

DEEDS OF VALOR

FROM RECORDS IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

HOW AMERICAN HEROES WON THE

MEDAL OF HONOR

HISTORY OF OUR RECENT WARS AND EXPLORATIONS

FROM PERSONAL REMINISCENCES AND RECORDS OF OFFICERS AND ENLISTED
MEN WHO WERE REWARDED BY CONGRESS FOR MOST CONSPICUOUS
ACTS OF BRAVERY ON THE BATTLE-FIELD, ON THE HIGH
SEAS AND IN ARCTIC EXPLORATIONS.

AMONG OTHER RECORDS THE STIRRING ADVENTURES OF:

Admiral W. S. SCHLEY
Admiral GEO. DEWEY
Lieut-Gen'l NELSON A. MILES
Maj.-Gen'l WM. R. SHAFTER
Admiral D. G. FARRAGUT
Admiral D. D. PORTER

Admiral GEO. W. MELVILLE
Lieut. G. W. DeLONG
General A. W. GREELY
Commander W. D. CUSHING
Hon. L. P. di CESNOLA
Gen'l F. J. BELL

Hon. WM. F. CODY, (Buffalo Bill)
Gen'l MARION P. MAUS
Gen'l ARTHUR McARTHUR, Jr.
Gen'l DELEVAN BATES
Gen'l JULIUS STAHL
Hon. JOHN C. BLACK

Edited by W. F. BEYER and O. F. KEYDEL.

INTRODUCTION BY

BRIG.-GEN'L H. M. DUFFIELD, U. S. V.

Illustrated

COMPLETE IN TWO VOLUMES

VOLUME I

THE PERRIEN-KEYDEL COMPANY

DETROIT, MICH., U. S. A.

1907

A CHARGE IN WATER AND DARKNESS



MILTON T. RUSSEL,

Captain, Co. A, 51st Ind. Vol. Infantry.
Born at North Salem, Ind., Sept. 25, 1826.

"ABOUT nine o'clock on December 29, 1862," writes Captain Milton T. Russel, "an orderly came quietly along the line of sleeping soldiers and in a low tone called my name, and said that Colonel Streight wanted to see me. I went a short distance with the orderly and found the colonel and General Harker standing by their horses in consultation. They had just returned from a reconnoissance. The colonel said: 'Russel, take your Company A, move quietly to the front until you come to the river (which was about 200 yards in our immediate front), wade across, form your company on the south bank, and wait for further orders.' He explained that General Wood, our division commander, was ordered to cross and attack the enemy at that point at daylight the next morning, and he wanted to know more about the ford and find whether or not the enemy were close down on the bank of the river. This move was necessary in order to fully develop the enemy's position. It required but a moment to return to my company and form it in line, as the men had rolled up in their blankets without removing any of their clothing. It was cold and chilly, and all the men were lying on their arms. Without further ceremony the company moved off. As we left the regiment, the officers were busy forming the men into line to support us. We moved down and crossed the river, wading it with the water

Stone River.—On the 30th of December, 1862, the Confederate General Bragg had concentrated his army of 62,000 two miles in front of Murfreesboro, Tenn.

The position of the Union Army 43,000 strong, under the Reserves, was on the west bank of Stone River. The line ranged north and south three or four miles, the left wing touching the river.

On the 31st Johnson's Union Division was furiously charged and swept away by the enemy's left under Bragg, who followed up his advantage by driving off Davis, and rushing upon the next division under Sheridan, who retired after an hour's hard fighting, losing 1,830 of his men.

Rosecrans had massed his artillery on a knoll in the rear, which was assailed by four charges of the enemy, who were repulsed with great loss.

Bragg then brought up Breckenridge with 7,000 fresh men, but his attacks were also unsuccessful.

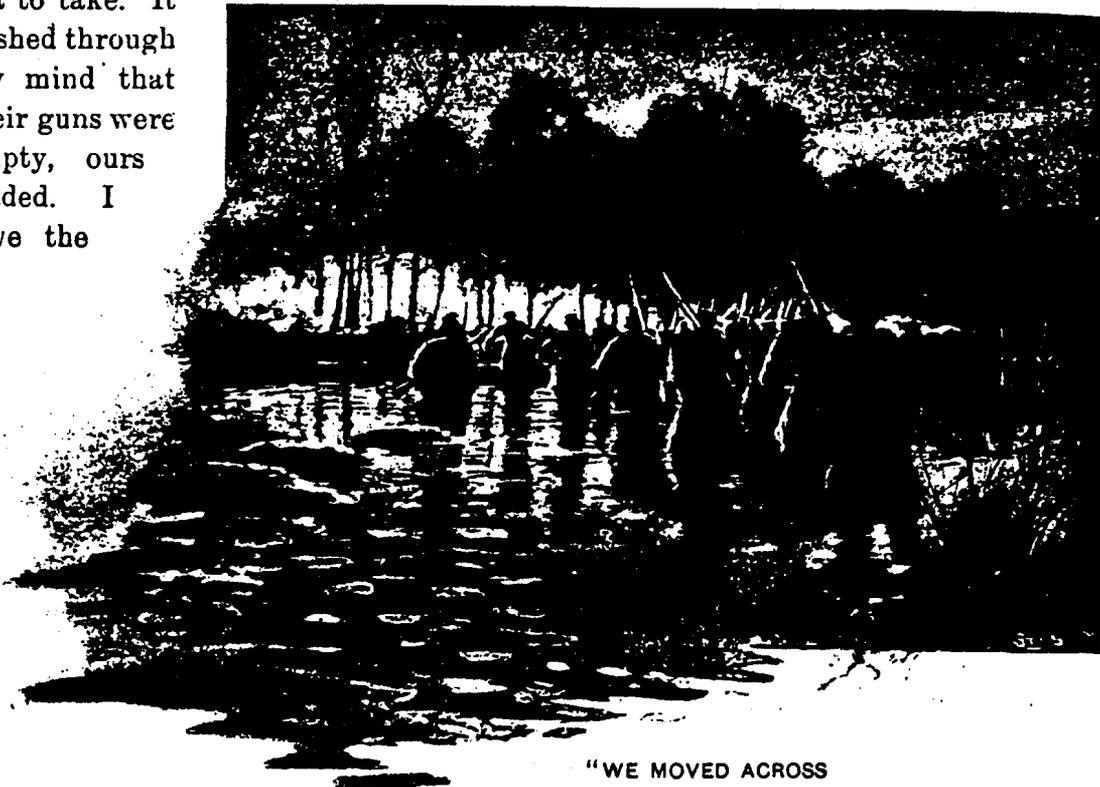
On the 1st of January nothing was done. On the 2d, Rosecrans threw a force across the river, and, with his artillery on the heights almost destroyed Breckenridge's Division, which was ordered to drive him from the river.

On the 3d Bragg withdrew. His loss was 14,700 men. On the Union side there was a loss of 11,553. More than a third of our artillery and a large portion of our train were taken.

in some places up to our hips. Talk about cold water or a cold bath, it was so cold that our teeth chattered!

"As the company was nearing the opposite shore a terrific volley was fired from behind a rail fence not over forty steps in our front. The enemy, being on higher ground than we, fired too high, their bullets taking effect in the regiment that was standing in line where we left them on the opposite side of the river. There were but two ways out of the trap: one was to recross the river, the other was to advance. There was only a second in which to decide which horn of the dilem-

ma to take. It flashed through my mind that their guns were empty, ours loaded. I gave the



"WE MOVED ACROSS
THE RIVER"

command: 'On right into line, double-quick, charge'; and in less time than it takes to tell it, we were over that fence. My boys emptied their guns, fixed bayonets, and went at them. The best troops on earth will not stand with empty guns and receive cold steel. The Johnnies gave way and Company A, Fifty-first Indiana Volunteer Infantry followed right at their heels. Before I could bring the men to a halt the rebel line was driven back 400 yards and the desired information obtained. Had the charge proved a failure I would have been court-martialed for exceeding my orders. As it turned out all right, Uncle Sam has conferred this beautiful medal on me, but no captain ever had the honor of commanding a braver body of troops than I had in that charge."

THE

WAR OF THE REBELLION:

A COMPILATION OF THE

OFFICIAL RECORDS

OF THE

UNION AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES.

PREPARED, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR, BY

The late Lieut. Col. ROBERT N. SCOTT, Third U. S. Artillery.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF

Lieut. Col. HENRY M. LAZELLE, Twenty-third U. S. Infantry

PURSUANT TO ACTS OF CONGRESS.

SERIES I.—VOLUME XX—IN TWO PARTS.

PART I—REPORTS.

