

THROUGH THE LENS:

August 29, 1992: Brig. Gen. Herbert B. Eagon Jr. (third from left) hands the cased colors of the 1st Battalion, 166th Infantry to Maj. Gen. Richard C. Alexander during a casing of the colors ceremony at the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus, Ohio.

WEEK IN REVIEW:

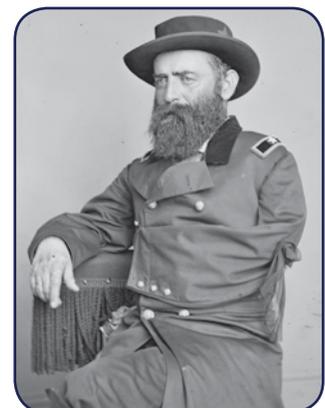
August 28-30, 1862: The Second Battle of Bull Run takes place, with Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia defeating Union Maj. Gen. John Pope’s Army of Virginia. Eleven infantry regiments, one cavalry regiment and three light artillery batteries represented Ohio in Pope’s force.

August 29, 1917: Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Engineer Brigade and Headquarters and Special Troops Battalion, 371st Sustainment Brigade are constituted as Headquarters, 62d Field Artillery Brigade.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS WHO SAVED POPE’S ARMY?

The following account describes the actions of the 61st Ohio and Battery I, 1st Ohio Light Artillery in guarding the retreat of Pope’s Army at the Second Battle of Bull Run. It appeared in the October 29, 1862 edition of the Urbana Union and was authored by a Soldier who signed himself as “Fair Play.”

“One by one the regiments along the lines were ordered to the rear, defiling thence to Centreville. Still, on came the enemy, crowding his masses over his dead and dying, and, apparently, reckless of every consequence. Suddenly there was a pause, then a deafening roar. The gallant Dilger, obeying instructions, had awaited the foe till within sixty paces, when he left fly with all his pieces, loaded with grape and canister to the muzzle, full in the face. The effect was stunning, McGroarty, in the never to be forgotten red shirt, bareheaded and begrimed with powder, sang out at the top of his voice, “61st Ohio, charge!” and with a rush and a bound the gallant fellows were at them. Oh it was a terrible sight. The curses, groans, cries, and yells, were heart-rending. Dilger, meanwhile rapidly limbering up, had again retired sixty pieces, and again did he open on them with his murderous fire, and again above the din of battle rang the stentorian voice of the dauntless McGroarty, “61st Ohio, charge – charge for glory and for ‘Sigel!’” The effect was electric. The enemy broke – and beaten by these repeated blows, halted and wavered; the masses could be pushed forward, when on came Milroy, thundering like a demigod, and driving them headlong to the wood at the point of the bayonet. One long, loud cheer went from our side. The fight was over, and our fellows, without the loss of a gun, or a carriage, or a caisson, slowly and steadily wended their way – a slow and weary way – along the Centreville road.



Brig. Gen. Stephen J. McGroarty
(Library of Congress)