

battle. My clerk (Wilkes) had his horse killed late in the afternoon near the Cowan house. It is but right that I should say that Colonel Lewis the previous day had obtained a musket, and was fully equipped to take the field in the ranks of Captain [W. G.] Burford's company of Eighth [Tennessee] Regiment, when, being informed of this fact, I invited him to take a position with me as volunteer aide, which he readily assented to do, and conducted himself with great coolness and determined bravery. I have referred to Captain Rice as a relieved officer. I feel, from his efficient services rendered in this battle, and my knowledge of him as a man and an officer, that I am doing but simple justice to him, and a benefit to the cause and service, in recommending that Captain Rice be given a command at the earliest practicable period, knowing him to be qualified in an eminent degree to fill a high position.

Accompanying this you will find an accurate list of both officers and men killed, wounded, and missing in my command.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

D. S. DONELSON

Brigadier-General, Comdg. First Brigade, Cheatham's Division.

Maj. JOHN INGRAM,

Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 195.

Report of Lieut. Col. John H. Anderson, Eighth Tennessee Infantry.

CAMP NEAR SHELBYVILLE, TENN.,

January 12, 1863.

GENERAL: Below you will please find a report of the part taken by the Eighth [Tennessee] Regiment in the late action before Murfreesborough:

On the morning of December 29, the regiment was ordered into line of battle. We were placed in line of battle in an old field on the west side of Stone's River, my left resting on the left of the Wilkinson turnpike road, in which position we remained, subjected during the time to heavy cannonade of shells, which did but little or no harm, until Wednesday morning, the 31st, at which time I received orders to hold my regiment in readiness to move forward at a moment's notice to the support of Brigadier-General Chalmers' brigade, which was in our front. At about 10 o'clock our brigade was ordered forward. The Eighth moved off promptly at the command, under a very heavy cannonade of shot and shell. When we had arrived at the position formerly occupied by General Chalmers' brigade, we were ordered to halt and lie down behind the little fortification constructed by his brigade of logs and rails. We remained in this position about twenty minutes under a perfect storm of shot and shell, causing considerable mortality in my regiment. In this position we lost 15 or 20 men killed and wounded. It soon became apparent to every one that Chalmers' brigade was giving way, for it was with great difficulty that I could keep his men from running over my men; they came running back in squads and companies, and I am satisfied that before we left this position that at least two-thirds of the regiment that had formerly occupied the position we were in had returned. We were then ordered forward to the charge, which was responded to by the Eighth Regiment with a yell, the gallant Colonel Moore leading. We moved forward at a double-quick, under a perfect hail of shot, shell, and grape, when we arrived at the burnt brick house. The regiment

was thrown into some confusion, caused by the house and some picket fence and a portion of Chalmers' men that had remained behind the house, there being several fences and the house and a portion of Chalmers' men that were in the way, causing some four of the companies on the right of the regiment to pass around and through the best way they could. At this juncture the enemy in our front opened a terrible fire upon us with small-arms, at a distance of about 75 or 100 yards. Such a fire I do not suppose men were ever before subjected to. At this point the colonel's horse fell, and I supposed that he himself was either killed or wounded. Seeing the condition in which the regiment was placed, with a powerful enemy in our front and on the right and left—for at this time we were then in front of the balance of the brigade, and the enemy were crossing me right and left—and seeing so many of my men falling around me, I ordered them forward at a double-quick with fixed bayonets. The gallant Eighth responded with a shout, and leaped forward like men bent on conquering or dying in the attempt. When we had advanced about 50 or 60 yards, and were just entering the woods in our front, the colonel came up with sword in hand. He was not killed or wounded, as I expected; it was only his horse. He had just reached the regiment again, and was urging them forward, when he fell, dead, shot through the heart with a minie ball. The enemy in our front contested stubbornly, and those on our right and left continued to pour a deadly fire into us. The enemy's first line gave way before my men; their second was brought forward, but could not stand the impetuosity of our charge, and they gave way. At this point it was reported to me that the enemy was trying to get away some artillery on my left. I immediately changed direction to the left, and charged them and captured their guns (three at one place), and went 50 yards below. We captured one more by shooting down their horses and stopped the piece. I also captured at this point about 400 prisoners belonging to the artillery and infantry, and we killed Colonel [George W.] Roberts, who was commanding the brigade, as stated to me by the prisoners.