WASHINGTON:

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

1887.

proceeded to Brentwood, and from thence on the Wilson pike, near where we drove in the enemy's pickets. Two miles farther we came to a cross-road leading to Nolensville, on which the enemy were encamped about a mile distant, and at another point about 2 miles distant. The small cavalry force occupying the nearest camp abandoned it, and I stationed the Fifty-ninth Regiment Illinois Infantry and one section of the Fifth Wisconsin Battery in a position to command this road, and prevent the enemy from Nolensville, which was 5 miles distant, establishing themselves in our rear. I then proceeded 2 miles farther with the train, placing the Fifteenth Regiment Wisconsin Infantry and one section of the battery on the right, and commanding a road coming from Franklin, and the Twenty-second Regiment Indiana Infantry, the Seventy-fourth Regiment Illinois Infantry, and one section of the battery in front. Our advance was attended with considerable skirmishing. Two of the enemy were killed, and some wounded were seen being carried off. A few shells from Captain Pinney's battery cooled the Confederate ardor until all the wagons were completely loaded. The wagons of the enemy were hurried out of the field without being loaded, though, I regret to say, their presence was not discerned in time to effect their capture. The captain of one of the skirmishing parties caused some neighborhood negroes to bury the enemy's dead, and we returned to camp without any mishap whatever.

I beg leave to observe in this report that foraging in such a country as this in our front, and so great a distance from camp, while the enemy are so near and from every hill-top estimate the number of the escort and the value of the train, is attended with considerable risk. Our train could not be made to move in a less space than 4 miles, and if it were not possible to throw a superior force in rear of foraging expeditions it would not be difficult to suddenly attack so long a train and destroy some portion of it, especially while threatening it in the rear, as they did much of the way in to-day, unless the escort were very large.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
P. SIDNEY POST,
Colonel, Commanding Brigade.

Lieut. T. W. MORRISON,
Adj. Asst. Adjt. Gen., First Division, Right Wing.

No. 2.

Report of Brig. Gen. John A. Wharton, U. S. Army, commanding cavalry brigade.

HEADQUARTERS WHEATON'S CAVALRY BRIGADE,
Nolensville, Tenn., December 25, 1862—9.30 p. m.

GENERAL: We have been fighting the enemy from sunrise until dark. The forage now lies to the left of this pike, in between this and Wilkerson pike. To-day the enemy came out in large force and a heavy supporting force. With what cavalry could be used without disturbing the pickets, we engaged the enemy. The country is very hilly and covered with cedar brakes, which renders it totally unfit for cavalry, and the infantry here has orders to risk nothing. I had 3 men wounded; killed 6 and wounded 14 of the enemy. They thus paid for their forage.

I cannot get the five companies to complete Smith's and Murray's reg-

iments, though they have long been promised me. The service that I am required to perform here is too much for my force, and it will soon be unfit for service. Other cavalry commanders are drilling daily, and I assure you that every day for the past ten days I have engaged the enemy. My force in camp has to be moved forward every day to sustain the pickets, and never return until dark, so, whether on picket or off, they have no rest.

I ordered Colonel Smith to leave a portion of his command at Franklin, and to move last night on a scout on the Hillsborough pike. The result of the expedition is not yet known.

I take great pride in this brigade, and do not intend that it shall be used up without advising you of it. I intend to write to General Wheeler, and ask him to come over and see for himself the amount of labor I have to perform. The enemy were followed beyond our lines, and our pickets are at their usual stands. The enemy will be out early in the morning, and to-morrow will be, as usual, a day for us to fight and not to rest. I have nothing new as to the several movements of the enemy.

Most respectfully, general, your obedient servant,
JNO. A. WHEATON,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General LEONIDAS POLK,
Commanding, &c.

DECEMBER 25, 1862.—Skirmish at Prim's blacksmith shop, Edmondson pike, Tenn.

Report of Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Wood, U. S. Army.*

[HEADQUARTERS FIRST DIVISION, LEFT WING,]
December 25, 1862.

The brigade (Colonel Harker's) which went out this morning for forage is coming in. Colonel Harker reports having filled his wagons with corn, but had to fight for it. He was attacked in front and on the flanks, and lost 1 man killed outright and 2 wounded; one seriously, the other slightly. The casualties all occurred in the Fifty-first Louisiana Volunteers. Colonel Harker estimates the enemy at 600, and says he was attacked by mounted men and men on foot, but does not know whether the latter were infantry or dismounted troopers. If we should move to-morrow, I beg to be distinctly informed what amount of baggage it is expected we will take. If all is not taken, which, I presume, will hardly be done, what arrangements will be made with the remainder? Will it be ordered to follow, or sent to Nashville? Please be explicit, as it will save much embarrassment. Further, is it expected any forage will be taken? I understand the forage is exhausted on the Murfreesborough road to La Vergne; and if it were there to forage for, scattering our troops so, where the enemy are, would be hazardous. On the other hand, to haul the bulky forage provided from this country will make an immense train. I beg you will furnish the necessary information at your earliest convenience.

TH. J. WOOD,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

* See also Wharton's report, p. 164.

LEFT WING.

Maj. Gen. THOMAS L. CHITTENDEN.

FIRST (LATE SIXTH) DIVISION.

- (1.) Brig. Gen. THOMAS J. WOOD.
- (2.) Brig. Gen. MILO S. HASCALL.

First (late Fifteenth) Brigade.

- (1.) Brig. Gen. MILO S. HASCALL.
- (2.) Col. GEORGE P. BURELL.

Second (late Twenty-first) Brigade.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 100th Illinois, Col. Frederick A. Bartleson. | 15th Indiana, Lieut. Col. Gustavus A. Wood. |
| 59th Indiana: | 40th Indiana: |
| Col. George P. Buell. | Col. John W. Blake. |
| Lieut. Col. James T. Embree. | Lieut. Col. Elias Neff. |
| 3d Kentucky: | Maj. Henry Leasing. |
| Col. Samuel McKee. | 57th Indiana: |
| Maj. Daniel R. Collier. | Col. Cyrus G. Hines. |
| 26th Ohio, Capt. William H. Squires. | Lieut. Col. George W. Leonard. |
| | Capt. John S. McGraw. |
| | 97th Ohio, Col. John Q. Lane. |

Third (late Twentieth) Brigade.

Col. CHARLES G. HARKER.

- 51st Indiana, Col. Abel D. Straight.
- 73d Indiana, Col. Gilbert Hathaway.
- 13th Michigan, Col. Michael Shoemaker.
- 64th Ohio, Lieut. Col. Alexander McIlvaine.
- 65th Ohio:
- Lieut. Col. Alexander Cassil.
- Maj. Horatio N. Whitbeck.

Artillery.*

Maj. SEYMOUR RACE.

- 8th Indiana Battery, Lieut. George Estep.
- 10th Indiana Battery, Capt. Jerome B. Cox.
- 6th Ohio Battery, Capt. Cullen Bradley.

SECOND (LATE FOURTH) DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. JOHN M. PALMER.

First (late Twenty-second) Brigade.

Brig. Gen. CHARLES CROFT.

- 31st Indiana, Col. John Osborn.
- 1st Kentucky, Col. David A. Emyart.
- 2d Kentucky, Col. Thomas D. Sedgwick.
- 90th Ohio, Col. Isaac N. Ross.

Second (late Nineteenth) Brigade.

Col. WILLIAM B. HAZEN.

- 110th Illinois, Col. Thomas S. Casey.
- 9th Indiana, Col. William H. Blake.
- 6th Kentucky, Col. Walter C. Whitaker.
- 41st Ohio, Lieut. Col. Aquila Wiley.

* The Eighth Battery was attached to the First Brigade, the Tenth Battery to Second Brigade, and the Sixth Battery to the Third Brigade.

Third (late Tenth) Brigade.

Col. WILLIAM GROSE.

- 84th Illinois, Col. Louis H. Waters.
- 36th Indiana:
- Maj. Isaac Kinley.
- Capt. Pyrrhus Woodward.
- 23d Kentucky, Maj. Thomas H. Hamrick.
- 6th Ohio, Col. Nicholas L. Anderson.
- 24th Ohio:
- Col. Frederick C. Jones.
- Maj. Henry Terry.
- Capt. Enoch Waller.
- Capt. A. T. M. Cockerill.

Artillery.

Capt. WILLIAM E. STANDAERT.

- 1st Ohio, Battery B, Capt. William E. Standart.
- 1st Ohio, Battery F:
- Capt. Daniel T. Cockerill.
- Lieut. Norval Osburn.
- 4th United States, Batteries H and M, Lieut. Charles C. Parsons.

THIRD (LATE FIFTH) DIVISION.

- (1.) Brig. Gen. HORATIO P. VAN CLEVE.
- (2.) Col. SAMUEL BEATTY.

First (late Eleventh) Brigade.

- (1.) Col. SAMUEL BEATTY.
- (2.) Col. BENJAMIN C. GRIDER.

Second (late Fourteenth) Brigade.

Col. JAMES P. FRYE.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 79th Indiana, Col. Frederick Kneifer. | 44th Indiana: |
| 9th Kentucky: | Col. William C. Williams. |
| Col. Benjamin C. Grider. | Lieut. Col. Simeon C. Aldrich. |
| Lieut. Col. George H. Crann. | 86th Indiana, Lieut. Col. George F. Dick. |
| 11th Kentucky, Maj. Erasmus L. Mottley. | 13th Ohio: |
| 19th Ohio, Maj. Charles F. Manderson. | Col. Joseph G. Hawkins. |
| | Maj. Dwight Jarvis, jr. |
| | 59th Ohio, Lieut. Col. William Howard. |

Third (late Twenty-third) Brigade.

