It was donated by:
Nathan R. Roth
1816 17th Ave.
Monroe, WI 53566

2-95

5th WI
Independent
Battery
Light
Artillery

EXCERPT #1

RIGHT WING.

Second division, composed of the following batteries: Battery A, 1st Ohio artillery, Lieutenant Belding commanding, attached to General Willich's brigade; battery E, 1st Ohio artillery, Captain Edgarton, attached to Colonel Kirk's brigade; 5th Indiana, Captain Simonson, attached to Colonel Buckley's brigade, having the following guns: nine James's rifles, three 6-pounder smooth-bore, two 12-pounder howitzers, two 10-pounder Parrotts, two 12-pounder light field guns.

On the evening of the 30th of December battery A was placed in position in the rear of the brigade, on the extreme right of the right wing, with one section, the other two sections fronting the rear, horses unhitched but not unharnessed. At daybreak the horses were sent to water, with the precaution to return at the least alarm; firing commenced, teams returned quickly and hitched. The brigade falling back very fast, the battery retired to a slight eminence in the rear, but the enemy having got so far to the right that the guns were under a cross fire. Near this point three guns were taken by the enemy; two other pieces were taken rapidly to the rear, one gun having horses remaining was served with effect as opportunity was offered, firing about four rounds at each unlimbering. Upon reaching the Murfreesboro' pike this one gun was put in position with Captain Simonson's battery, where about ten rounds were fired. Upon being ordered to return, one wheel-driver and two horses being killed while limbering up, the piece was temporarily abandoned, but was brought off by the Louisville Legion with prolonge attached. This battery the next day was held in position with two guns near the Murfreesboro' pike in reserve, where it remained until ordered forward across the river. Company E, 1st Ohio artillery, Captain Edgarton, was posted, on the night of the 30th December, on the extreme right and in front of battery A, in position to guard a country road, horses harnessed all night. At daylight of 31st horses were sent to water; at the firing of the pickets horses were hitched in, or at least one-half, and others immediately returned. Two shells were thrown in the direction of the enemy, still invisible, and as they appeared six rounds of canister were thrown with great effect. The vigorous attack of the enemy in front and flank, and the loss of many horses, rendered it necessary to abandon the battery, after, however, a determined resistance, two cannoneers being bayoneted at the guns.

Captain Edgarton and Lieutenant Berwick were captured. 5th Indiana battery, Captain Simonson, was first put in position on the morning of the 31st, about one-half mile to the right of the six-mile pike, upon which the right wing advanced upon an open field, with the battery fronting to the west. Here the right section was temporarily detailed, by order of Colonel Baldwin, and ordered to the left and front. About four hundred yards from this position the battery fell back with the division, and were ordered, by Brigadier General Johnson, to take another position on the crest, about two hundred yards to the right of the Murfreesboro' pike, and near to the right of Major General Rousseau's division, which position it retained until ordered to retire.

The next ground taken was in the open space to the left, and about twenty-five yards from the railroad, where it remained until about sunset, when General Johnson ordered the battery to the left of his division, about one hundred and eighty-five yards to the right of the Murfreesboro' pike, opposite the headquarters of Major General Rousseau, where they remained until ordered to cross Stone river, January 5. The battery lost two guns.

First division.—The artillery in this division is composed of the following batteries, and had the following guns: 5th Wisconsin, Captain Piney, attached to Colonel Post's brigade; 2d Minnesota, Captain Hotchkiss, attached to Colonel Carlin's brigade; 8th Wisconsin, Captain Carpenter, attached to Colonel Woodruff's brigade. Four 10-pounder Parrotts, eight 6-pounder

EXCERPT #2

smooth-bore, four 12-pounder howitzers. Captain Piney's battery, which, with his brigade, was on the extreme right of the army, on the 30th, after driving the enemy to enable the skirmishers to advance to the open fields, or front, took position, with horses in harness, for the night. After dark two brigades of the 2d division took position on the right. On the morning of the 31st, upon the falling back of these two brigades, the battery changed front to the right, to meet the enemy rapidly approaching by the right and rear, supported by the 59th Illinois and posted in a cornfield, where they opened fire with canister, checking temporarily the advance of the enemy. However, being unopposed on the right, the position became untenable, and the battery was withdrawn, leaving Captain Piney dangerously wounded, with the loss of some eighteen horses and one gun. The balance of the battery was dragged to the rear by the assistance of the 59th Illinois. Near the Nashville pike it was charged upon by cavalry, who were driven off by the 4th regiment cavalry, and took position behind Overall's creek, on a hill to the right of the pike, where they remained all night.

