

## McCulloch's Fight at Ashwood Landing, and Battle at Milliken's Bend.

After the evacuation of Alexandria, the Western Army was concentrated in that vicinity. On the 28th of May Gen. Walker's Division received orders to march. McCulloch's brigade left late in the evening and traveled till midnight. Early in the morning of the 29th, they arrived at St. Croix's Landing, on Little River, 25 miles from Alexandria. Here they found transports awaiting them. The boats were loaded and the troops embarked by 3 o'clock, p. m.—McCulloch and staff, with Waterhouse's Regiment, on the "Louis D'Or," Fitzhugh's on the "Vigo," Allen's and Edgar's Battery on the "Dr. Batey," and Flournoy's on the "Eleanor." Boats were in waiting to transport the remainder of the Division.—Passing down Little River one of Edgar's Battery fell overboard and was drowned. We passed through Chatahoula Lake to the mouth of Little River—thence down the Ouachita and up the Tensas. Our progress hitherto had been cheered by the grateful planters who thronged the river side by night and day to welcome the gallant strangers who had left their homes in sunny Texas to redeem by their blood the suffering citizens of Louisiana from the bondage of the foe. Up the Tensas, however, was one vast field of desolation; plantations laid waste and homes deserted. The river was choked with cotton which the patriotic planters had trusted to its waters rather than the greedy avarice of the foe. The transports continued to move up the bayou until further navigation was impossible. The limbs and branches raked the boats from stem to stern. The wheel-houses were stripped of their roofs and the guards broken. As we were momentarily expecting to be fired on, sharpshooters were placed with loaded guns on the hurricane decks, and one of the "guns" mounted on the prow of the "Batey." The transports were landed in the evening to take on board a citizen that was fleeing from one of the Federals and several armed negroes. Gen. McCulloch and other mounted officers gave chase, and after a hot pursuit of six miles, captured them all together with several loaded wagons, not far from the Federal camps.—The brigade was landed and ordered to cook three day's rations and be prepared to move by midnight. Several mounted men being sent out were fired upon by the enemy's pickets. The men were up till 12. The brigade moved at half past one and marched till day, when their progress was impeded by a bayou, which had to be bridged. This was done in two hours by rolling cotton bales in the bayou and covering them with plank from a neighboring gin-house. About ten o'clock the blankets were laid aside, our banners unfurled and we were marched to meet the foe. The enemy were still in camps that morning, our lack of cavalry alone prevented us from capturing their whole force. As it was however they had ample time to retreat to their transports under protection of their gunboats. We found them at Ashwood's Landing on a little off-shoot of the Mississippi. A gunboat and transport were in view while the rising smoke revealed the presence of other gunboats. Two pieces of Edgar's Battery protected by Waterhouse's Regiment immediately opened on the transport with shot and shell, and was replied to by two heavy guns from the gunboats. A company of Flournoy's regiment deployed on the right were fired upon by the Federal skirmishers, and one man wounded. The balance of the brigade were drawn up under a levee.—Near a hundred shot and shell were fired upon the enemy by our battery. Capt. Smith of McCulloch's staff, was killed by a piece of shell.

When the firing ceased Co. "A," of Allen's regiment, was deployed as skirmishers to the left. They scoured the woods up to the gunboats. The brigade was drawn up in line of battle to charge when orders came from Gen. Walker to cease firing. Not being able to effect any thing further the brigade returned to its former camp, thus marching nearly forty miles in twenty hours, four hours of which time they were engaged with gunboats. This affair occurred on Sunday, the 31st of May.

The enemy admit a loss of 18 killed on the transport. Our loss was one man killed, one wounded and one missing. The next morning we crossed the Tensas and lay over a day. A great many sick were sent back from this place. The 2nd of June the Division moved up the Tensas, between it and bayou Mason until opposite Delhi. Here more sick were left. The Tensas was then bridged and the Division passed over. Co. "I" of Allen's regiment was left as guards. About 11 o'clock, a. m., of the 6th, we arrived at Richmond.—The same day of our arrival, Harrison's Battalion of Louisiana cavalry which had joined us engaged the Federal cavalry, killing about 10, and bringing in 24 prisoners, with a loss of only one man. The troops were employed in cooking rations till evening. A bridge having

