

**MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT GARY LITRELL SPEAKS WITH STUDENTS AT RONALD REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL
FOUNDATION AND INSTITUTE**

Click [here \(https://www.cmohs.org/news-events/press-releases/ronald-reagan-presidential-foundation-and-institute-hosts-medal-of-honor-forum/\)](https://www.cmohs.org/news-events/press-releases/ronald-reagan-presidential-foundation-and-institute-hosts-medal-of-honor-forum/) to read about it.



Congressional Medal of Honor Society

STORIES OF SACRIFICE

U.S. Civil War - U.S. Army

WILLIAM JOHN BREWER

DETAILS

RANK: PRIVATE (HIGHEST RANK: CORPORAL)

CONFLICT/ERA: U.S. CIVIL WAR

UNIT/COMMAND:
COMPANY C,
2D NEW YORK CAVALRY

MILITARY SERVICE BRANCH: U.S. ARMY

MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION DATE: APRIL 4, 1865

**MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION PLACE: APPOMATTOX
CAMPAIGN, VIRGINIA, USA**

CITATION

Capture of engineer flag, Army of Northern Virginia.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

ACCREDITED TO: NEWBURGH, ORANGE COUNTY, NEW YORK



AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY: NO

PRESENTATION DATE & DETAILS: MAY 3, 1865

BORN: 1843, PUTNAM COUNTY, NY, UNITED STATES

DIED: JUNE 19, 1878, CORNWALL, NY, UNITED STATES

BURIED: QUAKER CEMETERY (PM) (84), CORNWALL-ON-THE-HUDSON, NY, UNITED STATES

WILLIAM JOHN BREWER 1843-1878 MEDAL OF HONOR AT APPOMATTOX 1865

Born Putman County, New York

Buried Quaker Cemetery, Cornwall on Hudson, Orange County, New York

Grave photos:







The Civil War

Soldier Details

[Return to Results](#)

Brewer, William J.

BATTLE UNIT NAME: **2nd Regiment, New York Cavalry**

SIDE: Union

COMPANY: CGM

SOLDIER'S RANK IN: Bugler

SOLDIER'S RANK OUT: Corporal

ALTERNATE NAME: M551 ROLL 15

FILM NUMBER: none

PLAQUE NUMBER:

NOTES:

Was this page helpful?

☐ Yes☐ No An official form of the United States government. Provided by **Touchpoints**[EXPERIENCE MORE](#)[SUBJECTS](#)[Civil War Teaching With Historic Places](#)

[International Civil Rights Hall of Fame](#)

[View All Related Subjects](#)

PARKS

[Antietam National Battlefield](#)

[Shiloh National Military Park](#)

[View All Related Parks](#)

PROGRAMS

[American Battlefield Protection Program](#)

[Underground Railroad](#)

[View All Related Programs](#)



The Civil War

Battle Unit Details

[Return to Results](#)

UNION NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS

2nd Regiment, New York Cavalry

OVERVIEW: Organized August 9 to October 8, 1861, by order of War Department. Regiment designated 7th United States Cavalry October 26, 1861. This being in excess of number provided for by Act of Congress, Regiment was designated 2nd New York Volunteer Cavalry or "Harris Light Cavalry."

Left New York for Washington, D. C., September 18, 1861. Attached to McDowell's Division, Army of the Potomac, to March, 1862. King's 3rd Division, 1st Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, and Department of the Rappahannock, to June, 1862. Bayard's Cavalry Brigade, 3rd Corps, Army of Virginia, to September, 1862. Bayard's Cavalry Brigade, Army of the Potomac, to December 15, 1862. (Cos. "A," "B," "I" and "K" with 3rd Division, 1st Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, September and October, 1862.) Gregg's Cavalry Brigade, Army of the Potomac, to February 11, 1863. 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, Cavalry Corps, Army of the Potomac, to June 14, 1863. (A Battalion at Yorktown, Va., Unattached, 4th Army Corps, Dept. of Virginia, June, 1863. 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 4th Army Corps, Dept. of Virginia, to July, 1863. King's Division, 22nd Army Corps, to August, 1863.) 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, Cavalry Corps, Army of the Potomac, to August 12, 1863. 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, Cavalry Corps, to August, 1864. 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, Cavalry Corps, Army of the Shenandoah, Middle Military Division, to March, 1865, and Army of the Potomac, to June, 1865.

