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THE CIVIL WAR SERVICE OF  
JAMES MISHAN AGNEW

James M. Agnew was enlisted by D.W. Marshall to serve for three years in Company F of the 51st Ohio Volunteer Infantry on September 11, 1861. At the time of enlistment, Agnew was 18 years old and had been living in the area of Roscoe, (Coshocton County), Ohio. He was officially mustered into service as a Private on October 3, 1861 at Camp Dover. A Company Descriptive Book listed Agnew as 5 ft. 5 in. tall, florid complexion, red hair, and hazel eyes; his occupation was identified as a miller.

On November 3, Agnew and other members of the 51st Ohio moved through Wellsville and then to Louisville, Kentucky where the regiment remained on duty until December 10. While at Louisville, the 51st was placed in the Fifteenth Brigade (Colonel Milo S. Hascall) along with the 41st Ohio, 15th Indiana, and 17th Indiana Infantry Regiments. Hascall's Brigade was one of sixteen brigades in the Department of the Ohio. While on duty at Camp Wickliffe, Kentucky, a further re-organization placed the respective brigades in the Fourth Division (Brigadier General William Nelson) of the Army of the Ohio. (1)

Advancing down the Ohio River to reinforce Union troops under Ulysses S. Grant, the Fourth Division was temporarily stationed at Paducah, Kentucky. By late February, 1862, however, a reassignment of various brigades had reduced the Fourth Division to only six regiments including the 51st Ohio at Paducah. Nelson complained noting that "At this rate the Fourth Division of the Ohio will disappear, and I will be without a command."(2) Still further adjustments in command placed the 51st Ohio in the Tenth Brigade (Col. J. Ammen) along with the 24th Ohio, 36th Indiana, and 34th Indiana Infantry Regiments. (3)

The 51st Ohio remained in Paducah during the campaign against Forts Henry and Donelson. As Confederate forces retreated southward, the Army of the Ohio under Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell advanced into and occupied the City of Nashville. The 51st Ohio under Colonel Stanley Matthews was detached as provost guard at Nashville. Buell later wrote that "The fine regiment (51st Ohio) of Colonel Stanely Matthews, now a justice of the United States Supreme Court, was selected for that position, on account of the efficient and judicious character of its commander."(4) Provost duty was apparently rigorous. Matthews reported on June 14, 1862 that he did not have enough men to do ordinary guard duty, and that he kept them on post "sometimes forty-eight hours without relief."(5) The regiment remained on provost guard duty until June 29 when it was

relieved and "prepared for the field" by Special Orders from Headquarters, Army of the Ohio, Huntsville, Alabama (James B. Fry, Chief of Staff).(6)

Further Special Orders No. 89 on July 1 ordered the 51st Ohio to march at once for Huntsville via Murfreesboro. They were directed to start with five days supplies and resupply themselves at depots along the line of march.(7) By July 9 orders were redirected, and the 51st Ohio was instructed to immediately move to Tullahoma instead of Huntsville.(8) It was fortunate for Agnew and his comrades that they had moved through Murfreesboro. On July 14 the city was surprised and captured by Confederate forces. The 8th Michigan, 3rd Minnesota Regiments, as well as a battery of artillery were among the captured. Learning of the surprise attack at Murfreesboro, Buell ordered the Union forces in the vicinity of Tullahoma to be prepared to defend a line along the Duck River. Matthews and his 51st Ohio were near Wartrace at that time.(9) After moving to Shelbyville on July 13, the 51st Ohio was quickly transferred by rail on July 20 to reoccupy Murfreesboro and guard the railroad.(10)

The Regiment remained in the Middle Tennessee area until early September when it joined the Army of the Ohio in its pursuit of Braxton Bragg's Army of the Mississippi into Kentucky. At that time the 51st Ohio was commanded by Lt. Col.

Richard W. McClain and was attached to the Twenty-third Brigade (Col. Stanley Matthews) with its sister regiments the 35th Indiana, 8th Kentucky, 21st Kentucky, and 99th Ohio. The Brigade was part of the Fifth Division (Brig. Gen. Horatio P. Van Cleve), II Army Corps (Maj. Gen. Thomas Crittenden), Army of the Ohio (Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell).(11)

Moving parallel to Bragg's march across the Cumberland Plateau, Buell marched through Nashville and reached Bowling Green, Kentucky on September 14. By September 18 the Union forces were again at Louisville where Private Agnew had begun his service with the 51st Ohio almost one year earlier. On October 1 Buell determined to strike Bragg's Army and sent his three Corps by separate routes southeast toward Bardstown. The two armies finally converged along Doctor's Creek just northwest of Perryville, Kentucky. Marching had been especially difficult for both sides due to a lengthy drought. One Ohio veteran recalled that "there was not a breath of wind to scatter the dust that hung in heavy clouds about us and settled on our clothing, completely covering us in a mantle of white."(12) Probably, the infantrymen of the 51st Ohio must have been certain that they would see their first battlefield action. As it happened, Matthew's Brigade occupied the far left flank of Crittenden's II Corps (the Right Column) just north of the Lebanon Pike along Doctor's Creek and was never actively engaged in the ensuing Battle of Perryville. There

