

Notes on the Service of the 15th VRC and its Company A:

Note: I have not been able to determine exactly when Cornelius Mathews was present with Company A, 15th VRC, or when he was discharged. His original date of enlistment on 30 Oct 1864 would have produced a discharge date of 30 Oct 1864, but I do not know if his service in VRC would have been extended beyond that. His actual date should be included in his pension file and compiled military service record, which can be ordered from the National Archives.

Source: *Compiled records showing service of military units in volunteer Union organizations, U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps, Fifteenth through Twenty-fourth*, National Archives microform roll 0221 (also referred to as an organization's "Record of Events"):

<https://archive.org/details/compiledrecordss0221unit/page/n1/mode/2up>

15th VRC (Regiment) = image 6 - 44

Start: <https://archive.org/details/compiledrecordss0221unit/page/n6/mode/1up>

End of Regiment overview:

<https://archive.org/details/compiledrecordss0221unit/page/n44/mode/1up>

8/2159 – 17/2159: Field & Staff est. Camp Douglas, Chicago, during Mar-Apr 1864, remaining there until Jul-Aug 1865 @ Springfield IL

21/2159: Dec 1863, stationed Cp Douglas, Chicago

24/2159: Mar 1864, designation changed from Invalid Corps to VRC

40/2159: Jun 1865: Field & Staff to Springfield IL, Companies A, C, E, F, H to Cairo IL

45/2159: Nov 1865 = last card in file; Regt Field & Staff with five companies to Camp Butler IL; Companies, A, C, E, F, H remain at Cairo; refers to 28 Nov 1865

[Note: There is no mention of the duties of the companies at Cairo. However, George Morgan Kirkpatrick, in his reminiscences about service in the 42nd Indiana, *The Experiences of a Private Soldier of the Civil War*, stated that he served in the VRC in the summer of 1865 after recovering from wounds suffered in Georgia the previous summer, and that he “was sent to Cleveland Ohio to muster out the troops from Northern Ohio” (page 34). Cairo was also a major processing point for units and troops returning up the Mississippi, so the five companies from the 15th may have been involved in similar administrative duties during the demobilization.]

Company A = image 45 – 66

Start: <https://archive.org/details/compiledrecordss0221unit/page/n45/mode/1up>

End: <https://archive.org/details/compiledrecordss0221unit/page/n65/mode/1up>

46/2159: first card in file for Company A

47-48, 49, 52, 56/2159: 18th Company, 1st Battalion, Invalid Corps, organized with qualified individuals from the Convalescent Camp at Nashville TN; Capt. Wells Sponable assigned as company commander, Aug 1863;

redesignated as 70th Co; redesignated to Company A, 15th VRC, 10 Oct 1863 (56/2159) with unit strength of 80 men (49/2159).

53/2159: Nov 1863: Company station at Camp Douglas, Chicago.

Jan 1864: Per Indiana AG Report, Cornelius assigned to 15th VRC. As noted above, my current information does not indicate when and where he arrived for duty at VRC, but his Compiled Military Service Record and/or pension file should clarify when he actually arrived for duty, where his duty location was, and when he was discharged.

53-63/2159: Company A remained at Camp Douglas on muster cards through April 1865. Cornelius' photograph must have been taken during his tenure at Camp Douglas at L. D. Patton's photography shop in Chicago.

64/2159: May-Jun muster card, stationed at Cairo IL on 30 Jun 1865.

66/2159: last card in file; Sep-Oct 1865, Cairo IL; stationed Cairo on 31 Oct 1865; "no company muster out roll on file."