

Thus ended the battle of Stone River, or Murfreesboro'; and here it may be proper to relate a few of the many incidents occurring in and during it, showing the spirit which pervaded the officers and men of the brigade, ready to laugh one moment, the next to suffer, and, if need be, to die.

During the fight at noon of the 31st of Dec., the color-bearer of the 2d Battalion of the 18th was killed by a shot in the head and fell with and on the colors; the color-guard at once raised the flag, when the top became entangled in a low cedar; the Adjutant of the battalion, then still mounted, finally called Lieut. Bisbee to the aid of the color-guard and the colors were at last free again and thrown to the breeze; it was a moment of great anxiety to all near, for it was understood that there was to be no losing of the colors. When the left reformed after leaving the cedars, Major Townsend, when on the rise took the colors and rode along the new line for all to see that and where the stand was to be made. Capt. Douglass, of the 18th, described the rebel artillery fire in the open field, as if a blacksmith shop full of rotten iron was being thrown at the command. When the brigade was reformed near its battery, there was a large pile of knapsacks back of it, and many men rested against it from time to time; pretty soon a rebel battery commenced firing solid shot at it, making the knapsacks fly in all

directions, but doing no other harm. For a while it was a pastime to watch the solid shot coming through the air, and one ball was especially noticed, going apparently straight toward a man crossing the large open field to the rear, coming from the hospital probably; the ball seemed to strike in front of and close to the man, ricocheted and passed over the man, who at the same time made a profound obeisance; to all appearances the ball would have decapitated him, had the man been erect; a shout of laughter, seemingly from all parts of the field, at the ludicrousness of the scene, relieved the anxious feeling of suspense. But what a closing and beginning of a year was that! A large number of officers and men, in fact all, were without rations on the 1st and 2d, and parched corn, horse and mule steaks were in demand and appreciated; the double quick back from near Stewart's Creek was doubly hard on empty stomachs; at last, on the evening of the 2d, some bacon, flour and coffee were received and helped to tide the command over the worst; though the men were hungry, they were in the best possible spirits. When on the 2d the brigade advanced by the right of companies double quick to the front, one man, seeing a solid shot rolling along very leisurely, put his foot out to stop it; the opposing forces did not overcome each other, and, the shot being stronger, the man found himself nicely tripped and rolling

along with the ball, much to his surprise, and, not being injured, to the merriment of his comrades. The Battalion Quartermasters, with the teamsters, servants, cooks and sick, defended their trains against the charges of rebel cavalry repeatedly, repulsing the enemy every time, and saving and preserving their trains. Of the three rebel brigades of Jackson, Preston and Adams, General Bragg, the commander of their army, says: "How gallantly they moved to their work, and how much they suffered in the determined effort to accomplish it, will best appear from the reports of subordinate commanders, and the statement of losses therewith." This shows some of the work done by the Regular Brigade, and later by its battery repulsing the determined charge of these troops on to the left of the line of battle. General Thomas, when asked why he sent the brigade into the cedars, a regular holocaust, replied that it became a necessity to do so.

The casualties in the brigade were fearful, and almost all were suffered at noon of, and all occurred on, the 31st of December.

The following statement is taken from official sources, and shows the casualties in the brigade in detail:

	NUMBER ENGAGED.		NUMBER KILLED.		NUMBER WOUNDED.		NUMBER CAPTURED.		TOTAL LOSS.	
	Commissioned Officers.	Enlisted Men.								
Field and Staff of Brigade.....	4	...	2	10	3	74	5	101
1st Battalion, 15th U. S. Infantry....	16	304	..	16	7	127	..	17	5	159
1st " 16th "	15	293	..	6	..	55	..	16	7	68
1st " 19th "	10	198	1	1	6	109	..	7	1	138
1st " 18th "	16	273	1	27	6	98	..	2	7	133
2d " 18th "	16	298	1	30	5	5	..	5	6	133
Battery H, 5th Artillery.....	3	120	5	5
Total.....	80	1486	5	89	21	468	..	47	26	604
Aggregating.....	1566		94		489		47		630	

In his official report, General Rosecrans gives his loss as follows: Killed, 92 officers, 1,441 enlisted men; total, 1,523; wounded, 384 officers, 6,861 enlisted men; total, 7,245.

Total killed and wounded, 8,778 officers and men, or 20.22 % of the entire force in action; the loss of prisoners, he states, will fall short of 2,800 officers and men.