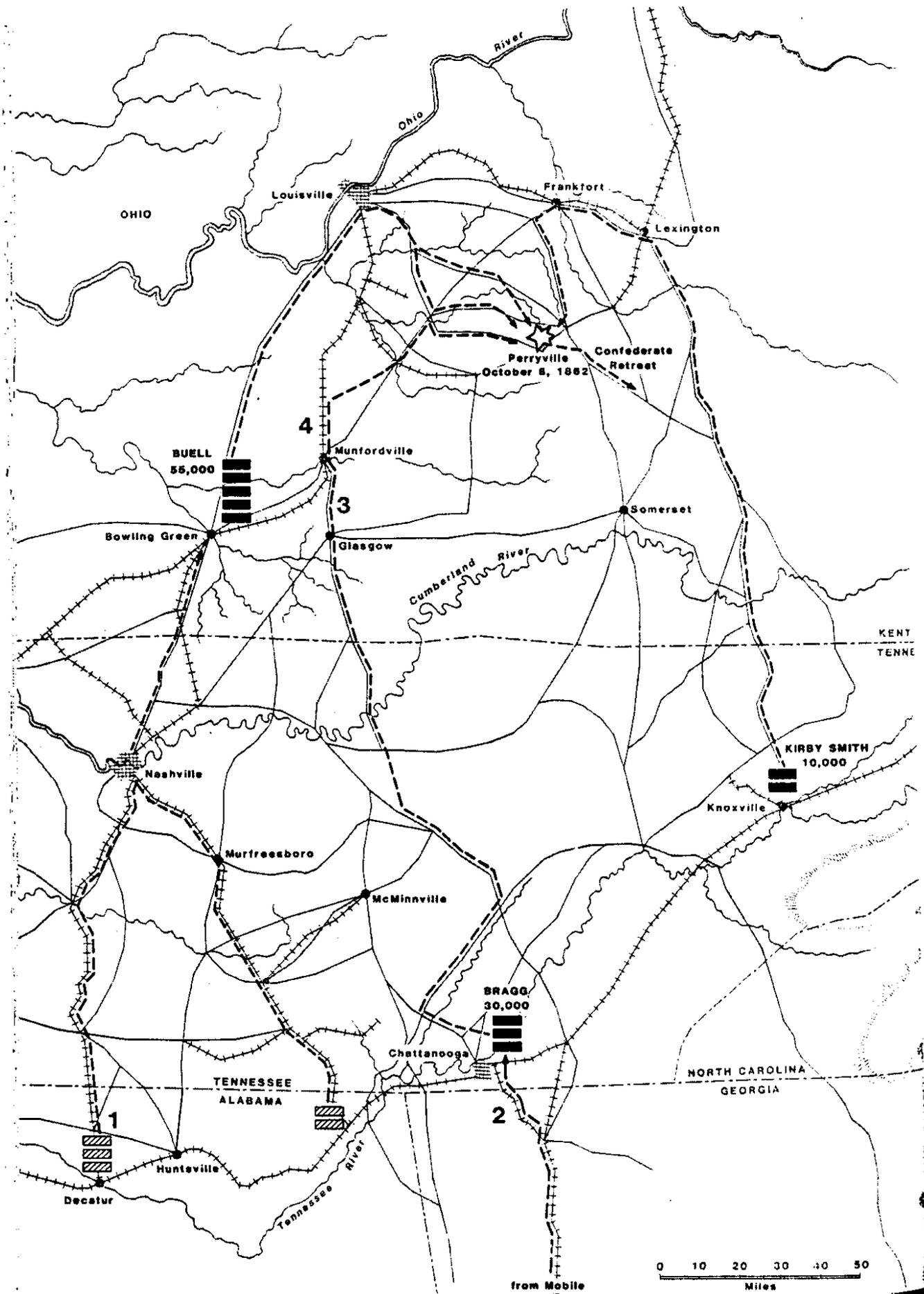


FIGURE 1. THE CAMPAIGN FOR PERRYVILLE

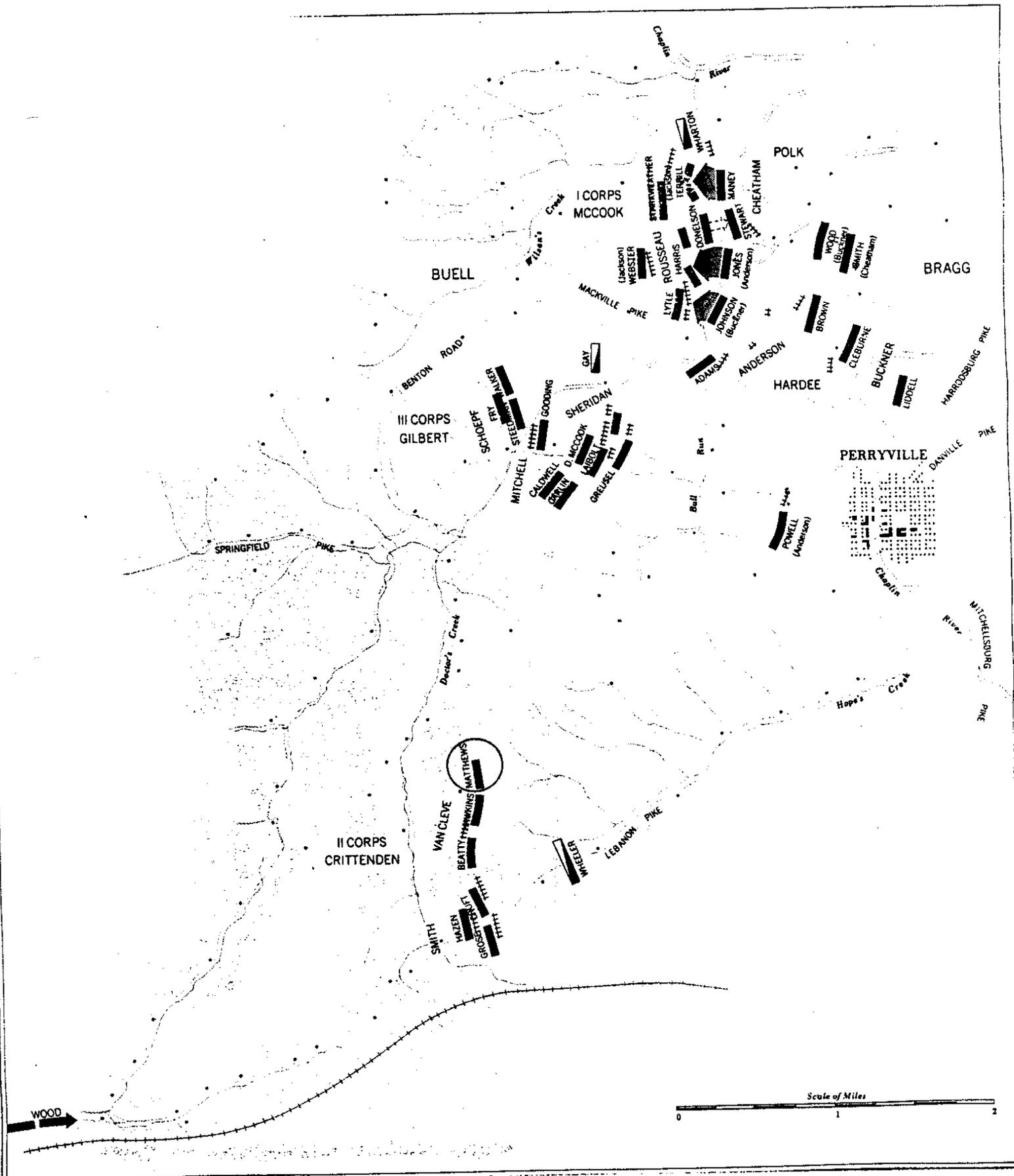


FIGURE 2. LOCATION OF MATTHEWS' BRIGADE AT THE BATTLE OF PERRYVILLE

would, however, be other opportunities for Agnew to "see the elephant."

The Twenty-third Brigade moved south back toward Nashville along with Buell's Army following the Perryville Campaign. The Brigade was involved in reconnaissance activity along the Madison Road on October 19. Matthews reported that they captured "between 25 and 30 prisoners and 10 or 12 horses" and gained important information about the movement of John Hunt Morgan's Confederate cavalry.(13)

Buell's failure to defeat Bragg in Kentucky resulted in his replacement and a major reorganization of the Union forces. On October 30, 1862 Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans was placed in command of the newly formed Department of the Cumberland, and the troops previously under Buell were redesignated as the XIV Corps. Crittenden's Corps became the Left Wing and included the Third Division (Van Cleve), Third Brigade (Col. Stanley Matthews/ Col. Samuel Price) which consisted of the 51st Ohio (McClain), 35th Indiana, 8th Kentucky, 21st Kentucky, and 99th Ohio.(14)

The Army of the Cumberland advanced through Bowling Green and moved down the Louisville and Nashville Railroad to Mitchellville, Tennessee. From there Rosecrans' Army proceeded to reoccupy Nashville by November 10. While

stationed in the Nashville area, the 51st Ohio was engaged in several activities to secure supplies. It was on one such foraging expedition that Agnew and his regiment experienced their first heated combat situation. On December 9, part of Matthews' Brigade was escorting eight forage wagons at Dobbins Ferry near Mill Creek when a Confederate cavalry force under Joe Wheeler attacked the Yankee wagon train. The Kentucky regiments had been deployed as skirmishers while the Ohioans loaded the wagons and guarded the rear of the train. The wagons were enroute back toward Nashville when Wheeler struck the rear of the column at the ford. Matthews double-quickened the 51st Ohio and the 35th Indiana to the ford where they met the Rebels charging from the woods. According to Matthews, his troops "opened a sharp fire, which at once checked the rebels." (15) Following up on their success, Matthews went on to say that the "gallant Buckeyes and Hoosiers speedily drove the enemy to cover, and finally compelled them to retire out of range." Wheeler counter attacked, and a sharp engagement followed when the Confederates attempted to break the Union line and capture the wagons. The Yankee line held, however, and Wheeler pulled his cavalry back into the surrounding woods. The Union loss consisted of one officer and four enlisted men killed, and two officers and thirty-three enlisted men wounded and four missing. Matthews himself was badly bruised following a fall from his horse. The Brigade had saved the supply train and "marched home triumphantly, and received the plaudits of

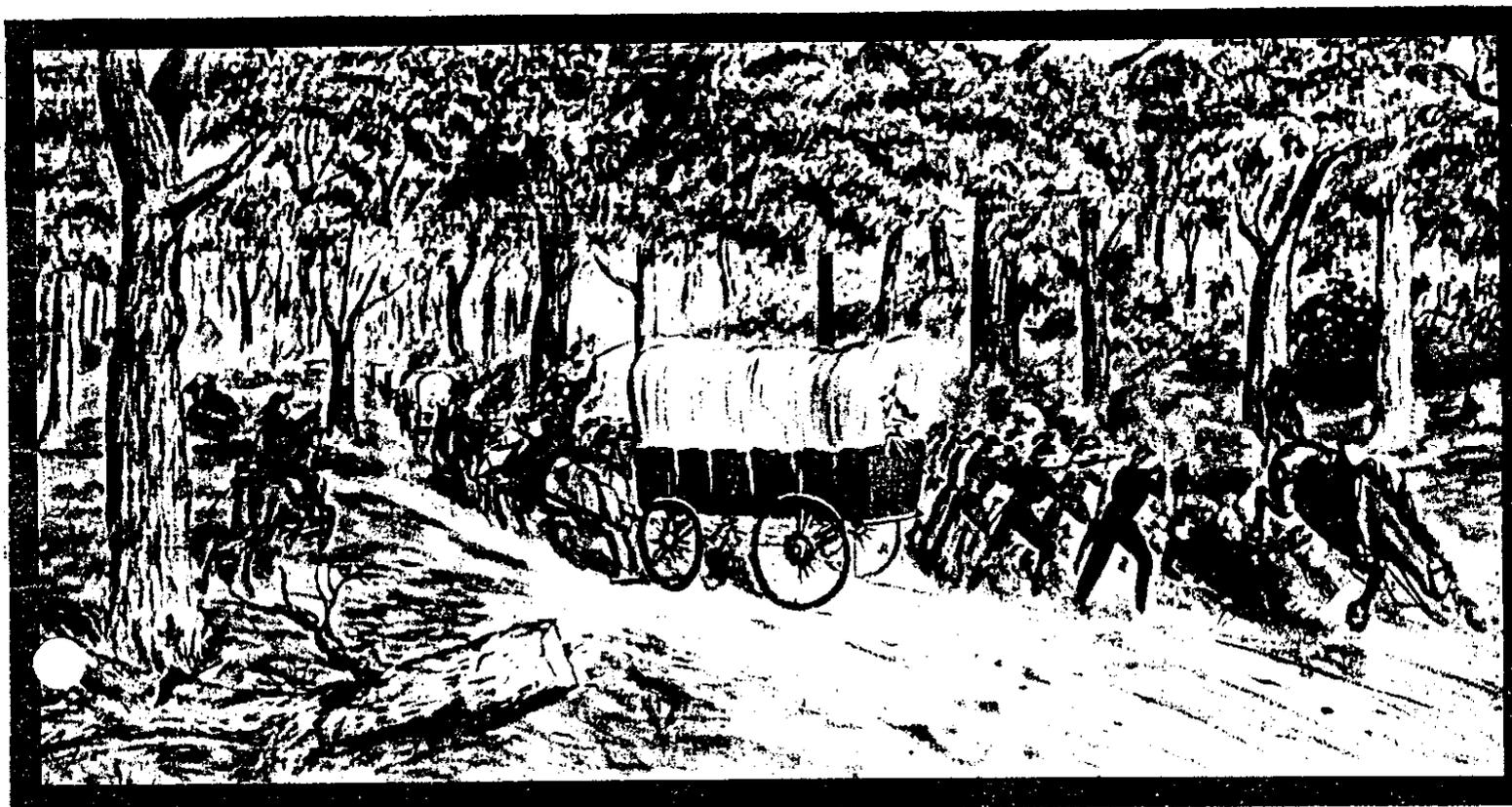


FIGURE 3. SKIRMISH AT DOBBINS' FERRY. THIS COPY OF A WATERCOLOR PAINTING PROBABLY SHOWS THE 51ST OHIO REPELLING THE ATTACK OF WHEELER'S CAVALRY AT THE EDGE OF THE WOODS. NOTE COL. MATTHEWS BEING THROWN FROM HIS HORSE.

the army for its brilliant conduct."(16)

By early December Rosecrans had reorganized the Army of the Cumberland in preparation for an advance against Bragg's Confederate forces who occupied a 32-mile-long crescent centered on Murfreesboro and facing Nashville. Part of Rosecrans' preparation included a concerted effort to strengthen his artillery. This adjustment was a significant event for Private Agnew. Subject to orders issued on December 11, 1862, Agnew was enlisted by 2nd Lieut. Israel Ludlow into Battery H of the 5th U.S. Artillery. Agnew's term of reenlistment would continue his commitment to serve three years with forces of the United States. He was examined and determined fit for duty by J.M. Henderson, Examining Surgeon with the 19th New York Infantry.