Col. SAMUEL W. PRICE.

- 35th Indiana, Col. Bernard F. Mullen.
- 8th Kentucky:
- Lieut. Col. Renben May.
- Maj. Green B. Broadus.
- 21st Kentucky, Lieut. Col. James C. Evans.
- 51st Ohio, Lieut. Col. Richard W. McClain.
- 93th Ohio:
- Col. Peter T. Swaine.
- Lieut. Col. John E. Cummins.

Artillery.

Capt. GEORGE R. SWALLOW.

- 7th Indiana Battery, Capt. George R. Swallow.
- Pennsylvania, Battery B (26th), Lieut. Alanson J. Stevens.
- 3d Wisconsin Battery, Lieut. Corliand Livingston.

Return of casualties in the Union forces, &c.—Continued.

	Casualties		Wounded		Captured or missing		Aggregate
	Killed	Enlisted men	Officers	Enlisted men	Officers	Enlisted men	
First Brigade.							
(1) Brig. Gen. KIRG S. BARROLL.							
(2) Col. GEORGE P. BURELL.							
100th Indiana	1	6	6	22			46
80th Indiana	1	16	4	68			114
24 Kentucky	2	12	8	77			133
20th Ohio	1	11	2	85			99
Indiana Light Artillery, 8th Battery							8
Total First Brigade	5	45	20	252		84	400
Second Brigade.							
Col. GEORGE D. WASHBURN.							
10th Indiana	3	86	7	186		7	188
40th Indiana		4	5	65		12	85
57th Indiana		11	6	61		6	78
20th Ohio		1		4			24
Indiana Light Artillery, 10th Battery							5
Total Second Brigade	3	102	18	277		25	390
Third Brigade.							
Col. CHARLES G. HARRIS.							
7th Indiana	2	22	2	48		8	80
13th Michigan		17	2	70		17	89
68th Ohio	1	28	3	61		17	105
20th Ohio	2	28	5	92		28	173
Ohio Light Artillery, 6th Battery		1	1	8		1	11
Total Third Brigade	5	106	13	211		101	389
Fourth Division.							
Brig. Gen. JOHN M. PALMER.							
Staff			1				1
First Brigade.							
Brig. Gen. CHARLES CHAFFIN.							
1st Indiana		5	1	44		2	54
1st Kentucky		12	1	61		1	77
2d Kentucky		9	2	56		2	69
90th Ohio		17	5	67		2	92
Total First Brigade		44	9	218		6	280
Second Brigade.							
Col. WILLIAM B. HANSEN.							
Staff and escort			4	1			5
110th Illinois	1	6	4	46		2	58
9th Indiana	1	11	5	82		10	100
6th Kentucky	2	11	5	85		11	112
41st Ohio	1	12	2	102		6	124
Total Second Brigade	5	40	19	316		29	409

Return of casualties in the Union forces, &c.—Continued.

	Casualties		Wounded		Captured or missing		Aggregate
	Killed	Enlisted men	Officers	Enlisted men	Officers	Enlisted men	
First Brigade.							
Col. WILLIAM GEORGE.							
84th Illinois	2	22	5	119		8	167
86th Indiana	2	22	6	85		18	134
2d Kentucky	2	8	2	50		22	88
6th Ohio	3	28	4	134		14	177
24th Ohio	4	10	4	68		12	98
Total First Brigade	10	97	22	456		74	659
Artillery.							
1st Ohio Light Artillery, Battery B							
1st Ohio Light Artillery, Battery F							
4th U. S. Artillery, Batteries H and K							
Total Artillery	9	1	1	89		11	100
Second Division.							
THIRD DIVISION.							
(1) Brig. Gen. HORATIO P. VAN CLEVE.							
(2) Col. SAMUEL HEALTY.							
Staff			1				1
First Brigade.							
Col. SAMUEL BEATTY.							
79th Indiana	1	10	4	68		26	121
9th Kentucky	4	18	7	80		11	115
11th Kentucky	2	7	4	81		10	102
18th Ohio	2	24	2	122		24	186
Total First Brigade	9	59	20	351		88	521
Second Brigade.							
Col. JAMES P. FITZ.							
Staff			1				1
44th Indiana		10	2	54		25	91
86th Indiana		22	5	55		2	97
13th Ohio	1	22	6	79		60	185
90th Ohio	2	8	2	35		2	85
Total Second Brigade	3	75	16	223		4	557
Third Brigade.							
Col. SAMUEL W. PERCE.							
33rd Indiana		22	6	77		22	137
8th Kentucky	2	7	2	69		27	111
21st Kentucky	2	10	6	34		9	67
51st Ohio	2	24	4	118		44	180
90th Ohio	1	12	5	41		29	88
Total Third Brigade	4	75	22	339		143	583

* Wounded December 31.

rumbling of artillery moving from our right to our left. Upon investigation I was satisfied that the enemy was massing his forces on our left, and forthwith informed you of the fact.

At 2 o'clock on the morning of January 1, I informed General Rosebarn of this movement of the enemy, when he immediately arranged to relieve us from this position, which we had held since noon of the preceding day.

Our casualties during our absence from your brigade were: Wounded, Isaac McDonald, private Company B; Israel Garrett and J. O. Huffman, privates Company O; Austin Harvey and Ewan Foulke, privates Company D; Lewellyn Echelberry, sergeant Company E; George Robinson, private Company G, and John Moore, private Company H. Killed: A. M. Hasom, color sergeant; August Reinsch, private Company B, and John Rodecker, private Company G.

At 3 o'clock on the morning of the 1st, I reported my regiment to you, and was assigned a place in the front line, about a half mile to the rear of the position occupied by me at the beginning of the engagement. We remained here during the day, with no other annoyance than an occasional shot or shell from the enemy's guns. At night we bivouacked on the spot.

On the morning of the 2d, our skirmishers were advanced a half mile to the front, where they remained undisturbed until 2.45 p. m., when the enemy attacked our forces across the river and our skirmishers were driven back. We were here subjected to a cross-fire from the enemy's guns for more than an hour, wounding Charles E. Claspball, corporal Company K; Purley Diekson, sergeant, and Benjamin Kinsey, private Company D.

At 5 p. m. we crossed Stone's River and remained on its right bank until the morning of the 4th without further event.

Our loss during the whole engagement was 3 killed, 15 wounded, and 6 missing.

The officers and men in my command everywhere acquitted themselves nobly, and we never lost a position after once taking it.

I have the honor to be, colonel, your obedient servant,

JOHN Q. LANE,

Colonel Ninety-seventh Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Col. G. D. WAGNER,

Commanding Twenty-first Brigade.

No. 112.

Report of Col. Charles G. Harber, Sixty-fifth Ohio Infantry, commanding Third Brigade.

HDQRS. THIRD BRIGADE, FIRST DIVISION, LEFT WING,

FOURTEENTH A. C., DEPT. OF THE CUMBERLAND,

Murfreesborough, Tenn., January —, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the troops under my command from the 29th ultimo to the 4th instant, inclusive:

The Third Brigade, First Division, Fourteenth Army Corps, Department of the Cumberland, formerly the Twentieth Brigade, Sixth Division, consisting of the ~~Fifty~~ *Fifty* ~~and~~ *and* ~~Regiment~~ *Regiment* ~~Indians~~ *Indians* ~~Volunteers,~~ *Volunteers,* Col.

A. D. Streight commanding; the Thirteenth Regiment Michigan Volunteers, Col. M. Shoemaker commanding; Seventy-third Regiment Indiana Volunteers, Col. G. Hathaway commanding; Sixty-fourth Regiment Ohio Volunteers, Lieut. Col. A. McIlvain commanding; Sixty-fifth Regiment Ohio Volunteers, Lieutenant-Colonel Cassil commanding, and the Sixth Ohio Independent Battery, commanded by Capt. Cullen Bradley, left Stewart's Creek about 10 a. m. on Monday, the 29th ultimo, marching most of the time in line of battle, with the right of the line a little in the rear of the left of the Second Brigade, Colonel Wagner commanding.

Our skirmishers soon came upon the enemy's cavalry, engaging them briskly and driving them slowly before them. We proceeded in this manner, cautiously feeling our way until our left arrived at the left bank of Stone's River, which was reached about 4 p. m.

Up to this time we had suffered no casualties from the enemy's skirmishers. We took up a position near Stone's River, about 400 yards to the left of the Nashville and Murfreesborough pike, the Second Brigade, Colonel Wagner commanding, being on the right, and the First Brigade, General Hascall commanding, being on the left, and somewhat to the rear, owing to the conformation of the ground.

We remained in this position until about dark, when we received orders to proceed to Murfreesborough. Stone's River being fordable in our front, we at once commenced crossing the stream. Throwing a strong line of skirmishers over the stream, orders were given to the ~~Thirteenth~~ *Thirteenth* Michigan, and Seventy-third Indiana Volunteers to cross simultaneously, form on the opposite bank, press forward, and seize the commanding heights beyond, while the Sixty-fourth and Sixty-fifth Ohio, with Bradley's battery, were directed to follow as rapidly as possible.