The next morning their position was on the left of the pike, where breastworks were thrown up in a position to enfilade the enemy's lines. At this point a rebel battery opening was soon silenced by a few Parrott shot. In the afternoon of the next day the battery, with its brigade, were ordered to cross the Stone river, where they were put into position, throwing up breastworks, and where they remained until two o'clock on the morning of January 4, when they recrossed the river, taking their position on the right, where they remained until January 6, 1863.

2d Minnesota battery, Captain Hotchkiss.—This battery moved on the 30th with its brigade to the right of the Wilkinson pike, until the withdrawal of skirmishers, when the battery opened with canister and spherical case with effect. When the first line of the brigade had arrived at the point about one hundred and eighty yards from the house of Mrs. William Smith, two batteries, one about one hundred yards west of the house, and another on the east of the house, two hundred and fifty yards distant, opened fire on the 21st Illinois and 15th Wisconsin volunteers. These batteries were soon silenced by another to the right, about five hundred yards, enfilading. The brigade was driven off by a well-directed fire from this battery. Before daylight, on the morning of the 31st, the battery was retired two hundred yards; soon after which the brigade was vigorously attacked and obliged to fall back across the open fields and entered a wood about two hundred yards east of Gresion's house, when several rounds were fired with destructive effect.

The command was again retired about one mile, and went into position in the edge of a cedar grove, from whence they again retired to the railroad. The next position was near the Nashville pike, four miles from Murfreesboro'.

On January 2, under order of Major General Rosecrans, the brigade and battery were sent to the left, crossing Stone river at the ford, relieving Colonel Hazen, where they remained until January 4.

The 8th Wisconsin battery, Captain Carpenter, at about 11 o'clock, 30th December, were posted on the edge of a cotton-field, in front of a wood running parallel with the pike, facing southeast, placed in the interval between General Sill's right and the left of its (Colonel Woodruff's) brigade.

At about 3 o'clock the command was moved forward, with heavy skirmishing. The right of the brigade being well advanced, were halted, and remained until support should come up. The battery was placed at the angle of the fence, to protect the right and front, when it received a heavy fire, occasionally replying with shell, until towards night, when the enemy opened a heavy artillery fire on the right of Carlin's brigade, which was silenced in handsome style in a few minutes. Colonel Carlin's brigade being attacked at about the same time, this battery again opened with such effect as to effectually check the attack.

Company K: Sergeant Charles Hill, scalp; Privates A. W. Duffey, shoulder; and Charles Peterson, arm.

EIGHTY-EIGHTH ILLINOIS REGIMENT.

Killed.—Company B: Private Abram Wern.

Wounded.—Company F: Privates E. A. Day, ankle; M. H. Watts, knee; and Levi D. Drake, foot. Company H: Captain George W. Smith, left leg.

TWENTY-FOURTH WISCONSIN REGIMENT.

Killed.—Company K: Private Henry Pluff.

Wounded.—Company A: Lieutenant George Bleyer, leg. Company D: Private J. M. Jeffries, body and both hands. Company K: Private J. W. Powell, shoulder.

FOURTH INDIANA BATTERY.

Wounded.—Sergeant John Young, head; Privates Charles Howe, arm; and W. C. Kirk, thigh.

HEADQUARTERS 1ST BRIGADE, 1ST DIVISION,
RIGHT WING 14TH ARMY CORPS,
In camp south of Murfreesboro', January 9, 1862.

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the 1st brigade in the late engagements resulting in the taking of Murfreesboro'.

In compliance with the order of Brigadier General Davis, commanding division, we left camp, at St. James Chapel, at daylight on the 26th day of December, 1862, and marched in the direction of Nolensville, this brigade being in advance. We soon came upon the enemy's cavalry. Company B, 36th Illinois cavalry, under the direction of Captain Pease, of Brigadier General Davis's staff, occupied the road, and the 59th Illinois infantry was thrown out as skirmishers on each side of it. A lively skirmish was kept up until we reached Nolensville, when the enemy appeared in force and opened upon the brigade with artillery.

The left of our line of battle rested upon the pike, the right occupying a hill commanding the town. Captain Pinney's 5th Wisconsin battery opened upon the enemy and drove them from the town.

A large force of cavalry was seen moving to the right and dismounting with the evident intention of attacking our right and rear and dislodging us from the hill. The 22d regiment Indiana infantry was moved to the right to repel this attack, and Colonel Carlin's and Woodruff's brigades, deployed, by order of Brigadier General Davis, upon our right, soon came up, and the enemy were driven from their position and forced to withdraw their artillery.