been built by dark the Division passed over the bayou and moved on to attack the enemy. Another guard was left here. The plan of attack was for McCulloch's brigade to assault the enemy's fortifications at Milliken's Bend, Haas to attack them at Young's Point, and Randall to remain at the forks of the road and act as reserve for either or both. Gen. McCulloch's forces marched all night. Left one or two companies at another bridge. Two companies were thrown out in front under Major Allen as skirmishers. Just before day the Federal pickets fired on us. Ours returned the fire and drove them in. The several regiments by companies right half wheeled and moved forward in column, Flournoy in front, Waterhouse 2nd, Allen 3rd, and Fitzhugh last. The brigade was then thrown into line of battle and moved forward, through an old field crossed and intersected by almost impenetrable bois-darc hedges and ditches, from behind each of which the enemy's skirmishers fired on us. Cols. Flournoy's and Waterhouse's regiments returned them. Thus the line of battle had been continually broken and formed again. Finally we came upon the enemy. The Mississippi makes a semi-circle in the bend, of which the Federals were strongly fortified.—The day was just dawning and through the faint light we were able to see the position of the enemy. Running transversely across the bend not a hundred paces in front of our line was another internal hedge, impenetrable except through gaps here and there, immediately beyond a ditch. 10 paces further another ditch, then a high levee that over-reached the hedge from the top of which they could fire over the hedge upon our men. Behind this levee their heads and leveled muskets only visible, stretched for a quarter or half a mile the Federal lines. From this levee it averaged from a hundred to two hundred paces to the river. On the inside of it was another ditch, and between it and the river were rifle pits, breastworks, cotton bales and every other defensive protection. Here was also the Federal tents next to the river right under the shadow of the gunboat was a beach protected by a high bluff. The black gunboats and transports lay circling the entrenchments.—Behind these entrenchments and under such protection lay 1500 Federal sharpshooters and 3000 armed negroes. There was not a man over 1100 men in McCulloch's whole brigade, so many had been left sick, while a half a dozen companies were guarding bridges and acting as reserve skirmishers. And yet they marched on fearlessly their bosoms bared to the tempest. The fatigue of a whole night's march was forgotten, in the excitement of the moment. In onimous silence they moved bravely on, not a word was spoken! Not a sound could be heard but the repressed breathing and regular tread of armed men. We saw their guns cover us. Many cheeks paled but not with fear—the flashing eye and teeth set hard proclaimed the sullen determination of the little band. We could see that Col. Flournoy's regiment extended too far to the right, that Waterhouse was opposed only by negroes, that on Allen and Fitzhugh fell the brunt of the battle. Suddenly the command "Fire!" was given by the enemy. It was done by file. A bright sheet of flame ran blazing along the whole length of their line, a cloud of smoke rolled up the rattling crash of several thousand rifles and muskets rang forth in one continuous volley. Then you might have heard the Texans. With deafening cheers they dashed madly forward, to the hedge, some leaped and tumbled over, some crawled under, others dashed rapidly through the gaps and openings, some halted behind the hedge and returned the enemy's fire, others stopped in the ditch, while a few that had succeeded in getting through first rushed on to the levee and muzzle to muzzle fixed their pieces among the foe. All the while they were defiling through this hedge and over the ditches the enemy poured a galling fire among them from the levee, a distance of 10 paces. But still they cheered and charged, and at last one loud, long, exultant hurra proclaimed the victory, and in 10 minutes from the firing of the first gun the breastworks were ours, and the scattered remnants of the foe were quailing on the beach under the shadow of their black gunboat.

Taking possession of a cross levee they endeavored to flank us. Again Allen's and Fitzhugh's charged and drove them behind their cotton bales. We would have driven them into the river had not the order been countermanded. Their transports moved right and left as if they would land troops and flank us. The gunboats got the range of the levee and commenced shelling us, and kept it up all day. Our boys lay on the levee and picked them off till evening. Every officer and man fought bravely, except a craven few that faltered in the hour of trial. Gen. McCulloch was everywhere cheering them on. Col. Flournoy not only commanded his own men but led that part of Allen's and Fitzhugh's that stormed the last breastwork. His regiment, unfortunately, from an apprehension that they were