The 5th U.S. Artillery was commanded by Lieut. Francis L. Guenther and was attached to the Fourth Brigade of Regulars under Lieut. Col. Oliver L. Shepherd. Battery H, or Guenther's Battery, was one of three batteries which was assigned to the First Division. The guns served by the three batteries consisted of ten 10-pounder Parrotts, 2 James rifles, two 6-pounder smooth-bores and four 12-pounder light field guns (Napoleons). Six of those guns were assigned to Battery H. The Fourth Brigade was one of four brigades in the First Division (Maj. Gen. Lovell H. Rousseau) of the Center Corps

(Maj. Gen. George Thomas).(17)

On December 30, Rousseau's Division moved rapidly down the Nashville and Murfreesboro Turnpike through Stewartsborough. By 10:30 a.m. the division was about 3 miles from Murfreesboro where it remained during the day and went into bivouac that night. The night was not restful for Agnew or his fellow cannoneers. Rain continued to fall throughout the night, and orders had been given not to build fires. The following morning would open the Battle of Stones River, and Battery H would see considerable action.

On the morning of December 31, Guenther readied his battery consisting of 3 officers and 120 men.(18) The Yankee gunners moved forward with Shepherd's Brigade and after a short halt proceeded through a dense cedar thicket to take position. As musket balls began to pepper the trees around him, Guenther became frustrated that his artillery could not operate in the tangled woods and reported the situation to Rousseau. Rousseau agreed with Guenther and moved Battery H back through a narrow cut in the thicket into an open field which they had occupied prior to advancing into the cedars. Guenther had barely placed his guns when Confederate infantry rushed from the cedars towards his line of artillery. Shepherd's Regulars had been taking heavy casualties and were falling back towards the batteries of Guenther as well as Loomis.(19) The Yankees had

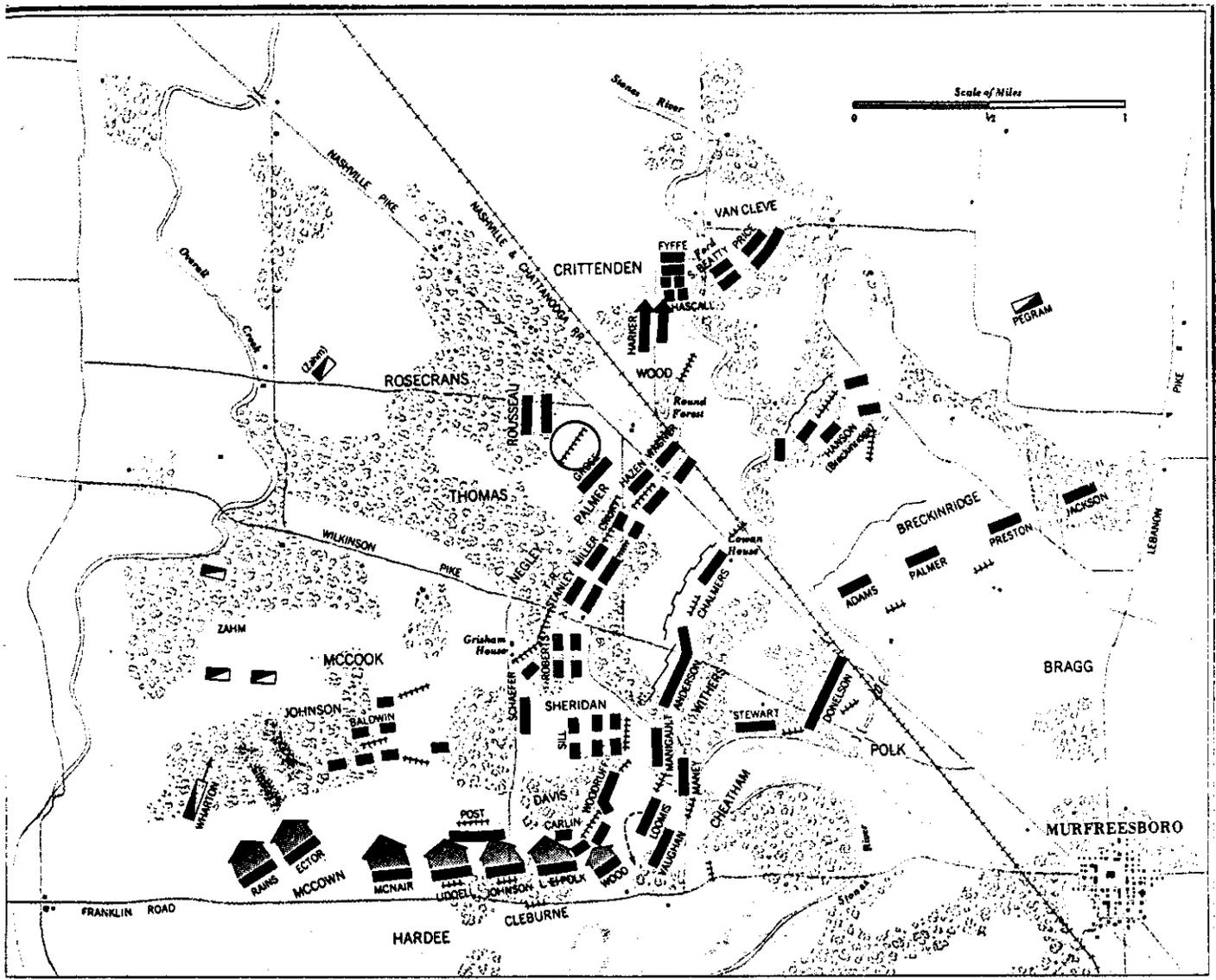


FIGURE 4. APPROXIMATE POSITION OF BATTERY H, 5TH U.S. ARTILLERY AT THE BATTLE OF STONES RIVER, 8 A.M., DECEMBER 31, 1862

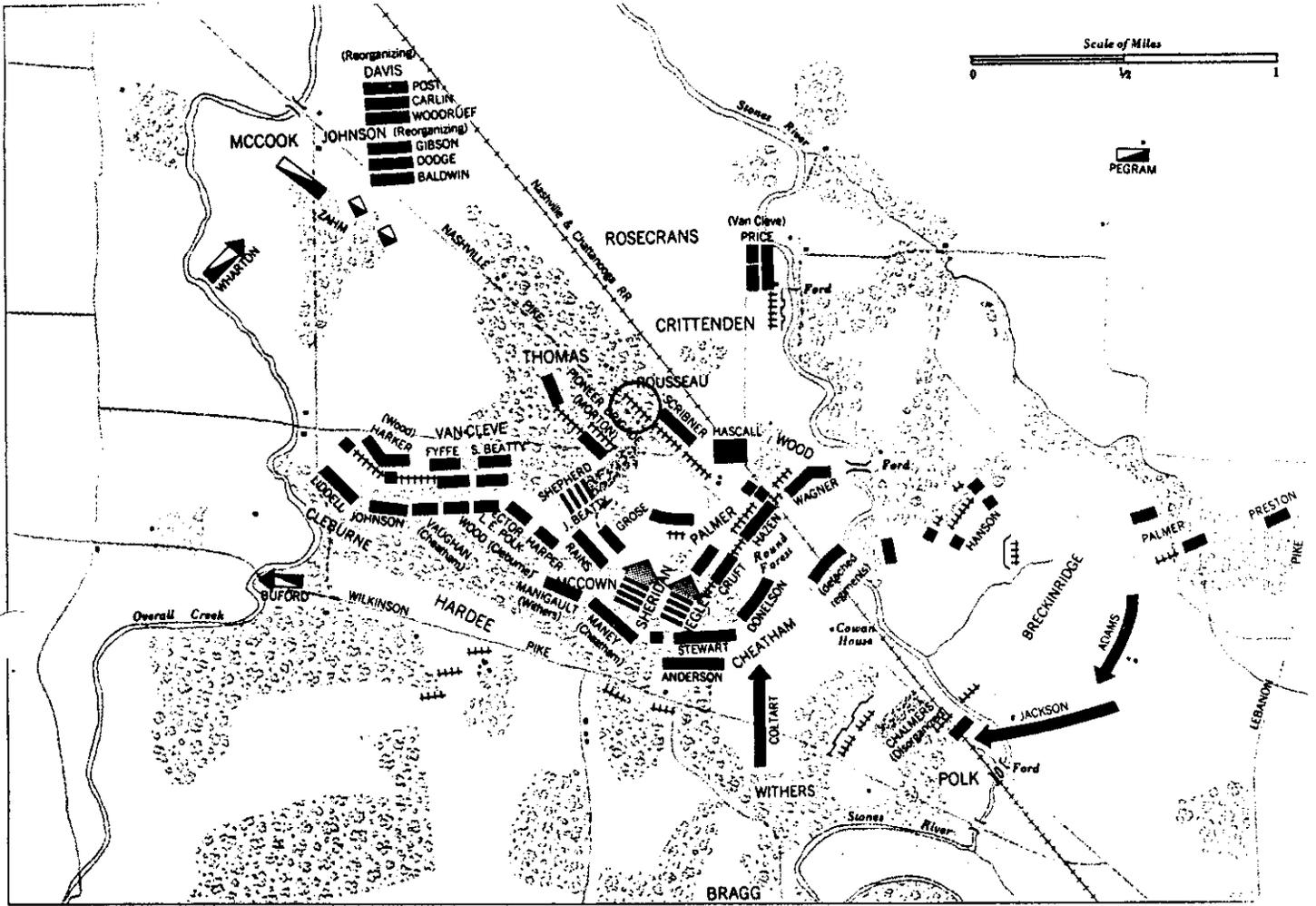


FIGURE 5. APPROXIMATE POSITION OF BATTERY H, 5TH U.S. ARTILLERY AT THE BATTLE OF STONES RIVER, NOON, DECEMBER 31, 1862

southeast where Bragg's Confederates were vigorously attacking a portion of the Union line that would later be remembered as the "Round Forest" and "Hell's Half-Acre." The artillery moved to the front along the railroad and turnpike in support of Shepherd's Regulars who had re-entered the cedar thicket once more. After another heated battle in which the Regulars received most of their casualties, Shepherd withdrew and fell in behind the batteries of Loomis and Guenther once more. No other significant action occurred along the front of Rousseau's Division for the rest of the day.

The night of the 31st was relatively quiet in front of Battery H except for occasional small-arms fire between skirmishers. It was, nonetheless, an unpleasant evening. Rousseau recalled that rain during Saturday night "rendered the ground occupied by my command exceedingly sloppy and muddy, and during much of the time my men had neither shelter, food, nor fire." The Yankee artillerymen ate parched corn and "horse-steaks, cut and broiled, from horses upon the battle-field." Rousseau further stated that "my men suffered severely...but I did not hear one single man murmur at hardships."(24)

On the morning of January 1, 1863, Guenther was ordered to move Battery H along with the rest of the brigade to the rear along the Nashville Pike just in front of Stewart's Creek.