This brigade, on the left of the line of battle, moved forward up the pike leading to Triune—Pinney's battery being, on the pike, the 22d Indiana and the 74th Illinois on its right, and the 75th and 59th Illinois on its left. The enemy were posted in a position of great natural strength about two miles from Nolensville, on the right and left of the pike, with one section of artillery on and the remainder near the road. Pinney's battery, from a knoll to the left of the pike, opened at short range with all his guns, and this brigade, on the left of Colonel Carlin's, marched steadily forward, driving the enemy from the hill, where they were compelled to abandon one piece of artillery. This march had been made in a drenching rain, and the men, exhausted by their exertions upon the muddy road and the excitements of the day, bivouacked on the field, for the

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MAJ. GEN W. S ROSECRANS, USA
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possession of which they had fought. The following day this brigade marched in rear of Colonel Carlin's nearly to Triune, it raining constantly and being very cold.

December 29 we marched in rear of Colonel Woodruff's brigade, on the "Bole Jack," road, towards Murfreesboro'. About two miles from Overall's creek, by order of Brigadier General Davis, I deployed the brigade on the right of the road, and moved forward nearly to the creek, where we bivouacked in the rain without fires.

In the morning of December 30 we marched across the fields on the right of the Wilkinson pike, the 74th and 75th regiments Illinois infantry deployed on the right of Colonel Carlin's brigade, and being the right of the entire army, the 59th regiments Illinois infantry in reserve to support the battery, and the 22d regiment Indiana infantry in a position to protect the right flank from the enemy's cavalry, which were continually hovering about and engaging the skirmishers. I directed Captain Sher, who, by order of Brigadier General Davis, reported to me with company B, 36th Illinois cavalry, to throw out skirmishers and march upon our right flank, where he repeatedly engaged and drove back the cavalry threatening our line. The skirmishing in front grew more brisk, and late in the afternoon the enemy were found in force, strongly posted, and opened upon us with artillery from our front and right, killing one and wounding several men. Captain Hale, acting as major of the 75th Illinois, and Lieutenant Hall, of my staff, each had a horse killed under them.

General Kirk's brigade at this time moved into position upon our right.

Captain Pinney's battery drove back the enemy from our front, and under cover of his fire our skirmishers were advanced to the open field, when night closed the contest. The men lay down without fires or shelter, and in the morning were awakened and standing in order of battle one hour before the first dawn of light. The battery horses stood at their pieces during the night ready for any emergency.

As soon as it become light the enemy were discovered moving in great numbers towards our right and nearly parallel with our line, with the evident design of turning the right wing of the army. I immediately despatched Lieutenant Jones, of my staff, to inform Brigadier General Davis.

The right of the brigade extended into a dense and almost impenetrable thicket of cedars, connecting there with the left of General Kirk's brigade, and in that direction nothing could be seen on account of the thicket. For more than half an hour the enemy's dark columns flowed towards our right where the volleys of musketry and their advancing cheers from that direction assured me that they had driven the brigades on our right from their position, and were already in our rear, and I accordingly changed front nearly perpendicularly to the rear to meet them.

The 74th Illinois, Colonel Jason Marsh, and the 75th Illinois, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel J. E. Bennett, were stationed behind a fence in the edge of the timber. By order of Brigadier General Davis several companies were added to our force of skirmishers, and under his direction Pinney's battery took position in a cornfield with the 59th Illinois infantry, commanded by Captain H. E. Payne, supporting it on the left. Perceiving that the enemy were still far beyond our right, I deployed my reserve regiment, the 22d Indiana, Colonel Gooding commanding, on the right of the battery. The 6th regiment Indiana infanty, having been separated from its brigade, was placed about four hundred paces in rear as a reserve.

Captain Pinney opened upon the advancing line with all his guns, and when they came within range of his canister and the fire of the supporting regiment the execution was so great that the entire line recoiled before it, but after temporary confusion they were rallied and lay down. The enemy opened a battery upon the hill and advanced a second line.

Captain Pinney's guns were splendidly handled, and great credit is due to

Lieutenants Humphreys, Gardner, and Mr. Knight, and to the men of the company for their promptness and skill. No shots were wasted over the heads of the enemy. For about thirty minutes this fierce contest continued, while the enemy on our right had advanced so as to again endanger our rear.

As those in front rallied and charged upon the battery on the double quick, the 59th Illinois regiment fixed bayonets to receive them, but with the large force unopposed upon our right the position was already untenable, even though that in front were repulsed, and I ordered the battery withdrawn.

Captain Pinney was dangerously, if not mortally, wounded. He fell and was left on the spot where he executed his most gallant deeds. Lieutenant Colonel Tanner, of the 22d Indiana, and many others seriously wounded, were left upon the field.

Eighteen of the battery horses were disabled, and one gun in consequence could not be brought off. One Parrott gun had but two wounded horses before it. I ordered the 59th regiment to drag the guns to the rear. As the battery reached the Nashville pike it was charged upon by cavalry and partially captured, but they were quickly driven away by the 4th regiment regular cavalry, and crossing Overall's creek it took a position, under the direction of Lieutenant Hall, on a hill to the right of the Nashville pike, from which it repeatedly shelled, and drove back the enemy's cavalry endeavoring to take possession of the road.

