through the quarters and ordered every man who had one to fall into line, the men were then marched up to the Colonels quarters and stacked arms. and there were about 300 of the new guns in our Regiment, a delegation of 93 Ohio men were there with a wagon and hauled them back to their own Camps, a few days later new Enfield rifles were issued to our Regiment, and the men were satisfied and there was no more exchanging of guns.

The Army arrived at Nashville in the later part of October 1862, and our Corps bivouaced, in a large timbered tract of land near the Cumberland River and North of the City, the next morning after our arrival our Brigade was detailed to convoy a long wagon train back to Mitchelville a station on the railroad 35 miles North of Nashville and return with it filled with Supplies, this journey of 70 miles required four days, on our return we had the honor of escorting Major Genl W.S. Rosecrans, who had superceded Gen. Buell as the new Commander of the Army of the Cumberland, as we were hereafter to be called. this change was very agreeable to the Army and General Rosecrans was respected and admired by the men, a few days after our return we moved across the River and went into winter quarters about seven miles South of Nashville. This ended that remarkable campaign of the Army of the Ohio & Cumberland for the Summer and fall of 1862.

Chapter VIII

It was about the first of November 1862 when the Army of the Cumberland took up winter quarters about seven miles South of Nashville, Tenn, our Division (R W Johnsons) lay near what was known as Granny White pike, and near the State Insane Asylum, The camp was an open one without any breastworks or intrenchments of any kind, though we had a number of field batteries posted in the most commanding positions, and and the front was constantly guarded by a strong picket ~~post~~ line, and strong cavalry outposts,

Braggs Army was encamped in the vicinity of Murfreesboro 30 miles South of Nashville, Hardees Corps of Braggs forces, laid in an advanced position at Nolinville and was a source of great annoyance to our right wing which he menaced, Rebel scouting and foraging parties were continuously harrassing our outposts, and firing on our picket lines was of so common occurance that scarcely any notice was taken of it in Camp, Skirmishes between our foraging Squads and the rebel cavalry was of almost daily occurance, We lay in this Camp during Nov & Dec. 1862

In good weather our time was principally occupied in Company & Regimental drill, our Company had been for several months perfecting themselves in Skirmish and bayonet drill, going through all our manoeuvres to the Sound of the bugle, we were acknowledged the best drilled Company in the Regiment, and on

Skirmish bugle drill had to beat by any troops in the field. this drill proved to be of great service to us in after campaigns. The winter was mild and pleasant so we did not suffer from severe weather, the health of the men was also remarkably good, although we were in permanent quarters, we received only the coarse fare usualy issued when on a march, I find in one of my letters written hence Dec 2nd 1862, this sentence, "I have to quit writing and get Supper, which will consist hard tack, fat meat and coffee, we also had beans, onions, potatoes and compressed vegtables issued to us about once a week, I also find in a letter written Christmas day 1862 the following telling my mother what we had for our Christmas dinner, "This will dinner is over, and will tell you what we had, it was fried bacon, black coffee light-bread and soup made from compressed vegtables, this was our Christmas dinner, I hope you had a greater variety than this, and much better, but I am as well satisfied with mine as if I had had all the cakes pies and sweetmeats I could have eaten, and I will bet my dinner tasted as good to me as yours did to you, for after a fellow soldiers 16 months he would not trade a pot of bean soup for a sugared pound cake, and if we never had worse times or fare than we are having to day. I would just as soon serve my three years out as not,"

In the latter part of ~~Sept~~ November 1862 our

large tents were taken from us and in return the Government issued to us what they called shelter tents, this was a section of water proof drilling about 6 foot square with eyelet holes and cords for stretching over ridge poles, when put up properly and stretched tight, they turned water and made a very comfortable shelter. at first the men refused to accept them but when told it was them or nothing they were very reluctantly received, and the men started for the woods to cut poles on which to stretch them, and we soon had quite a villiage of "Dog tents" as they were designated, as soon as a fellow would get up his tent he would crawl into it and sticking out his head commence barking like a dog to announce his being at home, and soon the whole camp was a perfect babel, and a listener would have thought all the dogs in creation had convened in this one spot, the voice of every imaginable specie of canine ever heard, could have been recognized, from the little yelping snarling fist to the deep mournful bayings of the fox and deer hound, and the gruff coarse bull dog & Newfoundland

The ludicrous spirit seemed to be irrepressible, and was liable to break out at any time of the day or night, some fellow coming in off of guard duty at midnight or early in the morning before crawling into his tent, would yelp out in imitation of a fist, hound, or bull dog, and in a few

minutes it would be taken up and pass from camp to camp until the air would ring with the music, after this had been kept up for a few minutes it would suddenly cease, and the camps would become ~~sudd~~ perfectly quiet."

