

CAPTURE OF THE MICHIGAN NINTH

Further Account – The Michigan Men Fired upon in their Tents – The Federal Loss 200 Killed and Wounded and 1,900 Prisoners – The Rebel Loss over 400.

From the Nashville Dispatch, July 17

The city has been full of rumors in regard to the engagement which took place at Murfreesboro on Sunday, between the Federal troops stationed there and a brigade of Confederate cavalry. The Federal troops at Murfreesboro consisted of the Third Minnesota and Ninth Michigan – infantry; Hewitt's Artillery, of six pieces, and four companies of the Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry, most of the latter being out on scout at the time the Confederates made the attack.

From the most reliable information we can get, it appears there were three regiments of Texan Rangers and two regiments of Georgia cavalry, under command of General Forrest, and that they made the attack about four o'clock Sunday morning, first upon the camp of the Pennsylvania cavalry, and then upon the camp of the Ninth Michigan. It appears that the Confederates had reached their camp entirely unawares, and poured a deadly volley into the tents where the men were sleeping, killing and wounding a large number. The Michiganders then, with all possible haste, formed themselves into a line of battle; but it was discovered that they were menaced by an overwhelming force, who fired another volley into their ranks, and they immediately surrendered. This regiment numbered about 700 strong, and were armed with Enfield rifles. They were commanded by Colonel Duffield, who was wounded.

The camp of the Third Minnesota Regiment was nearly two miles distant. Immediately on hearing the firing, Colonel Lester formed his men into line of battle, and took position near Hewitt's Battery, and in the meantime dispatched an Orderly to ascertain the cause of the firing, but before the Orderly returned the Sutler of his regiment arrived from the direction of the firing, and informed Colonel Lester of what had been going on. Scarcely had he imparted this information before the Confederates came dashing in the direction of the battery, which repulsed them with heavy loss. The Confederates made a second charge on the batter on the course of an hour, and were again repulsed.

Shortly afterward the large mill owned by Spencer & Co., situated in the suburbs of Murfreesboro, was discovered to be on fire. Captain Hewitt opened his batter in that direction, supposing the Confederates to be there, and threw one hundred and forty-seven shells in that vicinity, with what effect we have learned.

Subsequently the railroad depot, and the residence of a Mr. Jordan, a prominent Union man of Murfreesboro, were discovered to be on fire. Captain Hewitt opened his battery in the direction of these fires, throwing a dozen shells per hour for about eight hours, the object apparently being to drive the Confederates away this prevent a further destruction of property by conflagration.

The Federal loss in killed and wounded is thought to be over two hundred, and about nineteen hundred prisoners, including Gen. T.T. Crittenden, of Indiana, who had but recently been appointed Brigadier General, we believe, and assigned to command at Murfreesboro.

It is said that in the charges on Captain Hewitt's Battery, the Confederates were terribly decimated, and their loss in killed and wounded is variously reported at from four to six hundred.

It is reported that the Confederates captured about sixteen hundred stand of small arms, over five thousand pounds of ammunition, nearly one hundred tents, a battery of six brass pieces, and a large number of horses, mules, and wagons. A considerable amount of commissary and other stores was destroyed by the burning of the depot.

The Sutler of the Third Minnesota Regiment suffered to the extent of about five thousand dollars, having lost his whole stock.

The regular morning train from Nashville experienced a narrow escape from capture. It had passed Florence, five miles this side of Murfreesboro, before anything was known of what was transpiring ahead. The engineer was hailed and informed of the fight that had been raging all the morning. Just as the train ceased motion, a shell whistled over it, and the conductor believed that he was surrounded, but an investigation satisfied him that it was a stray shot, and that he was in no danger as yet, when the engine was reverse and the train speedily brought back to Nashville.

By this raid the Confederates have possession of the railroad and telegraph beyond Murfreesboro, and we have no definite information as to their movements.