SERVICE: Duty in the Defences of Washington, D. C., till March, 1862. Advance on Manassas, Va., March 10-16. Advance on Falmouth, Va., April 3-18. Falmouth April 17 and 19. Near Fredericksburg May 5. Bowling Green Road May 11. Flipper's Orchard July 4. Expedition from Fredericksburg to Hanover Junction July 19-20. Beaver Dam Station July 20. Reconnoissance to James City July 22-24. Mt. Carmel Church July 23. Expedition to Frederick's Hall Station August 5-8. Thornburg or Massaponax Church August 5-6. Orange Court House August 8. Battle of [Cedar Mountain](#) August 9. Pope's Campaign in Northern Virginia August 16-September 2. Near Rapidan Station August 18. Brandy Station August 20. Fords of the Rappahannock August 21-23. Kelly's Ford August 21. Catlett's Station August 22. Culpeper August 23. [Waterloo Bridge](#) August 23. Sulphur Springs August 24. [Manassas Junction](#) August 26. [Thoroughfare Gap](#) August 28. [Groveton](#) August 29. [Bull Run](#) August 30. Germantown August 31. Centreville and [Chantilly](#) August 31. Little River Turnpike September 1. [South Mountain](#), Md., September 14. Goose Creek September 17. Reconnoissance to Leesburg September 16-19 (6 Cos.). Action at Leesburg September 17. Warrenton September 29. Dumfries October 5. Hazel River October 7. Aldie and Mountsville October 31. Sudley Church November 3. New Baltimore, Salem, Warrenton and Upperville November 4. Rappahannock Station November 8-9. Aldie November 25. Stafford Court House December 7. [Fredericksburg](#) December 12-15. Rappahannock Station April 14, 1863. Warrenton April 16. Rappahannock Station April 19. Stoneman's Raid April 27-May 8. Louisa Court House May 2. Ashland and Hanover Station May 3. Glen Allen May 4. Aylett's May 5. King and Queen Court House May 6. Centreville May 6. Morrisville May 10. Expedition from Gloucester into Matthews County May 19-20 (Detachment). Falmouth June 1. Brandy Station June 3. Beverly Ford and [Brandy Station](#) June 9. Aldie June 17. [Middleburg](#) June 19. Upperville June 21. Rockville, Md., June 28. (Dix's Peninsula Campaign June 24-July 7, Battalion.) Cooksville June 29. Battle of [Gettysburg](#), Pa., July 1-3. Monterey Gap July 4. Smithburg July 5. Emmetsburg July 5. [Hagerstown](#) and [Williamsport](#) July 6. [Boonsborough](#) July 8. Funkstown July 9. Jones' Cross Roads July 10-13. [Hagerstown](#) July 11-13. [Williamsport](#) July 14. [Falling Waters](#) July 14. Berryville July 16. Bristerburg