The skirmishers had barely left the bank of the river before they were vigorously attacked by those of the enemy, concealed in a thicket and behind a fence in our front. Our skirmishers, in no way daunted by this fierce assault of the enemy, pressed gallantly forward, driving the foe until they came upon the enemy in force. The skirmishers were soon supported by the front line of the brigade. The enemy seemed to have been entirely disconcerted by this bold movement of our troops, and fell back in confusion. In this movement our loss was 2 men killed and 3 wounded. This slight loss must be attributed to the able manner in which the officers of the brigade conducted their commands. A prisoner taken reported an entire division of the enemy on my front; movements along my entire front and flanks indicated that a strong force was near me. I reported this to the general commanding the division, at the same time stating that I could hold the position until re-enforced.

I soon received orders to recross the stream, which I did, occupying nearly the same ground as before crossing. This movement was so quickly executed as not to excite the suspicion of the enemy.

Too much praise cannot be accorded to the brave officers and men of this brigade for their bravery and skill in driving a concealed enemy from a strong position after nightfall, and holding their ground in the face of an enemy three times their numbers. Though little was accomplished by this feat, it nevertheless made manifest the indomitable courage of the men under the most trying circumstances, and augured well for the more severe work which awaited them.

On December 30, the Sixty-fourth Ohio, being on picket and outpost duty, was somewhat annoyed by the enemy in the slight skirmishing in the front, losing 1 man killed.

About 8 a. m. the enemy's battery, stationed on an eminence near the right bank of Stone's River, opened a severe fire of shot and shell upon my camp. Bradley's battery was ordered into position to engage that of the enemy. After a severe engagement of fifteen minutes, Captain Bradley succeeded in silencing the enemy's battery. My command sustained no loss in this engagement. Aside from this, it was generally quiet on my front during the day.

About 8 a. m., December 31, I received orders from General Wood, commanding division, to cross the river with my command. The movement was commenced, in obedience to General Wood's order, but was suspended for a few moments by an order emanating from Major-General Crittenden, commanding the left wing. While awaiting further orders, Major-General Rosecrans passed my command, and gave me direct instructions to proceed immediately to the support of the right wing of our army, which was yielding to the overwhelming force of the enemy at that point.

We had hardly commenced moving toward the right, when a Confederate battery, located on the south bank of the river, opened upon us, killing 1 man and wounding 2. Not stopping to reply to this battery, we pressed steadily forward. On approaching the right, much confusion was visible; troops marching in every direction; stragglers to be seen in great numbers, and teamsters in great consternation endeavoring to drive their teams they knew not whither. My progress was impeded by the confusion, while the enemy was pouring shot and shell upon us from at least three different directions, wounding several men in my command. The brigade was, however, extricated from this perilous position as soon as possible, and pressed on to a position on the extreme right of our line, Colonel Fyffe's brigade, of General Van Cleve's division, being immediately upon our left.

After reaching this last position, my brigade marched in two lines, the ~~Twenty-third~~ on the right, the Sixty-fifth Ohio on the left, the battery a little retired and opposite the interval between the Sixty-fifth and ~~Twenty-third~~, the Sixty-fourth Ohio on the right of the second line, the Seventy-third Indiana on the left, with the Thirteenth Michigan in rear of the caissons. We marched in this order about half a mile, when our skirmishers came up with those of the enemy, and the fire became brisk in front. About this time a battery from the enemy, situated in a cornfield, and nearly opposite my right flank, opened upon my command with canister. In order to get a commanding position for artillery, and at the same time guard well my right flank, which I was fearful the enemy would attempt to turn, I moved the command a little to the right.

While this movement was being executed, a staff officer from the command upon my left reported a strong force of the enemy in his front. I replied that my right was in danger, and that a strong force and battery was in front. No sooner had I taken a position on the crest of the hill than a most vigorous engagement commenced. The position selected for my brigade proved a most fortunate one. The enemy was completely baffled in his design to turn my right; not only were the batteries in my front silenced and the enemy there repulsed, but a most destructive fire from Bradley's battery played upon the heavy columns of the enemy then pressing the troops upon my left. This engagement had continued about twenty minutes, when it was reported to me that the troops on my left had given way, and that the enemy was advancing in rear of my left flank, and about 200 yards from it, pouring a destructive cross-fire upon my troops.

At this time my command was in a most precarious situation, with a

strong foe in front, which, though repulsed, could not be followed up for want of support; my right threatened, and my left already turned. It therefore became necessary to change the disposition of my command and fall back. The commander of the Sixty-fifth Ohio anticipated my order, when he found his left turned, and fell back in good order. I directed this regiment to make a stand behind a rail fence running obliquely to the first line of battle.

During this movement this regiment was subjected to a most galling fire from the enemy, but they stood up under it nobly and fought desperately. While this movement was being executed, the Seventy-third Indiana was left in position on the second line, and the battery retired to a position about 400 yards to the rear, when it again opened. The Sixty-fourth Ohio was now ordered to change its front to the left and charge the enemy. The direction was indicated to the commanding officer, but, unfortunately, he moved too far to the right. Though this regiment handsomely repulsed the enemy in its front, it did the work of the other regiments already in position, leaving the left of the Seventy-third Indiana exposed, and permitting the enemy to advance much farther than could have been done had my design been carried out.

I do not, however, desire to censure the commanding officer of this regiment, who acted most gallantly through the engagement, but attribute it to a misunderstanding of the order. Bradley's battery, having taken its second position, opened again, with great effect, upon the advancing enemy, but, being in an exposed position, it was again ordered to withdraw, being badly crippled by loss of horses; two pieces were abandoned, one of which was spiked.

The command was now ordered to fall back and form on a rocky eminence covered with cedars, being a very strong position. The Thirteenth Michigan, from their position, opened upon the enemy with telling effect, and, having caused his ranks to waver, followed up the advantage with a charge, supported by the Fifty-first Illinois Volunteers, who had now come to our relief. They completely routed the enemy. The Thirteenth Michigan retook two pieces of artillery, abandoned by our battery, and captured 58 prisoners. For this act of gallantry Colonel Shoemaker and his gallant regiment are deserving of much praise.

The enemy thus driven from our right did not again attempt to annoy us in that quarter. How far the brave troops of this brigade contributed toward repulsing the strong columns of the enemy designed to turn the right flank of our army, and thus preventing most disastrous consequences to our army, must be inferred by the position occupied by this command and the part it took in the engagement.

Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon Colonel Shoemaker, commanding the Thirteenth Michigan Volunteers; Colonel Haskaway, commanding the Seventy-third Indiana Volunteers; Lieutenant-Colonel McIlvain, commanding the Sixty-fourth Ohio Volunteers; Lieutenant-Colonel Cassil, who commanded the Sixty-fifth Ohio Volunteers until injured by the falling of his horse, and Major Whitbeck, though wounded in action, remained in command of the Sixty-fifth Ohio Volunteers after Lieutenant-Colonel Cassil was injured, and Captain Bradley, commanding Sixth Ohio Battery, for their bravery and good conduct during this engagement.

My thanks are also due to Col. A. D. Straight, commanding ~~the~~ First Indiana Volunteers, for valuable information of the movements of the enemy during this engagement. From the less exposed position of his regiment it suffered less than any other regiment of my command.

On the evening of the 31st, I received orders from the major-general commanding to rejoin the First Division, which was done about 11 p. m.

On January 1, this division was moved a little to the right and rear. My brigade occupied a central position in the division, on the front line of battle, and a short distance to the left of the Murfreesborough pike. We were hardly in position before the enemy drove in our skirmishers. Bradley's battery, in conjunction with several others in our front, opened a most destructive fire of case-shot and shell, driving the enemy from our front and sustaining no loss.

On January 2, Bradley's battery being in position on a small eminence on our front, supported on the right by the Sixty-fourth and Sixty-fifth Ohio, behind a small clump of trees, and on the left by the Fifty-first Indiana, Volantons, lying in a skirt of timber, while the Thirteenth Michigan and Seventy-third Indiana were in reserve, three batteries of the enemy opened upon us. They were promptly responded to by Captain Bradley and other batteries on my right, when the most fearful artillery engagement ensued which I had yet had the experience to witness. The enemy, having our range quite perfectly, poured upon us a most destructive fire, causing the battery on our right to be abandoned; but Captain Bradley continued his well-directed firing until the enemy's batteries were silenced.

While this engagement was going on, Captain Stokes' battery, posted in our rear, opened upon us, mistaking us for the enemy. It is due to Captain Stokes, however, to say that I believe this firing was commenced without his orders, and was stopped by him as soon as it was possible for him to do so, but not until we had sustained some injury.

During the engagement we had 1 man killed and 11 wounded. On the evening of the same day, when the enemy attacked the left flank of our army with great vigor, Bradley's battery was again placed in position, and did good service in silencing those of the enemy.

About dark on the evening of the 2d instant we were ordered to cross Stone's River. My brigade was placed in the front line, my right resting on the left of General Davis' division. We were hardly in position before the enemy opened upon us, killing 1 man of the Sixty-fourth Ohio.

