

3-10-2015

## Waul's Texas Legion: Towards Vicksburg

Brandon Franke  
*Blinn College*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ethj>



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

Tell us how this article helped you.

---

### Recommended Citation

Franke, Brandon (2015) "Waul's Texas Legion: Towards Vicksburg," *East Texas Historical Journal*: Vol. 53: Iss. 1, Article 2.  
Available at: <http://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ethj/vol53/iss1/2>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by SFA ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in East Texas Historical Journal by an authorized administrator of SFA ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact [cdsscholarworks@sfasu.edu](mailto:cdsscholarworks@sfasu.edu).

---

## Waul's Texas Legion: Towards Vicksburg

By Brandon Franke

On 13 May 1862, Thomas Neville Waul received his commission as Colonel in the Army of the Confederacy and was given orders to organize a legion from and around Washington County, Texas. A military designation of legion mixed the best of all three types of units, infantry, artillery and cavalry. The purpose was to establish an independent command with the advantages of all three branches in one fast moving unit, although in practice this proved often unmanageable due to the inherent difficulties of coordinating all three. The ultimate destination for this new unit was to engage the enemy on the eastern side of the Mississippi River, if that river, Waul wrote to his wife “was deemed passable.”

Thomas Waul established his command post at Camp Waul, on the Glenblythe plantation roughly six miles north of Brenham, Texas, and began recruiting from other nearby counties, including adjacent Austin and Lee Counties. In addition to new recruits, the Legion also drew from the reorganization of other units during this time such as the “Galveston Boys” of the Ninth Texas Infantry, who constituted the majority of the veterans in Waul's unit. On paper, Waul's Legion numbered 2,000 soldiers with twelve companies of infantry, six of cavalry and a six gun battery under the command of Captain William Edgar. Robert Hasskarl, in his study of the Legion, contended that in Texas, only two legions were formed during the Civil War, and Waul's Legion was the only one that met the true requirements of this designation.<sup>1</sup>

*Brandon Franke is the Assistant Dean for the Social Sciences and a Professor of History and Government at Blinn College/Bryan Campus*

However, Captain Edgar's First Texas Field Battery only served under Waul until it was transferred to the command of Brigadier General Henry McCulloch in the fall of 1862, who at the time was organizing a new division for the Trans-Mississippi department.<sup>2</sup>

Orders to proceed to the Little Rock, Arkansas arrived at Camp Waul in early August, 1862.<sup>3</sup> Companies A, G, H, K & L along with Captain W.R. Sullivan's Company E of cavalry left for Clarksville, Texas. Company K under Captain Henry Wickeland refused to leave with the rest of the troops as they believed they had not been issued enough blankets.<sup>4</sup> They soon changed their mind however, as members of the Texas Lone Star Rifles "encouraged" them to depart.<sup>5</sup>

The rest of the Legion departed on 18 August from Camp Waul, marched to Carthage on the way to rejoin the detachment at Clarksville through summer winds and storms.<sup>6</sup> On the way Colonel Waul received orders to join Major General Earl Van Dorn in Jacksonville, Mississippi. Waul dispatched orders for the Clarksville detachment to rendezvous with the rest of the Legion there.

On Friday 12 September the Legion crossed into Louisiana and made camp for the first time in what for many of the soldiers was their first time out of the state. Two days later, Private Edwin Rice saw his first wounded veterans, and was shocked to see "[t]wo of them had their right arms shot off."<sup>7</sup>

On the march to Jacksonville, orders were received on 23 September from Major General Van Dorn to depart with fifteen days' rations and travel to Holly Springs, Mississippi. Van Dorn's orders assigned the previously unattached Waul's Legion to a new division under the command of Major General Mansfield Lovell.<sup>8</sup>

