

THE PITTSBURGH BLUES

By

CAPTAIN JOHN H. NIEBAUM

(Continued from the July, 1921 number)

PART III

PENTLAND'S NOTES OF SERVICE

Extract from Charles Pentland's Journal, whilst performing a twelve months service as a member of the Pittsburgh Blues.

Sept. 10, 1812, Encamped on Grant's Hill.

Sunday, 20th—Decamped under orders to join the northwestern army; marched one mile over the Allegheny river.

21st—Marched to the Ohio; waited for boats.

23rd—Embarged on a boat; arrived at Beaver the 24th.

25th—At Steubenville.

26th—At Wheeling, remained till the evening of the 27th.

Oct. 1st—Arrived at Marietta.

6th—At Gallipolis, remained till the 8th.

Sunday, 11th—Capt. Alexander's boat struck a snag and was abandoned.

12th—Arrived at Limestone (Maysville.)

13th—At night, landed about two miles above Cincinnati.

14th—Marched into Cincinnati, encamped below the town, and remained till the 28th; then marched five miles to 'Hutchinson's.'

29th—Marched twelve miles to Price's.

30th—To Lebanon.

31st—To Waynesville.

Nov. 1st—To Xenia.

2nd—To Yellow Springs.

3rd—To Springfield.

4th—To Markle's

5th—Marched eleven miles, near Darby.

6th—To Franklinton, the Headquarters of the northwestern army, and remained till November 25th; this day marched two miles on a secret expedition

26th—Marched fifteen miles, over Darby Creek.

- 27th—Marched twenty-one miles.
28th—To Springfield.
29th—Near to Xenia.
30th—Into Xenia, and remained till December 5th; then marched into Dayton, and remained till the 9th; then crossed the Miami River.
Dec. 10th—Marched to New Lexington.
12th—Marched seventeen miles. The object of the expedition was promulgated.
Sunday, 13th—To Greenville, and crossed the river.
14th—Marched fifteen miles into the wilderness.
15th—Twenty miles.
16th—Marched all day, and after supper continued the march till daylight.
17th—Marched into the Indian town, on the Mississineway River, fifteen miles above the junction with the Wabash; captured a few defenseless Indians; and encamped in the village.
18th—The battle of the Mississineway was fought. The company lost one man; John Francis, killed; Elliott, Dodd, Read and Chess wounded. Total loss of the detachment, viz: eight killed and from twenty-five to thirty wounded. Decamped and returned two miles.
19th—Marched ten miles on our return to the settlements.
Sunday, 20th—Marched twelve miles.
21st—Fifteen.
22nd—This day met a reinforcement with a small supply of provisions.
23rd—Marched to within twelve miles of Greenville, and met another detachment with more supplies.
24th—To Greenville.
25th—Remained till noon, and marched seven miles.
26th—To New Lexington.
27—To Dayton, and remained till January 4th, 1813; this day marched ten miles.
Jan. 5th, 1813—To Springfield.
6th—To Markle's.
7th—To Darby.
8th—To Franklinton, and remained till the third of February; then crossed the river to Columbus.

4th—To Worthington.

5th—To Delaware; N. M. Matthews joined the company.

6th—Seven miles.

Sunday, 7th—To Scioto Block House.

8th—To Upper Sandusky, and joined the command of Colonel Campbell.

9th—Nine miles.

10th—Marched as usual, but were detained the greater part of the day by a false alarm; made four miles.

11th—To the Artillery Block House.

12th—To within one mile of Hulls' road.

13th—Four miles and the road almost impassable.

Sunday, 14th—Remained, prepared sleds, cars and procured forage.

15th—Road improved by severe frost, and reached Block House swamp.

16th—To within four miles of Camp Meigs, and encamped on the bluff of Miami river.

18th—Into Camp Meigs Headquarters, situated at the Miami Rapids.

March 5th—Marched to Presque Isle, eighteen miles, to reinforce a detachment sent to burn the Queen Charlotte, one of the enemy's vessels, supposed to be frozen up, and met the detachment, returned, having been unsuccessful; returned ten miles to Swan Creek.

6th—Returned to camp.

April 26th—Siege of Fort Meigs, commenced by the enemy, who were employed in erecting batteries till the first of May, when they commenced cannonading, which they continued till the 5th, when a reinforcement, consisting of United States volunteers, arrived under the command of General Greene, and we were ordered out to cover their entry into the garrison, which was effected with some loss to the Kentucky troops.

