



FEBRUARY 13-19, 2023



THROUGH THE LENS

FEBRUARY 18, 1945: Mortar squad from Company G, 145th Infantry fire on enemy positions across the Pasig River from a vantage point on the roof of the Elana Apartments in Manila, Philippine Islands.



WEEK IN REVIEW

M **FEBRUARY 13, 1992:** The 204th Engineer Detachment is organized in Logan as Detachment 1, Company D, 216th Engineer Battalion.

Tu **FEBRUARY 14-16, 1862:** A combined Army and Navy assault on Fort Donelson, Tenn. by Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and Flag Officer Andrew H. Foote results in the capture of the fort and more than 13,000 enemy soldiers. The 20th, 58th, 68th and 76th Ohio were part of Grant's Army at the battle. The Union victory forced the Confederacy to give up southern Kentucky and much of middle and west Tennessee.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Experiences of the 76th Ohio in the Siege of Fort Donelson as described by Capt. Richard W. Burt. This account was published in the Sept. 13, 1906 edition of the National Tribune.

"My first experience on a battlefield was at Fort Donelson. My regiment, the 76th Ohio, had left its recruiting camp at Newark, O., on Feb. 9, 1862, and about the 12th, I think, we reached Paducah. We went down the Ohio River from Cincinnati on transports, and arrived at Paducah in the evening, but did not go ashore. I was officer of the guard that day and night, and just before daylight a transport came alongside and tied up to our boat, and a lieutenant jumped aboard and greeted me with the first information that had reached Paducah of the capture of Fort Henry. That day several transports, heavily laden with soldiers and army supplies, our regiment included, and also a number of gunboats, went up the Cumberland River to make an attack on Fort Donelson. We landed some two or three miles below the fort on Friday afternoon, the 13th, and immediately marched a mile or so to the rear of it. When we reached our position in the line it was nearly sundown, snow falling and pretty cold. Men were detailed from our regiment to go out on the picket line. I remember how I pitied those poor fellows who had to stand out in the cold snow storm all night in front of the enemy. We had been playing soldier at Camp Sherman, Ohio, for the two or three months previous, but now it was coming right down to real business.

By 10 o'clock the next morning orders came to be in readiness to march to the front at a moment's notice. In the afternoon our regiment and the 1st Neb. were ordered to advance on a road along a ridge toward the front, where we had heard considerable firing. We had not advanced much over a quarter of a mile along the ridge when the balls began to zip, zip, through the branches of the trees and underbrush near us. We immediately filed to the right in line of battle across the end of a hollow, halted, and faced toward the enemy, the 1st Neb. being put in position about 10 yards in front of us and a little lower down the hill.

They immediately opened fire on the rebels, while our regiment was ordered to reserve its fire. The rebels, a Mississippi and a Texas regiment, with a battery, returned the fire. They over shot us mostly, but we had 15 or 20 men wounded, and our boys could be restrained no longer, and began to load and fire as fast as they could, delivering their fire over the heads of the Nebraska regiment. In less than half an hour we had driven them from their position and their firing ceased. What our feelings were as we were marching to the front for the first time, and how rejoiced we were over our first victory there are few old soldiers here, perhaps, who do not know better than any of us can tell.

That was on Saturday. That evening we moved a little farther to the front and bivouacked for the night. About 9 or 10 o'clock we had orders to move to the front, for the purpose, as we understood, to charge on the fort. After frequent halts we came in sight of the fort across an open field a few hundred yards to the front. We were momentarily expecting the order to charge on it, when to our great delight, we saw a white flag raised on the works. Word soon came of the "unconditional surrender," and we marched into the little village of Dover, a mile or so above the fort. We went on board the transports that night, and the next day were quartered in the fort, where we remained until we went up the Tennessee to Pittsburg Landing."