Reaching Monroe, Louisiana, on 28 September, the infantry boarded trains to Tallulah, a distance of 55 miles, while the cavalry protected the wagon train traveling overland on its journey to Vicksburg.<sup>9</sup> Two days later, they crossed the Mississippi River at Vicksburg on the steamers *Desoto* and *Paul Jones* and made camp in the southwestern part of the town. Here the Legion remained, and the soldiers were paid ten cents per mile traveled. Private Rice received \$116.68 for his journey from Brenham to Vicksburg. Other detachments held elections for officers. Jonathan Duff Brown, who had been commissioned by Waul as a Captain of cavalry at Camp Waul was asked by a fellow member of Company D to allow his name to be considered for the rank of Lieutenant Colonel for his battalion. His companion, a Dr. White:

insisted that there was not the slightest doubt of my election. I thought him correct, but declined from a purely patriotic sense of duty, thinking it best for my country. The battle between desire for position and duty to my country was a strong one, and I have ever since regretted that I did not accept; because, for reasons that I do not think it wise to write, I believe it would really have inured to my country's good.<sup>10</sup>

The infantry departed for Holly Springs via train on 8 October, while once again the cavalry trotted along and protected the wagons. News of the battle of Shiloh fought on 6-7 August arrived bearing with it news of the loss of Albert Sidney Johnston, who had bled to death after being shot. This led Jonathon Brown to lament the loss of "our loved Sidney Johnston".<sup>11</sup>

Upon arriving in Holly Springs, the Legion was presented with new arms, which were for the most part were flintlock muskets converted to use percussion caps. They also received 40 rounds of ammunition, cartridge and cap boxes, and a belt with a scabbard for the detachable bayonet.<sup>12</sup> Three days before arriving at Holly Springs, Union forces under General W.S. Rosencrans defeated the Rebel forces commanded by General Van Dorn at Corinth on 4 October. Although the Confederates were defeated, McNemar wrote to his wife that "we did

no[t] loose [sp] one forth the men that we first thought we had.” At Holley Springs, McNemar estimated that the Confederates at Holley Springs were faced with forces under “a Ripley twenty miles above here. They are estimated at from fifty to sixty thousand.”<sup>13</sup>

As a result of the Confederate loss at Corinth, a reorganization of the army occurred. On 28 October, Waul was stripped of his cavalry and would not see service with the Legion again.<sup>14</sup> Now a Legion in name only, the unit was assigned to Russels’ Brigade. This brigade was part of Tilghmans’ Division of Terrell’s Corps of the Army of West Tennessee commanded by General Earl Van Dorn. That same day they broke camp and marched to Camp Cold Water, seven miles from Holly Springs and forty miles south of Memphis, to join with the army encamped there.<sup>15</sup>

The next day, General Rosencrans received a missive from General William T. Sherman congratulating him on his victory at Corinth. In this letter, Sherman warned Rosencrans that through his sources he had learned that Van Dorn was to receive reinforcements, including Waul’s Legion from Texas to arrive with forces numbering four thousand.<sup>16</sup>

From Cold Water, the Legion marched to camp at Tippah Ford on the Tallahatchie River on 11 November. Two days after arrival they broke camp once again and prepared to return to Holly Springs. On their way back, orders arrived informing Waul that Yankee forces were marching down an adjacent road, and that he was to intercept them at Goodman’s Mill, approximately seven miles from their current location.<sup>17</sup> Upon arrival, they found, to their ire, no targets to attack. Next, they were ordered to defend a crossing on the Tallahatchie River named Rocky Ford. After marching 13 miles on November 13, they constructed breastworks.

Still unblooded, the Legion experienced their first engagement on December 1, 1862, when they received a message from Van Dorn ordering them to break camp before daylight and

destroy all of their stores and provisions.<sup>18</sup> The Legion retreated twenty miles, believing themselves to be outflanked. On the way, they engaged Union forces outside of Oxford, Mississippi, but broke off the fight. Unfortunately, the result of torrential downpours and the lack of adequate roads in the region forced them to throw away even more of their supplies.<sup>19</sup>

The reason for the retreat was a withdrawal of forces bordering the Tallahatchie River by General Pemberton wished to contract his lines of communication as Grant's forces approached from the east. On the night of December 3, the Legion continued its retreat towards Coffeerville, crossed the Yacona River but were met by Union forces at Water Valley. Defeated by the Union forces, they trudged throughout the night through mud that reached up to their calves, which only added to their misery.<sup>20</sup>