During the night we constructed a musket breastwork of rails, and remained on the front until about 9 a. m., January 3, when we were relieved and ordered to the rear in reserve, where we remained until about 3 p. m., when we were again ordered to the front to relieve Colonel Wagner's brigade, and occupied a position on the left of the First Division.

We remained in this position until about 1 a. m., January 4, when we received orders to recross Stone's River. We crossed the stream and took a position in rear of the main body of our force, and about 500 yards to the left of the railroad, where we remained until our troops had occupied Murfreesborough.

The loss in killed, wounded, and missing during these six days' engagements was as follows:

The Fifty-first Indiana—officers wounded, 2; enlisted men killed, 7; wounded, 32; missing, 9. Total, 50.

The Sixty-fourth Ohio—officers killed, 1; wounded, 3; enlisted men killed, 23; wounded, 61; missing, 17. Total, 105.

The Thirteenth Michigan—officers wounded, 2; enlisted men killed, 17; wounded, 70. Total, 89.

The Seventy-third Indiana Volunteers—officers killed, 2; wounded, 3; enlisted men killed, 22; wounded, 48; missing, 36. Total, 111.

The Sixty-fifth Ohio Volunteers—officers killed, 2; wounded, 8; enlisted men killed, 33; wounded, 92; missing, 38. Total, 173.

The Sixth Ohio Battery—officers wounded, 1; enlisted men killed, 2; wounded, 7; missing, 1. Total, 11.

Total loss in killed, wounded, and missing, 539.

The following is a correct list of the killed and wounded officers of my command:

Of the Fifty-first Indiana, Capt. Francis M. Constant, Company G, and Second Lieut. Alfred Gude, wounded.

Of the Sixty-fourth Ohio, Capt. Joseph B. Sweet, killed; First Lieut. Warner Young, Joseph B. Ferguson, and Chauncey Woodruff (regimental adjutant), wounded.

Of the Thirteenth Michigan, Capt. Clement C. Webb, Company E; Second Lieut. John E. Melvor, Company E, wounded.

Of the Seventy-third Indiana, Capt. Miles E. Tibbits, Company F, and Peter Doyle, Company H, killed; Maj. William Krimbill, wounded; Second Lieut. Emanuel Williamson, Company I, and John Butterfield, Company K, wounded.

Of the Sixty-fifth Ohio, Capt. J. Christopher and Second Lieut. Dolson Van Kirk, killed; Lieut. Col. A. Cassil, Maj. H. N. Whitbeck, Capt. R. M. Voorhees, Company F, First Lieut. A. A. Gardner, Second Lieut. and Regimental Adjt. William H. Massey, Second Lieut. Peter Markel, and Joel P. Brown, Frank Pealer, and Acting Lieut. R. S. Book, wounded.

Of the Sixth Ohio Battery, First Lieut. O. H. P. Ayres, wounded. From the 29th to the 2d, inclusive, my brigade occupied some portion of the front, and during each day some portion of the forces under my command were engaged with the enemy, and sustained greater or less losses. For the cheerful manner in which they stood up under these fatigues and exposures they are entitled to commendation.

I cannot close this report without paying a tribute of respect to the memory of the soldierly Sweet, the conscientious Christopher, and the intelligent and noble-hearted Van Kirk, who fell while manfully encouraging their men in the trying hour of battle. The country will do justice to the memory of the brave soldiers who so gloriously fell on the morning of December 31.

Great praise is due to Dr. J. M. Todd, Sixty-fifth Ohio, acting brigade surgeon, for the care and professional skill extended to our wounded after the battle.

Where all behaved so gallantly it would be unjust to particularize, but I cannot refrain from mentioning in terms of special praise the name of Capt. Cullen Bradley, of the Sixth Ohio Battery, attached to my brigade. This gallant officer, ever at his post, was always ready to engage the enemy whenever he opened upon our troops, and managed his battery with so much judgment and skill as to silence those of the enemy in every instance. Such valuable services and such meritorious conduct, I believe, will not be overlooked. I therefore take great pleasure in recommending Captain Bradley for some position commensurate with his merit and ability in the artillery branch of the regular service.

Of both officers and men under my command I can speak in tones of unqualified praise for their bravery and good conduct throughout the engagement in front of Murfreesborough. I must also mention a circumstance worthy of notice which occurred on Friday, the 2d instant. The enemy's sharpshooters, taking advantage of the woods in our front and to the right and left, had crept up sufficiently near our camp with the evident intention of picking off our general and field officers. They

annoyed us exceedingly, firing at every mounted officer or man who appeared near the front. Desirous of dislodging this concealed foe, I directed the skirmishers to advance and clear the woods if possible. Captain Chambers, of the fifty-first Indiana, had command of the skirmishers, consisting of 40 men from his own company; Company B, seventy-third Indiana Volunteers, Captain Gladwyn commanding; Company D, seventy-third Indiana, Lieutenant Grimes commanding; Company H, sixty-fifth Ohio Volunteers, Lieutenant Hinman commanding; Company E, sixty-fifth Ohio Volunteers, Lieutenant Mathias commanding; Company K, sixty-fifth Ohio Volunteers, Sergeant Holden commanding; and Company F, sixty-fourth Ohio Volunteers, Sergeant The commanding. The little detachment numbered only 120 men. The enemy's force was much larger. Our skirmishers drove them until they were checked by the enemy's batteries.

Thus these brave men not only drove a concealed enemy from a strong hiding place, but elicited valuable information concerning the position of his masked batteries. This act of gallantry elicited the praise and admiration of all who witnessed it.

To my personal staff, Capt. S. L. Coulter, acting assistant adjutant-general; Lieut. A. B. Case, acting assistant inspector-general, and D. L. Wright, aide-de-camp, I am indebted for valuable assistance throughout this memorable battle.

For details I would most respectfully refer you to the reports of regimental commanders.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
C. G. HARKER,

Colonel Sixty-fifth Regiment Ohio Volunteers, Comdg. Brigade.

*Brigadier-General HASSELL,
Comdg. First Division, Left Wing, Fourteenth Army Corps.*

No. 113.

Report of Col. Abel D. Streight, Fifty-first Indiana Infantry.

ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.

Near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 4, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by my regiment in the battle near Murfreesborough, from the 29th ultimo to the 2d instant, inclusive:

At about 4 p. m. I arrived on the west bank of Stone's River, about one-half mile north of the Murfreesborough and Nashville pike, and 2 miles from Murfreesborough, where I was ordered to halt until further orders. Here I remained until about dark, when I received orders to cross the river, preparatory to moving upon Murfreesborough. Being fully aware that the enemy occupied the opposite bank, and as none of our troops had at that time crossed the river, it became necessary to proceed somewhat cautiously, in order to avoid the danger of running into an ambushade; consequently I deployed Companies A and F to act as skirmishers, and ordered them to cross in advance and engage the enemy briskly, and, if possible, to seize the heights on the east side of the river.

No sooner had my skirmishers crossed than the enemy opened a brisk fire from under cover of a strong fence but a few yards distant.

My skirmishers were ordered forward at a double-quick, and charged upon the enemy, who instantaneously fled from their hiding places. At this moment it became evident, from the brisk firing of the enemy, that large numbers of them were concealed in the standing corn on the hill side; and fearing that my skirmishers would be overwhelmed, I ordered the whole regiment forward at a double-quick, but before the regiment had entirely crossed the river, Captain Russell informed me that the enemy was advancing in line of battle just beyond the crest of a ridge, about 400 yards to our front.

I at once determined to seize the crest before the enemy could get there, if possible; consequently the whole line was ordered forward on the run, and although the whole ridge seemed to issue forth a continuous flame of fire, not a man faltered, but each seemed to strive to reach the desired point in advance of his comrades. The boldness of the movement, and the alacrity with which it was executed, together with the brisk and well-directed fire of my men, struck terror to the enemy, who fell back in great confusion at our approach. I was at this moment ordered to advance no farther, but hold my position. I then ordered my men to lie down, so as to conceal them as much as possible, and in a few moments the enemy were plainly seen advancing upon our position. They were allowed to advance to within 30 paces, when fire was opened upon them with such effect that they hardly waited to reply, but broke and fled again. Reinforcements soon arrived on my right and left.

We remained in our position without further molestation until about 10 o'clock at night, when I was notified that orders had been given to retire to the opposite bank of the river. After waiting until the balance of the troops had recrossed, my regiment was marched by the rear rank to the river, when it recrossed also. In the mean time my skirmishers were gradually withdrawn. The regiment was marched about 500 yards from the ford, where it bivouacked for the night.

Slight skirmishing was all that occurred of interest until the morning of the 31st, when it became evident from the terrific roar of artillery and musketry that the enemy was turning the extreme right of our army. We were at once ordered to the right and rear at double-quick. We had moved but a short distance, when we came within range of the enemy's artillery; and, although several were wounded when we had no chance of striking a blow at the enemy, yet my men moved a distance of over a mile as regularly as they could, have moved had we been on drill; and even when we came in contact with excited teams and teamsters, every command was promptly obeyed without confusion. After marching about 2½ miles we reached the extreme right of the army.

