

Helge Christopherson Ellingboe
15th WI Infantry, Company F

Born: February 16, 1840 at Vang I Valdres, Oppland Fylke, Norway

Enlisted: November 8, 1861 as a Private, from Manitowoc County, WI., 21 years old

Discharged: October 13, 1862 for disability

Re-enlisted: September 20, 1864 to 27th WI Infantry, Company K

Mustered Out: July 14, 1865

1880 Federal Census: WI, Manitowoc County, Gibson Twp:

Helge Ellingboe, 40, Married, Farmer, b Norway
Emma Ellingboe, 30, Wife, Keeping house, b Norway
Chd: Christoph-7, Thomas-5, Knud-4
Andas-2, Ann-1, all b Wisconsin
Berret Ellingboe, 73, Mother, b Norway

1885 Soldiers & Sailors of the Late War, Residing in Wisconsin, 20 June 1885: H. Ellingboe, Pvt, K&F 27 WI, P.O. Mishicott

1890 Census: WI, Winnebago Co. and Manitowoc Co., Town of Gibson, Manitowoc Co.:

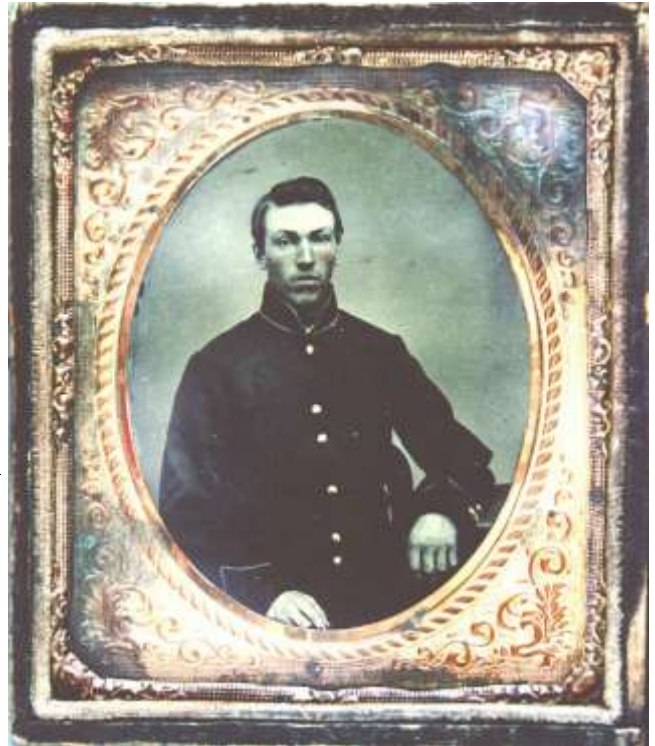
Elgo Ellingboe. Enlisted as private 27th Wisconsin Infantry: 20 Sep 1864. Date of discharge: 14 July 1865. Length of service: 9 months 24 days. Post Office Address: Larrabee, Manitowoc Co., Wisconsin. Lungs and breast affected.

General Index to Pension Files 1861-1934:

Ellingboe, Helge C. Service: F15 and K27
Wisc. Inf. Date of filing: 1890 Aug. 19 Invalid

1890 Veterans Schedule, Manitowoc County:

Helge C Ellingboe, 27 K, post office Larrabee; Lungs and breast affected



1895 Veterans" Schedule: Helge C Ellingsboe, Pvt K 27 Infantry, post office Larrabee

Wisconsin Census Enumeration, 1905 June 1, Ex-Soldiers & Sailors Residing in WI:
Ellingboe, Helge C., Pvt, Co F, 15th WI Inf., Post office Mishicot

Died: March 9, 1913 at Gibson, Manitowoc County, WI
Buried: Jambo Creek Lutheran Cemetery, Gibson Twp, WI
Gravesite: Row 6; #1

Following taken from paper written by Jim Ellingboe, great grandson of Helge Ellingboe:

"The following events are extracted from Helge's Civil War diary, written during his first term of service as an infantry private, supplemented by information from other sources. His short diary, written in Norwegian, provides a matter-of-fact description of the events and experiences that were probably typical for young men drawn into the conflict. At the age of 21, he enlisted on November 8, 1861, in Company F, 15th Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, commanded by Captain Charles Gustafson. Most of the company were Norwegians from Manitowoc County. Because so many of the men were originally from Valdres, it was sometimes called the Valdres Company.