Through the bloody charge I lost many gallant officers and men killed and wounded. The enemy in the woods in my front having come to a halt, and pouring a galling fire into us, I ordered the men forward again at a double-quick; they responded with a shout, and moved forward upon the enemy. At this point I was joined by the colors and about 100 men of the Fifty-first Regiment, who came in on my left. I ordered them forward with my men, which orders they obeyed promptly. We charged the enemy in his position in the woods, under a perfect storm of bullets, and drove him before us.

About this time I was joined by Colonel Chester in person. We then continued driving the enemy before us, when it was reported to me that they were trying to flank me on my right. I then changed direction to the right, and moved forward upon him, and struck his flank and rear, in which position I halted and gave him a deadly fire, being too weak in strength to close in behind him. About this time I heard a heavy fire to right, in front of the enemy, whose flank I was upon. I sent an officer forward to see what it was, and, if it was our force, which I felt confident it was, to inform the commander of my position, that he might not fire into me, and also to tell the commander to charge them at a double-quick and drive them by me, that I might shoot them down, which he did in gallant style; still, when he came up, it proved to be the Nineteenth Tennessee Regiment. I then formed on his left, and moved forward to the point, driving the enemy before us. It was then reported to me that the enemy was flanking me on my left. I immediately changed direction to the left and moved upon him, when he gave way and fled

through the old field in front of the woods occupied by us when we left the other night, when we charged him to the old field through which he fled. We halted in the edge of woods, and gave him a deadly fire as he ran through the old field. The effect of that fire was apparent to every one who visited that place, for the edge of the woods and the field for 200 or 300 yards was strewn with his dead and wounded. When we were unmasked by his force, the enemy, from his batteries on the hill in our front, opened upon us a perfect hail of grape and canister, when I ordered the men back into the woods. I then fell back to the old house in the rear of the woods, to gather together the remainder of the regiment, that had somewhat scattered in the charge through the dense woods, and to get a supply of ammunition. I remained there some time, and gathered all the men that I could get up, in company with Colonels Carter and Chester, when we formed line on the right of General Stewart's brigade. The firing in our front being very heavy, we were ordered forward, which order we obeyed promptly, and moved to the front of the woods in front of the enemy, in the old field. In this position we remained under a very heavy fire of artillery until night closed this bloody and eventful day.

Perhaps it is necessary that I should be more explicit in my explanation of my maneuvering in the woods. The reason why I had to change direction so often was that I was not supported either on the right or left. Our regiment drove the enemy in our front before this; consequently, this force on the right and left remained in their position, and when I had got in their rear it seemed as if they were flanking me; but when I changed direction to the right, as you will see in the foregoing report, I struck his flank and rear; and at that time the Nineteenth Tennessee came to my support on the right again, when I changed direction to the left. I then discovered that support had arrived on my left, and was driving the enemy on my left. It was then that I struck the enemy's flank on my left, when he was entering the old field. This force on my left I did not ascertain who it was, but supposed to be the Thirty-eighth Tennessee.

It is generally the case in battles that every regiment that passes a battery claims to have taken it. In this case there can be no dispute, as we shot down the horses attached to the guns, and captured the men belonging to the guns. It is also claimed by my men that there were two pieces more (in addition to the four that I have previously named) captured by the right of the regiment, some 75 yards to the right, making in all six pieces. These two additional pieces I did not see at the time, as I was near the left of the regiment, but I did see them afterward, and they must have been taken by my regiment, as it was the only force in these woods, and those guns, from their position, [were] covered by my regiment.

I cannot close this report without saying a few words in regard to the gallant Col. W. L. Moore, though he fell early in that bloody charge. A more gallant and noble spirit never lived or died for his country. Loved and honored by his regiment, he fell gallantly battling for his country, and his native soil drank his blood.

It would afford me great pleasure, and be but sheer justice, to speak at length of the many noble spirits among the officers and men of my regiment who gave their lives a sacrifice to their country and native State on that memorable day, but the casualties of the regiment speak more for those noble spirits than I could write in a volume.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. H. ANDERSON,

Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Eighth Tennessee.

Report of Col. John H. Savage, Sixteenth Tennessee Infantry.

JANUARY 8, 1863.