The same day the United States volunteers, and several other companies of the 17th and 18th Regiments made a general sortie, under command of Colonel John Miller, which resulted in the capture of about forty-two of the enemy,

and the routing of their Indian allies, with a considerable loss of American troops killed and wounded. The Pittsburgh Blues had two killed, James Newman and Mr. Richardson; five wounded, Willock, Ross, Williams, Dobbins and Wahrendorff. The attack was made on the enemy's battery, on the opposite side of the river, at the same time by General Clay's Kentucky militia, commanded by Captain Dudley, which terminated in a complete routing and capturing of that detachment, and death of the commanding officer. The enemy was quiet and on the tenth the siege was declared to be raised.

May 11th—Major Ball's squadron moved off, and General Harrison left for the settlement.

June 20th—Received information of an intended attack by the arrival of a Kentuckian and Canadian from the enemy's quarters. Expresses were despatched and preparations made for the reception of the enemy. Shortly afterwards Colonel Johnson's regiment of Kentucky mounted men arrived, and immediately thereafter General Harrison arrived with a detachment of the 24th infantry, commanded by Colonel Anderson, and preparations for the defence of the fort were continued. General Harrison left the camp again; Generals Greene and Clay in command.

July 18—Captain Butler returned to the company (having been absent to improve his health).

July 21st—The picket guard was attacked by the Indians, and several men were killed and captured. Lieutenant ----- arrived in camp from Portage River Block House with nine men, pursued on his way by the Indians.

22nd—The enemy quiet.

23rd—An express arrived; the camp was alarmed by the firing of small arms, being a stratagem of the Indians (representing the fighting of two bodies of men at a distance, and approaching the garrison), which was intended to draw out a portion of the American troops in the fort.

26th and 27th—All quiet.

- 28th—The enemy descended the river.
30th—A reconnoitering party was detached, who reported that the enemy had retired, and the seige raised.
August 18th—The Pittsburgh Blues received orders to march to Camp Seneca.
20th—Marched to Portage river.
21st—To Camp Seneca.
28th—To Fort Stevenson at Lower Sandusky.
30th—Marched for Cleveland, and arrived at Vermillion River.
September 1st—Arrived at Cleveland.
3rd—Started for Beaver, arrived on the 7th, stayed the 8th.
9th—Marched to Davis' tavern, four miles from Pittsburgh.
10th—Arrived at Pittsburgh. Having completed a twelve months' tour, were discharged.

General Harrison in general orders dated "Headquarters, Seneca Town, Aug. 28, 1813," added the following:

"The Pittsburgh Blues, commanded by Captain Butler, and those of Greensburg, by Lieutenant Drum, of Major Alexander's battalion, having performed their services, the General hereby presents them an Honorable discharge.

"The General has ever considered this corps as the first in the Northwestern Army. Equal in point of bravery and subordination, it excelled in every other of those attainments which form complete and efficient soldiers. In battle, in camp, and on the march, their conduct has done honor to themselves and their country."

August 30th the Blues started on their march home by way of Cleveland, arriving there on September 1st. They reached Beaver on the 7th of Sept. and remained there until the 8th, reaching Davis' Tavern, four miles from Pittsburgh, on the 9th.

This gentlemanly and well organized body of soldiers, whose valor was fully and satisfactorily attested on the battlefields of Meigs and Mississineway, received the earnest commendations of the commander-in-chief. They were the first military organization in the county of Allegheny, were composed of the best material, and made up of members of the best families in the city and county.

On Friday, Sept. 10, the Blues returned home. They were hailed with unusual demonstrations of joy and re-

spect by the citizens of Pittsburgh.

When crossing the Allegheny River they were saluted by a discharge of artillery from Fort Fayette, and on landing were received by the troops of the garrison and escorted to the public square. The number of citizens assembled to welcome them was immense.

On Sept. 13 a dinner was given by the citizens of Pittsburgh, expressive of their joy and satisfaction over the return of the Blues to their families and friends. Immediately before the company sat down to dinner Henry Baldwin, Esquire, addressed them in a very animated and handsome manner.

On Sept. 9 Lieut. Drum's Greensburg Rifles passed through Pittsburgh on their march homeward.