In the latter part of December, scouting and foraging parties were in [illegible] number, wagon & provision trains were put in order, and preparations for putting the Army in a condition for active campaigning. The increased drilling and activity betokened some kind of a movement, and we soon learned what it all meant," At dress parade December 24 orders were read to prepare for marching at daylight in the morning, we made all the preparation necessary and about 10 oclock Christmas morning our Division moved out onto the Nolinville pike where we stood in line for half an hour, when orders came to return to camp get our dinners and be ready to march at half past two. P.M. we went back to our old quarters got our dinners and waited orders, which came at 3 P.M. and were to pitch tents for the night, this was soon done and the rest of the day and the night were passed as usual, we were roused at the usual hour 6 ~~[illegible]~~ oclock the next morning. and at roll call ordered to get breakfast, prepare cooked rations pack knapsacks and be ready to march on orders. which was promptly obeyed, about 8 oclock of the morning

of Dec 26" 1862 General Davises Division filed past our camp taking the advance for the day on the Nolinville pike, after they had passed the bugle sounded the assembly and our Regiment was formed in line marched out on the pike and was soon following in the rear of Davises Division, our entire Corps. (Alex McDowell McCooks) marched down this road, Generals Thomas and Crittendens Corps advanced down the Murfreesboro pike, in this order the Grand Old Army of the Cumberland under Command of Gen W. S. Rrosecrans left Nashville to meet and encounter in deadly conflict the Rebel General Braggs forces who were lying at Murfreesboro only 30 miles from Nashville,

As previously stated, Hardees Corps of Braggs Army was encamped near Nolinville about half way between the two Armies, and to our Corps (McCooks) the duty of forcing him to retire to Murfreesboro, Gen Davis Division moved forward the first day about 10 Miles meeting with but little resistance, only receiving a few shots occasionaly from some of the enemys scouting parties, his Division was marched through Nolinville and camped about a mile south of the town on the night of Dec 26" 1862.

Early the next morning R. W. Johnsons Division passed to the front and continued the advance. our Brigade Col P P Baldwin of 6th Ind Infty Commanding

was deployed in line of battle on the West side or right of the Pike, our Regiment (6th Ind Div.) resting on the pike and forming the left wing of the Brigade and the right centre of the line Gen Willichs Brigade being deployed on the East or left side of the pike, Capt Simonson's 5th Ind battery of 6-12 pounders marched down the Pike in sections, forming the center of the line, Gen Kirks Brigade moved down the pike in close order as reserves and support for the battery. the rest of the Corps moved in the rear in regular order,

In this order we moved forward early on the morning of Dec 27th and had gone but a short distance when we encountered the enemy's outpost pickets who immediately commenced firing at us, we continued advancing and returned their fire and soon drove them back to their reserves posted in a strong position, who also opened a brisk fire upon us, the line halted and returned the fire warmly, the battery came rumbling to the front a section unlimbered into action and was soon shelling the enemy's lines, our lines were reformed, cavalry was sent out on both flanks and again our entire line moved briskly forward. and soon dislodged them and sent them flying to the rear. but our continued advance was of short duration, as the enemy reformed their lines at every available position, and turned to meet us at short intervals,

was deployed in line of battle on the West side or right of the Pike, our Regiment (16th Ind Battery) resting on the pike and forming the left wing of the Brigade and the right centre of the line Gen Willichs Brigade being deployed on the East or left side of the pike, Capt Simonson's 5th Ind battery of 6-12 pounders marched down the pike in sections, forming the center of the line, Gen Kirks Brigade moved down the pike in close order as reserves and support for the battery. the rest of the Corps moved in the rear in regular order,"

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As the day advanced they seemed to increase in numbers, and grew more and more stubborn, and we were obliged to advance slowly and with greater caution, they contested the ground hotly, and often our lines would not move the distance of half a mile in an hours time, the enemy fall back very slowly and doggedly, and only when hotly pressed or flanked, and then only to take a new position a short distance to the rear, again to be routed and forced back, and thus it continued through the entire day.

