

## Paul Kishbaugh 1864 Civil War Service Timeline

Paul Kishbaugh served his entire service with the Union Army of the Potomac, II Corps, Company "G" of the 81<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry (PVI) Regiment.

Paul signed up on February 25<sup>th</sup> 1864 in in East Maunch Chunk (present day Jim Thorpe), Carbon County, Pennsylvania. He later mustered into service on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1864 as a private within Company G, under the command of John Patton of the 81<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry (PVI) Regiment.

At the time of Paul's enrollment, the 81<sup>st</sup> regiment was assigned to the Union Army of the Potomac, II Corp, First Division, under the command of Brigadier general Francis C. Barlow, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade under the command of Colonel Nelson A. Miles.

The II Corp were camped near Stevensburg in Culpeper County, Virginia, where they were preparing for the new spring campaign, and the bloodiest 30 days of the civil war. <sup>1</sup>

The Overland Campaign, also known as Grant's Overland Campaign and the Wilderness Campaign, were a series of battles fought in Virginia during May and June 1864. Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, general-in-chief of all Union armies, directed the actions of the Army of the Potomac, commanded by Maj. Gen. George G. Meade, and other forces.

- The Campaign lasted from May 4<sup>th</sup> to June 12<sup>th</sup> 1864; May 4<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> where the Battles of the Wilderness; May 8<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> was Corbin's Bridge and Spotsylvania, Po River, Assault on the Salient, and Spotsylvania Court House.

Through the month of March 1864, Paul would have received his training while proceeding toward Stevensburg in Culpeper County, Virginia. There, Paul continued his training, and joined the full 81<sup>st</sup> regiment within the II Corp while they continued their skirmishes against the Confederate forces, and prepared for Grant's orders to cross the Rapidan River, setting off the Battle of the Wilderness.

The full Overland campaign had an auspicious start near midnight on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1864. The encampment at Stevensburg was broken, and the Army of the Potomac moved through the darkness toward the Rapidan River. The V and VI Corps traveled eight miles south of Stevensburg, and crossed the Rapidan at Germanna Ford, while II Corps, along with Paul's 81<sup>st</sup> regiment, crossed the Rapidan 14 miles south of Stevenburg at the Ely Ford.

Both the V and VI Corps were attempting to distract the confederate forces' attention from a planned Union cavalry-infantry raid up the Peninsula on Richmond Virginia. General Lee decided it would be to his advantage to strike the Union army while it was still in a more open setting.

On May 5<sup>th</sup> 1864 the Army of the Potomac, while moving out of the wilderness, the Confederates struck along two parallel east-west roads. The II Corps, and Paul's 81<sup>st</sup> regiment, were leading the Union march, and leaving the Wilderness, had to be recalled.

The march of the Union Army was then resumed towards Spottsylvania; but upon its arrival at the Po River, it was found that the rebels had reached it in advance, and was already in a strong position.

On the morning of May 12<sup>th</sup> 1864, the II Corps assaulted the enemy's works, and carried two lines, capturing a large number of prisoners, guns, and small arms. The fighting was at close quarters and very desperate

According to Paul's civil war pension, Charles Holtz, a resident of Mauch Chunk, described the 81<sup>st</sup> regiment's May 12<sup>th</sup> position, and Paul's status during this time. <sup>2</sup> Company G was commanded by John Patton.

- "...That he (Paul) was a member of the 81<sup>st</sup> Regt Penn Vols and was well acquainted with Paul Kishbaugh before his enlistment....and in the line of duty during the battle of the Wilderness between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of May said Kishbaugh became very ill from chronic diarrhea, and was taken to the Field Hospital, afterwards removed to the rear for the purpose to be sent to some general Hospital. That after the Battle of Coal Harbor sometime in May this Respondent (Charles Holtz) was a soldier and member of the same corps and one of the ambulance drivers with whom he had some slight acquaintance but whose name he has forgotten who informed me that he had buried a man by the name of Paul Kishbauch. That he knew his name from the fact of it having been printed on his arm in... That he knew his name from the fact of it having been printed on his arm in...?...and at who...?...handed this Respondent a...?... which he immediately recognized as the portrait of Paul Kishbaugh and several letters which were afterwards sent to Mrs. Kishbaugh. That ...?...that Kishbauch had died while being conveyed in ambulance between Wilderness and Port Royal and was buried about four miles from Port Royal... He further swears that he has no interest in this claim nor has any knowledge of who the whereabouts of the above-mentioned Driver..." <sup>3</sup>