We had hardly reached our position, when we were ordered forward in line of battle across open cotton and corn fields. Companies A, B, and F were deployed as skirmishers to cover my extreme right and front. We had proceeded in this order but about one-half mile, when my skirmishers, approaching the crest of a ridge in front, running at an angle of about fifteen degrees to the right, were fired upon by a large force of the enemy concealed in the standing corn to my front and right. I at once ordered the whole line forward at a double-quick. My skirmishers came in sight of the enemy in a moment, when our well-directed fire soon put them to flight. I was here again, by rapid movements, particularly fortunate in getting the advantage of the enemy in my position. We had a fair chance at them while they were retreating some 400 yards, and large numbers of them were killed and wounded. Although the

troops to my left were attacked desperately, the enemy did not attempt to bring infantry against me after his repulse.

Shortly after I had obtained full possession of the ridge, I was informed by Lieutenant-Colonel Coloscoff, then in command of the skirmishers, that large masses of troops were seen moving toward a piece of woods to my left and front. I at once notified Colonel Harker, and requested that the Sixth Ohio Battery, Captain Bradley, be sent to the ridge occupied by my regiment. The battery was promptly on the ground, but not too soon, for by the time it was in position the enemy had engaged the troops to my left. Captain Bradley opened a most terrific fire, thus enfilading their ranks (they were in column four regiments deep) at a distance not to exceed 500 yards. Their dead were literally piled in heaps by the terrific fire from the battery. Nothing else could have saved our troops to my left from total destruction.

The battle had been raging for about three-quarters of an hour when I was notified that the division on our left was falling back; consequently my position would have to be abandoned. At this moment Colonel Harker ordered me to fall back, which was done in good order, bringing off all my wounded.

Having received no orders as to what point I should fall back to, I formed in line of battle on the first advantageous ground, expecting to give the enemy battle, but was again ordered to fall back to the position first occupied on the extreme right, and at once deployed Companies H and O as skirmishers. The enemy again approached our lines on the left, which formed an angle of about fifteen degrees to the front of our position. My skirmishers and the troops to my left were but handsomely engaged, when the enemy broke and fled from the field in great confusion. It was now nearly night, and the contest was ended for the day. Other troops were brought up, and we were again ordered to the position occupied on the previous day and bivouacked for the night.

Early the next morning we were ordered into position about one-half mile to our right and rear, where we remained through the day. Companies A and G, and one company from the Seventy-third Indiana, were sent forward as skirmishers to drive the enemy from a piece of woods about one-half mile to our front, which was occupied in short order. This was all the engagement my men were in on that day.

January 2, I took Company H, together with several volunteers from my regiment, and drove the enemy from the woods formerly occupied by the Twenty-first Brigade. The contest was severe in the extreme for a short time, but the boys soon got the advantage, and the woods were ours. Ten of the enemy were left dead on the ground. This was the last engagement in which my men participated.

Our entire loss is 7 killed, 34 wounded, and 9 missing. Members of my regiment took 19 rebel prisoners—1 a major and 1 a captain. From careful observation on the various grounds fought over by my men, I am convinced that we have killed not less than 60 of the enemy, and by adding five times that number, the usual proportion of the wounded to the killed, we have a grand total of 360. These figures, though seemingly large for the amount of loss sustained by us, I feel confident could be fully verified by the facts.

Most of the ground fought over by my regiment has not been covered by other troops, and in nearly every case we have been placed where it was easy to decide which were our killed. The success attending us in most cases, and our small loss, I think, is attributable in a great measure to the advantage taken of the ground.

Feeling grateful beyond expression for the brave soldierly bearing and prompt manner in which both officers and men performed every duty assigned them, I feel a great delicacy in mentioning names, being fully convinced that it is more owing to the difference in circumstances than to the difference in men. Nevertheless, Captains Russell, Company A; Chambers, Company H, and Flinn, Company F, and the officers and men under them, are justly entitled to honors for distinguished services at different times during their various engagements with the enemy, though I do not wish to detract one star from the imperishable glory won by other worthy members of my regiment.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

A. D. STREIGHT,

Colonel Fifty-first Indiana Volunteers.

COL. C. G. HARKER,

Sixty-fifth Ohio Volunteers, Commanding Twentieth Brigade.

No. 114.

Report of Col. Gilbert Hathaway, Seventy-third Indiana Infantry.

CAMP NEAR MURFREESBOROUGH, TENN.,

January 4, 1863.

NOTE: In compliance with your request, I have the honor to report that the Seventy-third Regiment Indiana Volunteers, under my command, left Nashville on the morning of the 26th, taking the Murfreesborough road, encamping that night near La Vergne.

The next day we marched in line of battle through the fields and cedar thickets amidst a drenching rain, encamping at night on the camping-ground of the enemy, which bore abundant evidence of having been hastily evacuated. In the course of the day we passed several of his camp grounds, strewn with many signs of very recent occupation. Some sharp skirmishing was had to-day by one of my flanking companies.

The next day being Sunday, we remained quiet in camp. The enemy had been here in considerable force, and, in this connection, I may be permitted to mention that a company from my command, and one from that of Colonel Straight's, crossed the river to a camp still in possession of the enemy's pickets, where we found more than 100 cavalry sabers, several rifles, and other arms, which were taken possession of without much resistance, and brought to our camp.

On Monday morning the line of march was resumed. Passing through the same kind of country as on yesterday (very rough and broken), we came to Stone's River, not far from where the railroad crosses the stream, and about 2 miles from Murfreesborough, the enemy being strongly posted on a rise of ground on the opposite bank.

After nightfall my command waded the river amidst a shower of balls with which our reception was greeted. My command was quickly formed and marched in line of battle up the hill, during which time my skirmishers kept up a vigorous fire with those of the enemy, who retired at our approach. Halting under the brow of the hill, we waited the attack, which we had reason to expect, and doubtless would have experienced, had it not been that the very boldness of our advance intimidated him. We were near enough to distinctly hear his officers urge their men for-

ward, appealing in the name of their "country and their rights" to make the attack; but they came not. We then recrossed the stream and bivouacked for the night near its bank.

The next day skirmishing was indulged in with successful issues. Heavy firing was kept up on our right and left most of the day.

On the morning of the 31st ultimo, the enemy apparently making a more vigorous attack on the right wing of the army than at any time before, we were sent in that direction, and were soon engaged with him. The Sixty-fifth Ohio had taken position in a piece of woodland. In obedience to orders, I took my command to their support. They soon became engaged with a heavy column, which was pressing against it with great force. Well did they sustain themselves, till, by great superiority of number, they were compelled to give way. Passing over my command, which at the time was lying down, we, in turn, were instantly engaged. Twelve rounds were fired with great spirit and effect, when it was seen that the enemy was retreating in disorder, taking an oblique direction to the left. I ordered an advance, and well, indeed, was it obeyed—pressing forward on the double-quick; the ground recently occupied by the Sixty-fifth Ohio was attained, the enemy still fleeing before us. There being no support for us on our left, and the battery on our right (which in the beginning of the engagement had rendered good service) having been withdrawn, the enemy bringing up his reserve, crossed an open field on our left, and subjected us to an enfilading fire for several moments of a most destructive character.

Being thus left entirely alone, and finding it impossible to withstand such fearful odds, I withdrew in a somewhat disordered state, but soon rallied and again took position in front. My horse having been shot in the early part of the engagement, I was compelled to remain on foot the remainder of the day, when, by your kindness, I was furnished with another. That night we bivouacked on the same ground as the night before.

From that time to the evening of the 3d we were in the front, being more or less exposed to the shells of the enemy, sustaining some loss thereby.

We took no active part in any of the actions that ensued, with the exception of having 20 men engaged, with others of the brigade, in gallantly driving about 300 sharpshooters from a piece of woodland, where they had annoyed us for a day or two.

It affords me great pleasure to say to you that all of my command behaved most nobly through all the trying scenes they were called to pass; and where all behaved so well, it would be invidious to make especial mention of any.

In conclusion, I would remark that my command numbered, on the morning of the 31st ultimo, 309 enlisted men, 19 line officers, and 3 field and staff. The casualties of that day were as follows: Enlisted men killed, 22; wounded, 49. Capt. Miles H. Tibbitt, Company F, and Peter Doyle, Company H, killed; Second Lieut. Emanuel Williamson, Company I, and John Butterfield, Company K, wounded; also Maj. William Krimbill, slightly wounded in the knee, and 36 missing. My judgment is that fully one-half those missing are killed or wounded, and part of the others taken prisoners.

Respectfully submitted.

G. HATHAWAY,

Colonel Seventy-third Indiana.

Col. C. G. HARKER,
Commanding Third Brigade, First Division.

Report of Col. Michael Shoemaker, Thirtieth Michigan Infantry.

HDQRS. THIRTIETH REGIMENT MICHIGAN VOLS.,

In Camp, near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 8, 1863.

SIR: My report of the 5th, having been made in great haste, was necessarily very brief. I would, therefore, for the better understanding of the movements of this regiment during the several days of battle, commencing on the 29th ultimo and ending on the 3d instant, submit the following:

On the evening of the 29th, when ordered to cross the river, we were on the left, the Fifty-first Indiana in the center, and the Seventy-third Indiana on the right. My regiment commenced crossing as soon as our skirmishers were fairly on the other side. The skirmishers were Company A, commanded by Lieutenant Van Arsdale, and Company F, commanded by Lieut. James R. Slayton. They drove the enemy rapidly, the regiment following quite closely upon them.

