

CAPTURE OF MURFREESBORO

Further Particulars – The Forces on either side – Gallant Action of the Michigan Ninth – Particulars of the Capture of Colonel Duffield.

The *Chicago Tribune* publishes a full account of the capture of Murfreesboro, from which we extract all that portion relating to the Michigan Men:

THE SCENE OF THE BATTLE.

Murfreesboro is a village of about 800 or 1,000 inhabitants, situated thirty miles southwest of Nashville, upon and near the headwaters of Stone's Creek. It is one of the most important stations on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, and was held on account of its being on a main thoroughfare to Nashville. It is an important point on the line held as defensive by our troops, – the line parallel and opposed to the rebel line, – extending from Sparta through McMinnville to Chattanooga. The country is rolling and rich. The people are strongly tinctured with secessionism, and give all the aid and comfort they can to the rebels. It is not a position easily made defensible, but with time and labor the eastern approaches – the point of the rebel attack – would have been rendered defensible by appropriate works.

THE UNION TROOPS ENGAGED.

The force at Murfreesboro at the time of the attack, and which subsequently surrendered, I am enabled to give in full, having obtained it from reliable gentlemen who have arrived here, escaping from the place.

U S FORCES AT MURFREESBORO.

Brigadier General T.T. Crittenden, commanding post.

Twenty-third Brigade – Army of the Ohio – Colonel Duffield, Eleventh Michigan, commanding; Ninth Michigan, infantry – six companies; Third Minnesota, infantry, nine companies, Colonel Lester; Fourth Kentucky Cavalry, company A, Captain Chillson; Fourth Kentucky Cavalry, company C, Captain Unthank; First Kentucky Artillery, Captain Hewitt, four guns.

The whole force numbered about 1,200 men and four guns, the cavalry not being engaged, and it is reported showing the white feather, as it usual with our cavalry when attack.

REBEL FORCE AT MURFREESBORO.

First Georgia Cavalry; Second Georgia Cavalry, Colonel Warner; Fourth Georgia Cavalry; First Kentucky (rebel) Cavalry; Second Texan Rangers, Colonel Forrest.

This force is variously estimated at from 3,000 to 6,000. My informant think s that it will reach 5,000. They had rendezvoused at Sparta, in White county, and approached Murfreesboro from the east. It is not to be understood that they all fought as cavalry. On the contrary, they marched upon the place as infantry, not more than 300 acting as cavalry.

THE ATTACK

[The attack] was made at daylight on Sunday morning, and was a complete surprise. The rebels knew the position of our troops and the state of affairs thoroughly. They advanced in overwhelming force, driving the pickets before them, and entering the town almost simultaneously. The pickets did not fire until they had fallen back some distance, thus not rousing the Ninth Michigan until the enemy attack was almost upon them. The cavalry – company A, Capt. Chillson – was first attacked, and scattered in every direction, the main force falling into the hands of the rebels. Nearer the centre of the town the rest of the cavalry – company C, Capt. Unthank – was attacked and captured. Near the depot and commissary buildings, about the heart of the town, the Ninth Michigan was attempting to get into position, but failed to form a line, and began to fall back on the Nashville pike, fighting as it retreated. My informant states that the citizens early appeared in the streets, dressed and armed as if ready for the fray, and perfectly aware that the attack was to be made. The running fight was kept up by the Ninth under every disadvantage for some time, the regiment being enabled at one time to make a stand, but the overwhelming force of the enemy at last compelled them to surrender. Their cartridge boxes were soon emptied, and, have no means for further supply, they were compelled to surrender.

THE CAPTURE OF DUFFIELD AND CRITTENDEN

Colonel Duffield and General Crittenden, weary with the labors of the past day, and not suspecting any attack reposed in confidence and supposed security at the little hotel which faces the depot in the town. They were captured while dressing. The rebels went to their rooms as directly as if they had known their positions for days, and little doubt is entertained that the citizens were the guides. It was impossible to offer resistance. The officers immediately saw the situation of affairs, and surrendered. Colonel Duffield is reported mortally wounded, but if he was my informant cannot imagine how, unless by some wanton act of cruelty on the part of the Confederates scoundrels. This he does not believe was done, for the rebel officers – Forrest and Wraner – took pains to show their distinguished consideration for the men, and overdid the thing by their politeness. At the last accounts Crittenden and Duffield were doing well, and were on their way to Sparta. Crittenden is from Indiana, and was Colonel of the Sixth Indiana. He was nominated a Brigadier General a few months since. He is a nephew, and not a son, of John J. Crittenden. Of Duffield, of Michigan, you are perhaps better acquainted than I am.

THE PRISONERS NOT RELEASED.

The Nashville *Union* of the 17th says:

We were misinformed as to the private Federal soldiers being paroled at Murfreesboro. Only a few of the sick and wounded were paroled. The others were carried to McMinnville, and, it is reported, were to be paroled there, but this is doubtful.