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Sept. 1997

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NARRATIVE OF THE THIRD REGIMENT.

BY GEN. C. C. ANDREWS.

Recruiting for the Third Regiment¹ Minnesota Infantry, United States Volunteers, commenced early in the autumn of 1861, when people were still feeling the thrilling influence of the battle of Bull Run. The regiment was recruited from all parts of the state, and the work was rather slow in the more sparsely settled counties. Even in such counties there were in every neighborhood a few young men who were eager to go to the war, but it was often too great a pang for their parents to consent. Instances occurred where, after a full talk and consideration of the matter, a young husband agreed to enlist, but the wife, on hearing the decision, burst into tears, and seemed unable to consent to spare him. In such case, of course, the man was promptly released from his promise. Instances of this sort are recalled where husbands subsequently went in other regiments and returned after the war safely to their families. If one had dreamed that in course of a year our peaceful frontier would have been swept by Indian war, success in recruiting would probably have been much less than it was.

The pecuniary inducements which the Government then offered to the soldier were not slight. He was promised a bounty of one hundred dollars. The pay of a private soldier was thirteen dollars a month, as fixed by act of August 6, 1861, besides his "rations" or subsistence; and, in addition, clothing of the value of forty-two dollars per annum. The latter was always of good quality, and furnished at cost. The coat, blouse and trousers were all wool and dark blue, but after the first year of the war the trousers were light blue. The boots, or gaiter shoes, of split leather came up over the ankle, were tied with leather strings, had sewed soles, were very comfortable and durable, yet cost only one dollar and a half.

An infantry regiment consisted of ten companies. Each company had three commissioned officers,—a captain, first lieutenant and second lieutenant; also, thirteen non-commissioned officers, namely, a first or orderly sergeant, four other sergeants and eight corporals; likewise two musicians (drummer and fifer), a wagoner and at least sixty-four privates; the latter being the minimum

¹The following were the field, staff, non-commissioned staff and company officers on the organization of the regiment, Nov. 15, 1861: Colonel, Henry C. Lester of Winona; lieutenant colonel, Benjamin F. Smith of Blue Earth county; major, John A. Hadley of Steele county; surgeon, Levi Butler of Minneapolis; assistant surgeon, Francis H. Milligan of Wabasha; chaplain, Chauncey Hobart of Red Wing; adjutant, Cyrene H. Blakeley; quartermaster, James P. Howlett; sergeant major, William D. Hale; quartermaster sergeant, A. G. Lincoln; commissary sergeant, Josiah Oathout; hospital steward, Ezra Peabody. Company A, captain, William W. Webster; first lieutenant, James P. Howlett; second lieutenant, Adolphus P. Elliott. Company B, captain, Chauncey W. Griggs of St. Paul; first lieutenant, James B. Hoyt; second lieutenant, Rollin C. Olin. Company C, captain, John A. Bennett; first lieutenant, William H. Mills; second lieutenant, Lewis Hardy. Company D, captain, Hans Mattson of Red Wing; first lieutenant, Lars K. Aaker; second lieutenant, Hans Eustrom. Company E, captain, Clinton Gurnee of Red Wing; first lieutenant, Edward L. Baker; second lieutenant, Willet W. De Kay. Company F, captain, John B. Preston; first lieutenant, Isaac Tichenor; second lieutenant, Samuel H. Ingham. Company G, captain, Everett W. Foster of Wabasha; first lieutenant, Ezra B. Eddy; second lieutenant, John C. Devereux. Company H, captain, Benjamin F. Rice of Mankato; first lieutenant, David Misner; second lieutenant, Isaac Taylor. Company I, captain, Christopher C. Andrews of St. Cloud; first lieutenant, Joseph H. Swan of Le Sueur; second lieutenant, Damon Greenleaf. Company K, captain, Mark W. Clay of Olmsted county; first lieutenant, James L. Hodges; second lieutenant, Cyrene H. Blakeley.

number. Every company was allowed to have eighty-two privates, which was the maximum number. Usually the number of privates in a company varied between the minimum and maximum. The largest company in the Third Regiment, as first organized, was G, which had seventy-six privates. The aggregate strength of the regiment, including all officers and men, at the date of its organization, November 15th, was nine hundred and one. Company officers of infantry regiments always marched afoot with their companies, but the field and staff officers, — colonel, lieutenant colonel, major, adjutant, quartermaster, surgeon, assistant surgeon and chaplain, — also non-commissioned staff — sergeant major, quartermaster sergeant, commissary sergeant and hospital steward, — were mounted.

Never again was the line of the Third Regiment so long as it was on the one or two occasions that it turned out on dress parade at the early November sunset, just before leaving Fort Snelling. Everyone wore the light blue overcoat with cape. And the line! — it was a brigade, compared with its numbers on some subsequent occasions. As soon as a regiment gets into the field its numbers present for duty rapidly decline for awhile. Men who are competent as clerks will be detailed away at offices of the staff and headquarters; some will be detailed as teamsters and some as nurses; many more will be sick.