When in line in the corn-field, and receiving the third volley from the enemy, we were ordered to fix bayonets and prepare to receive a charge of cavalry. As my regiment was somewhat in advance of the Fifty-first Indiana, and my right covering their left, I moved my regiment to the left and rear, so as to connect with the Fifty-first Indiana, but still leaving my left somewhat in advance, and in such a position as would have enabled us to enfilade any force which might charge the center. Our position was now a very strong one, being in the edge of the woods. Here we remained until ordered to recross the river.

On the 31st, being in reserve when our brigade was placed in position on the extreme right of the army, we occupied an open field just in rear of where the Sixty-fourth and Sixty-fifth Regiments Ohio Volunteers and Seventy-third Regiment Indiana Volunteers were engaged with the enemy. When the battery retired, we were ordered to fall back to the position we held when the enemy advanced upon us. When they opened fire upon us, the other regiments of the brigade had passed by our right to the rear, and we did not see them again until after the close of the engagement.

My regiment was in line during the battle, and delivered their fire with such precision and rapidity that the whole force of the enemy was brought to a stand at the fence in our front, and held there for at least twenty minutes, when their left, which extended considerably beyond my right, having advanced so as to make it apparent that they would soon turn my right flank, I gave the order to retire, but again formed the regiment within 12 or 15 rods of the first line. The enemy advanced so as to occupy our first line, but broke and retreated precipitately when charged by us. The Fifty-first Illinois advanced only to within 3 rods of our first line, and then threw forward skirmishers.

My regiment charged past the first line, and to the right down to near the fence, and full 30 rods in advance of our first position, overtaking and capturing the enemy, from the place where the guns were recaptured, which was to the right and in front of our first line of battle, to the houses in our front, and into a corn-field, on a line with the houses. The artillery ceased firing a short time before we opened upon the enemy, and fell back out of sight, with all but the guns which had had their horses killed, and were captured. The enemy broke up the guns of our dead on the first line of battle while they occupied it. A

lieutenant, whom we captured, informed me that our fire was very destructive, and that their loss in wounded must largely exceed ours. On the 1st instant my regiment was exposed to a scattering fire all day, but was not actually engaged. At night we were ordered to the extreme front, to protect the Sixth Ohio Battery, and lay all night on our arms.

On the 2d instant, while supporting our battery, my regiment was exposed to a terrible fire from the artillery of the enemy, the number of guns playing upon us at one time being, as stated by Captain Bradley, eighteen. Though necessarily inactive, my regiment steadily maintained their position for over an hour, when one of our batteries commenced playing upon us from the rear. I then withdrew my regiment a few rods to the left, to a less exposed situation.

In the afternoon we crossed Stone's River with our division, and remained there doing duty both Friday and Saturday nights.

On Sunday morning we recrossed the river and bivouacked near the hospitals.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. SHOEMAKER,
Colonel, Commanding.

Capt. S. L. COULTER,
Actg. Asst. Adjt. Gen., Third Brig., First Div., Left Wing.

No. 116.

Report of Lieut. Col. Alexander McIlwain, Sixty-fourth Ohio Infantry.

HDQRS. SIXTY-FOURTH REGIMENT OHIO VOLUNTEERS,
In the Field, January 5, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to report the number of killed, wounded, and missing in this command, from December 27, 1862, to January 3, 1863, inclusive, so far as can be ascertained from company commanders now present.*

The command arrived on the south bank of Stone's River on the evening of December 29, 1862, and crossed to the opposite or Nuttreesborough side after nightfall on the same evening, and formed as reserve to the remainder of the Twentieth Brigade. Recrossed the river during the same night, and next morning, while on duty on the front, had 1 man killed by the enemy.

On the morning of the 31st was ordered from the left to the right of the line, and occupied the second line on the right. It was discovered that the enemy was approaching on the left flank; I ordered the command forward on tenth company, and, by order, fixed bayonets and successfully drove them for some distance, when the command became isolated and was ordered to fall back.

Among the casualties of officers of my command, I seriously regret the loss of Capt. Joseph B. Sweet, who fell while bravely leading his company into the thickest of the engagement. As an officer and true and devoted soldier, Captain Sweet bore the well-merited love and respect of all those who knew him. Having adopted military life as a profession, and for a long time served in the regular army, he was proficient in all the high qualifications that pertained to his calling. In him his country and cause have lost a brave and patriotic officer.

* Nonfatal list omitted. It shows 24 killed, 66 wounded, and 17 missing.

Of those wounded, honorable mention is justly due to First Lieut. Warner Young and Joseph B. Ferguson, and First Lieut. and Regimental Adjt. Chancey Woodruff, all of whom exerted themselves to the utmost to press forward their respective commands to the charge and only ceased their labors when overcome by the exhaustion occasioned by their wounds. I learn with pleasure that, although serious none were mortally wounded.

The officers who survived the battle did honor to the State they hail from and the cause they nobly fought for. Of those who commanded companies, the names of each can be honorably mentioned in justice to them: Capt. R. C. Brown, of Company C; First Lieuts. Samuel Wo of Company A, and Henry H. Kling, of Company D; Second Lieut Norman K. Brown, Company F, and T. Eugene Tiltson, Company B; and First Sergeants James L. Hall, of Company G, and David Cummings, of Company H; also Lieut. George R. Hall, of Company K, and Sergeants Kuneman and Holden, of Companies I and E, respectively who commanded the companies to which they were attached, after the immediate commanders had been either killed or wounded; also Secor Lieut. Thomas E. Ehlers, who assisted in the command of Company . The above-named officers did their duty regardless of the danger which they were exposed at every step while gallantly leading them forward to meet and charge the enemy.

The file-closers, without exception, manfully stood up to their work and I cannot, in justice to them all, single out any one for special notice of remark, and too much praise cannot be attached to their patriotism and heroic military bearing. The men in the ranks all did the duty, and did it well, and they are heroes, all.

While we deeply regret and truly sympathize with the friends those who were either killed or wounded, we are, as they can be, consoled with the thought that they all fell while bravely battling for the country's right and the overthrow of rebellion.

ALEXANDER McILWAIN,
Lieutenant Colonel, Commanding.

Col. C. G. HARKER,
Commanding Twentieth Brigade.

No. 117.

Report of Maj. Horatio N. Whitbeck, Sixty-fifth Ohio Infantry.

IN CAMP, NEAR MURFREESBOROUGH, TENN.,
January 6, 1863.

SIR: The Sixty-fifth Ohio Volunteers, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Cassil, left its bivouac, near Duck Creek, on Monday morning December 29, 1862. In the advance its position was on the left wing of the front line of the brigade. Two companies were deployed skirmishers, who very soon encountered a strong cavalry picket of the enemy. This force contested our advance at times sharply, but disappeared near Stone's River. When within a couple of miles of the river, several shells were thrown at us from cannon, which soon retired. In this skirmishing we sustained no loss, but several of the enemy's saddles were seen to have been emptied and the horses straggling.

We reached the heights on the north side of the river about 3 p. m.

where we lay in line till after sundown. Orders were received to advance upon Murfreesborough that night. I was in command of the companies of skirmishers, and immediately threw them across the river, and commenced the ascent of the opposite heights.

Passing the skirt of woods, we encountered the enemy's skirmishers strongly posted to the front on the crest of the hill, and on my left behind a rail fence. A galling fire brought our line to a halt, but we soon cleared the hill, and, advancing over the crest, we found ourselves within 30 paces of a regiment of rebels, who, in their confusion, were rallying with great difficulty. I at once retired the line to the woods, where we remained till the whole brigade had recrossed, when we were quietly withdrawn.

Sergeant Snider, acting orderly, was wounded in the face, which was the only injury our regiment suffered. The regiment itself crossed the stream in good order, under fire of the rebel skirmishers, and remained in line behind the skirt of woods till it recrossed with the brigade.

Thursday we lay in bivouac near the river, and went on picket at night. In accordance with Colonel Harker's order, we were ready to move at daybreak, with 60 rounds of cartridges to a man.

We received marching orders about 8 a. m., and moved at once forward. The enemy's sharpshooters and a battery on the opposite hill began a fierce fire of ball and shell upon us as we returned up the heights. When on the summit, a shell exploded in the ranks of Company B, killing 1 and wounding 2. We double-quickened, under a storm of shell, after the brigade, which was some distance ahead, moving to the support of the right wing. When the brigade was formed to advance through the open field to the right of General Van Cleve's division, our regiment was placed on the left of the front line, with the ~~Twenty-third~~ ~~Seventy-third~~ ~~Indiana~~ ~~Volunteers~~ on our right and the Seventy-third Regiment Indiana Volunteers to our rear. Company I, Captain Christophel, was deployed to the front as skirmishers, but, having suffered severely, was, in a short time, relieved by Company H, Lieutenant Brown. When near the skirt of timber protruding from the main forest, we marched by the right flank to support the Sixth Ohio Battery. We were again moved toward the enemy and placed behind a rise of ground. We suddenly found them in line at a short distance, and immediately commenced firing. The enemy, though in brigade front, three columns deep, staggered, concealed himself as far as possible, and did not venture to advance under our fire.

