

A SCARCE MASSACHUSETTS MINUTEMAN MEDAL TO A SOLDIER OF THE 5TH INFANTRY WHO WOULD HAVE SERVED AT 1ST BULL RUN. LATER WITH THE 10TH LIGHT ARTILLERY HE DIED OF WOUNDS RECEIVED AT THE BATTLE OF REAMS STATION IN AUGUST 1864.



George N. Devereaux, a 20 year-old Sailmaker from Charlestown MA, enlisted as a Private in the Fifth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Militia on 19th April 1861. Assigned to Company K (The Charlestown City Guards) and was initially stationed for the defence of Washington. The Regiment was one of just three Massachusetts regiments to see action at 1st Bull Run, the first battle of the Civil War. During the battle the regiment was heavily engaged, losing 9 killed and 11 wounded and 22 prisoners. Of the 3 Massachusetts regiments at Bull Run, the 5th was the only 3 month Militia unit and as such were the only regiment to receive the Minuteman medal. Devereaux and his regiment was Mustered Out just days after Bull Run on 31st July 1861 at Boston, MA.

On 9th September Devereaux enlisted in the 10th Massachusetts Light Artillery (Sleeper's Battery). During his serving his battery took part in the following battles and numerous smaller actions and Campaigns; Woodsgrove, Auburn, Kelly's Ford, the Mud March, Mine Run, the Wilderness, Po River (Spotsylvania), North Anna River, Jone's Farm (Totopotomoy Creek), Cold Harbor (fired first rounds of the battle), Petersburg, Deep Bottom and Ream's Station

Devereaux was severely wounded 25th August 1864 at the battle of Reams' Station, VA and died two days later. An excellent website on the 10th can be found here:

<http://www.cwartillery.com/tmba/tenth/10thact.html>

Condition NEF, a fine and very scarce medal to an artilleryman battle casualty who saw a great deal of service. Sold with copy musters and books/histories of both units on CD.

FIFTH REGIMENT MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEER MILITIA (INFANTRY) THREE MONTHS

The 5th Regt. Mass. Vol. Mill, "Minute Men," was ordered to report for active duty and to proceed to the city of Washington by Special Order No. 35, issued by the Adjutant General of Massachusetts, April 19, 1861. To the five companies of the 5th Regt. were added four from the 7th Regt. and one from the 1st Regt., thus making up a full regiment of ten companies. On Sunday, April 21, the 5th entrained for Washington, where on May 1, its members were mustered into the service of the United States. For nearly four weeks it remained in the city of Washington, then on May 25 it was transferred to the Virginia shore, where it remained in camp near Alexandria.

At this early part of the war, both Union and Confederate Armies with clothed in a multitude of different coloured uniforms, due to the amount of Milita/Volunteer units hastily gathered into both armies, each with their own distinctive dress. However the 5th Massachusetts was one of very few volunteer units to take the field in Regular Army uniforms and were frequently mistaken for Regular troops during the Bull Run campaign. On July 13, the 5th Massachusetts received orders to march for Centreville, Virginia. On July 21, 1861, just days before the end of their 90 day term of service, the 5th Massachusetts took part in the First Battle of Bull Run the first major engagement of Civil War. Before their departure from Alexandria, Major General McDowell commanding the Union Army of Northeastern Virginia, addressed the 5th Massachusetts and, in light of their term of service being nearly at an end, offered them the option of foregoing the campaign. The 5th Massachusetts voted unanimously to go with McDowell's army. Assigned to the First Brigade (Franklin's) Third Division (Heintzleman's) of the Army of Northeastern Virginia, the 5th Massachusetts was among those units sent to probe the Confederate right flank on July 18 resulting in the Battle of Blackburns Ford. When this maneuver failed, McDowell opted to send a large portion of his forces on a wide flanking maneuver across Sudley Springs Ford, hoping to get around the Confederate left flank. On July 21, precisely three months after they departed Boston, the 5th Massachusetts crossed Sudley Springs Ford and participated in the heaviest of the day's combat on Henry House Hill.



BATTLE OF BULL RUN.

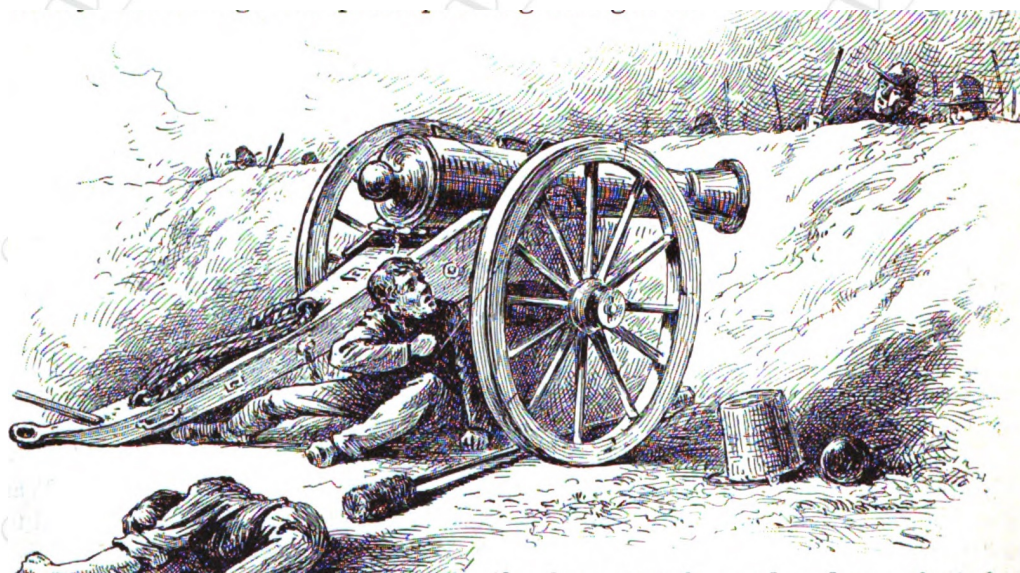
The regiment advanced more than a mile from Sudley Springs Ford to Henry House Hill at the double-quick in full gear. When they reached the foot of the hill, General Heintzelman led the 5th Massachusetts, the 11th Massachusetts and Ricketts Battery up the slope in an effort to retake several Union batteries and turn the Confederate right flank. Confederate artillery stopped their advance and the 5th Massachusetts was ordered to lay prone on the slope of the hill under direct artillery fire. Color Sergeant W. H. Lawrence stood during this time and was killed by artillery fire. Col. Lawrence, who also remained standing at the center of his regiment, was among the wounded and carried from the field. When Confederate General Thomas 'Stonewall' Jackson led a counterattack, the 5th Massachusetts retreated in disorder from Henry House Hill with the rest of the Union Army. The unit suffered casualties of 9 killed and 11 wounded and 22 prisoners.