July 27. Fairfax August 3. Thoroughfare Gap August 5. Near Aldie August 12-14. U. S. Ford August 22. Expedition to Port Conway September 1-3. Lamb's Creek September 1. Advance from the Rappahannock to the Rapidan September 13-17. Culpeper Court House September 13. Somerville Ford September 14. Robertson's Ford September 16. U. S. Ford September 17. Culpeper September 19. Madison Court House September 21. White's Ford and Liberty Mills September 21-22. Scout to Hazel River September 27-28. Hazel Run October 2. Hazel River October 6. Culpeper October 7. Bristoe Campaign October 9-22. James City, Robertson's River and Bethesda Church October 10. Near Culpeper October 11. Brandy Station October 11-12. Gainesville October 14. Groveton October 17-18. Haymarket, Buckland's Mills and New Baltimore October 19. Catlett's Station November 4. Advance to line of the Rappahannock November 7-8. Stevensburg November 7. Hartwood Church November 15. Germania Ford November 18. [Mine Run](#) Campaign November 26-December 2. Morton's Ford November 26. New Hope Church November 27. Robertson's Tavern November 29. Germania Ford December 2. Raccoon Ford December 5. Somerville December 18. Kelly's Ford January 12, 1864. Ellis Ford January 17. Stevensburg January 19. Ely's Ford January 19. Kilpatrick's Raid to Richmond February 28-March 3. Beaver Dam and Frederick's Hall Station and South Anna Bridge February 29. Defences of Richmond March 1. Old Church and King and Queen March 2. Near Walkertown March 2 (Detachment, Dahlgren killed). Near Tunstall Station March 3 (Detachment). New Kent Court House and Stevensville March 3. Carrollton's Store March 11. Rapidan Campaign May-June. [Craig's Meeting House](#) May 5. [Todd's Tavern](#) May 5-6. [Wilderness](#) May 6-7. Alsop's Farm, Spottsylvania, May 8. Sheridan's Raid to James River May 9-24. North Anna River May 9-10. Ground Squirrel Church and [Yellow Tavern](#) May 11. Brooks' Church or fortifications of Richmond May 12. Strawberry Hill May 12. Polecat Station May 23. Demonstration on Little River May 26. [Totopotomoy](#) May 28-31. Hanover Court House May 29-30. Mechump's Creek May 31. [Cold Harbor](#) June 1-12. Totopotomoy and Gaines' Mill June 2. Haw's Shop June 3. Via's House June 3. Old Church June 10-11. Bethesda June 11. Riddell's Shop and Long Bridge June 12. Malvern Hill June 14. Smith's Store near St. Mary's Church June 15. Wilson's Raid to south side and Danville Railroad June 22-30. Black and White Station and Nottoway Court House June 23. Sapponay Church or Stony Creek June 28. [Ream's Station](#) June 29-30 and July 3. Sheridan's Shenandoah Valley Campaign August 7-November 28. Near Winchester August 17. [Summit Point](#), Charlestown, August 21. Near Kearneysville August 25. Waynesboro September 2. [Berryville](#) September 4. Near Winchester September 9. Abram's Creek September 13. Battle of [Opequan](#), Winchester, September 19. Near Cedarville September 20. [Fisher's Hill](#) September 21. Front Royal Pike September 21. Milford September 22. Staunton September 26. Waynesboro September 29. Mt. Crawford September 30. Bridgewater and Woodstock October 2. Brock's Gap October 6. New Market October 7. Fisher's Hill October 8. [Tom's Brook](#), "[Woodstock Races](#)," October 8-9. Cedar Run October 13. Battle of [Cedar Creek](#) October 19 and November 7. Nineveh November 12. Mt. Jackson November 22. Hood's Hill November 23. Expedition from Kernstown to Moorefield November 28-December 2. Moorefield December 3. Expedition to Lacy Springs December 19-22. Lacy Springs December 21. Mt. Jackson December 21. Sheridan's Raid from Winchester February 27-March 25, 1865. Occupation of Staunton March 2. Action at Waynesboro March 2. Charlottesville March 3. Ashland March 15. Appomattox Campaign March 28-April 9. Dinwiddie Court House March 30-31. [Five Forks](#) April 1. Fall of [Petersburg](#) April 2. [Namozine Church](#) April 3. [Sailor's Creek](#) April 6. [Appomattox Station](#) April 8. [Appomattox Court House](#) April 9. Surrender of Lee and his army. Expedition to Danville April 23-29. March to Washington, D. C., May. Grand Review May 23. Mustered out June 5 and honorably discharged from service June 23, 1865.

Regiment lost during service 9 Officers and 112 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 1 Officer and 235 Enlisted men by disease. Total 357.

