

Account of Darden's Battery

Captain Darden's battery (four guns, seventy men) went into the battle of Murfreesboro much fatigued by its battle of December 27, at Triune, supported by Wood's Brigade, and on the morning of December 31, moved upon the field with Johnson's brigade, about the center of Cleburne's Division. As soon as opportunity presented, in the rapid advance of the division, Darden took position and silenced, in succession, two Federal batteries. When they had advanced again near the Federal hospital, Captain Hotchkiss, chief of artillery, placed Darden's Battery and Calvert's in position to engage some heavy rifled batteries that enfiladed the advanced position of Cheatham's Division. Here a bloody battle was fought, in which the Federal General Sill was killed. (Hardee's report). Darden reported that he moved into the woods about midnight and checked the Federal pursuit of Wood's brigade, then moved around to the right with two guns of Humphrey's Battery silenced four guns of a Federal battery, which the Confederate infantry captured. By this time our infantry had rallied, reformed and did the rest of the work for that battery. "During the following days they were not engaged. They moved five pieces of artillery off the field. Darden reported Corpl. [sic] H.A.Hendrixson and Private J.T.F. Waters wounded, and four others lightly. He commended the judgment, prudence and courage of his Lieutenants, H.W.Bullen, F.W.Coleman and C.B.Richardson, and the gallantry of his whole command. Captain Darden was selected to represent the command in the Roll of Honor.

The battery was actively engaged June 24 to July 4, 1863, when George H.Thomas' Federal Corps occupied Hoover's Gap, compelling the retreat of General Bragg to Chattanooga. Darden's four Napoleon guns were depended upon constantly, according to the report of General Bushrod Johnson, brigade commander.