The loss of the brigade compared with the loss of the army is as follows: Officers killed in the army, 92; in the brigade, 5; = 5.4 % of army loss. Officers wounded in the army, 384; in the brigade, 21; = 5.4 % of army loss. Enlisted men killed in the army, 1,441; in the brigade, 89; = 6.1 % of army loss. Enlisted men wounded in the army, 6,861; in the brigade, 468; = 6.8 % of army loss. Captured and missing in the army, 2,800; in the brigade, 47; = 1.6 % of army loss.

The loss of the army in killed and wounded was about 20 % of the force in action; the loss of the brigade in killed and wounded was 37 % of its strength in action.

The effective force of the army in the battle was, all told, 43,400 officers and men; the effective force of the brigade taken into action was, all told, 1,566 officers and men, or 3.6 % of the strength of the army; while the loss of killed and wounded of the brigade is 6.6 % of that of the army.

The loss of killed and wounded in Scribner's Brigade was reported as 208 officers and men, or

about 2.3 % of army loss; in John Beatty's Brigade as 281 officers and enlisted men, or about 3.2 % of army loss; while the three brigades were virtually the same in strength of effective force.

Only two brigades in the whole army report a larger loss of killed and wounded than the Regular Brigade; both were about 200 men stronger than that brigade, and suffered losses before and after the 31st December, while the loss of the Regulars was all on that day; the brigades were Carlin's, of the right wing, loss 627—but lost on the 30th 175 men, and a few more after the 31st; Grose's, of the left wing, 585—but lost before the 31st 10 men, and on the 2d of January, the brigade report states, met with a severe loss, not as large as on the 31st, however.

These figures tell the tale, and it is doubtful if in any other engagement of the war any organization under similar circumstances suffered as large a loss.

The total number of men received by the general Government in its armies during the war, for various periods, was 2,859,132; these, reduced to a three years' standard, would make 2,320,272 men.

The average effective number of each 1,000 men in service has been computed at 693 men; this, applied to the number of men of the three years' standard, would, in round numbers, give an effective force of 1,608,000 men.

The total losses of the war, as near as it can be done with incomplete returns, has been computed to be : Killed in action, 44,238, or about 1.9 % of the effective force ; wounded in action, 280,000, or about 12 % of the effective force ; while the Regular Brigade lost on the 31st of December alone : Killed in action, 94, or 6 % of its effective strength ; wounded in action, 489, or 31 % of its effective strength. Of course, the above computations can be applied only in a general way, inasmuch as after 1861 the actual number of men in the United States service, on an average, was, in round numbers, only about 850,000 per year.

In his report of the battle, General Geo. H. Thomas says: "In the execution of this last movement, the Regular Brigade came under a most murderous fire * * * but with the cooperation of Scribner's and Beatty's Brigades and Guenther's and Loomis' Batteries, gallantly held its ground against overwhelming odds."

General Rousseau, in his report, speaks of the brigade as follows: "On that body of brave men the shock of battle fell heaviest, and its loss was most severe. Over one-third of the command fell, killed or wounded. But it stood up to the work and bravely breasted the storm, and, though Major King, commanding the 15th, and Major Slemmer (old Pickens), of the 16th, fell severely wounded, and Major Carpenter, commanding the 19th, fell dead in the last charge, together with

many officers and men, the brigade did not falter for a moment. These three battalions were a part of my old 4th Brigade at the battle of Shiloh. The 18th Infantry, Majors Townsend and Caldwell commanding, were new troops to me, but I am proud now to say we know each other. * * * The brigade was admirably and gallantly handled by Lieut.-Col. Shepherd. * * * Of the batteries of Guenther and * * * I cannot say too much. * * * Without them we could not have held our position in the centre."

Surgeon Eben Swift, Medical Director, Department of the Cumberland, reports: "Much of the heaviest loss sustained to-day fell upon our Regular Battalions, brigaded under command of Lieutenant-Colonel O. L. Shepherd, in holding the cedar brake on the right of the centre against the columns of the enemy sweeping down upon them after having forced back our entire right wing."

W. D. Bickham, who was on the field himself, in his book, "Rosecrans' Campaign with the Army of the Cumberland," published in March, 1863, makes the following record: "The Regular Brigade, Lieut.-Col. Shepherd at the head of the column, moved steadily into the thickets, and formed with Colonel John Beatty's Brigade on the left, and Scribner's in close support. Directly a dropping fire, like the big drops which precede a storm, indicated the proximity of the enemy.