The following report of the conduct of the Sixteenth Tennessee Regiment in the battle before Murfreesborough, December 31, 1862, is respectfully submitted:

When the advance was ordered, my regiment being the right of Cheatham's division, I was directed by General Donelson (through his aide, Captain [John] Bradford) to move along the railroad, but two companies to its right and eight on its left, taking the guide to the right. The advance was made under a heavy cannonade, and the line of battle and direction maintained, although serious obstructions impeded the march. The eight left companies advanced between the railroad and the turnpike in front of the Cowan house without the slightest protection, engaging a battery and the enemy's infantry in the woods at a distance of less than 150 yards. The right companies advanced through a stalk-field to the edge of a cotton-patch. Here the enemy opened a heavy fire at short range from a line extending to the right as far as I could see. This killed Captain Spurlock, who fell while leading his men in the most gallant manner. At this moment it seemed to me that I was without the expected support on my left, and that the line had divided and gone off in that direction. My men shot the horses and gunners of the battery in front, but I could not advance without being outflanked and — by the enemy on my right; I therefore ordered them to halt and fire. In a few moments my acting lieutenant-colonel (L. N. Savage) fell by my side, supposed mortally wounded, and my acting major (Captain Womack) had his right arm badly broken. There were batteries to the right and left of the railroad which literally swept the ground. The men maintained the fight against superior numbers with great spirit and obstinacy. The left companies, being very near and without any protection, sustained a heavy loss. Thirty men were left dead upon the spot where they halted dressed in perfect line of battle. It was on the day following a sad spectacle, speaking more eloquently for the discipline and courage of the men than any words I can employ. Here the Thirty-ninth North Carolina came up in my rear, and I ordered it into line of battle to my right, but before it got into position the lieutenant-colonel was shot down and was carried from the field. Under the command of Captain [A. W. Bell] it continued under my control and did good service until driven from this position, after which I lost sight of it.

Seeing a heavy force of the enemy crossing the field to my right and rear, I ordered the line to fall back to the river, and formed two lines to the front and right. To cover this space the men were deployed as skirmishers. I also ordered forward a portion of Blythe's Mississippi Regiment that had collected near the railroad, and was joined by Lieutenants [J. F.] Williamson and [T. W.] McMurry (*Fifty-first Regiment*), with three companies, who continued with me and did good service. This force checked and drove back the enemy advancing up the river, and a column that attempted to cut off my whole party advancing along the railroad, but not without loss. Lieutenant [R. B.] Anderson, of the Sixteenth, a valuable officer, while directing the skirmishers was dangerously wounded and carried under the river bank by Privates Thompson and Adcock, all of whom were captured by the enemy upon his subsequent advance. When Adams' brigade advanced I drew back my little force to let it move to the front, which it did in gallant style, but

only for a short distance, when it broke and fled in confusion. Most of the men I had been controlling moved with it. I collected the men of the Sixteenth and Fifty-first, and moved to the front *en echelon* of Chalmers' position, and remained during the heavy cannonade on the enemy. While here two of my men were killed by a shell. I afterward moved, in connection with Colonel Stanton, near the burnt gin-house, and, halting the regiment, went on foot to my first line of battle. About dark I sent a party after the body of Captain Spurlock, which captured a Yankee captain from his lines.

I claim for my command great gallantry in action; that it engaged and held in check superior forces of the enemy, who were attempting to turn our right—forces that afterward drove Adams' and Preston's brigades.

My flag-bearer (Sergeant Marberry) was disabled early in the charge. The flag was afterward borne by Private Womack, who was also wounded. The flag-staff was broken and hit with balls in three places; the flag literally shot to pieces. The fragments were brought to me at night. I carried about 400 officers and men in action. The killed amount to 36; the killed, wounded, and missing to 208, a list of which is forwarded. My men did not strip or rob the dead.

The conduct of my recruits was most honorable. Many of them fell in the front rank beside the veteran soldier of the Sixteenth. It is difficult to make distinction where all act well. While others deserve nobly, I feel that I ought not to fail to notice the courage and good conduct of Private Hackett, whom I placed in command of the company after the fall of Captain Spurlock.

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

JOHN H. SAVAGE,

Colonel, Commanding Sixteenth Tennessee.

Maj. J. G. MARTIN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 197.

Report of Col. John C. Carter, Thirty-eighth Tennessee Infantry.

NEAR SHELBYVILLE, TENN., January 14, 1863.