Waul's Legion arrived in Coffeerville the evening of December 4 and made camp. There, they would have their first real meal in five days.<sup>21</sup> With less than a full day of rest, the Legion would be sent after Union general Alvin P. Hovey's seven regiments of cavalry.<sup>22</sup> Hovey had crossed into Mississippi from Helena Arkansas on November 27 with seven thousand infantry and cavalry. Hovey's infantry experienced the same marching conditions as Waul's Legion, their movements were slow, and therefore Hovey ordered his cavalry to locate and destroy the Mississippi Central Railroad line that ran from Holly Springs to Jackson, and served as a vital artery to keeping Vicksburg supplied. Hovey's forces would have a bit of success in this regard; they would destroy several miles of rail north of the Yalobusha River, but were unable to burn it as the continuing rain precluded a fire.<sup>23</sup> The Rebels engaged Hovey's forces and lost 7 with 43 wounded according to Davis, and Hovey would suffer 32 or 34 cavalymen killed and another 27 to 35 captured.<sup>24</sup> Hovey's forces retreated to Oakland Mississippi, and crossed back to Helena, fatigued, injured, and ultimately unsuccessful.

On 6 December 1862, Waul's Legion arrived at Grenada and erected breastworks for a Union attack that never came. The Legion was reviewed by Generals Van Dorn and Pemberton at camp. Davis was thrilled on 14 December when the quartermaster issued new tents to replace those destroyed in the hectic retreat from Water Valley.<sup>25</sup> The next day, Van Dorn left on a "secret mission" with 3,500 cavalry to attack the Union supply depot at their former camp at Holly Springs.<sup>26</sup> Colonel Robert C. Murphy, after very little defense, would surrender the depot and troops under his command at this supply depot, numbering 1,500.<sup>27</sup> When news of the surrender reached Grant, he stalled his westward march and marched his men overland through northern Mississippi, subsisting off of the land, which he would later recall was "amazed at the quantity of supplies the country afforded".<sup>28</sup> He would remember this the next year when he would launch another assault on Vicksburg.

Seeking to finish what General Hovey's cavalry had started at the end of 1862, Grant launched another assault to destroy the Mississippi Central bridge over the Yalobusha River at Grenada. To aid in this endeavor he sought to reopen a levee that divided the Mississippi River from Moon Lake known as Yazoo Pass. The pass was given this name due to the connection of Moon Lake to the Coldwater River, which fed into the Tallahatchie which itself was a tributary to the Yazoo. Confusingly, all three were collectively known as the Yazoo. The Yazoo in turn fed into the Mississippi just north of Vicksburg. Historically, the Mississippi had flooded yearly into this pass, and saturated the diamond shaped delta between the two rivers. The pass had been closed when the Southern Railroad built the levee to protect their rail line six years previously.<sup>29</sup>

Digging began 2 February 1863 on the eighteen foot high, hundred foot long levee and the next day a mine was detonated in the remaining gap between the Mississippi and Moon Lake. The pass was opened in a thunderous explosion and Grant wrote that this new passageway to

Vicksburg would open up new avenues of attack, and would “prove a perfect success.”<sup>30</sup> Water flooded into the pass through a gap forty feet wide, but the difference between the levels of the Mississippi and the pass was estimated at eight or nine feet, too great to allow an ironclad through without substantial damage.<sup>31</sup> By 24 February, enough water had passed to allow a Union flotilla under the command of Lt. Commander Watson Smith to pass. The length of time would prove part of the Yazoo Pass Expedition’s undoing, as the onslaught of water into the diamond shape delta between the two rivers would saturate the land to such an extent to make an assault by infantry untenable.

The ironclads with fourteen transports loaded with 4,500 soldiers led by Brigadier General Leonard F. Ross steamed into the lake at a snail’s pace towards their target downstream.<sup>32</sup> Whatever element of surprise they hoped to find was dashed at the leisurely pace at which they proceeded.<sup>33</sup> To add to the misery of the Yankee passage, the rivers they traversed were filled with debris washed into the region from the levee breach, and with low hanging branches on each side of the river, the transports and warships soon experienced damage to their upper works.<sup>34</sup>

