

## THIRTY-NINTH REGIMENT INFANTRY, U. S. COLORED TROOPS, MARYLAND VOLUNTEERS.



THE Thirty-ninth Regiment Infantry, United States Colored Troops, Maryland Volunteers, was organized at Baltimore, Maryland, from March 22 to 31, 1864, to serve three years, it was composed of colored men from all parts of Maryland, but principally from Baltimore City.

The 39th regiment was assigned to duty with Ferrero's Division of the 9th army corps, and also performed duty with the 25th and 18th army corps.

The 39th regiment whilst on duty with the 9th army corps, participated in the Wilderness campaign and the battles in Virginia under Grant on the march to the James river.

Whilst the casualties in the 39th regiment, do not appear to be as serious as in other colored regiments of Maryland Volunteers, nevertheless, the regiment experienced serious hardships incident to active campaigning with the armies of the James and Potomac; its losses in the battles in front of Petersburg and at Bermuda Hundred were severe.

After service with the army of the Potomac it formed a part of the first or Butler expedition, as well as the second expedition under Gen. Terry, in the capture of Fort Fisher, North Carolina.

The regiment took a conspicuous part in the battle of The Crater, Va., and mine explosion, July 30, 1864, and their action in this engagement in saving their regimental colors received the commendation of the war department, and the color bearer Decatur Dorsey received a gold medal.

After the capture of Fort Fisher, the 39th regiment remained in North Carolina with Paine's Division of the 18th army corps, and marched with the troops that re-inforced Gen. Sherman prior to the capture of Gen. Johnson's Confederate Army.

After the surrender of the Confederate Army of Gen. Joseph Johnson, at Greensborough, North Carolina, April 1865, the 39th regiment performed garrison duty in the Southern States until it was mustered out of the military service of the United States, December 4, 1865.

The casualties in the 39th regiment of infantry were as follows: Killed in battle thirty enlisted men; died of wounds, disease, etc., commissioned officers three, enlisted men two hundred and thirty-nine, or a total death list of two hundred and seventy-two.

In addition to the skirmishes, engagements, etc., in which the 29th regiment infantry, U. S. colored troops, Maryland Volunteers were engaged, the following is the official battle list; viz: Petersburg, Federal point, Bermuda Hundred, Hatcher's Run, Fort Fisher, Sugar Loaf, Cox Landing, N. C., Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Weldon Railroad.