

135TH AND 143RD ILLINOIS INFANTRY

The 135th Illinois Infantry was mustered in for 100 days on 6 June 1864, Colonel John S Wolfe, commanding.

The 143rd Illinois Infantry was mustered in for 100 days on 11 June 1864, Colonel Dudley C Smith, commanding.

Both regiments contained men from Mattoon and the surrounding counties.

The 135th had 34 Mattoon men, almost all of them in Company I. 1st Lieutenant James T Ewing and 2nd Lieutenant Thomas J Mathews were both from Mattoon and assigned to Company I.

The 143rd had 67 men from Mattoon, the majority of them in Companies H and K. 2nd Lieutenant David B Wells, from Mattoon, was assigned to Company K.

Both regiments were utilized in guard and patrol duty and did not see any significant combat.

The 135th was assigned to Benton Barracks, Missouri and principally guarded the Iron Mountain and Missouri Pacific Railroads.

The 143rd was assigned to Memphis, Tennessee and later moved to Helena, Arkansas.

Both regiments were mustered out on 26 September 1864.

The 135th lost 2 enlisted men killed and 17 enlisted men by disease.

The 143rd lost 55 enlisted men by disease.