The 5th Massachusetts embarked for Boston less than a week after the Union army's retreat back to Washington. They were mustered out on July 30, 1861

TENTH BATTERY MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEER LIGHT ARTILLERY - THREE YEARS

'The 10th Batty. Mass. Vol. Lt. Arty. was recruited by Henry H. Granger under Special Order No. 614, A. G. O. Mass., dated August 12, 1862. Within ten days the battery was filled, and on August 20 Mr. Granger was commissioned 1st Lieutenant. After a few days spent in camp at Lynnfield, the men were transferred to Camp Stanton, Boxford, where, on the 9th of September, they were mustered into the United States service. Near the last of the month J. Henry Sleeper, formerly a lieutenant in the 1st Massachusetts Battery, arrived and assumed command as Captain.

On October 14 the battery entrained for Fall River on the way to Washington, and on the 17th went into quarters at Camp Barry near the Bladensburg Toll Gate. Here, on December 17, it received its six 3 inch rifled Rodman guns. The day after Christmas the battery proceeded to Poolesville, Md., where a new camp was laid out known as Camp Davis. Here it remained until the spring of 1863. From the 18th of April, 1863, to June 24 the battery was posted at Camp Heintzelman about a mile from Poolesville. It was then sent to join General French's command on Maryland Heights near Harper's Ferry.



In the early days of July it was sent to Frederick Junction to guard the railroad. On the 8th, with the rest of General French's command, it was assigned to the 3d Corps Army of the Potomac, and ten days later it crossed the Potomac at Harper's Ferry. After some marching and counter-marching the battery went into camp at Fauquier White Sulphur Springs where it remained until the middle of September. It then participated in the campaign on the Rappahannock being in action on October 13 near the little town of Auburn and losing two men severely wounded. Retiring to Centreville, in mid October it again advanced reaching Catlett's Station on the 21st and remaining there until November 7. After a period spent at Kellysville and Brandy Station, in the latter part of the month it took part in the Mine Run campaign cannonading the enemy's lines but suffering no casualties. The winter was spent in the old camp near Brandy Station.

In the spring of 1864, the 3d Corps having been abolished, the battery found itself assigned to Tidball's Artillery Brigade of Hancock's (2d) Corps. On April 8 the battery moved to Stevensburg near which place the 2d Corps was encamped. Here it remained until May 3 when just at sunset it started for the Rapidan. Crossing at Ely's Ford on the 4th, it encamped that night on the Chancellorsville battlefield, starting early next morning in a southwesterly direction for Shady Grove Church, but halting at Todd's Tavern. From here the entire 2d Corps was ordered up the Brock road toward its intersection with the Plank road, where the battle of the Wilderness had begun. The 10th Battery was posted near the Union left on high ground overlooking the Fredericksburg and Orange Court House railroad. Here on the 6th it was sharply engaged with a Confederate battery beyond the railroad without loss.

Accompanying the 2d Corps to Spottsylvania, on May 9 it shelled a Confederate wagon train on the Shady Grove Church road south of the Po River, then crossed the river with the 2d Corps near the Pritchett farm, and spent the night on the Graves farm. Recrossing the Po with Gibbon's and Birney's Divisions on the morning of the 10th, it took position on the Pritchett farm and aided in covering the retirement of Barlow's Division. Its loss at the Po River was one man killed and two wounded. It was not further engaged at Spottsylvania.

Moving to the North Anna on the 22d, it crossed the river on the Union left and remained on the south bank until the flank movement to Cold Harbor began. Near the Totopotomoy the battery was engaged May 30, losing one man. It was later engaged on the Cold Harbor front at intervals from the 2d to the 12th of June.



On the 15th the James River was crossed on the WINNISSIMMET, an old Boston and Chelsea ferry boat, and the battery advanced on Petersburg. It was in action on the east front of the city until well past the middle of July. On the 26th it crossed the Appomattox and James Rivers on the first Deep Bottom expedition, and on the 13th of August it again crossed the Appomattox to Bermuda Hundred. On August 23 it accompanied the 2d Corps on the movement to the Weldon Railroad, being heavily engaged at Reams' Station on the 25th and losing five men killed or mortally wounded, four others wounded, including Captain Sleeper, 19 prisoners, 54 horses, and all its guns. Its position was a very unfortunate one, and its heavy loss was no reflection on the courage of the officers and men.