It was an uncommonly clear and beautiful day, Saturday, Nov. 17, 1861, that the Third Regiment, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Smith, embarked at Fort Snelling for its Southern field of duty. The boats were detained several hours at the Mendota sand-bar, and did not reach the upper landing in St. Paul till afternoon; the regiment there debarked, marched up Eagle street to Third, down Third to Jackson, and thence to the lower levee and re-embarked on the three steamboats, Northern Belle, City Belle and Frank Steele. It arrived at La Crosse at 7 A. M. Sunday, left there at noon on a train of twenty-five cars, and at Portage partook of a generous supper tendered by the ladies. It left Chicago Monday noon, arrived at Jeffersonville, Ind., Tuesday morning, November 19th, the same day crossed the Ohio River to Louisville, where it was treated to a fine lunch served by prominent Union people of that city. It had been greeted with cordial expressions of sympathy by large crowds at various cities in its progress, and particularly at La Fayette, Ind. After lunch at Louisville it marched five miles out on the Oakland turnpike to Camp Jenkins, where it was attached to a brigade commanded by General Mitchell. It there remained about two weeks, during which time it was supplied with arms and equipments, the former being a poor lot of Belgian muskets; also, with army wagons and teams. At that time a six-mule wagon was allowed to each company, one for headquarters, one for the hospital, and probably a few more for quartermaster supplies. The following year transportation was reduced to six wagons for a regiment, and later still, when the army got down to business, to several less. Even at Camp Jenkins, regimental, company and squad drill was diligently practiced.

Leaving Camp Jenkins December 6th it first marched to Louisville and then out on the road toward Shepherdsville, camped at 3 o'clock P. M., and ar-

The following was the list of officers at the date of the regiment's discharge: Colonel, Hans Mattson; lieutenant colonel, James B. Hoyt; adjutant, P. E. Folsom; surgeon, A. C. Wedge; assistant surgeons, M. R. Greeley and Naham Birby; quartermaster, Bonde Olson. Company A, captain, Otto F. Dreher; first lieutenant, N. C. Parker. Company B, captain, J. F. Fuller; first lieutenant, H. D. Pettibone. Company C, captain, J. M. Moran; first lieutenant, A. J. Borland. Company D, captain, J. A. Vanstrum; first lieutenant, E. T. Champlin. Company E, captain, G. W. Knight; first lieutenant, A. C. Pease. Company F, captain, W. F. Morse; first lieutenant, Thomas Hunter. Company G, captain, L. C. Hancock; first lieutenant, Eben North. Company H, captain, G. L. Jameson; first lieutenant, Jonas Lindall. Company I, captain, W. G. J. Akers; first lieutenant, N. B. Johnson. Company K, captain, J. L. Hodges; first lieutenant, J. W. Kirby. In addition to the above the following promotions were made and commissions issued, but for want of full quota in the ranks the appointees had not been mustered: Captain J. A. Vanstrum, major; First Lieutenant Bonde Olson, captain; First Lieutenant A. J. Borland, quartermaster; First Sergeant Philip Quigley, first lieutenant; First Sergeant James Boardman, first lieutenant; Sergeant Major H. W. Donaldson and First Sergeants H. J. McKee, Lewis Parker, Peter Lundberg, Patrick Maloy, J. N. Martin, David Thompson, J. O. Crummet, and Commissary Sergeant A. Eastman, all second lieutenants.

rived at Shepherdsville, on the Louisville & Nashville railroad, at 4 P. M. the next day. With six companies at the latter place and four at Lebanon Junction it was charged with the responsibility of guarding against injury the railroad and turnpike bridges at Shepherdsville, of holding Lebanon Junction, and of guarding the bridge over Wilson's Creek a few miles in advance of the Junction. It was brigaded with the Thirteenth and Fifteenth Kentucky and Ninth Michigan regiments as the Sixteenth Brigade of the Army of the Ohio. At this time General Buell had just relieved General Sherman of the command of the Department of the Ohio, headquarters at Louisville. General George H. Thomas with a small force was at Peach Orchard, Lincoln county, eighty miles southeast of Shepherdsville; while the principal Union force was on Nolin Creek (near Abraham Lincoln's native spot), sixty miles south of Shepherdsville, under General McCook. In his front at Bowling Green was General Albert Sidney Johnston with 19,000 Confederates. The Confederates also held Columbus, Ky. The armies in the field on both sides were constantly being reinforced, and a battle seemed impending.

At Shepherdsville the colonel, Henry C. Lester, who had been a captain in the First Minnesota, arrived from the Army of the Potomac, and took command of the regiment. He was a man of prepossessing appearance, being of average height, strongly built, with a fine intellectual head and pleasant black eyes, and proved to be a well-informed, modest and hospitable gentleman. He at once started an evening school of tactics and the manual of arms for the commissioned officers, and organized that instruction and drill which, rigidly adhered to for many months, gradually brought the regiment to an unusually high degree of discipline and efficiency. This, with his care for the material wants of the men, and his uniformly just and dignified conduct, won for him the admiration of officers and enlisted men alike, so that probably the very misfortune of the 13th of July following was partly owing to such an extreme confidence of some of the company commanders in him as to deprive them of independent judgment in that crisis. Headquarters were shortly moved to Belmont, a deserted iron-producing village, whose vacant workmen's cottages afforded ample shelter. It was a hilly, brush-wooded, and lean region, but had enough level ground for knapsack battalion drill. Four companies were separately detached a week at a time, guarding railroad bridges at Elizabethtown, Colesburg, Lebanon Junction and Shepherdsville. There were thus always six companies at the main camp being habitually exercised two hours every afternoon in battalion drill. Each company, likewise, wherever stationed, spent two hours every forenoon in squad and company drill. In very wet weather the manual of arms and marking time were practiced under cover. One of the first things the colonel did at Belmont was to establish a bakery, by which the regiment was supplied with excellent bread. The bugle band which he organized, and compared with which the ordinary brass band is but parlor music, was a novel and attractive feature. To make sure that commissioned officers would not shirk the morning roll call, which was at daylight, company commanders were required to immediately report the result of it, in person, at headquarters, which was frequently done before the adjutant was up. Company D, being mostly Swedes, followed the practice in the Swedish army of singing the "Doxology" immediately after the evening roll call, and it sounded so well and seemed so appropriate that Company I, which was camped nearest to D, adopted the same practice. No one will forget the thin pies that were brought into camp and sold by poor country people. But those, probably, will have the pleasantest recollection of the pies who enjoyed them by the exquisite sense of sight. Once, as a company officer was about visiting Louisville, he was authorized by the colonel to call on the commanding general to see if better muskets could be had. General Buell, a large and fine-looking man, in the prime of life, was found in his rooms in the Galt House, in the evening, at work in his shirt sleeves. He asked a number of questions about the regiment, the answers to which appeared to gratify him, and a few days afterward it received a supply of rifle muskets that were entirely satisfactory.