After proceeding several miles the order was countermanded, and the troops returned. That night Agnew and his fellow artillerymen camped in the woods near their old position. The following day, the battery was moved slightly forward where they remained and camped for the evening.

On January 3, the Brigade along with Battery H were moved forward into rifle pits and epaulments that had been prepared for them. At dusk Guenther was ordered to use shells and spherical case shot on Confederate troops who were occupying breastworks and buildings in the woods just to the front of the Union line. Rousseau directed Guenther's and Loomis' Batteries to shell the woods with six rounds per gun, fired as rapidly as possible. According to Rousseau, "This was very handsomely done..."(24a) Yankee infantry then attacked the works driving the Rebel force from the woods. Major General George Thomas later reported that fire from Guenther's artillery was "skillful and well-directed."(25) Battery H remained in the same position throughout January 4, and on the following day took up the line of march toward Murfreesboro where the artillerymen encamped beyond the town.

Thus ended the Battle of Murfreesboro or Stones River. Battery H of the 5th U.S. Artillery had been in the thick of the action. Lieutenant Guenther reported that his Battery fired 558 rounds during the engagement. His losses included

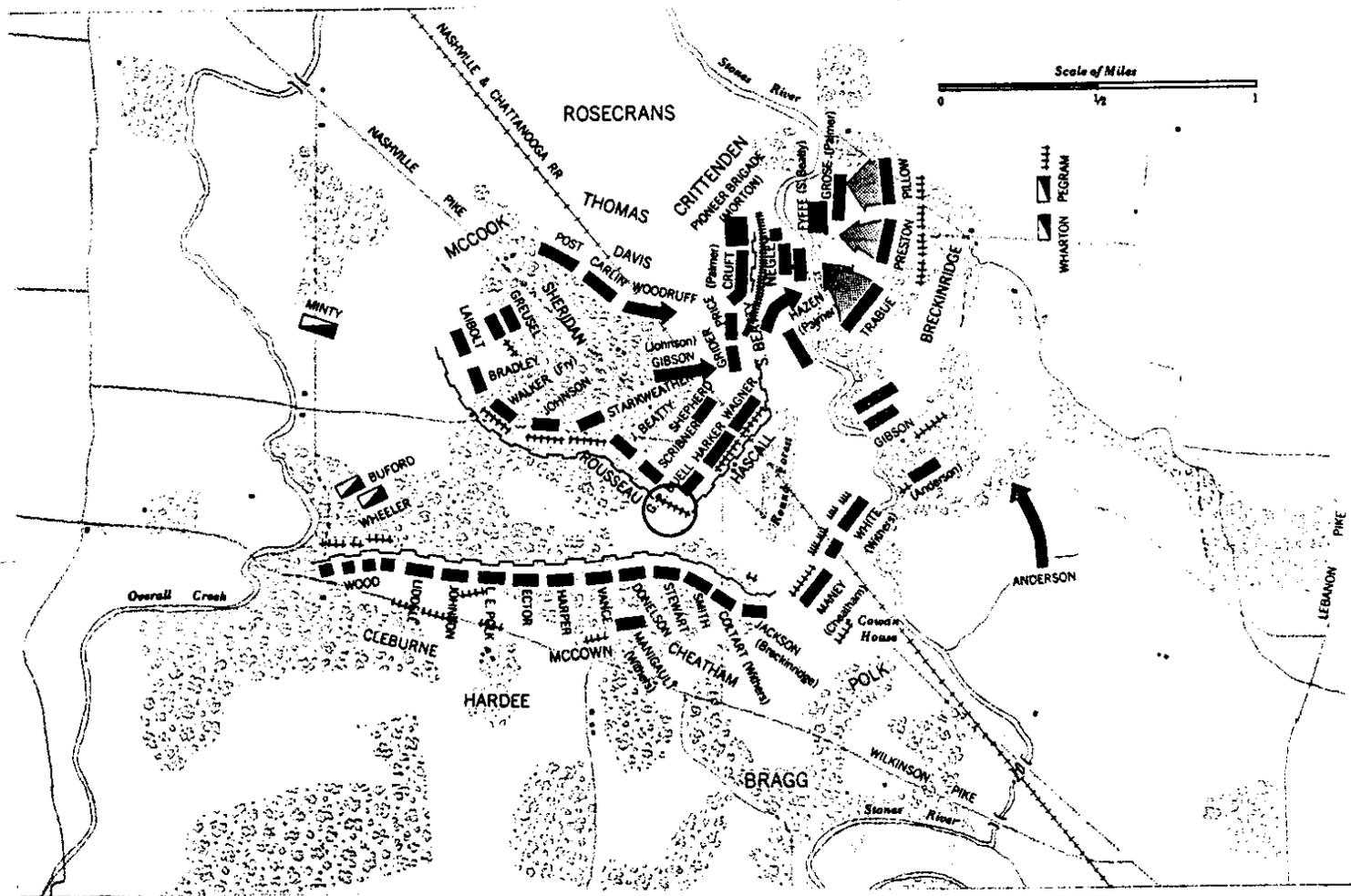


FIGURE 6. APPROXIMATE POSITION OF BATTERY H, 5TH U.S. ARTILLERY AT THE BATTLE OF STONES RIVER, 4 P.M., JANUARY 2, 1863



FIGURE 7. COPY OF A WATERCOLOR SHOWING A UNION BATTERY BEING SHELLED BY CONFEDERATE ARTILLERY. CONSIDERING THE DISPOSITION OF THE UNION TROOPS, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE BATTERY UNDER FIRE IS BATTERY H, 5TH U.S. ARTILLERY



FIGURE 8. COPY OF A LITHOGRAPH SHOWING ROUSSEAU'S DIVISION. IN THE FOREGROUND ARE THE BATTERIES OF LOOMIS AND GUENTHER (BATTERY H, 5TH U.S. ARTILLERY)

FIGURE 9. IN THIS COPY OF A DRAWING BY PRIVATE ALFRED MATTHEWS, GUENTHER'S BATTERY (BATTERY H, 5TH U.S. ARTY.) IS LOCATED IN THE FOREGROUND (NUMBER 28). PRIVATE JAMES AGNEW IS PORTRAYED SOMEWHERE AMONG THEM.



General Breckinridge's Confederates (background, right) attack the Federal line near Hell's Half Acre during the first day at Stones River. Massed fire from the art

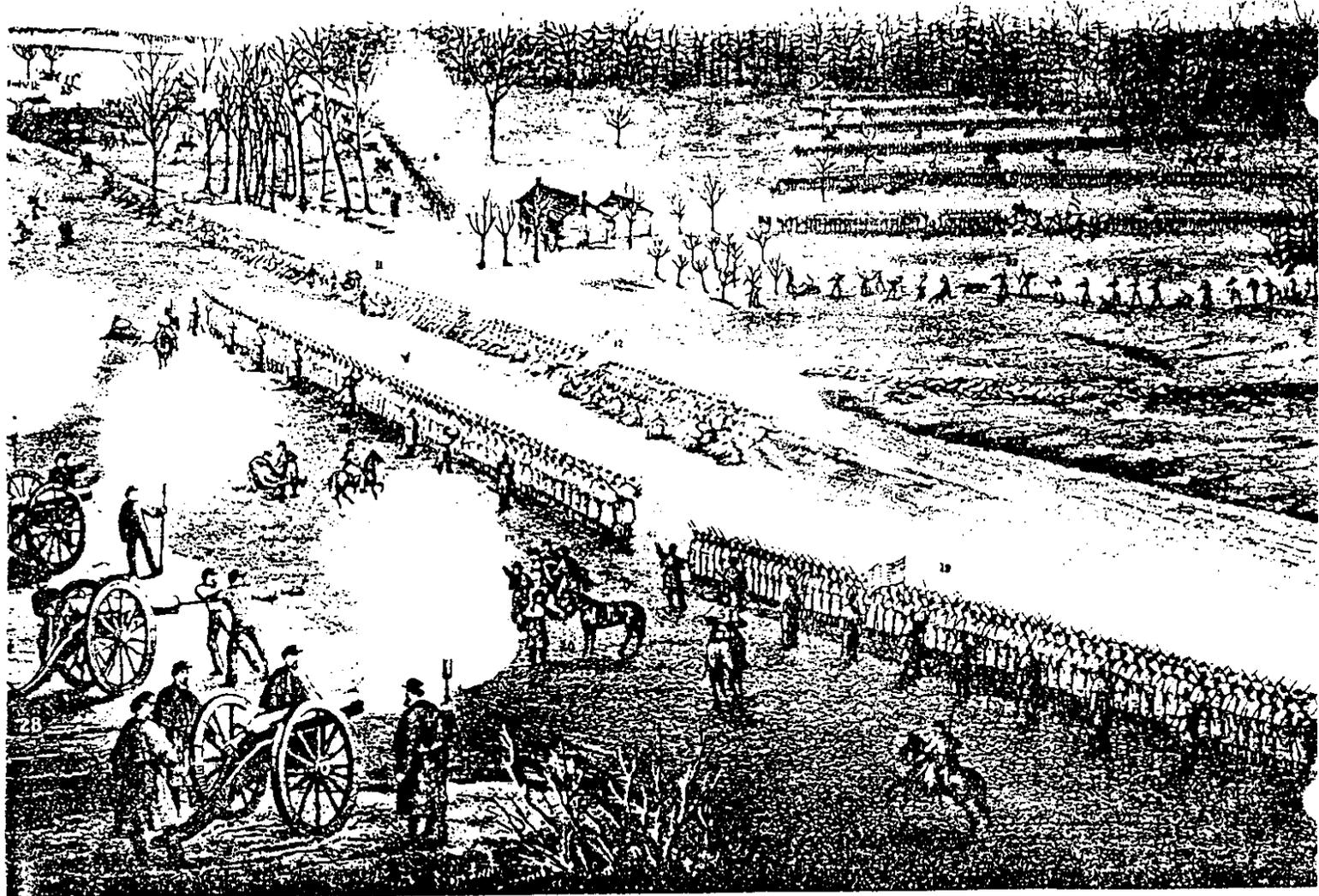
## Battlescapes from an Infantryman

The most compelling record of the battle at Stones River is to be found not in the memoirs of high-ranking officers but in a series of pictures by an obscure Federal infantryman and self-taught artist, Private Alfred E. Mathews. Mathews saw the fighting at first hand, enduring the cold, hunger and terror of the three-day standoff. The lithographs shown here and on the following pages, made from his battlefield drawings, evoke the violent ebb and flow of the combat as he and his comrades experienced it.

