

# Chattanooga Daily Rebel Article on Battle of Murfreesboro

THE 17TH TENNESSEE

Correspondence of the Rebel.

Winchester, Tennessee

Jany [sic], 22d, 1863

Mr. Editor: Your space, I know is valuable, but I must ask the favor of a brief notice of the part taken in the battle at Murfreesboro, by the 17th Tennessee regiment. The value of close, hard training, of rigid [illegible] line, in a word, the constant laborious discharge of duty, as all admit the officers of this regiment had been doing, since they took command of it, was [illegible] freely shown by this regiment in this battle, that for no other reason the facts should be freely known.

Gen'l [sic] Johnson's commanding the brigade, freely merits all that your correspondent "Bullet" says about him, and the whole brigade in that fight did its duty nobly, and a pleasing feature is, that there is no discord between the different commands of that brigade, and especially, is there [sic] note in reference to the part taken by each on that memorable bloody field. Your correspondent "Bullet" says, the brigade captured eleven guns, and that Capt. Darden brought off five guns. This is literally true, but simple justice requires that some details should be given. The gallant Darden and other officers of the brigade will cheerfully award the honor to whom it belongs.

A battery rarely, if ever, captures a battery, and Captain Darden himself, would not pretend that he captured the five pieces of Artillery "brought off by him." The first four guns were captured in a desperate and bloody charge by the 17th Tennessee regiment alone, in which Col. Marks was shot down, badly wounded by a canister shot, just before reaching the enemy's battery; his Adjutant Jimmy Fitzpatrick, a boy only 18 years old, was the first to reach the enemy's guns, and took formal possession by throwing his sword across one of the guns – he was immediately shot down, severely wounded in the thigh by a minnie [sic] ball. The regiment immediately moved forward, while the right of the brigade was held in check by a strong Federal force, such being the impetuosity of the boys, that Lt. Col. Floyd being now in command, felt safe in saying "forward." And nobly did they press forward, making many a Yankee pay the penalty for his past outrages upon old men, and helpless women.

The regiment soon discovered another battery, near a Yankee hospital. Without ceremony they made war upon it, and after a desperate fight of half an hour, they drove this battery (which had been all the time playing upon the right of the brigade) from its position, compelling it to beat a hasty retreat, leaving one of its guns, which was taken. Here the 17th captured many prisoners, at and around the hospital, and two wagon loads of ammunition, besides a number of mules. All this time the right of the brigade, composed of the 25th, 44th, and 37th Tennessee regiments, was making a desperate fight, and when it succeeded to dislodging the enemy from his position, came up and reformed upon the ground taken by the 17th. In the mean time [sic] the 23d Tennessee regiment, being on the left of the 17th, had come up, having made a gallant fight, and driven its immediate adversary from the field. Upon reforming the brigade, it moved

forward and again the 17th, aided by the gallant 23d, in advance of the balance of the brigade which still contending with an enemy to the right, made a desperate and gallant charge upon another battery, strongly supported by infantry, and took it, and held it, making a terrible havoc among the retreating foe, until their comparative weakness was discovered, and upon the line to the right, being compelled to recede leaving them unsupported, and the enemy in great force moving upon them, they were compelled to give up the guns taken. Here they lost several prisoners, and among the number the gallant Major Davis.

The whole brigade was about 2000 strong, and lost about 600 men; of these the 17th regiment, about 600 strong, lost about 240.

I have seen a copy of Lt. Colonel Floyd's report and gather the material facts above stated there from, and there is no controversy in the brigade about them. The officers in this brigade are a liberal high toned gallant set of men, and will not in the least, I am sure, condemn or criticise [sic] this truthful statement, which but does a noble, and brave regiment simple justice.

Upon passing over the ground, where this regiment fought, the day after the battle, dead Yankees by the hundred told what had been done. It is due to the gallant Col. Floyd to state that the whole regiment bear willing testimony that he was ever in the hottest of the fight, leading his men after the Colonel fell.

A.