MAJOR: In obedience to orders, I have the honor to report that on Wednesday morning, December 31, 1862, between 9 and 10 o'clock, General Donelson's brigade (to which my regiment is attached) was ordered to charge the enemy, drawn up in line of battle fronting Murfreesborough, Tenn. My regiment advanced over an open field and under a very terrific fire. The enemy was strongly posted in a dense cedar thicket, and well supported by artillery. At first he seemed unwilling to yield his ground. We steadily approached him, and soon he broke and fled in confusion. We pursued him rapidly, the men loading as they advanced. We drove him from the woods, never permitting him to reform. We fought him until the fighting on Wednesday ceased. In the charge, my regiment captured seven pieces of cannon and about 500 prisoners, and killed at least 100 of the enemy.

I take pleasure in acknowledging the valuable services of Maj. H. W. Cotter. He behaved very gallantly, indeed, during the entire engagement. Captains [T. H.] Koen, [O. M.] Alsip, [T. G.] Cook, and [S. H.] Sartain, Lieutenants [J. W.] Slaughter, [J. C.] Miller, [J. C.] Sanders,

[M. V.] McDuffy, [R. J.] Pentecost, [G. R.] Scott, [T.] Wilson, [N. H.] Baird, [T.] Barron, [J.] Hicks, [J. T. or J. W.] Doughty, and [W. W.] Bland acted with great bravery and coolness. Adjt. R. L. Carnthers was severely wounded early in the engagement. He was nobly acting his part when the unerring missile struck him. Quartermaster-Sergt. Robert B. Koen deserves much praise for his brave and gallant conduct. The whole regiment fought well, and every member of it, with four or five exceptions, seemed animated with a determination to conquer or die. I deeply regret the death of Capt. B. H. Holland. He was shot through the brain, and died with the colors of his regiment in his hands. When he died the Confederacy lost one of its best citizens and bravest soldiers.

Color-Sergt. I. M. Rice was shot down. He still clung to the flag, and, crawling on his knees, carried it a short distance. Another bullet pierced his body, and death alone compelled him to yield his trust. A nobler soldier never lived, a braver never died. We return thanks to God for the victory won.

I am, respectfully,

JNO. C. CARTER,

[Colonel,] Commanding Regiment.

Maj. J. G. MARTIN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 198.

Report of Col. John Chester, Fifty-first Tennessee Infantry.

NEAR SHELBYVILLE, TENN., January 13, 1863.

The following report of the part taken by the Fifty-first Regiment in the action before Murfreesborough on December 31, 1862, is respectfully submitted:

The order was received from General Donelson, through his aide (Captain [John] Bradford), to advance to the position then occupied by Chalmers' brigade, taking the guide to the right, and advance to the support of Chalmers. We advanced with the brigade under a heavy shelling, many shells striking very near my lines. When we had arrived within about 150 or 200 yards of Chalmers' position, a shell exploded so near my colors as to kill one of the guard (Private J. W. Scott, Company I), and wounded two others (Privates S. Lemons and Goss), and knocked down the color-bearer (Sergt. W. M. Bland). We made a short halt at the position recently occupied by Chalmers, when we advanced to the Cowan house under a heavy fire of cannon and minie balls. My acting lieutenant-colonel (Lieut. R. A. Burford, late of the Twenty-third Tennessee Regiment) was knocked from his horse, and so severely concussed as to disable him for several days. I lost several men killed and wounded before we reached the Cowan house. We found the Cowan house and yard filled with men of Chalmers' brigade, in great confusion. Owing to this confusion, my regiment became somewhat scattered. The three right companies—A, F, and D, commanded, respectively, by Lieutenants [T. W.] McMurry, [J. B.] Tate, and [J. F.] Williamson—still kept dressed to the right, and reported to Colonel Savage, and fought with the Sixteenth Regiment through the remainder of the engagement. I refer you to Colonel Savage's report. I took the remaining seven companies and advanced through the field on the left of the Cowan house to the woods.

Just as we entered the woods, Captain [T. C.] Campbell was shot through the head and killed. Captain [J. A.] Russell was wounded through the thigh, and Lieutenant [G. C.] Howard, commanding Company G, wounded severely through the upper portion of the left lung. Captain [James F.] Franklin was so severely shocked with a bomb as to cause blood to flow freely from his mouth, nose, and ears. Several of the men were wounded here. We continued to advance on the enemy, who at this time was in full retreat. We continued to follow and fire on them for a long distance through the woods, taking three cannon and several hundred prisoners, sending to the rear at one time, by my adjutant [R. A. Connally], 153, among them a lieutenant and 2 surgeons. We continued the pursuit until late in the evening, when the engagement terminated. I went into action with 20 officers, and 8 of them were killed and wounded.