Mathews was well equipped to make

such a visual record. Coming from an artistically inclined family of English immigrants that had settled in Ohio, he was an enthusiastic landscapist. When the Civil War broke out, he was teaching school in Alabama; he fled the South and soon enlisted in the Union Army, ending up in the 31st Ohio Volunteers. His regiment saw action at Shiloh and several subsequent battles, and by the time he got to Stones River, Mathews was a seasoned veteran. He was also an experienced military topographer. His commanders, recognizing his artistic ability, had set him to drawing battlefield maps.

Mathews' military experience and graphic skills came together in his pictures of Stones River. These works faithfully depict the terrain and render the armies' actual movements with surprising accuracy. They are also enriched by Mathews' eye for the revealing detail. During the fighting on December 31, retreating Federal troops abandoned a row of overcoats on the field. Advancing Confederates, mistaking the coats for prone infantrymen, peppered them with musket fire. The coats appear, suitably tattered, on the right of the lithograph below.



Infantry of General Lovell Rousseau's division (foreground), wedged between the Nashville Pike and the railroad, beat off the assault, inflicting heavy losses.

five wounded enlisted men, 10 horses killed, 5 horses wounded, and the battery forge disabled.(26) The battery was frequently cited for gallantry in the reports that followed the Battle. Rousseau stated that "Of the batteries of Guenther and Loomis I cannot say too much...Guenther is but a lieutenant...and deserve[s] to be promoted, and ought to be at once...Without them we could not have held our position in the center."(27) Shepherd recorded that "Guenther's Battery...could scarcely have been excelled for the skill and effectiveness of its fire, and the cool, brave conduct of its officers and men. ' For six days and nights the harness was never taken from the horses either for food or water, the horses being kept patiently on the alert at the pieces."(28) In a final report containing Special Recommendations for Promotion, Rousseau filed the following citation for Guenther: "Too much can not be said in praise of this brave and accomplished officer...For his magnificent conduct at Stone River he fairly earned the 'brevet' of Major. His battery almost annihilated the [30th] Arkansas rebel regiment and cut down and captured its colors. His splendid Napoleons, double-shotted with grape, defended themselves frequently unaided by infantry, and gained for them the thanks and admiration of the army."(29) Guenther himself proudly reported that he was, without exception, indebted to the noncommissioned officers and privates of the battery for their "faithful services"(29a)

For the next six months, Battery H, 5th U.S. Artillery remained stationed in Murfreesboro. During this time, Agnew and his companions probably became quite familiar with the Murfreesboro-Nashville area as the boredom of camp and garrison duty would be broken with occasional trips to the neighboring areas. In late June Rosecrans began organizing for the Middle Tennessee Campaign which would attempt to destroy or strategically out-maneuver Bragg's Army of Tennessee. On June 30, 1863 an organizational report for the Department of the Cumberland showed that the 5th U.S. Artillery, Battery H, was commanded by Captain George A. Kensel and was part of a three-battery section under the command of Col. Cyrus Loomis in the First Division (Maj. Gen. Lovell Rousseau), XIV Corps (Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas). Of special interest was an artillery armament report that was also filed on June 30 which specified the following field pieces for Battery H: 4 bronze light 12-pounders (Napoleons) and 2 10-pounder Parrotts.

Between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. on June 24 Rousseau's Division finally departed Murfreesboro and marched down the Manchester Pike about 13 miles to Big Spring. Confederate forces were encountered at Hoover's Gap on June 25 and Battery H under Kensel was brought up in a reserve position but did not see any action in the battle that followed. The Division encamped near Johnson's on the road to Fairfield that evening. By June 27 Rousseau's forces had marched along Pan Handle Creek road,

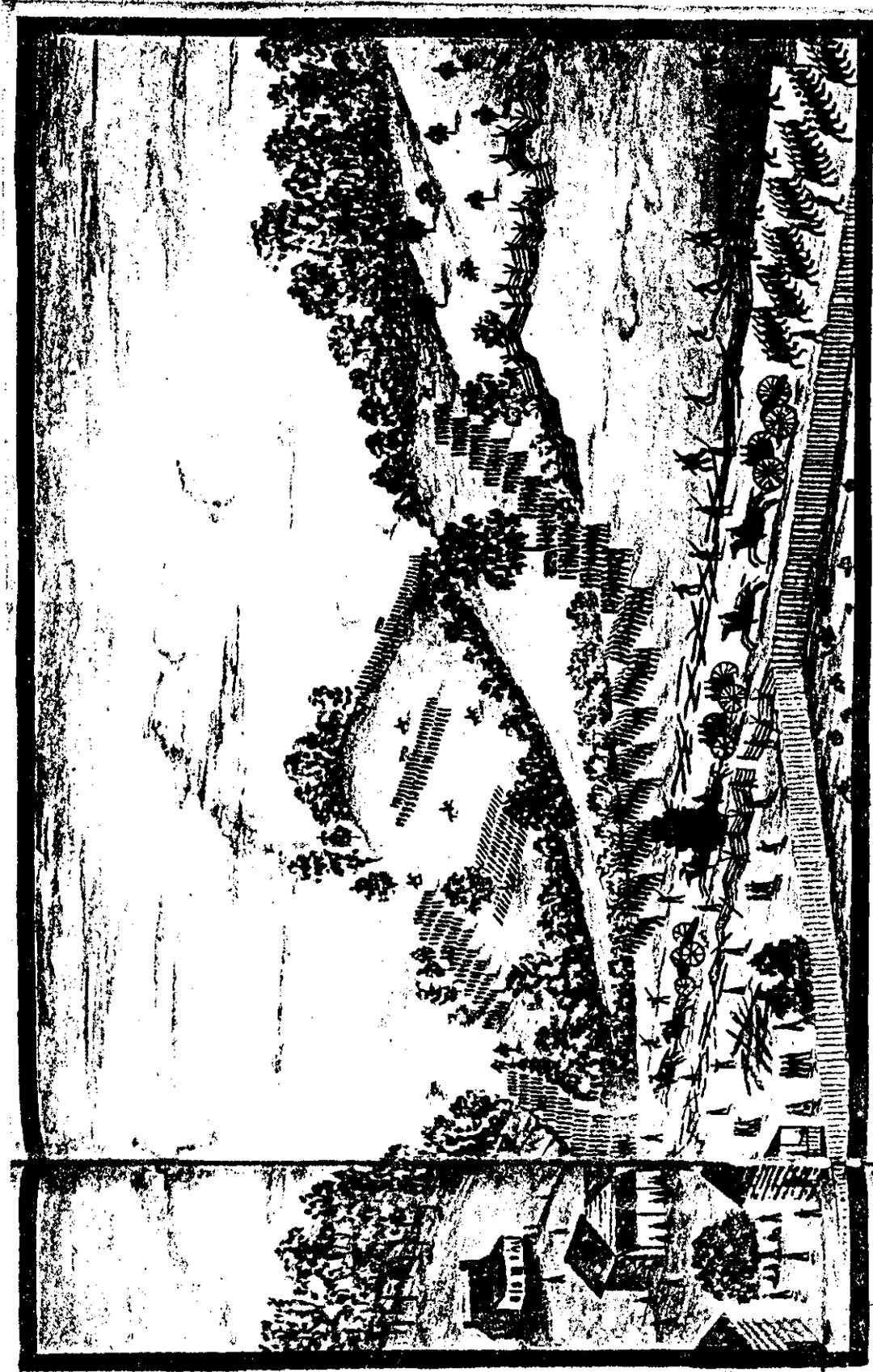


FIGURE 10. COPY OF A WATERCOLOR SHOWING THE BATTLE OF HOOVER'S GAP, JUNE 24, 1863. BATTERY H, 5TH U.S. ARTILLERY WAS HELD IN RESERVE DURING THE ENGAGEMENT

without one single murmur."(30)

On July 31, 1863 the Department of the Cumberland was again reorganized. At this time Battery H, 5th U.S. Artillery was once again commanded by Lieut. Guenther. The battery was attached to the Third Brigade under Major Samuel K. Dawson. This brigade of Regular Infantry consisted of the 15th U.S. (1st Battalion), 16th U.S. (1st Battalion), 18th U.S. (1st and 2nd Battalions), and the 19th U.S. (1st Battalion). The Brigade was in the First Division (Brig. Gen. John H. King), XIV Corps (Thomas).