Even before quitting Belmont the regiment could well have been taken for a regular army regiment for the precision of its movements, general appearance and adherence to regulations. Even the leather neck-stock was not disdained, though finally it had a peculiar tendency for getting lost. The brass plates on the belts and equipments, the bugles and eagles on the hats, also the shoulder-scales, were as bright as gold. An enlisted man of the Third in full uniform, and especially with his shoulder-scales, was more striking than a commissioned officer, and was sometimes taken by the citizens for an officer of high rank. It was partly the effect of those gleaming shoulder-scales upon the plain people, probably, that caused the men to be so frequently invited out to tea. At the colonel's request (for not being required by regulations it could not be ordered), all the men, at their own expense, provided themselves with white cotton gloves to wear on parade, on guard duty, and at inspections. Here and there would be a few so averse to everything like style that they were slow to adopt the practice, and to see just these very men, after some weeks, washing their gloves, showed that willing spirit which is the source of good discipline.

The flank operations of the Union forces up the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers, crowned with the victory of Fort Donelson, caused the retreat of the Confederate armies from Kentucky, and even to the southern borders of Tennessee. The general forward movement consequent took our regiment to Nashville, where, March 24, 1862, it went into camp, in Sibley tents, on the Ewing place, two miles out of the city, near the Murfreesboro pike. It performed guard duty in the city, and watched the railroad bridge at Mill Creek. It made a very good impression at Nashville, was visited and reviewed at its camp by Andrew Johnson, then military governor of Tennessee, and by him addressed in an elaborate oration on the great theme of the Union. At his invitation the regiment visited Nashville, was there welcomed by him as governor, and conducted by him in person around the spacious marble-paved veranda of Tennessee's beautiful capitol.

April 27th, twenty days after the battle of Shiloh, and the same day our armies under Halleck began a cautious movement against Beauregard's lines at Corinth, we marched for Murfreesboro, a town in the heart of Tennessee, whence radiate eleven highways, some of which were good macadamized pikes. It contained a depot of supplies; also, was a place requiring much picket duty. The first camp was about a mile below the town, on open land, watered by a clear stream, and in the vicinity were some fir or cypress thickets. The country around Murfreesboro is a natural park; the surface is undulating, well watered, with here and there groves and open forests of hardwood. There were frequent rumors of expected attacks. Sometimes one company, sometimes two companies, would be posted out on a road all night as a picket reserve. One night, when the whole regiment, in perfect silence, took position out on one of the roads, an attack was regarded as certain. We had a good position and some field guns, and thought, as we waited there in the darkness, we had a sure thing on the enemy; but he did not come. It was at Murfreesboro that we drilled in street firing. With Kentucky regiments and the Ninth Michigan we also practiced brigade drill under Colonel Duffield, in the field where Jefferson Davis afterward reviewed a Confederate army. May 17th moved by rail, via Nashville and Franklin, to Columbia, Tenn., in the centre of a garden region, but returned in a few days to Murfreesboro and camped in the outskirts of the southeast part of the town. It was while the regiment was in that camp that a false alarm of an attack was raised by Company I practicing target firing. One afternoon this company went out with its captain about a mile south of camp, yet inside the picket lines, and engaged in target firing, which was not a very unusual proceeding. However, an alarm was caused, and the troops called out. Suddenly, Company I saw, with amazement, two lines of our own cavalry approaching in line of battle through the open timber from opposite directions. One of the lines was just ready to charge, but its commander fortunately took in the situation in time to prevent the movement. Target firing ceased for that afternoon, and when Company I marched into camp it was greeted with more or less cries of "Guard house!" "Guard house!" from wags in neighboring companies.

Shortly after the return from Columbia, Lieutenant Colonel Smith, an esteemed officer, resigned on account of ill health, and was succeeded by Major Griggs, who had been promoted on the resignation, May 1st, of Major Hadley.

June 11th the regiment moved with the expedition (column of 3,000 with about eight hundred cavalry), under General Dumont, to Pikeville, Colonel Lester having immediate command of the troops. Marched the first forty miles to McMinnville in twenty-four hours. Pikeville was reached the 14th of June, and the column got back to Murfreesboro the 18th. The Cumberland Mountains were thus twice rapidly crossed amid intense heat and dust. The regiment first resumed its former camp, but soon moved to the level ground on the southeast suburbs of the town, near the Ninth Michigan; yet on account of its overflow during heavy rains, it moved out near the Nashville pike, on Stone River, nearly two miles distant, on the opposite side of Murfreesboro.

MURFREESBORO—THE SURRENDER.