SOLDIERS: [View Battle Unit's Soldiers »](#)

Was this page helpful?

☐ Yes

☐ No



An official form of the United States government. Provided by [Touchpoints](#)

EXPERIENCE MORE

SUBJECTS

[Civil War Teaching With Historic Places](#)

[International Civil Rights Hall of Fame](#)

[View All Related Subjects](#)

PARKS

[Antietam National Battlefield](#)

[Shiloh National Military Park](#)

[View All Related Parks](#)

PROGRAMS

[American Battlefield Protection Program](#)

[Underground Railroad](#)

[View All Related Programs](#)

.....

2nd New York Cavalry Regiment

(Redirected from 2nd Regiment New York Volunteer Cavalry)

The **2nd New York Cavalry Regiment**, officially known as the **2nd Regiment, New York Volunteer Cavalry**, was a unit of the Union Army during the American Civil War. It served with the Army of the Potomac and fought in Stoneman's 1863 raid, the Wilson–Kautz Raid, and the Battle of Appomattox Station.

A soldier from the Second New York Cavalry is featured in Chapter XIII of MacKinlay Kantor's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel "Andersonville" (1955).

History

Colonel J. Mansfield Davies was authorized by the War Department to recruit the regiment, unofficially known as the Harris Light Cavalry, on July, 25, 1861. Its twelve companies were recruited as follows:

- Company A at New York City, Hartford, Connecticut, and Newton, New Jersey,
- Company B at Newton and Deckertown, New Jersey,
- Companies C and D – known as the Connecticut Squadron – at Hartford,
- Company E at New York City, Troy, Fort Edward, and Cambridge, New York,
- Company F at Covington, Indiana, Fairfield, Vermont, Troy, and Richfield Springs, New York,
- Company G at New York City, Newburgh, and Fort Edward,
- Company H at Chambersburg, Indiana,
- Company I at Lafayette, Indiana,
- Company K at Scranton, Pennsylvania, Hampton, Newark, and Rockaway, New Jersey, New York City, Troy, and Richfield Springs,
- Company L at New York City, Hudson, Troy, Fort Ann, Fort Edward and Litchfield, and
- Company M at New York City, Newburgh, Plattsburgh and Port Henry.^[1]

The regiment was organized at Scarsdale, New York, where it was mustered into Federal service for a term of three years between August 9 and October 8, 1861. The War Department designated the regiment as the 7th United States Cavalry on October 26, but it was transferred to New York state service as the 2nd New York Volunteer Cavalry,^[1] as Congress had not provided for a seventh Regular Army cavalry regiment.^[2]

After leaving New York during September and October, the regiment served with McDowell's Division of the Army of the Potomac from the latter month, on duty in the defenses of Washington, D.C.^[2] It was transferred to the Third Division of the First Corps of the Army of the Potomac in March 1862,

2nd New York Cavalry Regiment	
Active	October 8, 1861– <div>June 5, 1865</div>
Country	 <u>United States of America</u>
Allegiance	<u>Union</u>
Branch	<u>Union Army</u>
Type	<u>Cavalry</u>
Size	2,528
Nickname(s)	<u>Harris Light Cavalry</u>
Engagements	<u>American Civil War</u>
Commanders	
Notable commanders	Col. <u>Judson Kilpatrick</u>
	Col. <u>Henry Eugene Davies</u>
	Col. <u>Alanson M. Randol</u>

and in May briefly became part of King's Division of the Department of the Rappahannock. The 2nd New York Volunteer Cavalry formed part of the Cavalry Brigade of the Second Division of the Third Corps of the Army of Virginia (temporarily redesignated from the First Corps) from June. It was transferred to Bayard's Cavalry Brigade of the Army of the Potomac in September, while Companies A, B, I, and K were detached to the Third Division of the First Corps during September and October. J. Mansfield Davies resigned on December 6, and was replaced as colonel by regimental Lieutenant Colonel Judson Kilpatrick.^{[3][4]} After Bayard's death, the brigade that included the regiment came under the command of Brigadier General David McMurtrie Gregg on December 15.^[1]