While Union forces took four days to proceed fourteen miles to the Coldwater,<sup>35</sup> Waul’s Legion was in the midst of fortifying a crucial pass where the Tallahatchie and the Yalobusha Rivers merged. Pemberton had learned early in the New Year that Yazoo Pass had the potential to be a dangerous backdoor to Vicksburg, and had ordered all of his troops, except those under Major General William W. Loring’s division to remain on the Yalobusha River as a bulwark against attack from western Tennessee. On 24 January, alerted to the danger of Yazoo Pass, Pemberton ordered Loring to “[s]end Waul’s Legion by railroad to Vaughan’s Station. Direct him to march to Yazoo City; there take steamboat to Snyder’s Mills.”<sup>36</sup> The Legion arrived in

Yazoo City on 26 January, and boarded the steamer *Parallel*.<sup>37</sup> The next day the Legion debarked at Snyder's Bluff, north of Vicksburg and begun building earthen ramparts they dubbed Fort Pemberton.

Scarcely higher than the river, the ramshackle fort was located in a strip of earth that separated the Tallahatchie and Yazoo Rivers. Its width ran no more than 400 yards. Ernst Knolle recorded that "on this places breastworks were made by putting from 3 to 5 cotton bales on top of one another, and some 4 or 5 bales wide. After this, then dirt was thrown on the bales, which made very good breastworks."<sup>38</sup> In his dispatch to Pemberton upon arrival at the fort, General Loring praised Waul in that "Colonel [T.N.] Waul with his troops is encamped here. He is judicious in his arrangements, and I would recommend that he be kept in command of this position."<sup>39</sup>

Loring led 120 members of the Legion under the command of Major Cameron on the *Hope* up the Tallahatchie to Coldwater to look for Union forces the day before Yazoo Pass was opened up. Failing to find any, Loring returned on 24 February.<sup>40</sup> A foraging expedition on March 1 aboard the *Prince of Wales* up the Tallahatchie returned with no sign of Federal encroachment. Finally, on 8 March, a dispatch reached Fort Pemberton alerting the Confederate forces therein of the approach of four gunboats and thirteen transports fifteen miles below the mouth of the Coldwater on the Tallahatchie. In actuality, Smith had two ironclads, the *Chillicothe* and the *Baron DeKalb*, and fourteen transports.<sup>41</sup> Smith's armada had taken four weeks to traverse the 200 miles from the Yazoo Pass to the Fort Pemberton.

While Smith steamed south, Fort Pemberton received two "large" guns and had brought in the disabled steamer *Star of the West*<sup>42</sup> to sink in front of the fort. Due to the confines of the

Tallahatchie, with the *Star of the West* located as it was, any approach from the river required an approach from the bow on, allowing unobstructed cannon fire from the fort, while Federal response would be limited to any cannon they had mounted on the bow of their gunboats. As the Union forces approached the fort, the Confederates burned the *Parallel* loaded with cotton twelve miles above the fort on the Tallahatchie on March 10. The steamboat had broken her wheel and was unable to get away.<sup>43</sup>

Edwin Rice and his compatriots were ordered to fall in before sunrise on 11 March and take their places on the breastworks of Fort Pemberton. At 11 A.M., the fort opened fire as the first enemy gunboat came within range of their “large cannons”. According to Rice, this battle amounted to the Union gunship firing “4 or 5 times and we 10-12.” At first, the *Chillicothe* and *Baron de Kalb* acted independently of each other in firing upon the fort. This engagement, Ernst Henry Knolle recorded in his diary, lasted “half an hour before they retreated.”<sup>44</sup> The Legion suffered no injuries in this skirmish.

On the Union gunboat *Rattler*, Lt. Com. Watson Smith was so shaken by the ensuing racket from the shells hitting his ship that he fainted. When he recovered, his men thought him insane as he began speaking gibberish and giving orders that were unintelligible by his men.<sup>45</sup> One set of orders, issued before his men realized the depth of their commander’s mental difficulties, ordered the *Chillicothe* to withdraw from action. Unknown to the Confederates, the builders of the *Chillicothe* had aided their cause unknowingly, like many second generation ironclads; was poorly designed and shabbily constructed, either by intent or neglect. After receiving a few hits from the cannon at Fort Pemberton on her gun ports, the iron casing buckled and the wooden doors cracked, rendering them unable to be opened.