A public dinner was given in Greensburg to Capt. Markle, of the Westmoreland Troop, on his return Jan. 22, 1813. Among the toasts were those given to Capt. Butler and the Pittsburgh Blues—"An honor to their country." Captain Alexander and the Greensburg Volunteers—"They have done their duty;" Captain Markle and his Westmoreland Troop—"They have distinguished themselves."

The Northwestern country having been conquered by General Harrison, followed by Commodore Perry's victory on Lake Erie, attention was drawn to the war activities about Chesapeake Bay. A second company of Pittsburgh Blues (sometimes called The Pittsburgh Light Infantry) was formed in 1814 with James Irwin as captain. He had served as lieutenant in the Pittsburgh Blues under Captain Butler in the Northwestern Army campaign. They started on Sunday, Nov. 20, 1814, the march to Baltimore and were well on the road when they were recalled by order of the Governor. They were met by messenger at Somerset, Pa. The company consisted of upwards of 70 young Pittsburghers. They volunteered their services to the government. The Capital at Washington was destroyed by the British on August 24, 1814.

A Treaty of Peace was signed at Ghent Dec. 24, 1814, and ratified by U. S. Senate Feb. 17, 1815.

From the *Pittsburgh Mercury* May 2, 1815—"The Pittsburgh Blues, lately commanded by Capt. Jas. Irwin, will parade on Monday, the 8th day of May next, at 9 o'clock, on

the commons, near the Chapel, for the purpose of being mustered and inspected and receiving their pay. By order of the Captain, Charles F. Bracken, Orderly Sergeant."

On Sept. 1, 1817, Captain Irwin ordered out his company at 3 P. M. on the commons near the Chapel for drill in complete uniform.

Sept. 5th, 1817, President Monroe spent one week in Pittsburgh. He was escorted by Captin Irwin's Light Infantry Company. Captain Irwin died January 8, 1818.

General Harrison attended a splendid dinner given in his honor by the citizens of Petersburg, Va., on the 19th of March, 1817. To the toast of "Fort Meigs, a Watch Tower in the Wilderness, Defended by Valiant Spirits, Second Only to Their Gallant Commander." General Harrison responded and wound up his address by the following: "To the commander the merit of the defence of Fort Meigs must be greatly lessened when it is recollected that the lines were defended by troops from Ohio and Kentucky and the troops composed of the Pittsburgh Blues, Greensburg Rifles and Petersburg Volunteers."

The Fourth of July, 1817, was celebrated by the Pittsburgh Blues, Captain Neville Morgan—(Captain Morgan was a partner of Jno. I. Scull, publisher of the *Gazette*)—the Pittsburgh Fencibles, Captain J. Hall, and the Washington Guards, Captain E. Ensell, by a joint parade. The Fencibles embarked on a boat, and at a banquet toasted, among others, "Captain James R. Butler, the Hero of Mississineway." The Blues held their dinner on the bank of the Monongahela River. After Dr. Joel Lewis had read the Declaration of Independence, Captain Jas. R. Butler delivered a well-composed, appropriate and neat address, which was received with unbounded applause. Among the toasts given were: By Lieutenant Elijah Trevillo, "The Memory of Jas. Irwin, late captain of the Pittsburgh Blues." By Corporal Pratt, "Captain Matthew Magee, of the U. S. Army; whilst his Training is Acknowledged in the Field, may his Pre-eminence as a Tactician be duly Appreciated." By the Hon. Henry Baldwin, "Captain James R. Butler."

The 4th July, 1819—Celebrated by parade of City Blues, Captain Morgan Neville. At dawn salute 13 rounds were fired from Grant's Hill. At 10 A. M. they were joined

by the City Fencibles, Captain Hall and the Washington Guards of Birmingham, Captain E. Ensell. The Companies marched through Pittsburgh streets, changing front occasionally and separated for their respective places selected for dinner. The Blues heard Dr. Joel Lewis read the Declaration of Independence. Toasts were given by Lieut. E. Trovillo, "The memory of the late Captain Irwin." By Corporal Pratt — "Captain Magee of the U. S. Army."

On November 1, 1819, the stockholders and workmen, together with a number of citizens, assembled on the New Allegheny Bridge to celebrate its completion. Among the invited guests were the Pittsburgh Blues. A dinner was served on tables several hundred feet long. The toasts were answered by the Pittsburgh Blues with volleys.