The Government deemed it of very great importance to redeem east Tennessee; and after our forces gained possession of Corinth, the last of May, General Buell, who had gained brilliant laurels at Shiloh, was selected to conduct an army to Chattanooga. He acted under instructions from General Halleck, who was at Corinth till July 16th. General Buell was also at Corinth till June 11th, but toward the last of the month fixed his headquarters at Huntsville, in northern Alabama, on the railroad from Memphis to Chattanooga. He continued busy preparing for his campaign. It took sixty wagons for one day's supply of provisions and forage for his army of 90,000, of whom 67,000, though not in one body, were present for duty. It was of vital importance that he should have the Nashville & Chattanooga railroad (via Murfreesboro and Stevenson) in operation, but in addition to that he undertook the repair of the railroad running from Memphis to Chattanooga. He was told by Halleck, July 10th, that the president was not satisfied with his progress, and that he ought to move more rapidly. He replied that his arrangements were being pushed as rapidly as possible; that the reports of General Mitchell, who had charge of some of the railroad repairs, had led him to expect that the Chattanooga road would be completed by the 1st of July; that he had doubled the force on it, and it could not be finished before July 14th. By July 12th, however, the day before Forrest captured Murfreesboro, preparations were so advanced that he appears to have been on the eve of moving. On that date Wood's division was ordered to march the following day to Stevenson; the quartermaster and commissary at Nashville were ordered to send through supplies to Stevenson the following day. But, alas! though now, apparently, on the eve of moving, his campaign never was accomplished. The Confederates knew his plans. They had possession of east Tennessee, but their force at Chattanooga was inferior to his, and as Bragg's reinforcements could not begin to arrive there for two weeks, or before July 27th, they sent Morgan into Kentucky and Forrest against Murfreesboro to cut Buell's lines of communication and delay his movement. The Confederate general, E. Kirby Smith, writing near Knoxville July 14th, says: "Colonel Forrest, with three regiments, was sent into middle Tennessee to delay Buell's movement till Bragg's columns make their appearance." Unhappily, Buell's army was so held in check by this and succeeding raids (for Forrest, encouraged by his capture of Murfreesboro, made another raid a week afterward, destroying three bridges nine miles from Nashville), that the Confederates not only gained all the time they wanted to throw reinforcements into Chattanooga, but actually to take the offensive and strike out boldly for Louisville. Then began that race toward the Ohio, of the armies under Buell and Bragg, culminating October 9th in the battle of Perryville.

Turning now to the attack of July 13th on our forces at Murfreesboro and the part which the Third Minnesota played in that affair, it is to be noticed that the regiment at that time formed a part of the Twenty-third Brigade, commanded by Colonel W. W. Duffield of the Ninth Michigan, and which was under orders to march to McMinnville about July 18th. The other regiments of the

brigade were the Ninth Michigan, the Eighth and Twenty-third Kentucky, the two last being respectively at Wartrace and Pulaski. For two months Colonel Duffield had been absent on leave, during which time Colonel Lester had been in command of the brigade and other forces at Murfreesboro, leaving Lieutenant Colonel Griggs in command of the Third. But a day or two before the 13th, Duffield had returned and resumed the brigade command, and Colonel Lester had resumed command of the Third Regiment. Likewise, General T. T. Crittenden of Indiana, who had been promoted for gallantry at Shiloh, had arrived at Murfreesboro July 11th, and taken command of the post the forenoon of July 12th. The force of enlisted men fit for duty at Murfreesboro was fully 1,000. Forrest reported that the whole number of enlisted men captured, taken to McMinnville and paroled, was between 1,100 and 1,200. Our forces, however, were separated. There were five companies, two hundred and fifty strong, of the Ninth Michigan in camp three-fourths of a mile east of the town, on the Liberty turnpike (another company of the Ninth Michigan, forty-two strong, occupied the court house as provost guard). Near the camp of the Ninth Michigan were eighty men of the Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry under Major Seibert, also eighty-one men of the Fourth Kentucky Cavalry under Captain Chilson. More than a mile distant, on the other side of the town, on undulating, rocky and shaded ground near Stone River, were nine companies of the Third Minnesota, five hundred strong; near it, also, two sections—four guns—of Hewitt's Kentucky Field Artillery with sixty-four men for duty. Forty-five men of Company C, Third Regiment, under Lieutenant Grummons, had gone the afternoon of July 12th as guard on a supply railway train to Shelbyville, and had not returned the 13th. Murfreesboro, as we have seen, was on the Nashville & Chattanooga railroad. Its principal business buildings were in a large square in the centre of which was the court house. We had at Murfreesboro valuable military stores, and it is somewhat remarkable that none of the commanding generals had directed the construction of any fortifications or even a stockade, although about that time General Buell began to issue orders for building stockades at railroad bridges, and after he had regained possession of Murfreesboro caused some fortifications to be built there.

July 12th, the day before Forrest's attack, General Buell, from Huntsville, telegraphed Halleck: "Information from various quarters leaves but little room to doubt that a heavy cavalry force is being thrown across from Chattanooga to operate in middle Tennessee and Kentucky." The same date Captain O. D. Greene, Buell's adjutant at Nashville, telegraphed from there to General Buell's headquarters at Huntsville, as follows: "A heavy movement is taking place upon Murfreesboro, via McMinnville, from Chattanooga. Over 2,000 cavalry under General Forrest had already crossed the river at Chattanooga when my informant left to-day week." Why was this information not sent promptly to Murfreesboro? There were rumors that some such information was sent there before July 13th. Anyhow, we all got notice of the movement at day-break Sunday morning, July 13th. Forrest having come on a forced march from Woodbury, captured our picket guard without resistance and dashed into Murfreesboro that morning with a mounted force of about 1,500 men, a part of which charged first upon the camp of the Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry, then re-formed and charged upon the Ninth Michigan Infantry, which made a very gallant defense in line of battle and repulsed repeated charges. Many of the Ninth Michigan fell by the enemy's first charge, and its loss during the day, including that of the company at the court house, was eleven killed and eighty-nine wounded. The enemy suffered considerable loss in that part of the town, including a colonel killed, up to about noon, when the Ninth Michigan surrendered. General Crittenden was captured at his quarters, in a house in town, at about eight o'clock. Almost simultaneous with the first attack a part of Forrest's force moved toward the Third Minnesota, which, however, had sprung up at the first sound of the firing, formed into line, Colonel Lester in command, and with two guns of Hewitt's battery on each flank, marched in the direction of Murfreesboro. It had gone not more than an eighth of a mile,