Meanwhile, General Van Cleve's division giving way, the line of the enemy on our left advancing, completely outflanked us, and we were suffering under a raking cross-fire. We held the position for about thirty minutes, and fell back, in accordance with orders; formed behind the Seventy-third Regiment Indiana Volunteers, and moved by the flank to oppose the advancing right of the enemy. We took our position behind a rail fence, and again held the enemy in check for about twenty minutes. At length, being nearly cut off by the enemy on the right, we retired behind the line of battle, resting in the wood near the pike.

We had suffered severely; out of 16 officers with the regiment, 2 had been killed and 8 wounded. Second Lieutenant Van Kirk, commanding Company A, fell in the advance; Captain Christophel, of Company I, some time in the retreat. Both were doing their duty unflinchingly and manfully. Lieutenant-Colonel Cassell having been disabled by the fall of his horse at the second stand of the regiment, I then took command. We rejoined our division at night near the position we left in the morning.

On Thursday, January 1, we lay in front, in support and to the right of the Sixth Ohio Battery, during the furious cannonading, and were annoyed by sharpshooters during the whole day. We picketed at night.

Our skirmishers covered the front on Friday. The regiment lay in a little clump of wood, in support of the battery, and exposed to the most terrific shelling during the morning. In the afternoon our skirmishers, in conjunction with those of the brigade, cleared the wood in front of rebel skirmishers and sharpshooters; were in turn shelled out, and again took possession and held it.

Near night, and the close of the engagement on the left, we moved over the river, threw up a defense of rails to the front, and remained there through the rain till morning. We were retired till Saturday night, when we again picketed the left front. About 2 a. m. Sunday we were marched back to our present bivouac.

The following is the list of the casualties of the regiment: Lieutenant-Colonel Cassell, severe sprain by the fall of his horse; Major Whitbeck, slightly wounded in the neck; Adjutant Massey, severely in leg and slightly in face and hip; Capt. Jacob Christophel, killed, and Voorhees, through the side; First Lieutenant Gardner, through side; Second Lieutenants Van Kirk, killed; Markel, through hip; Brown, in the shoulder, and Pealer, through thigh, and Acting Second Lieutenant Book, in thigh.

Of 382 enlisted men in the engagements during the week, 34 were killed, 100 wounded, and 38 missing; total, 172. Of the missing, some are known to be prisoners, others are serving in hospitals, and a few stragglers are still coming up.

I will not particularize when all officers and men, conducted themselves so coolly and fought so determinedly against such desperate odds; nor need I mention their patience under such privations and exposures in midwinter.

HORATIO N. WHITBECK,
Major, Commanding Sixty-fifth Regiment Ohio Volunteers.

Captain COURTNER,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Third Brigade.

No. 118.

Report of Brig. Gen. John M. Palmer, U. S. Army, commanding Second Division.

HDQRS. SECOND DIV., LEFT WING, FOURTEENTH A. C.,
DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
Camp near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 9, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to submit, for the information of the general commanding, the following report of the operations of this division from and including December 27 up to and including January 4, instant:

At 11.20 a. m., December 27, while in camp near Ia Vergne, I received orders to move forward, following the division of General Wood, and to detach a brigade, to proceed by the Jefferson pike, and seize the bridge across Stewart's Creek. The duty of conducting this operation was assigned to Colonel Hazen. How well and skillfully it was done will be seen by his report, which is herewith forwarded. The brigades of Crutt and Grose reached the west bank of Stewart's

January 3 found the battery in the same position. General Negley ordered the battery to open fire upon a line of the enemy's infantry, which did no good, and wounded I of my own men by the premature discharge of one of the guns.

During the whole engagement I expended 406 rounds of ammunition; had 1 lieutenant and 7 men wounded; 4 men killed; 4 horses wounded, I killed, and 4 missing.

I should have done more firing, but General Rosecrans told me he wanted some ammunition reserved for an emergency.

Respectfully,

G. R. SWALLOW,
Captain Seventh Indiana Battery.

No. 146.

Report of Lieut. Alanson J. Stevens, Battery B, Pennsylvania Light Artillery.

HEADQUARTERS PENNSYLVANIA LIGHT ARTILLERY,
January 5, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of the part taken in the recent action by the Pennsylvania battery:

On the morning of December 31 we were ordered to cross the river with the First Brigade, to take position, which we had barely time to do when we were ordered back again. We then followed the First Brigade toward the right wing, where the battle was raging fiercely. We found everything there in confusion, and it impossible to follow our brigade, and the battery nearly in the lines of the enemy. You then gave me the permission to fight on my own hook, and do the best in my power. I then counter-marched the battery and took position on the rising ground on the left of the old block-house, along the line of the railroad, and opened fire on the enemy, who were advancing through the woods on the right of the pike and in our front. We fired as rapidly as possible with spherical case from our smooth-bores and Schenkl shells from our rifles, when, finding the enemy checked and our infantry advancing, we limbered to the front, advanced a short distance across the pike, where we came in position and fired a few rounds, when the Board of Trade Battery advanced and took position on our left, covering all the intermediate ground in our front.

We changed position by moving by the left flank, and occupied the rising ground in the corn-field to the right of the pike, and covering the woods, out of which General Bousseaut's and Negley's troops were retiring. We reserved our fire until our own troops were clear of the woods, and the enemy's lines, with banners flying, came in sight on the verge of the timber, within 500 yards of our battery. We opened upon them with spherical case, shell, and canister, and fired briskly for about fifteen minutes, when, seeing no more of the enemy, we ceased firing; some of the enemy's advance fell within 15 or 20 yards of our guns. By General Bousseaut's advice, we then fell back on the rising ground between that and the railroad, firing a few shots at the enemy.

By Captain Mendenhall's order, we again advanced to our former position in the corn-field on the right of the pike, and met with a warm reception from the enemy's musketry from the woods in our front, and the right flank being at the same time under the cross-fire from one of the enemy's batteries on our left, we opened fire on the woods in our front

and right, soon silencing the enemy's fire, when, finding that we had no support on either flanks or rear, we again withdrew to the rising ground between the pike and railroad. We then were ordered by Captain Mendenhall to take position across the pike, near the old log-house in our extreme front, having to guard against the enemy's advance up the pike and from the woods on our right, from which a continued fire of musketry annoyed us. At the same time a battery opened upon us from the brick house near the pike, injuring one of our trails and limber, to which we replied until our long-range ammunition, the supply of which was small, was exhausted, when I had the smooth-bores withdrawn and took a position to rake the pike with canister, in case the enemy advanced, and kept the two rifles in the advance until night, when the whole battery was withdrawn about 500 yards to the rear, and supplied with ammunition.

On the morning of January 1, by your order, we took position on the left of the railroad, and at a right angle with it, the Sixth Ohio Battery on our left. We did no firing that day, with the exception of a few shots in the morning thrown at the woods in our front, and kept in position ready for action in that vicinity nearly the whole day; at night went into park in rear of the log-house near the railroad.

At sunrise on the morning of January 2, we were saluted with a shower of solid balls from the enemy's batteries, falling in too close a vicinity to be agreeable. We mounted quickly and took position on the left of the railroad, on a small rise commanding the approach of the enemy in our front. Captain Mendenhall then ordered us to the front, to take a position commanding the open field to the left of the railroad. During the forenoon we were several times saluted with shots from the battery of the enemy planted in the woods beyond the opening in our front, to which we remained silent until near noon, when skirmishers of the ~~enemy~~ ^{enemy} ~~Indians~~, which surprised us on the right, advanced across the opening and drove the enemy's pickets, when the enemy opened upon them with canister, at the same time upon us with solid shot. Our skirmishers falling back, we opened with solid shot, when the battery became silent, and remained so until 3 p. m., when it again opened, and, shortly after, heavy musketry was heard upon our left; we opened at the battery in our front, when it became silent.

When we saw the enemy advancing upon our left wing across the river, and our men falling back, we changed front, firing to the left, and opened a cross-fire on them, and continued it until our forces in their front compelled them to fall back beyond our range. We remained in position until 9 p. m., when we ascertained that our supports on our flanks had been withdrawn without we being notified of the fact; and no pickets in front between us and the enemy's lines, I withdrew the battery to the rear of the infantry and parked.

On the morning of January 3 we returned to our position of the previous day, support having returned, where we remained until 3 p. m., when we were ordered across and took the place occupied by the Third Wisconsin Battery, where we remained until near midnight, when we were ordered to recross the river, which we did, and parked on the ground we now occupy. We expended about 1,650 rounds of ammunition, lost 7 horses, 2 men killed and 7 wounded, a few small-arms, and a large quantity of clothing, camp and garrison equipage.

Yours, respectfully,

A. J. STEVENS,
First Lieutenant, Commanding Battery.

Capt. G. R. SWALLOW,
Chief of Artillery, 3d Div., Left Wing, 14th Army Corps.