Commander Barney, of the U. S. Navy, died in Pittsburgh December 1, 1819, and was buried with military and masonic honors. Attending were regular troops from the U. S. Arsenal and the City Guards, under Captain Trovillo, formerly First Sergeant of the Pittsburgh Blues. Commodore Barney commanded the Seaman Marines at the defense of Washington and was made a prisoner by the British. He entered the Naval Service in 1775 and served during the whole of the Revolutionary War. He was born in Baltimore in 1759.

During the year 1820 the uniformed militia companies in Pittsburgh were formed into a battalion and called the "Pittsburgh Volunteer Battalion." Their first parade was made September 12, 1821, under the command of Major Anderson.

About the time the Jackson Independent Blues were organized, in part from the membership of the Pittsburgh Blues, and was recognized as a twin company, the title "Independent Blues" being the name brought back from the 1812-13 service, by reason of their having served in the so-called Independent Battalion, commanded by Major Alexander of Greensburg, Pa., in the Army of General Harrison.

Washington's birthday was celebrated February 22nd, 1821, by a parade of the Pittsburgh Volunteer Battalion.

On May 15th, 1822, the same battalion paraded and acted as escort to the city officials, clergy, faculty and students of the Western University of Pennsylvania and at-

tended the installation at the First Presbyterian Church, of the Rev. Robert Bruce as Principal of the University. The Jackson Blues were a part of the battalion.

Independence Day, July 4th, 1822, was celebrated as usual in Pittsburgh. The Jackson Independent Blues held a banquet at Sawmill Run. Captain Savory presided. Lieutenant Denny read the Declaration of Independence.

May 23, 1823—Major Nathaniel Patterson, then Brigade Inspector, ordered an election between the hours of 10 A. M. and 6 P. M. for a successor to Captain Savory of the Jackson Independent Blues, who had resigned. Lieutenant Denny was elected Captain.

Anniversary of Jackson's Victory at New Orleans was celebrated January 8th, 1824, with much enthusiasm. At 9:30 A. M. the companies of the first battalion of Pittsburgh Volunteers assembled under arms. The City Blues, Captain Beard, the City Guards, Captain Trovillo, and the Jackson Independent Blues, Captain Denny, formed together and marched to Grant's Hill where a salute was fired in honor of the day. After performing a number of evolutions they were joined by the Pittsburgh Greens, Captain Biddle, and all proceeded to the First Presbyterian Church. Prayer was offered by Rev. Herron. Music by the Allegheny Musical Society and an eloquent address was delivered by Algernon Sidney T. Mountain, Esq. The Jackson Blues, accompanied by a number of citizens and led by the Union Band, proceeded to Col. Ramsey's Hotel and partook of a banquet. The room was handsomely decorated. Washington's portrait was placed at the head of the table and Jackson's at the foot. About 200 gentlemen sat down to dinner. After the cloth was removed, Capt. Denny in the chair, assisted by Capt. Trovillo, toasts were drunk, accompanied by appropriate music. Among the toasts was one to the Jackson Independent Blues.

In 1825 General Lafayette and family visited Pittsburgh. He was given the freedom of the city and held a reception for the Revolutionary Veterans. He paid a visit to the arsenal and various manufacturing establishments. The school children visited the General and family. A public dinner and grand ball were a part of the entertainment. On the morning of the third day after his arrival

Lafayette departed for Erie, being escorted out of town by the Light Dragoons and a battalion of Pittsburgh Volunteers, among them being the Independent Blues.

The 50th Anniversary of American Independence was generally celebrated in Pittsburgh on July 4, 1826, and the usual salute was fired. The Pittsburgh Light Artillery Company, under the command of Capt. Jas. R. Butler, celebrated on the Allegheny side of the river. The company and invited guests partook of an elegant dinner, prepared by Mr. E. G. Nelson and served up in his gardens in very handsome style. Capt. Butler acted as President of the day, Col. Wm. Wilkins, Vice President, Geo. Darsie and Ed. D. Gazzam, Secretaries. After dinner toasts were drunk, including the following: By Lieut. Hanson—"The Old Pittsburgh Blues. May their patriotism and valor descend to their children." By Capt. Jas. R. Butler—"The memory of Major Mathew Magee." By Capt. E. F. Pratt—"The memory of our late fellow citizen and soldier, Sergeant James Newman."