By early August, Rosecrans was again in motion as he advanced upon Confederate forces in the vicinity of Chattanooga. Thomas' XIV Corps constituted the Center while McCook (XX Corps) was on the right to the South, and Crittenden (XXI Corps) marched on the left flank to the North approaching Chattanooga. By August 18 Battery H and Thomas' Corps was encamped along Crow Creek near Stevenson, Alabama. On August 31 officers in the XIV Corps were reassigned in preparation for a major offensive against Bragg's Army of Tennessee. Battery H, Fifth U.S. Artillery was assigned to the First Division (Brig. Gen. Absalom Baird), Third Brigade of Regulars (Brig. Gen. John King). At this time Lieutenant Guenther was transferred and command of Battery H was given to Lieutenant Howard M. Burnham.(31)

Baird's Division moved from the camp along Crow Creek to cross the Tennessee River at Bridgeport on September 2. The crossing was slow and difficult due to the large supply train accompanying the army and frequent breakage of the bridge. Finally, the division passed the Tennessee River on September 4 and went into camp near the south end of the bridge. During the next several days, the First Division moved to the foot of Sand Mountain at Moore's Spring, passed over the Mountain near the summit at Warren's Mill and descended Sand Mountain into Lookout Valley by September 7. After a skirmish with enemy forces at Dug Gap in Pigeon Mountain, Baird went into camp at Steven's Gap.(32)

During this time, King's Brigade including Battery H had been in route to reconnoiter with Baird's Division at Cooper's Gap. His Brigade had been guarding the railroad between Tantallon and Bridgeport and did not catch up with the remainder of the Division until September 15. On September 17 Baird's Division including King's Brigade were encamped at Cave Spring. Breaking camp at 6:00 p.m. on September 18, King's Brigade was detailed as rear guard for the Division. After a rest of two hours at Crawfish Spring, King had his Brigade in a line of battle to the left of the division at 6:00 a.m. on September 19. Baird's Division occupied the far left flank of the Union line approximately one-half mile due west of Jay's

Mill on Chickamauga Creek.(33)

At 9:00 a.m. on September 19, King was ordered to engage the enemy. The Brigade advanced into the dense woods along Chickamauga Creek in two lines with Battery H, 15th U.S. Infantry (1st Battalion), and the 18th U.S. Infantry (2nd Battalion) occupying the second line. According to King, the front line drove the enemy back about one mile. At 10:00 Baird ordered King to form a new front that was at right angles to his original line. He quickly moved the 18th U.S. Infantry and Battery H into position. The tactical situation was similar to that encountered by the artillerymen at Stones River. If Burnham could place his field pieces quickly enough, the new line might withstand the charging Confederates. The Battery was hardly in position and had fired only 4 rounds of canister before the cannoneers were hit by a terrific volley of musketry on their front and right flank. The Union line on the right of Battery H had given way. Several of the gun crews were hit where they stood, and horses dropped in their traces. The initial volley from the Rebel line mortally wounded Burnham; Lieutenant Israel Ludlow was wounded, and Lieutenant Joshua Fessenden was struck in the right side. Desperately trying to save the exposed artillery pieces, King ordered the battery to limber to the rear. The cannons, however, were stranded as too many horses had been shot at the limbers.(34)



The Confederate infantry in Liddell's Brigade swarmed over Battery H as well as the 16th U.S. Infantry (1st Battalion) who had been lying down directly in front of Burnham's artillery. The entire Battalion was either killed, wounded, or captured. Rebels with the 8th Arkansas Infantry tried to remove the cannons from the field but found the task impossible among the tangled remains of the horses and limbers. While the Confederates struggled to move the captured artillery to the rear, a gallant bayonet charge was mustered by the 9th Ohio Infantry and drove the Rebels from the field pieces. King ordered the 15th U.S. Infantry forward to assist in recovering the artillery of Battery H. Captain Albert Dod (15th U.S. Infantry) found the field pieces in disarray-- four of the cannons were pointing toward the front of the Union line and two in the direction of the enemy.(35) With the help of Lieutenant Fessenden, Dod's Infantry removed all of the artillery and four caissons but later abandoned the caissons in order to move the guns from the field more quickly.(36)

Battery H, 5th U.S. Artillery saw no further action at Chickamauga after the bloody engagement at noon on September 19. The casualties for Battery H at Chickamauga had been devastating: 1 officer killed (Burnham), at least 1 officer captured (Lt. Israel Ludlow was captured after having been wounded), 2 officers wounded, 12 enlisted men killed and 16 wounded, and 13 enlisted men either captured or missing. Total

aggregate casualties were 44 out of an effective force of 130 men. Other losses included 65 horses (out of 117 reported effective on September 18), 2 10-pounder Parrott caissons, 1 10-pounder Parrott limber, 728 rounds of ammunition, 245 blank cartridges (10-pounder Parrott rounds), 66 saddle blankets, 8 pistols, 21 sabers, and numerous halter and harness equipment.(37)

Reports filed after the Battle of Chickamauga were complimentary of Battery H, 5th U.S. Artillery. Brig. Gen. King spoke in the highest terms of officers in the Battery, specifically, First Lieut. Burnham, Second Lieut. Israel Ludlow, and Second Lieut. J.A. Fessenden. Fessenden himself stated that "The men of the battery, without a single exception, behaved well, working until the last moment to remove the guns."(38) George A. Kensel, Captain of the 5th U.S. Artillery, noted that "The army, in the death of Lieut. H.M. Burnham, has experienced a sad loss; although a young man he had the bearing of a true soldier..." Kensel also reported that "It is hoped that Lieutenant Ludlow, now a prisoner in the hands of the enemy, will at an early date be restored to the battery, with which he has fought ever since its organization and of which he was a bright ornament."(39) Apparently, Private Agnew escaped injury and capture on the afternoon of September 19. If so, he was most fortunate inasmuch as 33 percent of the Battery suffered casualties. The incident,

however, was a point of recollection for the veteran of Battery H. Family stories would recall Agnew's reference to the Battle, in particular his eyewitness account of the death of fellow artillerymen around the limbers and caissons.

On September 20 Fessenden took two of the re-captured Napoleons and placed them in support of the Third Brigade. The guns remained in that position until noon when he was ordered to Chattanooga. The following day, portions of Battery H (2 guns) were placed at Rossville. The evening of September 21, Fessenden was ordered by Major Mendenhall to bring his four Napoleons to the rear and to place the two 10-pounder Parrotts in one of the forts near the Tennessee River at Chattanooga.(40)

After the retreat from Chickamauga, Union forces withdrew into the fortifications around Chattanooga. At that time Ulysses S. Grant was placed in overall command of the Union forces in the West, and he subsequently replaced Rosecrans with Thomas as commander of the Department of the Cumberland. Initially, Battery H was commanded by Lieutenant Edmund Spooner and was one of three batteries under Captain Mark H. Prescott. Prescott's artillery was attached to the First Division which had once again been placed under Maj. Gen. Rousseau. Thomas' old XIV Corps was now assigned to Maj. Gen. John Palmer.(41) When Grant arrived in Chattanooga on October

23, the Federal Army was in a near-desperate condition as Bragg's Army of Tennessee had the city under seige and had cut the Union supply line on the Tennessee River. A correspondent with the New York Herald reported that he had often seen "hundreds of soldiers following behind the wagon trains which had just arrived, picking out of the mud the crumbs of bread, coffee, rice, etc., which were wasted from the boxes and sacks by the rattling of the wagons over the stones."(42)

Just before Grant's arrival, Thomas had set in motion a plan to lift the seige around Chattanooga. On October 28 a Federal assault during the night captured Brown's Ferry and opened the Tennessee River to Union supply boats. This action reestablished the "Cracker Line" to starving Yankee soldiers in the City. For the next two weeks, Union quartermasters and engineers worked day and night to secure adequate lines of supply along the river and rail lines into Chattanooga. During that time, Private Agnew probably barely subsisted on small and infrequent rations. It is also likely that Battery H lost most of its horses and mules to starvation and probable consumption by the Yankee soldiers themselves.

By November 21, 1863 Grant was ready to take the offensive against the Rebel forces surrounding Chattanooga. His plan was simple-- Hooker's detachment from the Army of the Potomac would demonstrate against the Confederate left on Lookout Mountain;

Thomas' Army of the Cumberland (IV and XIV Corps) would move against the center of Bragg's line on Missionary Ridge; and Sherman's Army of the Tennessee would attack the Confederate right flank on the northern end of Missionary Ridge. Just prior to the Chattanooga campaign, Battery H, 5th U.S. Artillery was temporarily assigned to the IV Corps (Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger), Second Division (Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan), Artillery group (Captain Warren Edgerton). Interestingly, Battery H at that time was apparently once again commanded by Captain Francis L. Guenther.(43)

On the morning of November 23, Sheridan's Division was inside the fortifications with its right posted on Fort Negley, the left over Fort Wood, and the front parallel to Missionary Ridge. During the afternoon, Sheridan began his advance toward Missionary Ridge and took possession of Orchard Knob. The following day, Battery H, 5th U.S. Artillery joined Sheridan's Division and was posted in line on top of Brusy Knob (current site of National Cemetery). The line remained in place throughout the day and was subjected to periodic heavy artillery fire from the Confederates on Missionary Ridge. The next morning, November 25, Sheridan advanced again toward Missionary Ridge and placed Guenther's Battery at a position in front of the center of Col. Harker's Third Brigade. From that position Sheridan attacked and carried the Confederate rifle pits at the base of Missionary Ridge. Union artillery had to

cease firing to keep from hitting their own infantrymen. The exultation of capturing the enemy trenches was short lived, however. Almost immediately, the Union infantry was pinned by devastating fire from massed Confederate forces at the edge of Missionary Ridge. Without orders, the Union line surged forward up the ridge. What followed was the famous assault on Missionary Ridge which drove Bragg's Army from the crest into a disorganized retreat. Battery H could take pride in their support of that remarkable assault. Sheridan later acknowledged the action taken by the Battery and stated, "In my special mentions must be included Captain Guenther, commanding a battery, temporarily assigned to me...to whom I am indebted for valuable services rendered..."(44)

As the year 1863 came to an end, Battery H, 5th U.S. Artillery was stationed in the fortifications at Chattanooga. The Battery was still under the command of Captain Francis Guenther who was also in command of the Artillery group attached to the First Division (Brig. Gen. Richard Johnson), XIV Army Corps, Department of the Cumberland (Thomas). Other batteries that were also under Guenther included the 1st Illinois (Battery C), and the 1st Michigan (Battery A).(45)

Battery H remained in Chattanooga through most of March, 1864. On March 12, Special Orders No. 16 relieved the Battery from duty with the First Division, and on March 25, the Battery