* * * But the enemy pushed hard. The gallant regulars resisted with the staunchness of their professional *esprit*, and refused to yield an inch. * * * The file firing of the regulars at this point was fearfully destructive."

"Pont Mercy," a correspondent of the *New York Tribune*, wrote from the battle-field: "There is a record, however, which shall be more amply made, when the Biography of the gallant Regular Brigade is ready for history. * * * Almost one-half the casualties were regulars, while they numbered less than one-fourth of the entire division. The missing indicates discipline and skill of officers with unmistakable emphasis. It was so in the sanguinary battle of Gaines' Mills on the Peninsula."

The Regular Brigade of the West had indeed sent greeting to their comrades in the East.

As already stated, the dead of the brigade were buried in front of the position held by it nearly throughout the battle; the intention was to erect a monument over their remains, and officers and men subscribing liberally, a large sum was collected—about \$4,000. The dead heroes rest now at the same point in the National Cemetery, established by the General Government; and on the 12th of May, 1883, a monument made by the sculptor, Launt Thompson, was erected over their resting-place.

The foregoing is not a fancy painted history

of the brigade in this battle; it is not embellished with rhetorical allusions to fire and smoke, shot and shell, grape and canister, the roar of the cannon, the rattling of the musketry, the groans of the dying and wounded; it is a simple and plain statement of facts in unembellished terms; although the groans of the wounded and dying, the rattling of the musketry, the roar of the cannon, grape and canister, shot and shell, and fire and smoke were constant accompaniments of the shifting scenes of this bloody and destructive drama of the history of our country.

ROSTER

OF COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE REGULAR
BRIGADE,

AT

THE BATTLE OF STONE RIVER, TENNESSEE.

BRIGADE STAFF.

Lieutenant-Colonel O. L. Shepherd, 18th Infantry, Com-
manding Brigade.⁵
Captain N. C. Kinney, 18th Infantry, Quartermaster.⁶
1st Lieutenant Anson Mills, 18th Infantry, Commissary of
Subsistence.⁷
1st Lieutenant Robert Sutherland, 18th Infantry Act'g Assist.
Adjut.-Gen'l.⁶

1st BATTALION, 15th U. S. INFANTRY.

Major John H. King, Commanding Battalion.^{3, 5}
1st Lieutenant F. D. Ogilby,⁴ Adjutant.
Captain Jesse Fulmer.⁶
Captain W. W. Wise.¹
Captain J. Bowman Bell.¹
Captain Henry Keteltas.⁶
Captain Joseph S. Yorke.^{3, 6}
1st Lieutenant Horace Jewett.⁷
1st Lieutenant Charles Wickoff.⁷
1st Lieutenant Sol. E. Woodward.⁶
1st Lieutenant W. B. Occlestone.^{3, 4}
1st Lieutenant R. P. King.⁶
1st Lieutenant James Y. Semple.⁴
2d Lieutenant William Galloway.⁶
2d Lieutenant Roman H. Gray.⁴

The Regular Brigade.

1st BATTALION, 16th U. S. INFANTRY.

Major A. J. Slemmer, Commanding.^{3, 4}
1st Lieutenant John Power, Adjutant.^{3, 6}
Captain R. E. A. Croston.⁷
Captain R. P. Barry.^{3, 6}
Captain James Biddle.⁶
Captain N. L. Dykeman.^{3, 6}
Captain J. C. King.^{3, 6}
1st Lieutenant A. W. Alleyn.⁶
1st Lieutenant E. McConnell.⁶
1st Lieutenant W. H. Bartholomew.^{3, 4}
1st Lieutenant W. W. Arnold.⁶
1st Lieutenant J. C. Howland.^{3, 6}
1st Lieutenant R. E. Kellogg.⁷
2d Lieutenant S. E. St. Onge.⁶
2d Lieutenant W. J. Wedemeyer.⁷

1st BATTALION, 18th U. S. INFANTRY.

Major J. N. Caldwell, Commanding.⁵
1st Lieutenant R. L. Morris, Adjutant.⁴
1st Lieutenant Dan'l W. Benham, Quartermaster.⁷
Captain Henry Douglass.^{3, 7}
Captain William S. Thurston.⁶
Captain David L. Wood.^{3, 6}
Captain Charles L. Kneass.⁴
Captain Robert B. Hull.^{3, 6}
Captain William H. H. Taylor.⁶
1st Lieutenant Joseph L. Proctor.⁶
1st Lieutenant Thomas T. Brand.⁵
1st Lieutenant Samuel I. Dick.⁴
1st Lieutenant Joseph McConnell.²
1st Lieutenant Gilbert S. Carpenter.^{3, 7}
2d Lieutenant Merrill N. Hutchinson.⁵
2d Lieutenant Ebenezer D. Harding.⁶
2d Lieutenant John J. Adair.^{3, 6}

2d BATTALION, 18th U. S. INFANTRY.