Military meeting of the "Pittsburgh Volunteers Legion" held July 5, 1826, at the house of Geo. Beale. Capt. Jas. R. Butler called to the chair, Lt. A. S. T. Mountain, Sec. Resolutions adopted to invite the respective Volunteers Corps of Washington, Green, Westmoreland, Fayette, Armstrong, Butler, Beaver and Allegheny Counties to join in a parade in Pittsburgh at a date to be arranged later. Committee on invitation—Messrs. Butler, Burke and Mountain.

Thos. Jefferson and Jno. Adams' death on July 4th was the cause of a meeting in their honor by the citizens of Pittsburgh on July 25th, 1826, to demonstrate their regard for the memories of these distinguished men. The national flag waved at half mast on Grant's Hill, guarded by a detachment of Pittsburgh Volunteer Legion and Revolutionary soldiers. Capt. Butler's Company of Light Artillery fired 13 minute guns at daybreak, noon and evening, and one gun every half hour during the day.

A general parade was made the occasion on August 23, 1826, of a camp on the Allegheny Commons. Three companies from Westmoreland, three companies from Washington County and one other, Capt. Alexander's Westmoreland Artillery also attended, besides the Pittsburgh Volunteer Legion, composed of a battalion of Pittsburgh Com-

panies. They were reviewed by Maj. Gen. Markle, commander of the 15th Division of Pennsylvania Militia. The camp lasted three days.

A grand military parade was held in Washington, Pa., on June 20th and 21st, 1827. Nineteen Companies attended from several counties. From Allegheny County, the Pittsburgh Legion, consisting of the Pittsburgh Light Dragoons, Pittsburgh Light Artillery, Jackson Independent Blues, City Blues, City Guards and City Greens attended. In all, upwards of 1,000 men were present. Harmony and good order prevailed, no accident to mar the pleasure of the visit.

Pittsburgh celebrated Jackson's Victory on January 8th, 1828, by a banquet. Among the toast was one by Maj. Trovillo. "The Memory of Sergeant James Newman of the Pittsburgh Blues, Who Fell in the Late War."

From *The Pittsburgh Mercury*, April 22, 1828:

(Advertisement.)

CAMPING ORDERS.

The Jackson Independent Blues will parade on Friday, May 2, 1828, at five o'clock precisely, completely armed and equipped, provided with knapsacks, blankets and rations for one day, three rounds of cartridges will be furnished each man on the ground.

By order,

J. J. CARPENTER,

Orderly Sergeant.

April 22, 1828.

On Oct. 26th, 1829, Major E. Trovillo ordered an election to be held by the Jackson Independent Blues for one captain, vice-Savory resigned, and one first and one second lieutenant, vice J. Huey and J. J. Carpenter, resigned. The hours of election were from 10 A. M. to 6 P. M.

1830 Major Trovilla was elected colonel of the First Battalion of Pittsburgh Volunteers.

During the month of February, 1830, Captain James R. Butler resigned as captain of the Pittsburgh Light Artillery.

At a special meeting of the old Pittsburgh Blues (Veterans) held Oct. 29th, 1833, it was resolved: That as a mark of respect to the memory of our late friend and fellow

soldier, Charles Pentland, late of Pittsburgh, the members wear crepe on the left arm for 30 days.

E. TROVILLO, JAMES R. BUTLER,
Secretary. Chairman.

During the Mexican War, 1846-1848, there were two companies of Blues in the service, that of Captain Alex. Hays, of the Jackson Independant Blues, and that of Captain Thomas A. Rowley's Company H, Volunteers, all from Pittsburgh. Rowley had been in Mexico as a lieutenant in the Blues. After a year's service he was sent home to recruit the second company, and became captain of the same.

Some of the men of these two companies of Mexican War Service organized on January 8, 1855, as a twin company to the Blues, and called it the Pittsburgh Washington Infantry, who in the Civil War recruited to a regiment called the Thirteenth Pennsylvania Infantry in the three months service, and re-enlisting as a regiment were called the One Hundred and Second Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers.

After the Civil war they reorganized the Washington Infantry as a single company. Rowley, who became a Major General in active service, was again made captain. In the world war the Washington Infantry men had to enlist individually, having 120 men in service.

This organization still continues as an active independent Company and is recognized as the successor of the Pittsburgh Light Infantry Company, which was in existence as a uniformed and equipped company in 1794, and from which sprang the Pittsburgh Blues, who served in the war of 1812, and were in turn succeeded by the Jackson Independent Blues in the Mexican War.

(To be continued)