arriving at an open piece of ground in front of Murfree's large frame house, when about three hundred of the enemy were perceived through the fog five hundred yards distant and a little to the left, approaching in a gallop from the town. They were moving in some disorder and appeared to fall back soon after the Third Regiment came in sight. The latter was immediately brought forward into line, and in a few moments Hewitt's artillery was in position and opened fire. The enemy soon retired out of sight, and in course of half an hour the Third Regiment advanced in line six hundred yards, over a piece of grass land which had been its drill ground and sloping a little toward Stone River, —there crooked and tree-skirted,—to a somewhat commanding position at the edge of a large body of brush and open timber extending toward Murfreesboro. The regiment's right rested near the Nashville pike. Skirmishers were deployed in the woods. A Parrott gun was placed so as to have complete range for nearly a mile down this road toward Murfreesboro. The other guns were six-pounders, and continued to fire wherever the enemy was supposed to be. During the forenoon about three hundred rounds were fired by the four guns of Hewitt's battery, the greater part of them appearing to have been at random. Some, however, did good execution, killing or wounding the enemy when he dared to come in sight, worrying and dispersing him when he attempted to form in the woods, also making him desist from an attempt to tear up the railroad. Up to this hour the only ground of discontent that had ever existed in the Third Regiment was that it had never had an opportunity to fight. Probably no regiment was ever more eager to meet the enemy in battle than was the Third Minnesota on that occasion. Yet while it was there in line of battle from daylight till about noon, impatiently waiting for the enemy to approach, or, what was better, to be led against him, he was assailing an inferior force of our comrades near by, and wantonly destroying valuable United States commissary and quartermaster stores in town, which we were all bound in honor to protect. The regiment was kept standing or lying motionless hour after hour, even while plainly seeing the smoke rising from our burning depot of supplies. While Colonel Lester sat upon his horse at his proper post in rear of the line, different officers approached and asked him, in tone of entreaty, if he would not march the regiment into town. He replied, "We will see."

In course of the morning Mr. A. B. Cornell, acting sutler (previously newspaper editor at Owatonna), having exchanged clothing with a prisoner, with great courage and energy, went across fields and communicated with the commanding officer of the Ninth Michigan, and brought to Colonel Lester information of the severe loss the Ninth Michigan had sustained, and that it would endeavor to hold its position. Only once did any of Forrest's forces venture within musket range of the main line of the Third Regiment. About eight o'clock a Georgia regiment formed down in the woods to charge, but only two of its companies persevered in the charge, and they, finding they could not move a man in our line, galloped off as rapidly as possible to our left, suffering some loss. The effect of this was to increase the ardor and confidence of our men. The casualties that occurred to this main body of the regiment were in having three men wounded, two in Company E while deployed as skirmishers, and one in Company H while standing in line of battle. About the time of the attempted charge just mentioned, or between seven and eight o'clock, a considerable force, which, as will be seen, was under Forrest's immediate command, made three assaults upon the camp of the Third Regiment, now out of sight and half a mile distant in the rear, and which was defended by a camp guard of about twenty men, a few convalescents, teamsters and cooks. In that struggle, which we will let General Forrest's historian describe later on, several fell on both sides. The camp was finally taken, the officers' tents and property burned, and the ground hastily abandoned by the enemy. The firing at the camp had been plainly heard by the regiment, and while it was occurring Captain Hoit went to the colonel and asked, but was refused, permission to go with his company (B) to the protection of the camp.

While the regiment was in line Surgeons Butler and Wedge established a hospital tent at a quiet place near Stone River, and there treated the wounded on both sides. About noon the Third Regiment and Hewitt's battery deliberately retired to the ample front yard, having shrubbery and trees inclosed by a fence, at Murfree's house, and which, from its rather commanding situation, was a good position. [This house is shown on the map of the battlefield of Stone River, in Gen. Sheridan's memoirs. The Third Regiment camp was on the next spur in the rear of the house.] In the rear were several farm buildings. Refreshments were there taken, coffee having been brought from the company kitchens. Not a few had blackberries with their lunch. Up to this time the men thought they had not been having much more than a picnic. At about half-past one o'clock, when we had present in the Third Regiment some five hundred effective men, well armed, in good spirits and eager for a fight, also with us four pieces of field artillery, well manned and with a fair supply of ammunition, a white flag appeared over the brow of rising ground near where the regiment had been in line, which proved to be a request for our colonel to go into Murfreesboro for a consultation with Colonel Duffield. Forrest, as stated in his carefully prepared and published memoirs of his campaigns, on that occasion "ostentatiously displayed his several commands along the path Colonel Lester was led in going to and returning from the interview with Duffield, so as to make an appearance of greater numbers than were really present." Forrest at the time was generally credited with having had a force of 2,500. [In his official report, published in the "Rebellion Record," he says his force was about 1,400 besides "some few volunteers" — meaning citizens.] But a force of even 2,000 mounted men in one body was very uncommon. General Grierson when he made his celebrated raid through Mississippi had only 1,700 men. Nothing is easier than to overestimate the numbers of a cavalry column. After deducting Forrest's loss in killed and wounded, and the different detachments he had sent off to guard prisoners and transportation, it is doubtful if he had over 1,000 effective men with whom to engage the Third Regiment that afternoon. His failure throughout the day to make any serious attack on the main body of our regiment satisfied the most of us that we had no cause to fear him. It is very doubtful if he would have made any further attack. Indeed, it is stated in his "Campaigns," just referred to, that about noon and previous to the capture of the Ninth Michigan, "Among many of his officers there was manifest a perilous want of confidence in the ability of the command to triumph. So far did this spirit reach that some of the officers urged Forrest to rest content with what had been accomplished and quit the field without further, and, as they were satisfied, fruitless yet costly efforts to carry the federal position."