The 2nd New York was assigned to the First Brigade of the Third Division of the Cavalry Corps of the Army of the Potomac on February 11, 1863, detaching a battalion to the First Brigade of the First Division of the Fourth Corps for service on the Virginia Peninsula between May and July. During Stoneman's 1863 raid, the regiment was sent against Richmond and the Chickahominy railroad bridges.^[5] After Kilpatrick was promoted to brigadier general on June 13, Lieutenant Colonel Henry E. Davies was promoted to colonel in his stead three days later.^[3] The regiment was transferred to the Second Brigade of the Second Division of the cavalry of the Army of the Potomac on June 14.^[1]

It again returned to the First Brigade of the Third Division of the Cavalry Corps on August 12. Davies was promoted to brigadier general on September 16, leaving regimental Lieutenant Colonel Otto Harhaus, promoted to colonel on April 1, 1864, in command.^[3] During the Wilson–Kautz Raid, on June 23, 1864, the regiment tore up tracks on the South Side Railroad at Ford's Depot.^[6] When the regimental term of service expired, those who had served out their terms were discharged and on August 29, the recruits and reenlisted veterans of the 2nd New York Volunteer Cavalry was consolidated into a four-company battalion including Companies A, B, C, and D that continued in service. Eight new companies, recruited for a one year term of service, expanded the 2nd New York Cavalry to a regiment again by their addition in September and October.^[1]

The eight new companies were recruited as follows:

- Company E – known as the Ticonderoga Cavalry Company – at Plattsburgh and Ticonderoga,
- Company F at Elmira and Syracuse,
- Companies G and H at Manlius, Rochester, Elbridge, Onondaga, Syracuse, Cicero, Pompey, DeWitt, Chenango, Spafford, Lafayette, Albany, Salina, Skaneateles and Geddes,
- Company I at Hart's Island, Kingston, Poughkeepsie, Jamaica, Tarrytown and Albany,



Private Thomas Dennis of Co. G, 2nd New York Cavalry Regiment. From the Liljenquist Family Collection of Civil War Photographs, Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress



Monument to the 2nd New York Cavalry at Gettysburg

- Company K at Mount Morris, Goshen, Farmington, Poughkeepsie, Avon, Hopewell and Elmira, and
- Companies L and M at New York City and Brooklyn.^[1]

Harhaus was mustered out on September 10, leaving regimental Major Walter Clark Hull in command. Hull was promoted to colonel on November 1, but was killed in a skirmish at Cedar Creek on November 12.^[7] After the death of Hull, Lieutenant Colonel Mortimer B. Birdseye was temporarily in command of the regiment from December 1. Colonel Alanson M. Randol took command of the regiment on December 23, which he led for the rest of the war.^[3] The 2nd New York remained with the Cavalry Corps until being transferred to serve with the cavalry of the Army of the Shenandoah in October 1864, before returning to the Army of the Potomac in March 1865.^[1]

At the Battle of Appomattox Station on April 8, the regiment, advancing at the head of Pennington's Brigade, captured three Confederate railroad trains loaded with supplies at the station. To secure the trains from nearby Confederate cavalry, Randol ordered the trains crewed with soldiers who were former railwaymen, who drove the trains toward Edward Ord's column.^[8] Randol and the eight companies recruited in 1864 mustered out on June 5 at Alexandria, Virginia, followed by the remaining four companies on June 23.^[1]

During its service, seven officers and 67 enlisted men were killed in action, two officers and 47 enlisted men died of wounds, and three officers and 246 enlisted men died of disease and other causes for total deaths of twelve officers and 360 enlisted men. Of these, one officer and 106 enlisted men died while in Confederate prisons.^[1]

See also

- List of New York Civil War units

References

Citations

1. Phisterer 1912, p. 751.
2. Dyer 1908, p. 1370.
3. Phisterer 1912, p. 754.
4. *Compiled Military Service Record of Colonel Judson Kilpatrick, 2nd New York Cavalry Regiment* (<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/76062574>). Series: Carded Records Showing Military Service of Soldiers Who Fought in Volunteer Organizations During the American Civil War, 1890 - 1912.
5. Greene 2009, p. 83.
6. Greene 2018, p. 574n53.
7. Adjutant General of New York 1868, p. 11.
8. Longacre 2003, pp. 171–172.