According to Paul's civil war pension, Nathan F. Marsh, described Paul's status during May 1864. <sup>4</sup>

- "...declares that he (Nathan F. Marsh ) was late Captain of Co "I" of the 81<sup>st</sup> Regiment Penns Vols, and was well acquainted with Paul Kishbaugh a private of Co "G", afterwards "I" of said regiment...has personal knowledge the fact that the said Paul sometime during the first part of May... contracted the chronic diarrhea by reason of which he was removed to Field Hospital ...and has every reason to believe died while in an ambulance train between the Wilderness and Port Royal in May 1864..." <sup>5</sup>

The field hospital was located at Camp California, <sup>6</sup> at or near Spotsylvania Court House. Paul died June 16<sup>th</sup> 1864 <sup>7</sup> near Hanover, Hanover County, Virginia, <sup>8</sup> while being transported on an ambulance train from the Wilderness of Spotsylvania to Port Royal, Caroline County, Virginia. Port Royal sat on the Potomac River in Virginia, where soldiers would be transferred to a hospital in Washington DC.

- It is unclear if Paul's body was later removed, and where he was laid to rest. His name does appear on the family headstone, with his wife, in section lot 248 of the Union Cemetery, Weatherly, Carbon County, Pennsylvania. FAG#: 27667929

Paul's civil war pension affidavit by Charles Hontz said Paul was buried four miles from Port Royal, presumably coming from the Wilderness. Then there's the headstone of Paul and Mary Kishbaugh at the Union Cemetery, Weatherly Carbon County, Pennsylvania. This is another interesting part of the research, where does Paul lay at rest? Also, in the Charles Hontz affidavit, it was mentioned that there was a portrait of Paul Kishbaugh. It would be nice to find that piece of photo history.

As Paul was in transit by ambulance to Port Royal, his 81<sup>st</sup> regiment were engaged in an attempt to control the strategic but lightly defended railroad center of Petersburg, south of Richmond. The II Corps, along with the 81<sup>st</sup> Regiment, arrived near the city of Richmond on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Unwarranted delays and half-hearted advances ended any hope of an easy capture. Confederate reinforcements soon filled the city, and the major Union assault on June 17<sup>th</sup> was unsuccessful.

## Battle of the Wilderness May 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 1864

The opening battle of Grant's sustained offensive against the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, known as the Overland Campaign, began in a dense woodland thicket called The Wilderness.

On the morning of May 5<sup>th</sup> 1864, the Union V Corps, under Maj. Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren, attacked Richard S. Ewell's Corps on the Orange Turnpike. Meanwhile, during the afternoon, A.P. Hill's Corps encountered Federals of Getty's Division of the Union VI Corps and Hancock's II Corps on the Plank Road.

Fighting was fierce but inconclusive as both sides attempted to maneuver in the dense woods. Darkness halted the fighting, and both sides rushed forward reinforcements. At dawn on May 6<sup>th</sup> Hancock attacked along the Plank Road, driving Hill's Corps back in confusion. Longstreet's Corps arrived in time to prevent the collapse of the Confederate right flank.

At noon on May 6<sup>th</sup> a devastating Confederate flank attack in Hamilton's Thicket sputtered out when Lt. Gen. James Longstreet was wounded by his own men. The IX Corps (Burnside) moved against the Confederate center, but was repulsed. Union generals James S. Wadsworth and Alexander Hays were killed. Confederate generals John M. Jones, Micah Jenkins, and Leroy A. Stafford were killed. The battle was a tactical draw. Grant, however, did not retreat as had the other Union generals before him.

On May 7<sup>th</sup> the Federals advanced by the left flank toward the crossroads of Spotsylvania Courthouse.

Killed, or died from wounds officers, 18; men, 190

Died from disease, etc. officers 2; men 89

Wounded, not mortally officers 44; men 518

Captured or missing officers 3; men 190

## 81<sup>st</sup> Regiment Civil War Timeline

Paul served with the Union Army of the Potomac, II Corps, Company “G” of the 81<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment.