Unfortunately, however, the result of Colonel Lester's visit was that he became strongly inclined to surrender the regiment, which he finally did between three and four o'clock, and utterly to its amazement, regret and grief.

Colonel Lester, in his report addressed to Lieutenant H. M. Duffield, acting assistant adjutant general, Twenty-third Brigade (and brother of Colonel Duffield, commander of the brigade), says: "While taking up our new position a flag of truce appeared, borne by yourself, and sent at the request of Colonel Duffield, commanding Twenty-third Brigade, for the purpose of procuring an interview with me. I returned to town with the flag, had an interview with the colonel commanding, in which I learned that we were attacked by the rebel general Forrest, with a brigade of cavalry. Learning from the colonel that the enemy were in overwhelming force, and that, even should the road be uninjured, the forces at Nashville were absent upon an expedition and that there was no hope of reinforcements, at his suggestion I agreed to refer the matter of surrender to my officers. Accordingly the matter was represented to them as derived from Colonel Duffield, and the great majority looking upon further resistance as involving the certainty of an ultimate defeat with great loss, and with no possibility of an escape or assistance, it was decided to surrender, which was done at 3:30 P. M."

Colonel Duffield, though regarded as an able man, was at the time of this interview a prisoner and suffering from a painful wound, and his views were not entitled to great weight. But Colonel Lester's representations of his views is confirmed by the fact that Colonel Duffield's brother, Lieutenant Duffield, who came to our regiment with the flag, earnestly expressed himself in favor of our being surrendered. Captain Hewitt, commanding the two sections of the Kentucky artillery, also earnestly advocated a surrender. The statement of General T. T. Crittenden in his report is also true, that on the first vote of our company commanders and the lieutenant colonel, which was open, a majority voted to fight; that one or more left the council and returned to their companies; that Colonel Lester afterward reopened and reargued the matter; that a vote by ballot was then taken, resulting in a majority for surrender. But it is well known that Lieutenant Colonel Griggs and two company commanders in that ballot voted, as they had strongly counseled throughout, to fight. Major Mattson was absent, sick. The council was public and informal, in the front yard of Murfree's house, and the commanders of all the companies in the regiment were present except First Lieutenant Vanstrum of Company D, who was with his company. The first vote was by a show of hands, and those who voted against the surrender were Lieutenant Colonel Griggs and Captains Foster, Andrews and Hoit, and Lieutenant Taylor, commanding Company H. Two captains did not vote, and the result was four for surrender and five against. A request was made that all should vote. Thereupon the colonel reopened the discussion, stating the reasons which induced him to favor surrender. Other officers briefly expressed their views, some earnestly against, others for, surrender, and among the latter some lieutenants who had no vote. Forrest even at that time had a reputation for being tricky as well as for effrontery. His presuming to demand the surrender of the Third Regiment, which he had not dared to attack, was scouted as a piece of impudent bravado.¹ The disgrace of surrender was then and there just as strongly felt, pointed out, denounced and protested against as it ever could have been since. But, "Who can control his fate?" Up to that day Colonel Lester and his regiment had been uncommonly fortunate. His prospects were brilliant. He was immensely popular in his regiment and in his state. Yet how often it is the case that the highest good fortune is succeeded by the deepest misfortune.

The colonel proposed there should be a final vote by ballot; but meantime Captain Foster and Lieutenant Taylor had gone to their respective companies, and there were only three officers who voted against surrender,—namely, Lieutenant Colonel Griggs, Captain Andrews and Captain Hoit. Six voted to surrender. Lieutenant Vanstrum was on his way to the council, and, not knowing that it was over, stopped and wrote a ballot opposing surrender on a piece of paper which he held against a tree and handed it to Colonel Lester, who, however, told him it was too late, as the council was over.

Some of the stories that were circulated in Minnesota after the surrender, such, for example, as that one of the officers who opposed surrender broke his sword, and that the colonel was actuated by corrupt or disloyal motives, were without any foundation. General Buell characterized the surrender in general orders as one of the most disgraceful examples in the history of wars. The announcement of surrender was received by the men with sorrow and indignation too deep for utterance. They silently, though with tears in their eyes, gave up the well-kept arms which, through many months of hard service, they had honored. When the Confederate officers came up and saw the number of the men, their excellent muskets and equipments, and especially when, in column by companies, the regiment marched off with measured step toward Murfreesboro, it was plain to see in the countenances of the Confederates an expression of astonishment as well as delight at the capture they had so cheaply made.

¹Lieut. Col. J. G. Parkhurst, commanding the Ninth Michigan, in his official report quotes the written demand which Forrest made for the surrender of that regiment, and in which he used the unusual and unmilitary language as follows: "I must demand an unconditional surrender of your force as prisoners of war or I will have every man put to the sword." Substantially such a demand was communicated to the Third.