Bibliography

- Adjutant General of New York (1868). *Annual Report of the Adjutant General of New York* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=N-9GAQAAMAAJ>). Vol. 2. Albany: Printing House of Charles Van

Benthuyssen and Sons. – Contains *Register of Officers Commissioned in Volunteer Regiments from the state of New York, 1861–1865*.

- Dyer, Frederick H. (1908). *A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion* (<https://archive.org/details/08697590.3359.emory.edu>). Des Moines, IA: Dyer Publishing Company. OCLC 8697590 (<https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/8697590>).
- Greene, A. Wilson (2009). "Stoneman's Raid". In Gallagher, Gary W. (ed.). *Chancellorsville*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. pp. 65–106. ISBN 9781469602400.
- Greene, A. Wilson (2018). *A Campaign of Giants: The Battle for Petersburg*. Vol. 1: From the Crossing of the James to the Crater. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. ISBN 9781469638577.
- Longacre, Edward G. (2003). *The Cavalry at Appomattox: A Tactical Study of Mounted Operations During the Civil War's Climactic Campaign, March 27 – April 9, 1865*. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books. ISBN 978-0-8117-0051-1.
- New York Monuments Commission for the Battlefields of Gettysburg and Chattanooga (1900). *Final Report on the Battlefield of Gettysburg* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=I7k6AQAAMAAJ>). Vol. 3. Albany: J.B. Lyon Company.
 - Birdseye, Mortimer B. (1900). "Historical Sketch". *Final Report on the Battlefield of Gettysburg*. Vol. 3. Albany: J.B. Lyon Company. pp. 1099–1102.
 - Glazier, Willard (1900). "The "Harris Light": Historical Sketch". *Final Report on the Battlefield of Gettysburg*. Vol. 3. Albany: J.B. Lyon Company. pp. 1102–1109.
- Phisterer, Frederick (1912). *New York in the War of the Rebellion* (https://dmna.ny.gov/historic/research/DigBooks/Phisterer_NYWarOfTheRebellion/Phisterer_NewYorkInTheWarOfTheRebellion_V1.pdf) (PDF). Vol. 1 (3rd ed.). Albany: J. B. Lyon Company.

External links

- 2nd New York Cavalry Regiment page at New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs Unit History Project (<https://dmna.ny.gov/historic/reghist/civil/cavalry/2ndCav/2ndCavMain.htm>)
 - Song of the Harris Light Cavalry, 1863 at Library of Congress (<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihms.200001997/>)
-

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=2nd_New_York_Cavalry_Regiment&oldid=1091951995"

Medal of Honor



Medals of honor of the three military departments

Type	Military medal with neck ribbon (decoration)
Awarded for	Conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty ^{[1][2][3]}
Presented by	The president of the United States in the name of the United States Congress ^[2]
Eligibility	United States Armed Forces service members
Status	Currently awarded
Established	Naval Service: December 21, 1861 ^[4] Army: July 12, 1862 ^[2] Air Force: August 10, 1958 ^[3] Coast Guard: July 25, 1963 ^[7] Space Force: January 1, 2021 ^[8]
First awarded	March 25, 1863 ^[2]
Last awarded	March 3, 2023 ^[9]
Total awarded	618 ^[10]
awarded posthumously	
Total recipients	3,525 ^[11]



Service ribbon and flag

Precedence

Next (lower)	Army: Distinguished Service Cross Naval Service: Navy Cross Air and Space Forces: Air Force Cross Coast Guard: Coast Guard Cross
---------------------	---