On April 12<sup>th</sup> 1861 a battle took place between northern and southern soldiers at Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. As the Civil War continued over the next three years, the Union forces were in constant need of new recruits.

The 81<sup>st</sup> regiment was recruited in Philadelphia and Carbon County, Pennsylvania for a three-year period of service. The regiment originally mustered-in on April 22<sup>nd</sup> 1861. After a brief period of organizing and field training, the 81<sup>st</sup> began their duties in Marlborough, Maryland, as a police force for the preservation of order at the general elections. They were also engaged in skirmishes, and small and large battles, mostly in Virginia: Bristoe Station; Harrison's Landing; Petersburg; and Springfield Station.

By May 1862 the 81<sup>st</sup> Regiment began to play an important role within the Union Army of the Potomac, as they continued in Virginia engagements and battles: White Oak Swamp; the siege of Yorktown, and in subsequent march upon Williamsburg and Fair Oaks; Charles City Cross Roads Fredericksburg, and Malvern Hill. This brought the unit back into Maryland for the battle of South Mountain and Antietam, which then took them back to Virginia to Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville.

By the time the 81<sup>st</sup> Regiment engaged the confederate army at Gettysburg in July 1863, they had become a seasoned regiment. Southern troops retreated from the Gettysburg battlefield, with the Union Army of the Potomac in pursuit, and by the fall of 1863 both armies assumed the general position held the previous winter at the Rappahannock River of Virginia. During the fall and winter there were only minor operations, and relative inactivity on the battlefield.

- During the fall of 1863, while the regiment was in the battle of Mine Run Virginia, the 81<sup>st</sup> began to recruit more soldiers.
- During one of these recruitment drives, on February 25<sup>th</sup> 1864, Paul Kishbaugh enrolled in the Union forces. On March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1864, in East Mauch Chunk, Carbon County, Pennsylvania,<sup>i</sup> Paul mustered-in as a private within Company G of the 81st Pennsylvania Regiment (Volunteers), under the command of John Patton.

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<sup>i</sup> Today East Mauch Chunk is known as Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania.

On December 1<sup>st</sup> 1863, the brigade crossed the Rapidan River at Culpeper Mine Ford to winter quarters at Mountain Run (north of Stevensburg). In January 1864, several events affecting the 81<sup>st</sup> Regiment took place. Although their terms of enlistment would not expire until the summer, a sufficient number of veterans reenlisted, and received veteran furloughs, to insure the continuance of the 81<sup>st</sup> as a regiment.

The next month, in February 1864, the brigade (under Colonel McKeen) was involved in the Corp's demonstration at Morton's Ford on the Rapidan (5 miles south Stevensburg).

- In military terminology, a demonstration is an attack, a show of force, on a front where a decision is not sought, but made with the aim of deceiving the enemy. An example of a demonstration in the American Civil War was at the Battle of Gettysburg where, on July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1863, General Robert E. Lee ordered Lt. Gen. Richard S. Ewell to stage a demonstration against Culp's Hill on the Union right flank while Lt. Gen. James Longstreet launched the main attack against the Union left flank. A related diversionary maneuver, the feint, involves actual contact with the enemy, unlike a demonstration.

Having reached Morton's Ford about noon on February 6, the third division was sent across and met a force of Confederates. Remaining with the rest of the corps on the river's northern side, the 81<sup>st</sup> Regiment (under Lt. Col. Broady of the 61<sup>st</sup> NYVI) was ordered to the left of the division's line to skirmish across the river, where they encountered no enemy. The next day, on February 7<sup>th</sup>, while the brigade supported a section of Rickett's Battery, the enemy's attempt to drive a wedge between the third division and the river forced that division's recrossing. After dark, the II corps returned to camp.

The following two months, March and April 1864, were consumed by II Corps reorganization. On March 9, after having already been brought east, Ulysses S. Grant was commissioned Lieutenant General (the first since George Washington) and given command of all Union armies.

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, Lt. Colonel Harkness resigned. On March 25<sup>th</sup>, General Caldwell was relieved of the 1<sup>st</sup> division command to receive a seat on a special military commission in the capital. His replacement was General Francis Barlow (reassigned from the Department of the South). By the end of March, Colonel Miles was back in brigade command, and the 183<sup>rd</sup> P.V.I. was added to his unit, augmenting it to five regiments: 26<sup>th</sup> MVI, 61<sup>st</sup> NYVI, 81<sup>st</sup> PVI, 140<sup>th</sup> PVI, and the 183<sup>rd</sup> PVI. On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Major Wilson was again promoted, this time to Lt. Colonel of the regiment.