R. T. McKnight, who was first lieutenant in Company F [E] before the reorganization of the regiment, and who has remained with the regiment since, as an independent, did good service as first lieutenant of Company F, bearing himself gallantly through the whole fight.

My color-sergeant [W. M. Bland], though wounded early in the action, continued to bear the colors most gallantly through the entire day.

After the fall of Lieutenant Burford, acting lieutenant-colonel, I had to rely entirely on my adjutant [R. A. Connally] for assistance, which he rendered most efficiently.

When the officers and men all did their duty so well it would be invidious to discriminate.

I went into the fight with 270 men, and lost, in killed, wounded, and missing, 76.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JNO. CHESTER,

Commanding Fifty-first Tennessee Regiment.

Maj. J. G. MARTIN,

Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 199.

Report of Col. S. S. Stanton, Eighty-fourth Tennessee Infantry.

CAMP NEAR SHELBYVILLE, TENN.,

January 13, 1863.

The Eighty-fourth Tennessee Regiment, having been raised last fall and kept at McMinnville until a few days before the battle of Murfreesborough, never drew arms until Monday evening, December 29—two days before the fight. This regiment not having been drilled in the manual of arms (loading, &c.), and deeming this part of the drill as most important at that particular crisis, I drilled the regiment all day Tuesday on the field, under the enemy's shells, and likewise Wednesday morning, until the battle opened regularly, when we were ordered to move forward with General Donelson's brigade, and did so, and remained with his brigade until the aforesaid charge was made. We moved off on the left of Colonel Savage's regiment, after it had advanced to the point formerly occupied by our front line. Prior to this time my regiment had been formed to support Captain Carnes' battery, but were moved forward to the above-named point by orders from General Polk. When the balance of General Donelson's [brigade] moved or charged the

enemy, my regiment was ordered to remain at the point last occupied by the brigade, and to guard Captain Carnes' battery. This battery, however, was moved off to the right, and the Washington Battery was located immediately on our left, and did good service, while we staid and guarded it all the while, until the troops engaging the enemy in our front were driven back to our rear, and while there, reforming their lines, orders came for all troops at that point to advance upon the enemy's batteries, to the right of the brick house, near the railroad and turnpike. Having my men already formed, I moved them off some 500 yards to the front, and halted at the bend of the river, behind a bunch of woods on a bluff immediately on the right of the railroad. Colonel Savage soon rallied his regiment, which necessarily had made a gallant charge, but had fallen back with much loss, and often [after] having reformed his lines, he and the Twentieth Tennessee came to our support, and formed near us. We all remained there, waiting for orders, and for another support, necessary to have charged the battery, but got neither support nor orders.

Night came on, and all was still. My men having no blankets, I moved them back to a point where we could make fires, and on the following morning went forward again to my former position, near the brick house, and then reported to Generals Donelson and Polk. The former ordered me to remain there during the day. However, I was ordered to take the regiment, and go to the brick house, and tear down the fencing thereabouts. We did this, and were shelled there while at work; only got 2 men wounded, however. Having completed this work and marched the men back to said point near the woodland bluff, I was ordered to the rear, under arrest, on account of a personal difficulty or fight with a staff officer, and, therefore, was not with the regiment any more until their arrival at Shelbyville.

It is due my regiment that I should state that they showed marked coolness and courage all the while, as they were under heavy shelling for a great portion of three days, and showed no fear or excitement. They kept good order and never scattered, but, on the contrary, some 40 of my men came up from McMinnville, and got arms and accoutrements, and came to us in the hottest time of the fight, and while we were under heavy shelling in the open field at an advanced position, however, by lying down. None of our men scattered on our retreat.

The two wounded were George Cook, sergeant Company B, and Thomas Martin, private, Company E, slight wound.*

Respectfully,

S. S. STANTON,
Colonel Eighty-fourth Tennessee Regiment.

No. 200.

Report of Lieut. I. G. Marshall, Carnes' (Tennessee) battery.

NEAR SHELBYVILLE, TENN., January 15, 1863.

MAJOR: After occupying a position in rear of General Donelson's brigade for two days—December 29 and 30—on the reserve, Captain Carnes was ordered about noon, on December 31, to move his battery forward, in support of the right wing of our brigade, especially the brave

* Revised statements make no mention of these casualties