

51ST IND
NASHVILLE

DEEDS OF VALOR

FROM RECORDS IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

HOW AMERICAN HEROES WON THE

MEDAL OF HONOR

HISTORY OF OUR RECENT WARS AND EXPLORATIONS

FROM PERSONAL REMINISCENCES AND RECORDS OF OFFICERS AND ENLISTED
MEN WHO WERE REWARDED BY CONGRESS FOR MOST CONSPICUOUS
ACTS OF BRAVERY ON THE BATTLE-FIELD, ON THE HIGH
SEAS AND IN ARCTIC EXPLORATIONS.

AMONG OTHER RECORDS THE STIRRING ADVENTURES OF:

Admiral W. S. SCHLEY
Admiral GEO. DEWEY
Lieut.-Gen'l NELSON A. MILES
Maj.-Gen'l WM. R. SHAFTER
Admiral D. G. FARRAGUT
Admiral D. D. PORTER

Admiral GEO. W. MELVILLE
Lieut. G. W. DeLONG
General A. W. GREELY
Commander W. D. CUSHING
Hon. L. P. di CESNOLA
Gen'l F. J. BELL

Hon. WM. F. CODY, (Buffalo Bill)
Gen'l MARION P. MAUS
Gen'l ARTHUR McARTHUR, Jr.
Gen'l DELEVAN BATES
Gen'l JULIUS STAHL
Hog. JOHN C. BLACK

Edited by W. F. BEYER and O. F. KEYDEL.

INTRODUCTION BY

BRIG.-GEN'L H. M. DUFFIELD, U. S. V.

Illustrated

COMPLETE IN TWO VOLUMES

VOLUME I

THE PERRIEN-KEYDEL COMPANY

DETROIT, MICH., U. S. A.

1907

WHEN THE REBELS WERE ROUTED AT NASHVILLE



MARION T. ANDERSON.

Captain, Company D, Fifty-
First Indiana Infantry.

Highest rank attained :
Major.

Born at Clarksburg, Indiana,
Nov. 18, 1839.

THE second day of the battle of Nashville, Tenn., December 16, 1864, which resulted in the complete victory of the Federal armies, began with a concerted attack in the afternoon all along the lines upon the fortified position of the enemy. Colonel P. Sidney Post, commanding the Second Brigade, Third Division, was ordered to charge the Confederate right at Overton Hill, and upon receipt of the order at once led his troops to the assault. When within about 100 yards of the enemy's works the gallant colonel was shot, and his men, thinking their leader killed, became terror-stricken and dropped to the ground. Two advanced lines of Colonel Abel D. Straight's Brigade came up and reaching the prostrate troops followed their example, likewise dropping to the ground. Next came the Fifty-first Indiana Infantry, led by Captain Marion T. Anderson. As he came upon the preceding

troops he asked some of the officers why their men were lying down. The reply was: "Because those in our front did the same thing."

"Why don't you order them up and forward?" Captain Anderson inquired.

"We have; but they won't go," was the answer.

"Well," Captain Anderson observed, "I won't lie down here. I will take my men forward and obey orders."

He gave the order: "Charge bayonets; double-quick." And away he led his men over the bodies of the prostrate troops, up the hill and against the enemy's last line of works on the crest, forcing the rebels to abandon half of their guns and retreat in utter confusion:

While riding at the head of his regiment the brave captain was struck by a sharpshooter's bullet, and severely wounded, fell almost into the abandoned and captured trenches.

The attack on the Confederate left was made by the troops commanded by Generals A. J. Smith and John M. Schofield, and resulted in gaining possession of the Granny White Pike and cutting off the enemy's retreat.

This assault, too, was met by the Confederates with a tremendous fire of grape and canister and musketry, and put the bravery of the Union men to hard test. Several incidents occurred which attracted general attention and won praise for the heroes of the entire Federal Army.



WILLIAM T. SIMMONS.

First Lieutenant Co. C, 11th Missouri
Infantry.

Born in Green County, Ill., January
29, 1848.

One of these incidents is related by First Lieutenant William T. Simmons, of Company C, Eleventh Missouri Infantry: "Our division was massed to the right of Granny White Pike—the direct route from Nashville to Franklin—about 400 yards in front of Hood's center. My regiment was in our second line about four o'clock in the afternoon. Just before the assault all the boys in my company as well as



"THE BRAVE CAPTAIN WAS STRUCK."

myself were commenting upon a Confederate flag (the stars and bars) planted on the enemy's entrenchment directly in our front. Several of us had remarked, banteringly, that we would have the flag before dark, when the order came to assault. From the beginning we had been under a heavy fire of musketry and artillery, but as we started forward the regiment in our immediate front wavered and became somewhat broken up under the murderous fire, so that my regiment pressed forward and, passing them, dashed on about 200 yards. A moment later my captain fell. I was left in command of the company, and leaving my place as file closer I sprang to the front and led the way, making straight for the flag. Being an exceptionally speedy runner at the time, I was first to reach the breastworks, and demanded the surrender of the colors. The Confederate sergeant attempted to run away with the prize and I was compelled to shoot, wounding him and thereby securing the flag."