On February 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 1864, at the time of Paul's enrollment, the 81<sup>st</sup> regiment was assigned to the Union Army of the Potomac, II Corps, 1<sup>st</sup> Division, under the command of Brigadier general Francis C. Barlow, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade under the command of Colonel Nelson Appleton Miles.

- Miles was working as a crockery store clerk in Boston when the American Civil War began. He entered the Union Army as a volunteer on September 9, 1861, and fought in many crucial battles. He became a lieutenant in the 22nd Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry and was commissioned a lieutenant colonel of the 61st New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment on May 31, 1862. He was promoted to colonel after the Battle of Antietam.
- Other battles Miles participated in include Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville (during which he was shot in the neck and abdomen), and the Appomattox Campaign. Wounded four times in battle, on March 2, 1867, Miles was brevetted a brigadier general in the regular army in recognition of his actions at Chancellorsville. He was again brevetted, this time to the rank of major general, for his actions at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House.



Major General Nelson Appleton Miles



II Corps, 1<sup>st</sup> Division Insignia

Upon the opening of the spring campaign of 1864, while the 81<sup>st</sup> were in Franklin, Tennessee, the 81<sup>st</sup> stood ready with newly recruited ranks to take the field. Paul Kishbaugh was one of these newly recruited soldiers from Carbon County.

Colonel McKeen was assigned to the command of the brigade, and Major William Wilson, who, upon the resignation of Lieutenant Colonel Harkness, by reason of disability, had been promoted to succeed him, was in command of the regiment.

Between December 1863 and May 1864, the 81<sup>st</sup> Regiment were camped near Stevensburg in Culpeper County, Virginia. The campaign, known as Grant's Overland Campaign, had an auspicious start near midnight on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1864. The encampment at Stevensburg was broken, and the Army of the Potomac moved through the darkness toward the Rapidan River. The V and VI Corps traveled eight miles south of Stevensburg, and crossed the Rapidan at Germanna Ford, while II Corps crossed the Rapidan 14 miles south of Stevensburg at the Ely Ford.

Both Corps were attempting to distract the confederate forces' attention from a planned Union cavalry-infantry raid up the Peninsula on Richmond Virginia. General Lee decided it would be to his advantage to strike the Union army while it was still in a more open setting. So, on May 5<sup>th</sup>, as the Army of the Potomac was moving out of the Wilderness, the Confederates struck along two parallel east-west roads. The II Corps, which was leading the Union march and leaving the Wilderness, had to be recalled.

The collision of armies was fierce (with the II Corps deployed at the junction of the Brock and Orange Plank Roads) and did not abate as more and more men reaching the front were sucked into the contest. As the shadows continued fighting into evening, the battle of Chancellorsville (fought in the vicinity) was remembered, and soldiers claimed to see comrades, killed at Chancellorsville but now alive again, fighting silently alongside them in the haunted woodland. As midnight approached, the lines, which had shifted a bit during the day, assumed their original positions.

To do this the Union Army of Northern Virginia forced several crossings of the Rapidan River at Morton's Ford, while the I Corps crossed at Raccoon Ford. The Union cavalry would cross at Robertson's Ford. Ewell's Corps resisted the crossings. Fighting was sporadic but most severe at Morton's Ford. By February 7<sup>th</sup> the attacks had stalled, and the Federals withdrew during the night.

The ensuing actions were the beginning of what became known as the Overland Campaign.



## The Overland Campaign

The Overland Campaign, also known as Grant's Overland Campaign and the Wilderness Campaign, which were a series of battles fought in Virginia during May and June 1864. Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, general-in-chief of all Union armies, directed the actions of the Army of the Potomac, commanded by Maj. Gen. George G. Meade, and other forces.

Crossing the Rapidan River on May 4<sup>th</sup> 1864, Grant sought to defeat Lee's army by quickly placing his forces between Lee and Richmond and inviting an open battle. Lee surprised Grant by attacking the larger Union army aggressively in the Battle of the Wilderness (May 5–7), resulting in heavy casualties on both sides.