Helge was mustered in at Camp Randall in Madison on January 14, 1862. On February 28th he was paid \$48.50 in U.S. bills and gold. The regiment departed from Madison by train at 10 o'clock on the morning of March 2nd and arrived in Chicago at 8 o'clock in the evening. They marched around the city in the rain and then left by train at midnight, bound for St. Louis. Helge wrote that the cold wind was almost unbearable. At the harbor in Alton they went aboard the steamer Alton where they remained overnight. The next day they continued to St. Louis and marched up into the city on dress parade. Another steamer brought them to Bird's Point, Missouri. Here they were lodged in log cabins for about a week. On the 14th the regiment traveled on the steamer Silver Wave to Columbia, where they transferred to the Rob Roy, which delivered them to a point above Island No. 10. There they boarded a larger ship, the G. W. Graham, on which they slept, but did their cooking on land.

To prevent Union ships from sailing further south, Confederate forces held fortified position on Island No. 10 (located in a double bend of the Mississippi River at the borders of Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee) and on bluffs east of the island. The 15th Regiment had become part of the Flotilla Brigade, a large operation to break the Confederate blockade of the Mississippi.

On March 15th the regiment's gunboat began to fire into the enemy's battery on Island No. 10. Although the Confederate forces returned fire, no damage was done. On the 30th, orders were received to prepare rations for one day. The soldiers walked for 12 miles and slept in a cornfield. The next morning at 4 o'clock they continued, marching four miles further, reaching the enemy's camp at 7 o'clock. By then the Union artillery had already driven out the enemy. Both the artillery and cavalry pursued the Confederate troops past Union City and set the city on fire. The infantry burned all the tents and other things left in the camp. They took 150 mules and 20 prisoners, as well as a wagon and everything they could carry, and then returned to Hickman, Kentucky, where they boarded the G.W. Graham and sailed down the Mississippi again.

Until the 6th of April the regiment camped on a large rebel farm, then went down to the point to do picket guard duty. That night, during a terrible thunderstorm, one of the Union's iron-clad gunboats, the Carondelet, ran the blockage and the Confederate forces began to open fire from Island No. 10. Helge wrote that they could hear cannon balls whistling past their ears. Because the gunboat was so closer to the island, the Confederate cannons were aimed too high and overshot their target. This was the first breach in the blockage of the Mississippi.

On the 8th, at 3 o'clock in the morning, orders were received to taken down the tents and make ready to take Island No. 10. When the Union soldiers arrived, they found that the enemy had fled and they were able to occupy the whole area without firing a shot. The cavalry brought in many secessionists as prisoners. Company F set up tents and lodged on land until the 11th, when they joined Companies A and H to do watch duty on Island No. 10. Here, on April 12th, they buried Knud Syversen. He was the first from Company F to die since they left Camp Randall. The weather turned nice again on April 13th and the Company was in good spirits. On the 14th they began to build the battery on Island No. 10. On the 17th it rained without stopping and no one worked. Another man in the company died.

On the night of Maundy Thursday, Helge was taken ill with mumps. The doctor said he had no medicine for this illness. Helge walked to his tent and didn't feel very sick until the night of Easter when he was overcome by typhoid fever. In May he was brought to the hospital. Many men were ill in the hospital and two from Company F died while Helge was there. Helge left the hospital on June 10th. He had been healthy for about three weeks but was still so exhausted that he could hardly walk a mile. Just after Helge returned to Island No. 10 and had begun to eat a little. O Company was ordered to make ready for a march to Union City. Ten sick and malnourished men from Company F, including Helge, remained on the island with Company I to stand guard.

Helge was discharged for disability on August 191, 1862. Two years later, he re-enlisted as a private in Company K of the 27th Regiment. From July through December 1864 Company K was at Little Rock, Arkansas. Helge was discharged at Clarksville on July 14, 1865. The diary did not cover his second period of service."

Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum website: ELLINGBOE, Helge C.: WI 15th Inf Co F. Residence: Manitowoc County, Wisconsin. Born in Vang, Valdres, Norway. Civil War: Unmarried. Age 20. Blue eyes, light hair, light complexion, 5'5". Enlisted for three years on 8 Nov 1861 at Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and mustered at Madison, Wisconsin, 12 Dec 1861. Private. Sick at Mississippi Island No. 10 on 11 Jun 1862. Became unfit for service and was discharged from the service for sickness on 13 Oct 1862 at Cincinnati, Ohio. He enlisted again for one year on 20 Sep 1864 at Manitowoc. Mustered 8 Oct 1864 at Madison, Wisconsin. Recruit. Bounty \$100. Private. This time he joined WI 27th Inf Co K from recruiting depot on 7 Nov 1864. Mustered out at Clarksville, Texas, on 14 Jul 1865. Post war: He lived in Mishicott, Wisconsin. Sources: (WHS Series 1200 boxes 76-8, 129-14, 130-12; red book vol 20 p86, vol 32) (Buslett p502) (Ager p306) (Ulvestad p 277) (Hedberg) "Elingboe, Helge"