The swampy conditions of the land around Fort Pemberton also precluded an approach from the land side as General Ross's men discovered when the federal transports attempted to disembark his men<sup>46</sup>. Several of the Federal transports had landed troops a mile or more above Fort Pemberton earlier in the day, and at 1 P.M., Rice recorded that Captain L.D. Bradley's Second Infantry Company, and a detachment under Captain Wickeland, marched to meet them and drive them back. When they returned towards evening, they were in a jubilant mood, their band playing, as they had received no injuries.<sup>47</sup> In fact, the closest a Confederate soldier came to an injury in this skirmish was Captain Wickeland, who had a button shot off of his cap.<sup>48</sup> Although the Union forces were stopped in their advance on Fort Pemberton, they were not driven back to their transports.

The gun port problem fixed, and Smith presumably having recovered his senses, the *Chillicothe* returned to action around 4 P.M. This time Watson ordered the *Chillicothe* and the *Baron DeKalb* into a slight bend that provided a bit of protection, moored them together, and fired on the fort while a mortar boat, the *Petrel*, launched shells over them.<sup>49</sup>

Soon after they were attacked by Loring's forces, this time from behind the breastworks at the fort as well as from the trees. "They fired 9 times," Rice recorded in his diary, and "[w]e made a large hole in their boat when they withdrew." Again, the builders of the Union gunship helped the Rebels, as cannon shot striking the hull drove out rivets into the men inside her, resulting in the deaths of four and 15 injured sailors. The first defense of Fort Pemberton was a success, and Grant's Yazoo Expedition was defeated, although the Union forces continued to press the Rebel forces here until early April.<sup>50</sup>

12 March passed fairly uneventful for the soldiers in Fort Pemberton, Rice reported “At the breastworks all day but had no engagement with the enemy. We fired twice at their pickets but they did not reply”<sup>51</sup> and Knolle’s entry for the day reads, “March 12-no fighting on either side except a few shells thrown.”<sup>52</sup>

The next day the battle returned in earnest. The first shot was fired from the land battery in the Federal works. “For an hour or two from the commencement it was very hot work,” related Rice. “They fired 11 & 13 inch ball & shell and injured our batteries considerably.”<sup>53</sup> The Federal ironclads returned and shelled the fort. By 3 o’clock, the gunboats retreated from the vision of those in the fort, but continued to lob shells into the fort. “We hit their boat a good many times, and set the cotton bales on fire,” Rice wrote that evening.<sup>54</sup> The *Chillicothe* returned to the engagement but withdrew when her ammunition was exhausted.<sup>55</sup>

Shots from the Federal land batteries penetrated the earthen ramparts of Fort Pemberton and dismounted one of the two largest Rebel guns.<sup>56</sup> At noon, a shell passed through the breastworks and struck the magazine for one of the three inch Whitworth guns, causing an explosion that wounded 20 men.<sup>57</sup> Rice recorded in his diary that evening that “Three men had a leg shot off; two above the knee and one below. One of them has since died. Several others were wounded in the arm.”<sup>58</sup> The fighting between Fort Pemberton and the Yankees lasted all day. “

As the day drew to a close, Davis and his fellow soldiers expected to be shelled throughout the night but were not. Davis wrote that after dark the *Prince of Wales* arrived from Yazoo City with a new 8 inch Columbiad<sup>59</sup> naval gun and ammunition for all of the guns at the fort. “It relieved us a good deal as all of our ammunition for the 32 pdr. had given out.”<sup>60</sup> The men worked throughout the night mounting the new gun and rebuilding the breastworks and

building a new magazine.<sup>61</sup> Hostilities on the 14<sup>th</sup> did not commence until the afternoon, this time from the Federal land batteries. “Our guns, however, made them quit that fun less than an hour,” Knolle later wrote in his diary.<sup>62</sup> One Confederate was injured in the thigh in this exchange.

