The “HEAVIES”
Connecticut Volunteer Heavy Artillery Regiment
November 23, 1863 to August 18, 1865

Engagements of the Heavy Artillery

- Spotsylvania, Va. May 22-24, 1864
- Tolopotomy, Va. May 28, 1864
- Hanover Court House, Va. May 30, 1864
- Cold Harbor, Va. June 1, 1864
- Cold Harbor, Va. June 2-12, 1864
- Petersburg, Va. June 20-26, 1864
- Winchester, Va. Sep. 19, 1864
- Fisher's Hill, Va. Sep. 22, 1864
- Cedar Creek, Va. Oct. 19, 1864
- Hatcher's Run, Va. Feb. 6, 1865
- Petersburg, Va. March 25, 1865
- Petersburg, Va. April 2, 1865
- Little Sailor's Creek, Va. April 6, 1865

Artillery Regiment lost during service:
12 Officers and 242 Enlisted men killed
and mortally wounded
2 Officers and 171 Enlisted men by disease. Total 427

BATTLE OF COLD HARBOR was fought from May 31 to June 12. It was one of the final battles of Union Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's Overland Campaign, and is remembered as one of histories bloodiest, most ipsided battles. Thousands of Union soldiers were killed or wounded in a hopeless frontal assault against the fortified positions of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's army.

In November 1863, the Nineteenth Connecticut was re-designated the Second Connecticut Volunteer Heavy Artillery. At that time, additional men were recruited, and William’s cousin Newton W. Cogswell signed on. Heavy artillery regiments, whose men were trained as both infantrymen and artillerists, primarily garrisoned forts around Washington, D.C.

The Second, however, exclusively performed infantry duties, a detail to which it was again assigned on 17 May 1864, when the unit was redeployed from defensive fortifications to the Army of the Potomac, where it would participate in what came to be known as the Wilderness campaign. By 5 March 1864, First Sergeant William Cogswell had been promoted to the rank of second lieutenant. He, along with one other second lieutenant, was the third highest ranking man in his company with authority over all the sergeants, corporals, and privates in Company B.

On 1 June, the Second Connecticut “Heavies” saw their first major action and suffered their most severe casualties of the war at Cold Harbor, Virginia. William weathered the ordeal, but among the 322 killed and wounded was his cousin Newton, who had been shot in the arm. Following the Battle of Cold Harbor, the regiment hunkered down in trenches and rifle pits through the end of July to do its part to hold the federal line at Petersburg, Virginia. On 19 September 1864, the Second was called into action to check the advance of Jubal Early’s forces, which had broken through Union lines at Winchester, Virginia. During this battle, Cogswell received a wound to his leg, which required amputation. Succumbing to the effects of the operation, he died on 7 October 1864.

July 7th 1865, the remaining members of the original Nineteenth Regiment were mustered out, and left for home.

Account of Second Lieutenant William H. Cogswell Company B, Second CT Volunteer Heavy Artillery, Native American, Schaghticoke Tribe Kent, CT

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Poster by: Beth Stewart-Kelly, GIS - CT National Guard