During their demonstration along the Rapidan River the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division of the II Corps moved out before daylight for Morton's Ford, the remainder of the division followed. This action was intended to distract the southern forces attention from a planned union cavalry-infantry raid up the Virginia Peninsula on Richmond. The Union Army of the Potomac forced several crossings of the Rapidan River on February 6<sup>th</sup> 1864. Units of the II Corps under Maj. Gen. John C. Caldwell crossed at Morton's Ford.

The Confederates had a picket guard of about 30 men in rifle-pits on the farther bank and a brigade was sent across the river. After some resistance the whole picket was captured and the Federal brigade advanced to within three-quarters of a mile of the enemy's intrenchments. The other two brigades of the division were then pushed across the river and took position with the union's 1<sup>st</sup> Corp.

The Confederates opened with artillery, and the Federals could neither advance nor withdraw without becoming exposed to a deadly cross-fire. There was nothing for them to do but to get what shelter they could until after dark, when they withdrew across the Rapidan. The Union loss was 11 killed, 204 wounded and 40 captured or missing. The enemy's casualties were not reported

After crossing the Rapidan, the II Corps commenced the march toward Spottsylvania; but the head of the column had proceeded but a few miles before it was re-called, the enemy having made his appearance, and attacked at the Wilderness. For three days the battle was maintained, the 81<sup>st</sup> regiment suffering considerable loss, when the enemy abandoned the offensive, and held himself in his position.

The march of the Union Army was then resumed towards Spotsylvania; but upon its arrival at the Po River, it was found that the rebels had reached it in advance, and was already in a strong position. On the morning of May 12<sup>th</sup> 1864, the II Corps assaulted the enemy's works, and carried two lines, capturing a large number of prisoners, guns, and small arms. The fighting was at close quarters and very desperate. In this assault Lieutenant Sidney N. Hawk was among the killed, and Lieutenant Colonel Wilson among the severely wounded.

As part of Grant's attempt to control the strategic but lightly defended railroad center of Petersburg, south of Richmond, the II Corps, along with the 81<sup>st</sup> Regiment, arrived near the city of Richmond on June 14. Unwarranted delays and half-hearted advances ended any hope of an easy capture. Confederate reinforcements soon filled the city, and the major Union assault on June 17<sup>th</sup> was unsuccessful. Regimental casualties for this battle of Petersburg were 25, including Captain David H. Ginder of Company I, killed in action.

Although Grant suffered severe losses during the Overland Campaign, it was a strategic Union victory. It inflicted proportionately higher losses on Lee's army and maneuvered it into a siege at Richmond and Petersburg, Virginia, in just over eight weeks.

## End Notes

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<sup>1</sup> History of the 81<sup>st</sup> P.V.I., "The Fighting Chippewas", The Story of the 81st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment in the American Civil War, By Robert Mischak, Ryan Lindbuchler, and Walter Boyle.

<sup>2</sup> Circumstances Surrounding the Death of Paul Kishbaugh During the Civil War: The quoted statements came from the affidavits in the Paul Kishbaugh Civil War pension Application File #106847, an affidavit made by Charles Hontz, a resident of Mauch Chunk attached to Company G, the 81<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Regiment (Volunteers), September 4<sup>th</sup> 1867.

<sup>3</sup> Circumstances Surrounding the Death of Paul Kishbaugh During the Civil War: The quoted statements came from the affidavits in the Paul Kishbaugh Civil War pension Application File #106847, an affidavit made by Charles Hontz, a resident of Mauch Chunk attached to Company G, the 81<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Regiment (Volunteers), September 4<sup>th</sup> 1867.

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<sup>6</sup> The reference to Camp California came from an affidavit from Libor Winter, Lieutenant of Company G of the 81<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania regiment (Volunteers), January 31<sup>st</sup> 1867, in Paul's Widow Pension Records. The location of Camp California is still being researched.

<sup>7</sup> Paul's death is correct as written from his Civil War Widow Pension Record, but there is an error in his recorded death from his burial card; which reported his death as February 1864, and his GAR Headstone Marker Civil War information was provided by William Williams on February 1<sup>st</sup> 1931 on a veteran burial notification card.

<sup>8</sup> Paul Kishbaugh, Civil War Pension Application File #106847, August 23<sup>rd</sup> 1865, Pension Certificate #115027, Form 85D, The National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001.