“Not a single gun was fired” on March 15, wrote Edwin Rice in his diary.<sup>63</sup> “Both parties seem to have agreed to let each other alone to fortify.” The Yankee forces were observed building a fortification in the heavily timbered bend across the river from Fort Pemberton. A deserter from the Federal camp arrived at the Rebel fort and informed Loring “that we killed 8 men in one shot on the gunboat” in the exchange the previous day. Rice would confidently write that “our 8 inch Columbiad is mounted and we feel confident of whipping them in the next engagement.” During the day the *Hope* arrived, delivering more ammunition and two 18 pound rifled cannons.<sup>64</sup>

At day break on 16 March, the Legion received orders to march down the Tallahatchie to contest an attempt to cross the river by Yankee forces. “It was a false alarm,” recounted Rice. “40 or 50 had crosse[d] in the night but returned.”<sup>65</sup> The soldiers marched the two miles back to camp and were safely ensconced behind the breastworks of Fort Pemberton before Federal forces on the land and river opened fire at noon. “[A] brisk cannonading was kept up for two or three hours but not as heavy on Friday.”<sup>66</sup> Perhaps this was due to the creation of a new battery built, as Rice reported “two or three hundred yards below our fortifications, opposite the Yankee battery in the woods.” This battery’s crew would be the target of Union snipers throughout the rest of the day, one of which was Rice. The *Chillicothe* returned to engage the forts, but was so damaged by shot that she retreated from the battle and sought repairs at Mound City, Illinois.

March 18 and 19 passed without a shot fired by both sides. A false alarm on midnight 20 March resulted in “a good many guns and muskets” being fired towards the Union works.<sup>67</sup> As would be expected without a response from the enemy fortification across the Tallahatchie after so long, rumors of the Yankees retreating circulated throughout the Rebel camp. A detachment of 200 soldiers under Lieutenant Colonel Timmons was sent to reconnoiter the Union camp. Upon arrival, they discovered “the Yankee fortifications and camp deserted. 15 graves were found. One of them was the chief gunner of the gunboat Chillicothe.” More encouraging to the morale of the Rebels within Fort Pemberton were letters found from Union soldiers “despairing of ever taking ‘Fort ‘Greenbush,’ the Union name for the Rebel fort. In addition to the letters, Rice reported that Timmon’s forces captured “bacon and crackers by the quantity.”<sup>68</sup> During this lull in battle, Loring again wrote to Pemberton heaping praises on Waul and his command:

While I am thankful for the perfectly successful result of our labors here, I wish to express my obligations to Col. T.N. Waul, Texas Legion for his energy, promptness, and good judgment in the discharge of this duty with his Legion in the fortifications during the engagements. I was greatly indebted to him for the assistance he rendered on so many occasions, and which he contributed to our frequent successes...<sup>69</sup>

On 23 March word from upriver reached Fort Pemberton that the retreating Yankee forces numbering 4,500 had met reinforcements under the command of Brigadier General Isaac Quinby and had been ordered to attack the fort again.<sup>70</sup> “About 3 p.m. they announced their arrival by firing three shots at the [Steamer] “Gay” at her landing,” wrote Rice. “We fired several small guns at them during the afternoon.”<sup>71</sup> Second Lieutenant W.A. Huckaby of Bradley’s Company B, Second Infantry under Waul recorded that the Union soldiers took up position near “their old breastworks.”<sup>72</sup> Rice reported that the Yankees were repairing their abandoned fort while under attack from Fort Pemberton.<sup>73</sup> “Rained all day. Most of us got very wet---had almost 20 men taken prisoners.”<sup>74</sup>

No fighting between the two forts occurred before evening on the 24<sup>th</sup> and both Rice and Huckaby wrote in their diaries that night that skirmishes between the two camps erupted later in the day “N.E. of camp between the 2<sup>nd</sup> Texas infantry and the enemy.”<sup>75</sup> In this engagement, one Union soldier was killed, one taken prisoner, and six rebels were lost.<sup>76</sup>

The next day Waul’s Legion was ordered down to the lower breastworks to defend, and returned to the fort four days later on the 29<sup>th</sup>. On 1 April Captain Bolling’s Company A of First Division was sent out as pickets in advance of the fort to protect it from arriving reinforcements for the Union soldiers across the river. These reinforcements included a small battery of six guns under the command of General D. H. Maury. These cannon did remarkably little damage to the dirt covered cotton bale breastworks of Fort Pemberton. Without siege guns, the Union forces had little hope of defeating the roughly 1,500 rebels ensconced inside.<sup>77</sup>