The last charge we made was up a considerable slope, heavily wooded on the North side, and a corn field on the South slope, a broad meadow lay between the cornfield and a heavily wooded ridge to the south of the meadow. when we started up the ridge at double quick and with a yell, the rebels who were in line on the crest of the ridge held their ground until we were within about two hundred yard of them when they turned and broke for the rear. our boys renewed their speed cheering as they run, but we were unable to catch any of them, though we pressed them so closely that hundreds of them threw away their knapsacks and dozens of them their haversacks also, these our boys picked up as they ran and that evening many a supper that was cooked for a Johnnie, was eaten by a yankee. The shades of

were fast drawing their curtain and closed the contest of the day. our boys standing in lines in the cornfield where we had halted and cheering and waving their hats at the rebels who were fast disapearing in the rear. taking refuge in the woods in the distance,

The artilery rendered us most effective service, rapidly moving down the broad solid pike, and by the time the enemys lines were reformed, the guns were in position and tossing shells in their midst.

Night only put an end to the conflict and so stubborn was their retreat that we only advanced about five miles during the day. this advance was in regular line of battle through fields, woods, thickets, marshes, over streams and fences, up and down hills and hollows and was very tiresome and fatiguing, upon the retirement of the rebels, a strong picket line was posted, "our Regiment the 6th Ind" being detailed for guard duty that night, the troops went into bivouac, soon had fires blazing and were engaged in preparing their evening meal, discussing the events of the day, and the prospects of a warm time on the morrow, thus ended the second days advance on Murfreesboro, and what was in reality the first days fighting of that terrible conflict the Battle of Stone River,

The troops retired to rest that night

fully expecting to renew the conflict the next morning, but during the night Hardee retired and joined the rest of Braggs forces at Murfreesboro leaving a small Cavalry force to harrass our advance, and cover his retreat, our Brigade was left in position to cover the movement of the remainder of the Corps, which on the 28 moved across to their position in the line selected by Gen Rosecrans. we remained until the 30th when we also moved across to the Murfreesboro pike and down to our position in the line, which was to be on the right wing, we arrived late in the afternoon and was marched up in the rear of Gen Davises Division and formed in reserve, we had lain there but a short time, when we received orders to move off to the right, we moved out beyond the extreme right wing a distance of about a mile, halting in a heavy woods until dark, when we were again moved back in the woods near where we first stopped and between Williahs Brigade and the right wing of Gen Davis Division. where we bivouaced for the night and proceeded to boil some coffee and prepare something to eat. after which we laid down to rest sleeping on our arms, for the Enemy was in line of battle less than half a mile in front of us, and we now knew we were to meet them in

the morning, word having gone through the camp we were to attack at daylight.

The formation of our line of Battle on the night of Dec 30th 1862 before Braggs army (near Murfreesboro, Tenn or Stone River as we called it,) was in the following order, Gen Thomas Corps formed the left wing Gen Crittendens Corps the center and Gen McCooks Corps the right wing, Gen Rousseaus Division in reserve in rear of center of right wing, our Division R W Johnsons. of McCooks Corps formed the right flank of our army Gen Willichs Brigade being on the extreme right wing, our Brigade Baldwins, resting on his left and Davis's right- And Gen Kirks Brigade in rear of the center of our Division in reserve, Such was the formation of our battle line on the night of Dec 30 when the troops retired to rest, Alas, many a brave man closed his eyes in sleep that night- full of confidence and hope, who was destined nevermore to witness the setting of another Sun;

Very early on the morning of the 31st our Brigade was aroused and ordered to prepare breakfast and to be as quiet as possible in order not to attract the attention of the Enemy whose lines were in view of us, details were sent after water, Knapsacks were piled up, Arms and ammunition were inspected, Stretcher bearers and Ambulance men were detailed, and other things necessary for the coming conflict-, we were still eating