

Job Barnard Letter 73rd Indiana Infantry

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-mpany K was on brigade guard. Hard for the boys, but they stood it capitally.

The 2nd and 3rd. Weather Cool. We remain in camp. The 4th. a grand review of the troops took place by General Rosecrans. Everybody admired the General's manly appearance, and felt confident that success would attend the "Department of the Cumberland" while he led its hosts on to the battle field.

The 5th. Quite a sharp little snow storm visited us to day, making everything wear the appearance of winter. From this time up to the 26th, nothing occurred, save the same routine of camp duties, foraging, etc.

The weather was fine and pleasant most of the time and drilling went on lively. New winter clothing was issued, and other preparations made for the winter campaign. On Christmas the 73rd went foraging, and as usual got into a skirmish having a very interesting day of it, and returning after night equally weary and march-worn.

On the morning of the 26th, tents were struck and everything packed for marching. The wagons containing the tents and most of the baggage, with the sick and convalescents, were sent to Nashville, while a few wagons, with Head Quarter things, cooking utensils, Hospital etc [sic], accompanied the regiment.

We camped near Lavergne that night and next day proceeded toward Murfreesboro, driving the rebels before us amidst a drenching rain. Next day being Sunday we remained in camp. Early on Monday however we were again on the move, and that night our lines were in close proximity to those of the enemy. Tuesday the fight began. Sharpshooting and some heavy cannonading was the order of the day, and Negley's Division at one time, became hotly engaged. Wednesday morning the battle opened early, with fearful, terrible fury, and continued till the last beams of day had gone. Today the 73rd enters the hottest of the conflict. See her advancing on the foe. Her noble Colonel on foot, (having his horse shot in the beginning of the encounter,) giving heroic commands to his gallant men, who no less heroically obey them.

She stand firmly, advances promptly, loses some of her bravest men, and is compelled to fall back for want of support, by the enemy's superior numbers. Twenty-four of her number were killed, including two Captains, viz: Miles H. Tibbits of Company F, and Peter Doyle of Company H. Company "K" lost six killed and five others wounded, the latter including Orderly Sergeant Reynolds, who was shot in the head. Corporal Weston (Who was a color guard,) and privates Augustine, Peterson, Stephens, McNally and Peck were the killed. The glorious old flag had nine bullet holes shot through its silken folds, and all the color guards, save the color bearer himself, D. C. Hagharty, of Company D, were shot down.

The men and officers all behaved like veterans. The 73rd still had a position in front up to the 3rd of January 1863, (when the enemy was forced to yield,) but she did not become actively engaged again with the rebel hordes. The teams which had started with the regiment on New Years [sic] morning early, were sent back to Nashville, and did not come up again for a week. The soldiers, both during the time of the battle and until the teams came up, endured all the hardships of war, cold, rain, mud and hunger, but, like the truest hearted, engaged in a noble cause, they did it without a murmur.

On the 8th the tents were put up and the men were again permitted to enjoy all the comforts of a soldiers [sic] life.

On the 9th we changed camp, where we now remain on the 15th. The regiment has just returned from a reconnaissance, amidst rain, cold and mud. Our camp was pitched on low ground, and the heavy rain of last night and to day has compelled most of the tents to be removed to a higher foundation. We are near Murfreesboro, if I understand distance and direction correctly, about a mile east. Since coming, we have built fortifications here, and are prepared to withstand a heavy attack. I must quit writing for the night and go over and get the mail.

Some notes of travel, here and there, more particularly personal than formerly, and relating largely to myself, as an invalid and a convalescent. After the bloody battle of Stone [sic] River, the 73rd worked upon the sturdy fortifications near the river on the side of Murfreesboro nearest Nashville, until the 6th of April, when, in double quick, everything was packed, and we started on the train for Nashville.

The air was full of rumors as to our destination, but all the reports centered on the one thing, that of being mounted and going some where to do some fighting. The 3rd Ohio, 80th Illinois and 51st and 73rd Indiana formed our brigade, which was termed the "Provisional Brigade," and of which Colonel Streight of the 51st Indiana had command.

Our wagons were all turned over at Murfreesboro, and our mules brought through by the teamsters. This seemed to be good proof that the animals on which we were to be mounted were of the long-eared tribe, and some of the boys began to murmur and say that they preferred "shank's ponies" to mules.

On the evening of the 10th we went aboard a fleet of "transports" at the landing, and early next morning, were puffing and smoking down the noble Cumberland. We reached Clarksville a little after noon and went on down to Palmyra where we disembarked and put out pickets.

Our regiment was sent out, and the night was cool and rainy. Here we began to increase our "means of transportation" by picking up several horses and mules. Those which we had aboard the boats were taken off, and one, a thin, "wilted," affrighted mule, swam under the stern of a large boat, steered for the opposite shore, and when last seen stood "shivering on the brink" and feared to run away, lest he might be retaken and punished as a deserter.

Sunday was devoted to catching, breaking and riding our "wiry" animals, and Monday a part of the brigade started on mules and horses, and afoot through the country, via. Fort Donelson to Fort Henry on the Tennessee River. The rest

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