After the surrender, several officers of the regiment, with General Forrest, went through our camp and observed the burned remnants of the officers' tents and personal property. The aggregate loss must have been considerable, as most of the officers lost everything but the every-day clothing they had on. Probably none of them ever made a claim or received any compensation for any loss of property on that occasion. Forrest was a man over six feet in height, with muscular frame, had regular features, black hair, very dark complexion, and deep blue eyes, was serious, and used very few words.

Let us now notice the Confederate account of this affair, and especially of the fight at the camp, when the regiment was half a mile away, given in the work before referred to—Generals Jordan and Pryor's history of General Forrest's campaigns, a narrative which General Forrest himself pronounced authentic. It is there stated that Forrest, who at that time, it seems, had not received his commission as brigadier general, on July 6th began to cross the Tennessee River at Chattanooga, with about 1,000 cavalry—Eighth Texas, 400; Second Georgia, 450; battalion of Tennesseans under Major Baxter Smith, 120, and two companies of Kentuckians. He reached Altamont, near the summit of the Cumberlands, the 10th; formed junction with Colonel Morrison and his battalion, some three hundred strong, the evening of the 11th, at a point ten miles northeast of Sparta, and reached Woodbury, eighteen miles from Murfreesboro, "with somewhat above thirteen hundred men," at eleven o'clock the night of the 12th. That on the morning of the 13th, after the combat with the Ninth Michigan, "Forrest made his dispositions immediately to attack the Third Minnesota, reported to be encamped on the east bank of Stone River, about one mile and a half from the town. On reaching the encampment it was found comparatively evacuated, the federals having just moved out in the direction of Murfreesboro to join their comrades in that quarter. Forrest's force assembled for this affair consisted of the Georgians, Major Smith's Tennesseans, the Kentucky squadron, and some twenty men under Paul F. Anderson. Seeing the Confederates approach, the federals, then about six hundred yards southward of their camp, halted and formed in line of battle, some nine companies of infantry and four pieces of artillery. Directing the Georgians to confront and menace the enemy and engage with skirmishers, taking Major Smith with his men, including the Kentuckians and three companies of Morrison's Georgians under Major Harper, Forrest pushed rapidly around to the right and rear of the encampment, which proved to be still occupied by about one hundred men, posted behind a strong barricade of wagons and some large limestone ledges, which afforded excellent cover, difficult to carry. He thereupon ordered a charge, Majors Smith and Harper leading their men. They were met, however, with a stubborn, brave defense. Twice, indeed, the Confederates were repulsed. But Forrest, drawing his men up for a third effort, made a brief appeal to their manhood, and putting himself at the head of the column, the charge was again ordered, this time with success."

We thus see, from Forrest's own account of the combat, written soon after the war, that the little camp guard of the Third Minnesota, numbering about twenty, with convalescents, teamsters and cooks, gallantly repulsed two separate charges of fully four times their number, led by two field officers, and were only defeated after a third charge led by Forrest in person. That was a fair sample of the fighting qualities of the Third Minnesota, and no one well acquainted with the regiment has ever doubted that had an opportunity been afforded it would have engaged Forrest's whole force with the same heroic valor. The brave corporal, Charles H. Greene of Company I, who rallied our little force at the camp, did not yield until he had received a severe saber cut on his head and two bullet wounds, one of which was mortal. He lived but two hours; and while lying at the point of death, at the camp, described the combat to his captain substantially as stated in Forrest's memoirs. Private V. Woodburn of Company C was also killed in that action and nine others wounded. The Confederate loss there has never been reported, but the Third men, who fought from cover, insisted that ten were killed besides several wounded. Corporal Greene had formerly served in the regular army and was every inch a soldier. His home

and family at that time were in Morrison county, Minnesota, and a prairie and township there have since been named in his honor.

It will be of peculiar interest here to refer to the criticism which General Grant in his memoirs has made of General Buell's failure to march into east Tennessee. We have seen that Buell, to prepare for his movement, had undertaken not only to rebuild the Nashville & Chattanooga railroad, which was ready July 12th, but also the railroad from Memphis to Chattanooga, which was not yet quite ready. General Grant thought that his waiting to repair the latter railroad was a great mistake, and that the road from Nashville to Chattanooga (via Murfreesboro) was sufficient for his purpose. He says if General Buell "had been sent directly to Chattanooga as rapidly as he could march, leaving two or three divisions along the line of the railroad from Nashville forward, he could have arrived with but little fighting and would have saved much of the loss of life which was afterward incurred in gaining Chattanooga. Bragg would then not have had time to raise an army to contest the possession of middle and east Tennessee and Kentucky; and the battles of Stone River and Chickamauga would not necessarily have been fought; Burnside would not have been besieged in Knoxville without the power of helping himself or escaping; the battle of Chattanooga would not have been fought. * * * The positive results might have been a bloodless advance to Atlanta, to Vicksburg, or to any other desired point south of Corinth in the interior of Mississippi." If the consequences of Buell's failure to take Chattanooga were so momentous, then a deep interest will always attach to whatever retarded his movement and especially to the reverse at Murfreesboro. It may be saying too much to attribute Buell's failure solely to that disaster. One of its immediate effects, however, was to put his army on half-rations. It compelled him to send a division under Nelson to reoccupy Murfreesboro, and two brigades of Wood's division, by forced marches, from Decatur to Shelbyville. The use of the railroad was set back two weeks. If the forces under Forrest July 13th had been thoroughly whipped and routed, as they ought to have been, and as they would have been had the Third Minnesota had a chance to engage them, it can hardly be doubted that General Buell would have seasonably put his army in motion and that it would have accomplished its object.¹