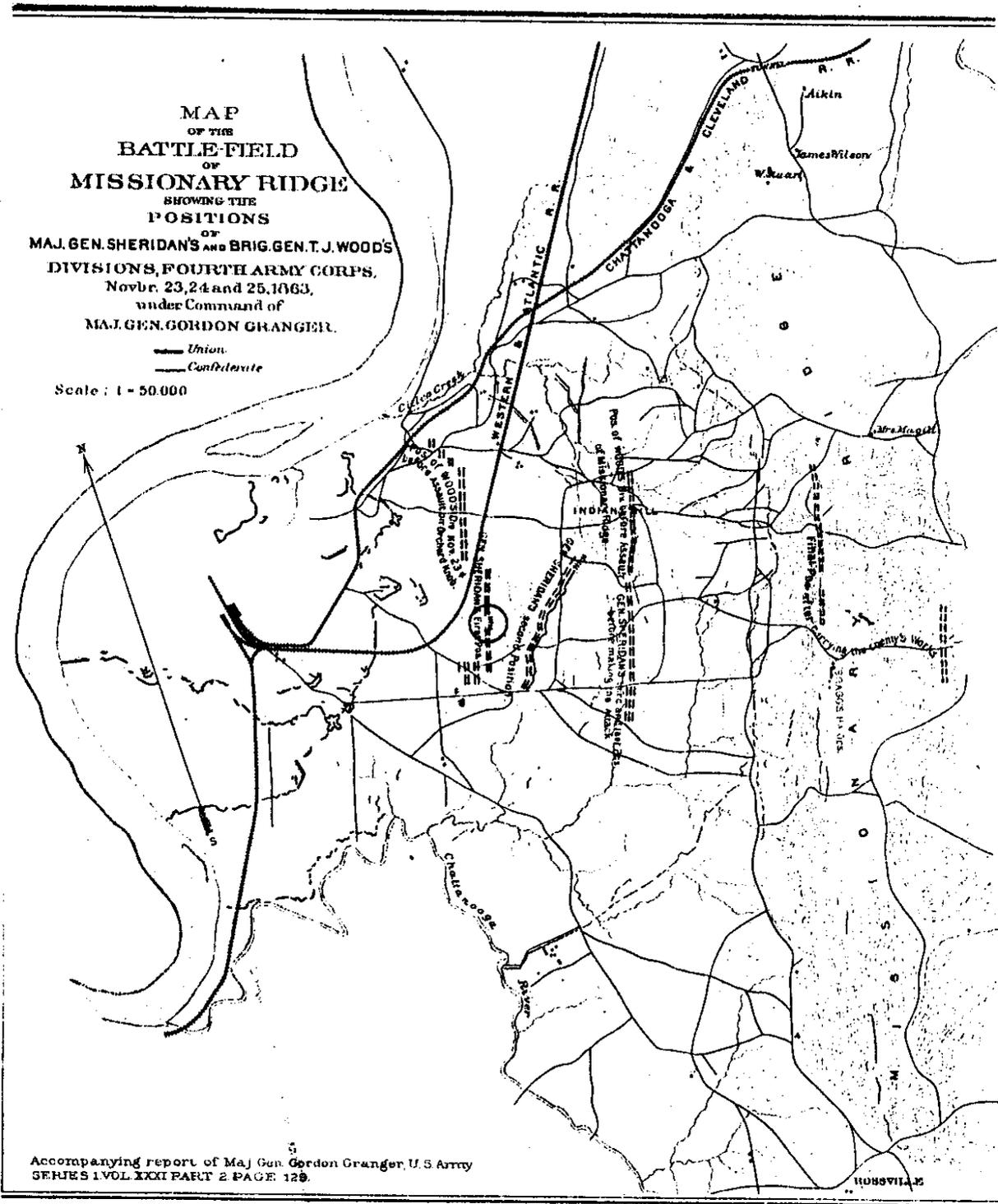
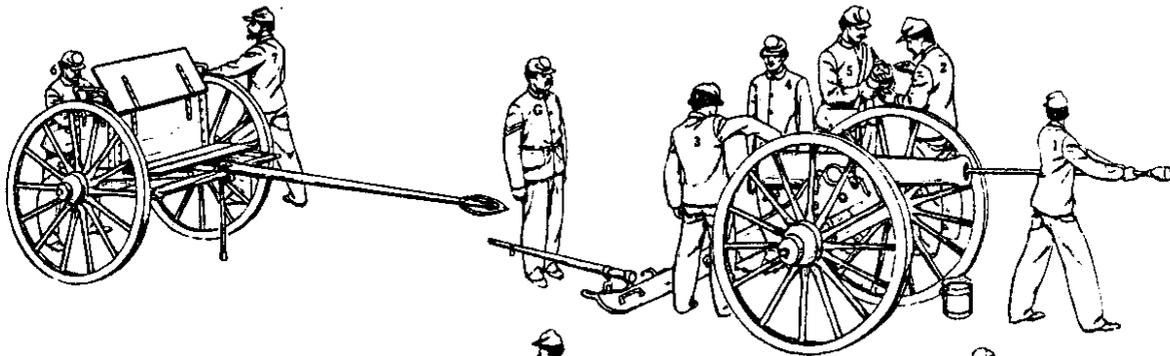


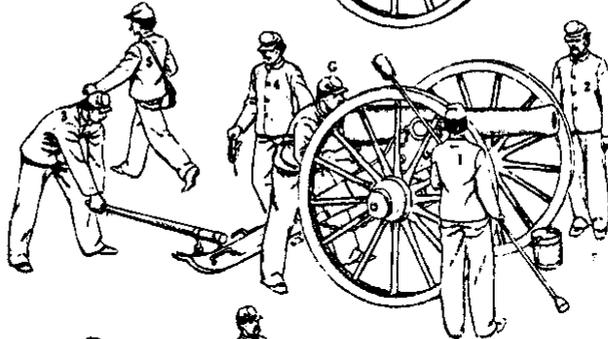
FIGURE 12. BATTLE OF CHATTANOOGA, NOVEMBER 23-25, 1864. BATTERY H, 5TH U.S. ARTILLERY WAS TEMPORARILY ATTACHED TO THE FOURTH CORPS IN SHERIDAN'S DIVISION.

was assigned to garrison duty in the District of Nashville under Maj. Gen. Rousseau. Battery H was one of seven batteries in the First Division of the Artillery Reserve under Col. James Barnett. Other batteries in the First Division included F, G, H, and M of the 4th Regular Artillery and Battery K of the 5th Regular Artillery. Captain Guenther continued to be in command of Battery H.(46) While Sherman's forces prepared to move through Georgia, Battery H remained in Nashville with Thomas' Department of the Cumberland and was still listed with the Post of Nashville on August 31, 1864.(47) Quite probably, Agnew took the opportunity to revisit the battlefield at Stones River while he was stationed at Nashville.

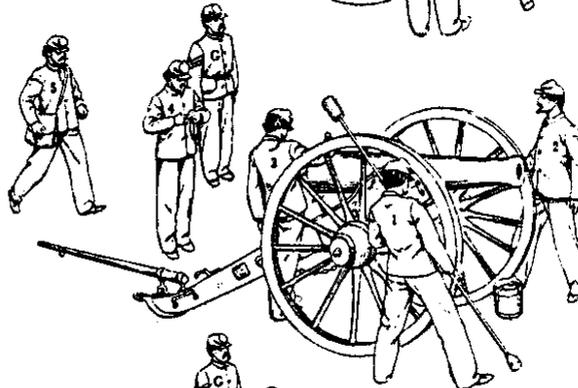
On September 11, 1864 Private James M. Agnew was discharged by expiration of service from Battery H, 5th U.S. Artillery at Nashville. He would now make his trek home to Ohio only to return and permanently settle his family in Middle Tennessee. Meanwhile, Battery H would see additional service at Pulaski and Tullahoma before returning to Nashville on October 21, 1864. The Battery would remain in Nashville until April, 1865 when it was transferred to Fort Richmond to guard the harbor at New York.



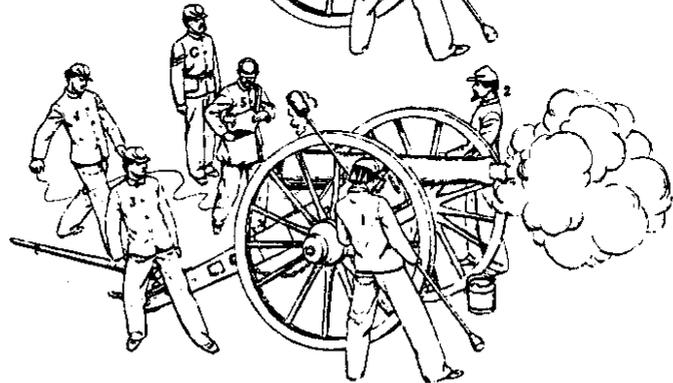
On the command "Load," crewman Number 1 sponges the bore as 2 receives the round from 5 and places it in the muzzle. Number 3 closes the vent as 1 rams the round home. The gunner (the corporal who aims the gun) steps to the breech to sight the piece, while 3 drops back to the trail handspike and shifts the gun according to the gunner's directions.



Number 5, meanwhile, returns to the limber and gets a new round from 6 and 7, who have cut the fuse according to the gunner's shouted orders. When the gun is aimed, the gunner steps back to observe the effects of the shot and commands "Ready."



At this point, 1 and 2 stand clear. Number 3 shoves the pick through the vent and into the powder bag. Then number 4 hooks a friction primer to the lanyard and inserts the primer in the vent. Number 3 holds the primer, while 4 steps back, holding the lanyard slack.



Now the gunner commands "Fire." Number 3 steps back from the wheel, and 4 pulls the lanyard, firing the piece. At the same time, Number 5 delivers the next round to 2. When the gun has recoiled, the crew pushes it back into position, and the sequence begins again with the command "Load."

FIGURE 13. THE LOADING AND FIRING PROCEDURE FOR CIVIL WAR ARTILLERY. PRIVATE AGNEW WAS PROBABLY TRAINED TO OCCUPY ANY OF THE CREWMAN POSITIONS

James M. Agnew  
Sgt., Co. F, 51 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Appears on  
Company Muster Roll  
for Jan Feb, 1862.

Joined for duty and enrolled:  
When Sept 11, 1861.  
Where Co. F, 51 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Period 3 years.\*  
Present or absent Not stated

Stoppage, \$ 100 for  
Due Gov't, \$ 100 for

Remarks:  
\* See enrollment on card from muster-in roll.

Book mark:  
E. J. Porter  
(1862-1) Oppert

James M. Agnew  
Sgt., Co. F, 51 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Appears on  
Company Muster Roll  
for Mar & Apr, 1862.

Joined for duty and enrolled:  
When Sept 11, 1861.  
Where Co. F, 51 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Period 2 years.\*  
Present or absent Not stated

Stoppage, \$ 100 for  
Due Gov't, \$ 100 for

Remarks:  
\* See enrollment on card from muster-in roll.

Book mark:  
E. J. Porter  
(1862-1) Oppert

James M. Agnew  
Sgt., Co. F, 51 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Appears on  
Company Muster Roll  
for May & June, 1862.

Joined for duty and enrolled:  
When Sept 11, 1861.  
Where Co. F, 51 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Period 3 years.\*  
Present or absent Present

Stoppage, \$ 100 for  
Due Gov't, \$ 100 for

Remarks:  
\* See enrollment on card from muster-in roll.