flanking us, was too far to the right to be in the bloodiest of the fight. Lieut. Col. Shepherd distinguished himself. Col. Waterhouse and regiment acted very bravely and gallantly, but like Flournoy's, were too far to the right. Col. Allen leaped over the breastworks and was wounded twice. He still however led his men. Col. Jones fought like a tiger.—Lieut. Col. Gregg and Major Diamond, of Fitzhugh's regiment were both wounded. The latter still kept the field; his horse was also shot. As for the company officers and privates they fought together like a band of brothers, fought as only Texans can fight.—The reason why individual acts of heroism are not cited to among them is, because they were too numerous to mention. Many a deluded slave paid with his life the sad penalty of his crime. Federals and negroes lay piled together in heaps. They lay behind the hedge, in the ditches, rifle pits and tents. Some in endeavoring to reach the gunboats by swimming were drowned. We have heard various reports from the Federals and escaped negroes and divers estimates from our own men about their loss. From the best information that we get of both sources their loss must have been about 1500 killed, wounded and missing and drowned. A whole company of negroes, with their Federal Captain, surrendered. They were out on picket, and decoyed into our lines. As transports and gunboats kept arriving, we collected our wounded and left the battle field, returning to our old camp at Richmond. The enemy all the while were shelling our ambulances and hospital. Our loss was 44 killed on the field, (several have died since,) and 140 wounded. Out of this number Allen's regiment lost 23 killed and 74 wounded, and Fitzhugh's 19 killed and about 50 wounded. The reason of the great disparity of loss in the several regiments is accounted for from the fact that the main body of the enemy were immediately in front of Allen's and Fitzhugh's regiments. No charge, Gaines' Mill not excepted, was accomplished against greater odds and under more disadvantageous circumstances.

### LIST OF CASUALTIES IN THE 17TH TEXAS INFANTRY IN THE ACTION AT MILLIKEN'S BEND ON THE 7TH OF JUNE, 1863.

Field and Staff Officers—None killed, Col. R. T. P. Allen, wounded in two places slightly, Sergeant-Major Stith, mortally wounded.  
Co. A, J. E. Martin, Capt. Com. Killed—Serg't T. J. Ridgeway, Corp'l Jas. F. Moore, Private A. D. Pillow.  
Wounded seriously—Serg't Jas. N. Parks, Private A. G. Wood, (since died), A. J. Allbright, E. M. Ellis, slightly; J. C. Crunk, Tom. Arendale, L. J. Calote, J. L. Newcombe, A. B. Fine, R. H. Brown, (thigh broken and missing).  
Co. B., J. L. Miller, Capt. Com., (Co. out as reserve picket.) Killed—Private W. E. Stone. Wounded—Serg't J. H. Smith, Privates Wm. Harrison and A. J. Kirby.  
Co. C., T. H. Gatl'n, Capt. Com. Killed—Corp'l B. C. Rogers.  
Wounded—Wm. Bounds, A. Bounds, J. S. Blount, F. M. Blount, S. W. Slaughter, A. J. Oliver, A. Huskille, D. T. Beaty, J. McLean, (Corp'l).  
Co. D., Lieut. A. J. Ridge, Com. Killed—Corp'l Ed. Mahoney, Color-Corp'l B. F. Blackwell, Privates B. A. Allen, Isaac Bounds, N. C. Potter.  
Wounded—Lieuts. Boyce and Denson, Privates W. J. Dickerson, A. P. Baze, T. M. Bostick, A. J. McNitte, G. W. Flesher, W. S. Pearson, Davis Payn, L. D. Nichols, G. W. Robbins, F. C. Stewart, T. C. Chadoin, D. B. Arendale.  
Co. E., Seth Mabry, Capt. Com. Killed—Private A. Alvis.  
Wounded—Lieut. G. W. Miller, Corp'l F. P. Epperson, Private J. R. Kennedy, (missing), J. E. Oatman, D. E. Luce, R. Hinyard, W. C. Smith, R. A. Tate.  
Co. F., E. V. Petty, Capt. Com. Killed—Lieut. Thos. J. Beavers, Private L. Harris.  
Wounded—Capt. E. V. Petty, Serg't O. S. Coulson, Corp'l J. W. Ogden (since died), Privates Jasper Rowlets, C. F. Dabny, A. P. Castlebury.  
Missing—J. Hendrick and A. Mattrias.  
Co. G., Capt. D. V. Grant. Killed—Corp'l M. Laman, G. W. Tedford.  
Wounded—Hugh Casey, S. M. Stewart, Wm. E. Hardy.  
Co. H., Lieut. Sabbath, Com. Co. Killed—O. Serg't Rudolph Isle, Private Joseph Kitterman.  
Wounded—Corp'l Wm. Shubert, Private Henry Ttetzen, Peter Pundt.  
Co. I., Capt. S. J. McDowell. Killed—Privates Wm. Stone, M. C. May, J. R. Jeffry, E. L. Kirksey, C. D. Bishop, J. R. S. Bishop.  
Wounded—Capt. McDonell, Serg't C. C. Malone, Corp'l H. Dillard, T. D. Wilson, J. W. White, J. W. Hewitt, L. Bernard, A. Moody, J. B. West, W. Haynes, J. R. Lynch.  
(Signed.) CO. "A."  
Allen's Reg't. 17th Tex. Vol. Inf.