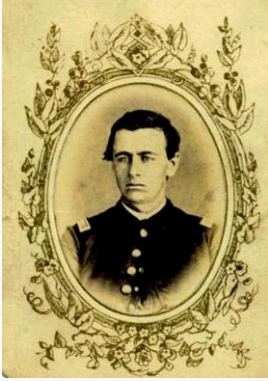


David Ayers



Born	April 29, 1841 Kalida, Ohio
Died	December 11, 1916 (aged 75) Chicago, Illinois
Place of burial	Oak Woods Cemetery, Chicago
Allegiance	United States of America Union
Service/branch	United States Army Union Army
Years of service	1861 - 1865
Rank	First Lieutenant
Unit	Company A, 57th Ohio Infantry
Battles/wars	American Civil War • Siege of Vicksburg
Awards	Medal of Honor

David Ayers (April 4, 1841 – December 11, 1916) was a Union Army soldier during the American Civil War. He received the Medal of Honor for gallantry during the Siege of Vicksburg on May 22, 1863.

Born in Kalida, Ohio, he was 20 years old when he enlisted in the 57th Ohio Volunteer Infantry on September 2, 1861 at Upper Sandusky, Ohio. Mustered in as a Private in Company A on September 23, 1861, he would go on to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery at Vicksburg, Mississippi while a Sergeant on May 22, 1863 (his name is listed as "David Ayers" in Civil War records, and his Medal was issued under that name).

He had been commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in February 1863, but was yet to be mustered into that rank by the time of the Vicksburg Campaign.

On May 22, 1863, General Ulysses S. Grant ordered an assault on the Confederate heights at Vicksburg, Mississippi. On the day in question 150 men were called to volunteer to make a diversionary charge on the Confederate position known as the Stockade Redan – a charge that was intended to draw fire away from the real planned attack. The volunteers knew the odds were against survival and the mission was called, in nineteenth century vernacular, a "forlorn hope". Only single men were accepted as volunteers and even then, twice as many men as needed came forward and were turned away. The assault began in the early morning following a naval bombardment. After charging an open plain in full view of the Confederates, the withering fire was such that most of the volunteers were cut down, and those that made it through the fire sought shelter in a ravine under the Redan. There they stayed and fought until nightfall, when the survivors made their way to return to the Union lines, Sergeant Ayres being one of them (85 percent of the men

who made the charge did not make it back). Seventy-nine of the survivors were awarded the Medal of Honor.

He was promoted to 1st Lieutenant on August 16, 1864. He was discharged from the 57th Ohio on January 4, 1865, but was re-commissioned into the unit's Company D on April 15, 1865. Promoted to Captain on August 10, 1865, he was not mustered into that rank before he was honorably mustered out of service on August 14, 1865 in Little Rock, Arkansas, having done his duty in the field for nearly four full years. He was awarded his Medal on August 13, 1894, nearly thirty one years after he played his part at Vicksburg.

Parents:

David Ayres (1809 - 1895)

Abigail *Rice* Ayres (1810 - 1844)

Spouse:

Annie Eliza *Crawford* Ayres (1850 - 1928)

Children:

Ammy McClure *Ayres* Means (1873 - 1960)

Citation

For gallantry in the charge of the volunteer storming party on 22 May 1863.