granddaughter, Margaret Brobst Roth. Brobst and Mary were married when he returned home; she was not quite age 16 at that time.



Highest overall totals from battles and disease

460 – 25th Infantry
431 – 4th Cavalry
424 – 7th Infantry (Iron
Brigade)
401 – 1st Cavalry
399 – 16th Infantry



Pvt. Adoniram Grippen's grave in Nashville. Photo taken by Find a Grave at the request of the Camp Orders.

Brobst briefly discusses illness a few times, including how his doctors were using opium with quinine to fight malaria. He battled the disease for several weeks in early 1864 and was in the hospital several weeks in fall 1864.

The other book, “A Badger Boy in Blue: The Civil War letters of Chauncey H. Cooke,” is difficult to obtain. Excerpts from his time at Camp Randall in Madison can be seen at <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS3063>

The 25th was organized at La Crosse and mustered in on Sept. 14, 1862. It spent its first two months in Minnesota as part of suppressing the Indian uprising before moving to Camp Randall. It departed on Feb. 17, 1863, for Cairo, Ill., and Kentucky.

Soon it was in Louisiana and the siege of Vicksburg under Gen. Ulysses S. Grant starting one month before the vital city surrendered on July 4, 1863. Then the 25th spent several months at Helena, Ark., before being part of the Atlanta campaign under Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman, including battles at Resaca and Allatoona Hills, Kenesaw Mountain, etc. This was followed by the Carolinas campaign, and the Grand Review in Washington, D.C., capped its service.

The regiment's lieutenant colonel, Samuel J. Nasmith, died of disease in his native Platteville, Wis., on Aug. 17, 1863, six weeks after the surrender of Vicksburg. Future Wisconsin

Gov. Jeremiah Rusk was a major in the 25th, and was promoted to lieutenant colonel to replace Nasmith. Rusk was listed as ill in Quiner's description of the unit's low point in Arkansas.

The worst death toll in a company was 56 in Co. F. Its captain, James C. Farrand, resigned due to disability on Aug. 27, 1863. The next-worst toll was 51 in Co. A, where Capt. James Berry was discharged (no reason in roster) on Nov. 28, 1863.

Co. G of the two Grippens had a death toll of 26. Their captain, Vivus Dorwin, resigned on July 28, 1863, due to disability, but recovered and lived to 1904.

7TH WISCONSIN AND IRON BRIGADE LED STATE IN BATTLEFIELD DEATHS

While it was a surprise to find that the 25th Wisconsin Infantry had the highest overall death toll for any regiment or battery from the Badger state, the regiments with the worst death toll on the battlefield were no surprise: The three Wisconsin parts of the Iron Brigade.

The 7th Infantry was the tops, with 281 – 10 officers and 271 enlisted men killed or mortally wounded.

The death tolls were determined by checking each Wisconsin unit at <http://www.civilwararchive.com/unionwi.htm> Civil War Archive is a fantastic resource for anyone wishing to learn basic facts about a regiment or battery, both in terms of tolls but also where it was stationed and when. You can see waves of units at Civil War Archive, although these basic facts and details about a particular unit also are available individually at the Wisconsin Historical Society, Wikipedia and many other Internet sites.

Outside the Iron Brigade, the Wisconsin unit with the highest death toll was the 26th Infantry, which was at Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Atlanta and in the Carolinas. Next came the 36th Infantry

Highest total from battles

281 – 7th Infantry (Iron Brigade)
244 – 6th Infantry (Iron Brigade)
238 – 2nd Infantry (Iron Brigade)
188 – 26th Infantry
157 – 36th Infantry

Highest total from disease

409 – 25th Infantry
328 – 1st Cavalry
314 – 4th Cavalry
274 – 35th Infantry
267 – 23rd Infantry

with 157 deaths, just ahead of the 37th Infantry with 156. The 36th was in the siege of Petersburg, and the 37th was in the mine blast there. Those two regiments were formed in the spring of 1864, so their death rates were quite high to put them on the same table with Iron Brigade units, which began their service in 1861.

It is a researcher's dream to be able to find a database with multiple search functions; ones that can be sorted via many combinations in order to make discoveries. This can be done at Russ Horton's handy search tool at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, <http://museum.dva.state.wi.us/CivilWar/Soldiers.aspx>

A person can sort that out for a particular company in a regiment, a particular hometown in a particular company in a regiment, etc.

You can take that even further by making a PDF and then using your computer's word-search function for a word within that PDF list such as "died." That is how some of the leaders of companies within the 25th in the other story in this package were determined.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

Q: What is the special story of the 11th Wisconsin Light Artillery?

A: It was organized as the "Oconto Guards" with the 17th Wisconsin Infantry at Madison, on Feb. 22, 1862, then transferred to 1st Illinois Light Artillery as Battery L that same month. The Wisconsin roster says: "Said regiment being full to maximum, Capt. (John) Rourke took his company to Chicago to be attached as a battery to Mulligan's Irish Brigade; was temporarily so attached, and afterwards became Battery L."

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

17 – James Schilz
21 – Bob Nix
23 – Jim Brinks



Report any address or e-mail changes to newsletter editor PCC Tom Mueller
thewisconsin3800@gmail.com

Camp Commander – PCinC Steve Michaels
(414) 712-4655
SVC Billy Cole (414) 545-7323
<https://www.facebook.com/CKPierBadger>
<http://www.suvew-wi.org>

CAMP CALENDAR

26-27 August: West Allis Settlers Weekend, West National Avenue at South 84th Street.

2 September (Labor Day weekend): St. Francis Days parade, 11 a.m.

17 September: Placement of Last Soldier marker honoring Pvt. Charles Blanchard of the 40th Wisconsin Infantry, who died in 1942. Forest Home Cemetery, Milwaukee, time TBA.

7 October: Dedication of headstone for Pvt. William Kolbow. St. John's Lutheran Church, at South 27th Street and West Oakwood Road in Oak Creek, 11 a.m.