Major Frederick Townsend, Commanding.⁶
 1st Lieutenant Frederick Phisterer, Adjutant.⁶
 1st Lieutenant Wm. P. McClery, Quartermaster.⁶
 Captain Henry R. Mizner.⁷
 Captain Charles E. Denison.²
 Captain Henry Belknap.⁶
 Captain Ai B. Thompson.³⁻⁵
 Captain Wm. J. Fetterman.⁴
 Captain Henry Haymond.³⁻⁶
 Captain Ansel B. Denton.⁶
 1st Lieutenant Morgan L. Ogden.³⁻⁶
 1st Lieutenant Herman G. Radcliff.⁴
 1st Lieutenant James Simons.²
 1st Lieutenant Henry B. Freeman.⁷
 2d Lieutenant William H. Bisbee.⁷
 2d Lieutenant John F. Hitchcock.¹
 2d Lieutenant Wilbur F. Arnold.⁴

1st BATTALION, 19th U. S. INFANTRY.

Major S. D. Carpenter, Commanding.¹
 1st Lieutenant Howard E. Stansbury, Adjutant.⁶
 Captain James B. Mulligan.⁶
 1st Lieutenant A. H. Andrews.⁶
 1st Lieutenant Jacob D. Jones.⁶
 2d Lieutenant Joseph J. Waggoner.⁴
 2d Lieutenant Wm. R. Lowe.⁶
 2d Lieutenant Alfred Curtis.⁶
 2d Lieutenant Chas. F. Miller.⁴
 2d Lieutenant Geo. W. Johnson.⁶
 2d Lieutenant Arthur B. Carpenter.⁶

BATTERY H, 5th U. S. ARTILLERY.

1st Lieutenant F. L. Guenther, Commanding.⁷
 2d Lieutenant Israel Ludlow.⁶
 2d Lieutenant J. A. Fessenden.⁷

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Assistant Surgeon Webster Lindsley, Acting Brigade Surgeon.⁴
 Acting Assistant Surgeon Patton.⁶
 Acting Assistant Surgeon Henderson.⁶

NOTES.

1 killed in battle of Stone River; 2 died of wounds received at Stone River.
 3 wounded at Stone River; 4 died in service since Stone River.
 5 retired; 6 resigned, discharged, mustered out, and out of service.
 7 still in the U. S. Army, active list.

BATTLES AND ENGAGEMENTS

PARTICIPATED IN BY

THE REGULAR BRIGADE.

Stone River or Murfreesboro', Tenn., Dec. 31, 1862 to Jan. 3, 1863.
 Eagleville, Tennessee, March 2, 1863.
 Hover's Gap, Tennessee, June 26, 1863.
 Chicamauga, Ga., September 19 to 21, 1863.
 Mission Ridge, Tenn., November 25, 1863.
 Buzzard Roost and Tunhill, Ga., Feb. 25 to 27, 1864.
 Rocky Faced Ridge, Ga., May 5 to 9, 1864.
 Resaca, Ga., May 13 to 15, 1864.
 New Hope Church, Ga., May 28, June 1 and 4, 1864.
 Kenesaw Mountain, Ga., June 22 and 30, 1864.
 Neal Dow Station, Ga., July 3 and 4, 1864.
 Peachtree Creek, Ga., July 20, 1864.
 Atlanta, Ga., July 27 and 31, and August, 1864.
 Utoy Creek, Ga., Aug. 7, 1864.
 Jonesboro', Ga., September 1, 1864.

ENGAGEMENTS AND BATTLES PARTICIPATED IN
BY THE BATTALIONS BEFORE ORGANIZATION
OF THE REGULAR BRIGADE.

15th, 16th and 19th U. S. INFANTRY.

Shiloh, Tenn., April 7, 1862.

Corinth, Miss., May, 1862.

1st and 2d BATTALIONS, 18th U. S. INFANTRY.

Lick Creek, Miss., April 26, 1862.

Corinth, Miss., May, 1862.

Springfield to Texas, Ky., October 6, 1862.

Perryville or Chaplin Hill, Ky., October 8, 1862.

Compliments of
R. P. Smith,
Albany, N. Y.