

Sgt. Daniel Corrigan, 19th Massachusetts Infantry, Stories

From John Gregory Bishop Adams, Reminiscences of the Nineteenth Massachusetts Regiment and History of the Nineteenth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry

At the Battle of Gettysburg, July 3, 1863:

“When the fire was the hottest on the centre the battery that the 19th was supporting lost nearly all its men. The captain came to our regiment for volunteers to man the guns. Captain Mahoney was the first to hear the call. Going to Company E, he said, ‘Volunteers are wanted to man the battery. Every man is to go of his own free will and accord. Come out here, John Dougherty, McGiveran and you Corrigan, and work those guns.’ Lieutenant Shackley jumped to his feet and said, ‘Come on, boys, we must keep her a-humming,’ and they stood by the guns until the fight was over.”

At the Battle of Bristoe Station, October 14, 1863:

“The rebels had exposed one battery of five pieces in front of the wood and upon this the Second Division concentrated its fire. After the capture of the prisoners, the Major sent our companies K and E as skirmishers and Lieutenant John B. Thompson...allowed Sergeants Corrigan and Maloney and private Johnson, all of Co. E, to advance to the pieces. They destroyed one gun and brought in two and a limber and four horses... Sergeant Corrigan limbered up one of those taken by the Nineteenth, mounted the saddle leader and drove it in triumph down the field and over the railroad track with a bump into the lines, amid a shower of balls from the enemy and a storm of cheers from his comrades.”

Returning from Confederate prison:

“One day about a thousand of our men came into the jail yard from Andersonville. It is impossible to describe their condition; they were nearly naked, their skins were as dark as Indians and dried to their bones. Sergt. Daniel Corrigan of Company E was with them. It was a long time before I could recognize him; he had no shirt and I could see that he was much emaciated, but he walked about, and I was sure that if any one got a ration Corrigan would, as he was the best forager in the regiment. I did not close my eyes to sleep that night, the coughing of the men in the yard preventing it. They remained but one day, then were taken to the fair ground.”