

6th Indiana newspaper article

DAILY COURIER.

M.C. Garber – Editor.

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MADISON:

Friday Evening, Jan. 16, 1892.

From the Sixth Indiana.

On the morning of the 29th, the 1st and 2d Brigades marched to the Murfreesboro pike, leaving the 3d Brigade with instructions to hold the old position until further orders, in order to protect the right flank of the army from the enemy's cavalry. On the 30th at daylight we received orders to join the Division, at a point 6 miles from Murfreesboro on the extreme right of the army. Col. Baldwin was ordered to take his Brigade and report to Gen. Stanley, Chief of Artillery, when he took command of the two Brigades and advanced, intending to give battle if opposed. We advanced entirely out of supporting distance, fully two miles from the extreme right of the army. Our skirmishers ran into Hardee's corps, and it is the greatest wonder that we escaped being captured, as our little force might have been easily surrounded. As it happened, we got back to the right wing in safety, about two hours after dark, after marching all day. Jan 1st, just before daybreak, we were aroused by heavy cannonading. The 1st Brigade (Willich's) and the 2d (Kirk's), having been stationed on the extreme right as a picket force, were surprised by the enemy, who, having attacked them with overpowering numbers, drove them like sheep. Baldwin immediately formed the 3d Brigade in a good position in the outskirts of the woods. General Johnson ordered him to advance over the field and take position behind a certain fence, which he did. Immediately immense columns of the enemy were hurled against us, and though we held our ground in front, our right flank being unprotected, and the troops on our left giving way, (the 22d Indiana and [illegible] th Illinois running right over the 6th), we commenced to fall back. No braver man than Col. Baldwin lives. The Brigade knew nothing of him before, but I believe that no one now doubts his bravery or competency. Our retreat was quite disastrous, indeed partaking of the nature of the panic. Baldwin did all in his power to rally the men, but it was impossible to rally them for a permanent stand. We fell back about a mile and a half, and then made breastworks of logs and rails, and have held the front ever since.

Gen. Rosecrans is a [illegible], and always cheerful and smiling. The loss of the 6th Indiana is about 15 killed and 60 wounded. Captain Kavanaugh was taken prisoner, unhurt, and several of the men were also taken.

J. J. S.