Union forces on 2 April began to construct a new battery nearer to the fort than the previous one had been. According to Rice, forces at Pemberton fired around 9 P.M. at this battery. The attack continued intermittently into the next morning. 5 April saw two Yankee deserters brought into the camp. With them they brought the news that the Federals had given up attacking the fort and had ordered a withdrawal.<sup>78</sup>

It was true. Grant had finally realized his Yazoo Expedition would not be a success and ordered this troops dug in across from “Fort Greenwood” to return to the Mississippi. In a letter to General Halleck, Grant wrote that he had done so because of information he had received about “other and greater difficulties would be found in navigating the Yazoo below Greenwood.”<sup>79</sup> Men crowded the decks of the surviving transports and gunboats for the trip upriver. Officers received cabins, but enlisted men had to fend for themselves. Fires were not

permitted to cook or keep warm, and the elements beat down on them as they slowly made their voyage back to the Mississippi.<sup>80</sup> They arrived five days later across from Helena where the levee had been blown two months after beginning their voyage Moon Lake. The flotilla commander, Lieutenant Commander Watson Smith of the *Rattler* died shortly after the withdrawal was complete.<sup>81</sup>

The Legion stationed at Fort Pemberton remained there until April 14, when they received orders to depart and regroup at Point Leflore, two miles northeast of Greenwood. By the middle of May, the Legion was divided, one third returning to Fort Pemberton, and the rest marching to Vicksburg to protect this bastion from Grant's assault.<sup>82</sup> There, the Vicksburg Legion would fight gallantly in the siege and would be surrendered into the custody of Grant on July 4, 1863.

## ENDNOTES

---

<sup>1</sup> Robert A. Hasskarl, *Waul's Texas Legion, 1862-1865* (Ada: The Book Bindery, 1976), 4.

<sup>2</sup> "Texans in the Civil War: Edgar's Battery" [http://www.texansinthecivilwar.com/edgars\\_battery.html](http://www.texansinthecivilwar.com/edgars_battery.html) accessed 30 September 2011.

<sup>3</sup> *Waul's Texas Legion Official History*, Texas History Museum

<sup>4</sup> Company K would later become Company D

<sup>5</sup> "Diary of Edwin E. Rice; April 15, 1862-April 5, 1863" Transcribed by David S. Pettus. [http://www.wauls-texas-legend.com/files/WTL\\_Diary.docx](http://www.wauls-texas-legend.com/files/WTL_Diary.docx). Accessed 30 September 2011. Interestingly enough, Captain Wickeland's Company K had a high percentage German born immigrants to Austin County. Three of the members of the offending company were brothers, all named Franke, the author's great-grandfather and great uncles.

<sup>6</sup> Correspondence of J.G. Nemar. Texas History Museum dated August 24, 1862

<sup>7</sup> Rice p.16

<sup>8</sup> Waul's Correspondence 1862" <http://freepages.family.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bowen/waulslegion.html> accessed 30 September 2011.

<sup>9</sup> Rice p. 17

<sup>10</sup> "Reminiscences of Jno. Duff Brown." *Southwestern Historical Quarterly Online* Volume 12. page 310. 1910

<sup>11</sup> Johnston would have lived had he not sent his personal doctor to see to a group of captured Yankees. A simple tourniquet would have saved the General's life.

<sup>12</sup> Hasskarl, p. 9

<sup>13</sup> Correspondence of J.G. Nemar. Texas History Museum dated October 19, 1862