Immediately after the surrender the regiment was marched rapidly to McMinnville. From there the commissioned officers, except Captain Mills and Lieutenants Hodges and Taylor, who had escaped, were taken, via Sparta and Knoxville, to Madison, Ga., and there kept in a Confederate prison—a cotton factory building—three months, when they were taken to Libby Prison, Richmond, and paroled. Most of the other prisoners at Madison at the time were commissioned officers who had been captured with General Prentiss at Shiloh. The non-commissioned officers and enlisted men of the regiment were paroled at McMinnville and then, under a Confederate officer, marched back to Murfreesboro, already reoccupied by a division under General Nelson. That brave but impetuous officer hotly berated the men for the surrender as if it had been their fault. Arriving at Nashville they were desired, in violation of their parole, to take arms to help defend the place in case of an attack. Refusing to do this, they were ordered into camp in the outskirts of the city, and the next day a lot of old muskets were sent them with orders to detail a camp guard. Considering it a violation of their parole they refused to receive the arms. The humiliating manner in which they had been surrendered and the treatment they had since received, naturally tended to lessen their respect for commissioned officers and to impair their discipline. After staying at Nashville about a week they were sent, under command of Major Mattson, to Benton Barracks, going by railway to Louisville and thence by steamboat to St. Louis. They remained at Benton Barracks, under command of Lieutenant R. C. Olin, till called for service in the Indian campaign.

¹The official correspondence relating to the surrender of Murfreesboro may be found on pages 792-811, chapter 28, "Rebellion Record." It is also frequently referred to in the voluminous testimony taken before the "Buell Commission," published in "Rebellion Record," vol. 16, part 1.

Lieutenant Grummons and the forty-five men of Company C were at Shelbyville the morning of July 13th, and distinctly heard the firing at Murfreesboro; they returned by railway to the latter place, yet rather slowly, arriving at the railroad bridge, three miles or so below Murfreesboro, at about 3 o'clock P. M., finding a number of men of the Ninth Michigan on picket. The train went back for reinforcements; and toward evening, learning that their regiment had surrendered, Company C, though against the protest of some of the sergeants, marched in retreat along the railroad to Wartrace, arriving there at two in the morning. July 15th the detachment marched with four companies of the Ninth Michigan to Tullahoma. On the 17th Captain Mills joined it and took command. About the 22d it went to Murfreesboro and there remained several weeks, performing guard duty. It was then sent to Nashville in charge of some prisoners; there joined the Second Minnesota, with which it marched, in General Buell's army, to Louisville, and about the 1st of October, pursuant to instructions from the War Department, proceeded to Fort Snelling.

INDIAN CAMPAIGN—BATTLE OF WOOD LAKE.

But the regiment was destined soon to fly to the protection of its own Minnesota frontier. The Sioux Indian revolt and massacre commenced August 18th. Authentic information of it reached St. Paul on the 19th. The same evening ex-Gov. Henry H. Sibley was appointed by the governor of Minnesota to conduct a military force against the hostile Sioux, and he started the next day with four companies of the Sixth Regiment for St. Peter. In compliance with the request of Gov. Ramsey, Gen. Halleck, August 22d, instructed Gen. Schofield to send the Third Regiment to Minnesota. The War Department announced, August 27th, that the enlisted men of the regiment, as paroled prisoners, were fully exchanged. A high value, even in their disorganized condition, was placed upon their service in the Indian campaign, and their arrival was anticipated with much interest. September 13th, Gen. Sibley, whose expedition had reached Fort Ridgley, wrote that the Third Regiment was within six or eight miles of his camp, "they having," he says, "made a rapid march to join me." And on the 15th he writes that he has little fear that his raw troops will be panic struck, even if a superior force of Indians were to make a desperate stand, "since the skeleton of the Third Regiment has joined me, under Major Welch, composed of 270 men only." Again on the 19th he writes: "My troops are entirely undisciplined, excepting the few belonging to the Third Regiment." On the 28th of August two hundred and fifty of the regiment, being all that were then at Benton Barracks, embarked at St. Louis, under command of Lieutenant R. C. Olin, for Minnesota, on the steamer Pembina, and reached Fort Snelling on the 4th of September. Here, at his own request, it was put under the command of the young and gallant Major A. E. Welch, who had served as a lieutenant in the First Regiment. Second to him was Lieutenant Olin. It now had about two hundred and seventy men present for duty, an unusually large number to be conducted by merely two commissioned officers, and one of them a comparative stranger. However, the non-commissioned officers who acted in the place of commissioned officers were very competent, and much credit is due them for the service they rendered in the Indian expedition. September 5th the Third, under Major Welch, started out, and first by steamer up the Minnesota River to Carver, for the protection of the settlers and to join Gen. Sibley's expedition. The 6th they marched to Glencoe, finding the inhabitants in a stockade; the 7th to Hutchinson, whose inhabitants were also in a stockade; the 8th to Cedar Mills; the 9th to Forest City, by the way of Acton, twenty-eight miles, and stopping on the way to bury four or five mutilated victims of the outbreak; the 10th to Cedar Mills direct, eighteen miles. On the 12th they were under way at six in the morning, and, except for a few hours' rest, marched rapidly till eleven at night, making fully forty miles. The 13th they reached Fort Ridgley at 11 A. M. and joined the forces under Gen. Sibley. They had traversed a region alternating with noble forests and fertile prairie, but at almost every halting place they had seen traces of the widespread and awful massacre. After