Book mark:  
E. J. Porter  
(1862-1) Oppert

A | 51 | Ohio.

James M. Agnew  
Pat., Co. F, 51 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Appears on  
Company Muster Roll  
for July & Aug., 1862.

Joined for duty and enrolled:  
When Sept 11, 1861.\*  
Where Co. F, 51 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Period 3 years.\*  
Present or absent Present

Stoppage, \$ 100 for  
Due Gov't, \$ 100 for

Remarks:  
\* See enrollment on card from muster-in roll.  
Book mark:

E. J. Probst  
Clerk

A | 51 | Ohio.

James M. Agnew  
Pat., Co. F, 51 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Appears on  
Company Muster Roll  
for Sept & Oct., 1862.

Joined for duty and enrolled:  
When Sept 11, 1861.\*  
Where Co. F, 51 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Period 2 years.\*  
Present or absent Present

Stoppage, \$ 100 for  
Due Gov't, \$ 100 for

Remarks:  
\* See enrollment on card from muster-in roll.  
Book mark:

J. M. Thomas  
Clerk

A | 51 | Ohio.

James M. Agnew  
Pat., Co. F, 51 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Appears on  
Company Muster Roll  
for Aug 31 to Dec 31, 1862.

Joined for duty and enrolled:  
When Sept 11, 1861.\*  
Where Co. F, 51 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Period 3 years.\*  
Present or absent

Stoppage, \$ 100 for  
Due Gov't, \$ 100 for

Remarks: Disch'd. and  
final statement  
given Dec 1/62  
by order Genl. De  
Camp (to join signal  
Battery)  
\* See enrollment on card from muster-in roll.  
Book mark:

J. M. Thomas  
Clerk

*James M. Agnew*  
Co. F, 51 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Age 18 years.

Appears on  
Company Muster-in Roll

of the organization named above. Roll dated  
Canal Dover. & Oct 3, 1861.

Muster-in to date Oct 3, 1861.

Joined for duty and enrolled:

When Sept 11, 1861.\*

Where Cochecton O \*

Period 3 years.\*

Bounty paid \$ 100; due \$ 100

Remarks:

\* See Muster-in roll shows enrollment of all men of this company as of same date except one man enrolled subsequent to date of muster-in of company. See enrollment on subsequent card or cards.

Book mark:

*E. J. Parker*  
Captain

*James M. Agnew*  
Co. F, 51 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll  
for Oct 3 to Oct 31, 1861.

Joined for duty and enrolled:

When Sept 11, 1861.\*

Where Cochecton O \*

Period 3 years.\*

Present or absent Not stated

Stoppage, \$ 100 for

Due Gov't, \$ 100 for

Remarks:

\* See enrollment on card from muster-in roll.

Book mark:

*E. J. Parker*  
Captain

*James M. Agnew*  
Co. F, 51 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll  
for Nov & Dec, 1861.

Joined for duty and enrolled:

When Sept 11, 1861.\*

Where Cochecton O \*

Period 3 years.\*

Present or absent Not stated

Stoppage, \$ 100 for

Due Gov't, \$ 100 for

Remarks:

\* See enrollment on card from muster-in roll.

Book mark:

*E. J. Parker*  
Captain

*James M. Agnew*  
Port, Co. F., 51 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Age *18* years.

Appears on Co. Master-out Roll, dated *Victoria Star, Oct. 13, 1865.*

Mustered-out to date *186*, 186 .

Last paid to *Aug. 31, 1862*

Clothing account:

Last settled *186*, 186 ; drawn since \$ *100*

Due soldier \$ *100*; due U. S. \$ *100*

Am't for cloth'g in kind or money adv'd \$ *100*

Due U. S. for arms, equipments, &c., \$ *100*

Bounty paid \$ *100*; due \$ *100*

Remarks *Discharged Dec. 11, 1862 to join Regular Artillery*  
*Non-Veteran*

Book mark:

*Artin*  
Copyright (361)

*James M. Agnew*  
Co. F., 51 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Appears on

Company Descriptive Book of the organization named above.

DESCRIPTION.

Age *18* years; height *5* feet *5* inches.

Complexion *Fair*.

Eyes *hazel*; hair *red*.

Where born *Princeton O.*

Occupation *Miller*.

ENLISTMENT.

When *Sept. 11*, 1861 .

Where *Princeton O.*

By whom *D. M. Marshall*; term *3 yrs*

Remarks: *P. O. Brown O. Dis.*

*Charged Dec. 11/62 at*

*Charlottesville Tenn. to join*

*Regular Artillery*

Book mark:

*McIntire*  
Copyright (362)

*James M. Agnew*  
Pt., Co. F., 51 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Appears on Returns as follows:

*Jan. 1863 Louisville 63 Reg't*  
*Artillery*

Book mark:

*McIntire*  
Copyright (363)

Co. *B*, 51 Ohio Infantry.

*Private* *Private*

CARD NUMBERS.

- 1. 24157369
- 2. 24157450
- 3. 24157546
- 4. 24157639
- 5. 24157732
- 6. 24157828
- 7. 24157921
- 8. 24158016
- 9. 24158171
- 10. 24159572
- 11. 34160815
- 12. 40173650
- 13.
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- 50.

Number of personal papers herein *0*

Book Mark:

See also *Regular Artillery.*

DECLARATION OF RECRUIT.

I, *James M. Agnew*

desiring

to ENLIST in the Army of the United States, for the term of THREE YEARS, Do declare, That I am *nine years* years and \_\_\_\_\_ months of age; that I have neither wife nor child; that I have never been discharged from the United States service on account of disability or by sentence of a court-martial, or by order before the expiration of a term of enlistment; and I know of no impediment to my serving honestly and faithfully as a soldier for three years.

Given at *Cumtoca Nashville Tenn.*

The *11<sup>th</sup>* day of *December 1862*

Witness:

*Thos L Clarke*

*James M. Agnew*

No. *1*

*James M. Agnew*

Enlisted at *Nashville Tenn.*

*December 11<sup>th</sup>* 18*62*

By *W. A. Johnson*

*1<sup>st</sup>* Regiment of *Artillery*

*1<sup>st</sup>* enlistment; last served in Company (F)

*1<sup>st</sup>* Reg't of *Ohio Vols*

Discharged \_\_\_\_\_ 18*62*

CONSENT IN CASE OF MINOR.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Do CERTIFY, That I am the \_\_\_\_\_; that the \_\_\_\_\_ said \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ years of age; and I do hereby freely give my consent to his enlisting as a SOLDIER in the ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES for the period of THREE YEARS.

GIVEN at \_\_\_\_\_ The \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

Witness:

STATE OF  
*Tennessee*



TOWN OF  
*Nashville*

I, *James M. Agnew* born in *Cashotown Co*  
 in the State of *Ohio* aged *Twenty* years,  
 and by occupation a *Miller* DO HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE to have  
 voluntarily enlisted this *Eleventh* day of *December*  
*1861*, as a **Soldier** in the Army of the United States of America, for the  
 period of **THREE YEARS**, unless sooner discharged by proper authority: Do also  
 agree to accept such bounty, pay, rations, and clothing, as are, or may be, estab-  
 lished by law. And I, *James M. Agnew* do solemnly swear,  
 that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the **United States of America**,  
 and that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies or  
 opposers whomsoever; and that I will observe and obey the orders of the President  
 of the United States, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according  
 to the Rules and Articles of War.

Sworn and subscribed to, at *Camp 2nd Nashville*  
 this *11th* day of *December* 18 *61*.  
 BEFORE

*James M. Agnew*

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have carefully examined the above named Recruit, agreeably to  
 the General Regulations of the Army, and that in my opinion he is free from all bodily defects and mental  
 infirmity, which would, in any way, disqualify him from performing the duties of a soldier.

(Signed) *A. M. Henderson*  
*9th Dec 1861*  
 FRAMING SURGEON

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have minutely inspected the Recruit, *James M. Agnew*  
 previously to his enlistment, and that he was entirely sober when enlisted; that, to the best of my  
 judgment and belief, he is of lawful age; and that, in accepting him as duly qualified to perform the duties  
 of an able-bodied soldier, I have strictly observed the Regulations which govern the recruiting service.  
 This soldier has *Hazel eyes, Red hair, Florid complexion, is 5 feet 5 inches*  
 high.

(Sig) *Abracl Ludlow*  
*2d Lt. 5th Arty*  
 RECRUITING OFFICER

New Papers

2d Lt. 5th Arty

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3. O.R., I 7, p. 654
4. Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, Vol. 2 (North to Antietam), p. 701
5. O.R., I, 16, Part 2, p. 23
6. O.R., I, 16, Part 2, p. 72
7. O.R., I, 16, Part 2, p. 88
8. O.R., I, 16, Part 2, p. 113
9. O.R., I, 16, Part 2, pp. 179-180
10. O.R., I, 16, Part 2, p. 145
11. O.R., I, 16, Part 2, p. 593
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16. Rosecrans Campaign, p. 108
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19. O.R., I, 20, Part 1, p. 382
20. Report, p. 102
21. Rosecrans Campaign, p. 259
22. Report- reference to capture of 30th Arkansas colors
23. Rosecrans Campaign, p. 259
24. O.R., I, 20, Part 1, p. 379
- 24a. O.R., I, 20, Part 1. p. 379
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26. Report, p. 19
27. O.R., I, 20, Part 1, p. 380
28. O.R., I, 20, Part 1, p. 397
29. Rosecrans Campaign, p. 348
- 29a. O.R., I, 20 Part 1, p. 382
30. O.R., I, 23, Part 1, pp. 434-436
31. O.R., I, 30, Part 3, pp. 218 and 268
32. O.R., I, 30, Part 3, p. 269
33. O.R., I, 30, Part 1, p. 309
34. O.R., I, 30, Part 1, p. 324
35. O.R., I, 30, Part 1, p. 309
36. O.R., I, 30, Part 1, p. 324
37. O.R., I, 30, Part 1, p. 283
38. O.R., I, 30, Part 1, p. 324
39. O.R., I, 30, Part 1, p. 282
40. O.R., I, 30, Part 1. p. 283

41. O.R., I, 31, Part 1, p. 808
42. The Fight for Chattanooga, Time Life Series, p. 81
43. O.R., I, 31, Part 2, p. 16
44. O.R., I, 31, Part 2, pp. 188-193
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