<sup>14</sup> "Wilbur Fisk King: 1861-1865," Texas History Museum

<sup>15</sup> Rice p. 18

<sup>16</sup> Hasskarl p.10

<sup>17</sup> Rice. p.19

- 
- <sup>18</sup> Correspondence 1862
- <sup>19</sup> Hasskarl p.13
- <sup>20</sup> “Rice p.20 and Hasskarl p.13
- <sup>21</sup> Hasskarl p.13
- <sup>22</sup> Rice p.20
- <sup>23</sup> William L. Shea and Terrence J. Winschel, *Vicksburg is the Key: The Struggle for the Mississippi River*. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2003), 38
- <sup>24</sup> Rice stated that in this engagement 35 Union soldiers were captured, while correspondence from Amerherst in Hasskarl’s book states 27 captured.
- <sup>25</sup> Rice p.20
- <sup>26</sup> Ibid
- <sup>27</sup> Shea et al. p. 43. Murphy would be dismissed from the army for his surrender for cowardly and disgraceful actions.
- <sup>28</sup> Ibid. p. 45.
- <sup>29</sup> Pratt, Fletcher. *Civil War on Western Waters*. (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1956) p. 145 and Samuel Carter, *The Final Fortress: The Campaign for Vicksburg 1862-1863* (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1980) 135
- <sup>30</sup> Carter p.135
- <sup>31</sup> Soley, James Russell, “Naval Operations in the Vicksburg Campaign, in Johnson, Robert Underwood, and Clarence Clough Buel, *Battles and Leaders in the Civil War* vol 3. P. 561  
<http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/books/battles/vol3/pageview.cfm?page=561>
- <sup>32</sup> Carter p.136
- <sup>33</sup> Shea et al. p.69
- <sup>34</sup> Carter p. 136
- <sup>35</sup> Soley, p. 562
- <sup>36</sup> Waul’s Texas Legion Official History. THM.
- <sup>37</sup> Rice p. 21
- <sup>38</sup> Hasskarl, p. 15
- <sup>39</sup> Correspondence W.W. Loring 21 February 1863
- <sup>40</sup> Rice p.22
- <sup>41</sup> Hasskarl, p. 18
- <sup>42</sup> This was the same *Star of the West* that had been used by President Buchanan in 1861 to resupply Fort Sumter in South Carolina. She had since been captured by the Rebels.
- <sup>43</sup> Rice p.23 and Hasskarl p. 15
- <sup>44</sup> Rice p.23
- <sup>45</sup> Hasskarl p. 16
- <sup>46</sup> Soley, p. 563
- <sup>47</sup> Hasskarl, p. 16
- <sup>48</sup> Rice p.23
- <sup>49</sup> Pratt p.147 and Hasskarl p. 16
- <sup>50</sup> Rice p. 25 and Hasskarl p. 16
- <sup>51</sup> Rice p.23
- <sup>52</sup> Hasskarl p. 16.
- <sup>53</sup> Rice p.23
- <sup>54</sup> Ibid
- <sup>55</sup> Hasskarl p. 18
- <sup>56</sup> Rice.
- <sup>57</sup> Rice provides the account, Hasskarl provides the size of the Whitworth gun on page 17.
- <sup>58</sup> Rice, p. 23
- <sup>59</sup> Tucker, Spencer. *Arming the Fleet: U.S. Ordinance in the Muzzle-Loading Era*. (Annapolis: The United States Naval Institute, 1989), pp.68-69 The Columbiad was a type of naval gun that came into fashion after the explosion of the wrought iron “Peacemaker” gun on the *Princeton* in 1844 that killed Secretary of State Abel Upsher.
- <sup>60</sup> Ibid, p. 23
- <sup>61</sup> Hasskarl p.18
- <sup>62</sup> Ibid
- <sup>63</sup> Rice p 23. Hasskarl p. 18

- 
- <sup>64</sup> Rice p. 23-24  
<sup>65</sup> Ibid  
<sup>66</sup> Ibid  
<sup>67</sup> Rice p. 24  
<sup>68</sup> Rice p. 24  
<sup>69</sup> Correspondence W.W. Loring 22 March 1863  
<sup>70</sup> Battles and Leaders in the Civil War vol 3. P. 563  
<sup>71</sup> Rice p. 28  
<sup>72</sup> Account of W.A. Huckaby, THM.  
<sup>73</sup> Rice p. 24  
<sup>74</sup> Huckaby  
<sup>75</sup> Ibid  
<sup>76</sup> Rice p. 24.  
<sup>77</sup> Hasskarl p. 18  
<sup>78</sup> Rice p. 25  
<sup>79</sup> ORN 24 <http://ebooks.library.cornell.edu/m/moawar/text/waro0036.txt> accessed 7 November 2011  
<sup>80</sup> Shea & Whinschel p. 72  
<sup>81</sup> Soley p. 563  
<sup>82</sup> Hasskarl p.21