The 74th and 75th Illinois regiments fell back across the cotton-field, and under the direction of Lieutenant Jones, who also rallied a number of detachments from other regiments, made a determined resistance, again checking the foe. The fresh troops from the reserves here relieved the brigade, and I proceeded to the pike, reformed my shattered battalions, and supplied them with ammunition.

I was soon ordered by Brigadier General Davis to move up the pike and take position on the right of the line, and here, exhausted, the men lay down for the night. The next morning I was ordered to occupy the open field to the left of the pike, where I caused a breastwork to be thrown up, the battery being in position to enfilade an enemy's lines attempting an attack. A strong force of skirmishers was thrown out, covering our front and right. The enemy opened a battery upon us, but after a few well-directed shells from Pinney's Parrott gun they ceased firing. During the following day the constant skirmishing was kept up on our front, and a number of prisoners were taken. Late in the afternoon we were ordered to cross Stone river. The stream was swollen from the heavy rains, but the entire brigade, hearing the volleys of musketry on the other side, plunged into it with cheers and debouched upon the field which was still being contended for, and, rapidly forming, hurried to the front. All that stormy night the men who had been previously soaked in fording the river stood by their arms without fires, the 22d Indiana and 75th Illinois busily engaged in constructing a breastwork. During the night our pickets, under charge of Major Dutcher, of the 74th Illinois, contested for the possession of the fields and woods in our front, and advanced a considerable distance. Substantial breastworks were completed during January 3 under a constant fire of sharpshooters, and at night, in a pouring rain, the men again lay upon their arms. At 2 o'clock the next morning the battery was ordered to recross the river, and at 4 o'clock, in a torrent of rain, the brigade forded the swollen stream and took its former position on the right, where it remained until January 6, when, passing through Murfreesboro', we encamped at this place.

During the long contest, and notwithstanding the extreme inclemency of the weather and the scarcity of provisions, no word of complaint was heard. Officers and men seemed alike anxious to do their full duty as patriot soldiers. In our advance they pushed forward boldly, and when greatly superior numbers were hurled against them they awaited the onset with the utmost coolness and determination. The temporary confusion which occurred when they fell back was caused, to a considerable extent, by the large force of skirmishers thrown out to

check the enemy, having been driven towards the left instead of directly upon their own regiments. The deliberation and order with which the 74th Illinois retired is especially commended.

During the series of engagements the several regimental commanders displayed great persistence and resolution, and everywhere encouraged their men.

Too much praise cannot be awarded to the dauntless and skilful Captain Pinney, whose characteristic conduct elicited compliment even from his foes.

I herewith transmit the reports of the regimental and battery commanders, together with a full list of casualties.

The gallant bearing of Captain Hale, of the 75th Illinois, who had chief command of the skirmishers; of Captain Litson, of the 22d Indiana, and of Sergeant P. S. Furguson, of company G, 59th Illinois, one of the skirmishers, is deserving of mention. Assistant Surgeon Corbus, of the 75th Illinois, and Assistant Surgeon Bunce, of the 59th Illinois, remained with and took care of our wounded while the fight was raging around them.

The zeal and decision shown by Lieutenants Jones, Hall, Hatch, and Baker, members of my staff, and the intrepidity of my faithful orderly, George Fogle, demands my highest commendation.

The names of the self-constituted messengers who carried to Nashville with such unparalleled celerity the tidings of the battle of December 31 have already been forwarded. In the hour of trial showing themselves false as the news they manufactured and disseminated, their infamy only makes more bright by contrast the imperishable record of those who nobly struggled or bravely fell in that unequal contest.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. SIDNEY POST,
Colonel Commanding 1st Brigade.

Lieutenant T. W. MORRISON,
Acting Assistant Adjutant General, 1st Division.

List of casualties in the first brigade, first division, right wing, fourteenth army corps, in the engagements before Murfreesboro'.

Twenty-second regiment Indiana infantry, (Colonel Gooding.)

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas B. Tanner, severely wounded and a prisoner.

Company A, (Second Lieutenant John Gooding.)—Wounded: Corpor Thomas Bliten, severely in thigh; Privates John Brooks, severely in back Thomas Myrar, slightly in left arm; William Putz, slightly in left arm.

Company B, (First Lieutenant A. D. Sawyer.)—Wounded: Second Lieutenant W. H. Inland, slightly in left leg; Privates G. W. Boas, slightly in le leg; Thomas Thompson, severely in left leg and arm.

Company C, (Captain W. H. Taggard.)—Wounded: Corporal William Se severely in left thigh; Privates Josephus Smith, slightly in left leg and fac David A. Whitehorn, slightly in right leg. Prisoner: William Hobbs.

Company D, (Second Lieutenant Patrick Carney.)—Wounded: Privat George W. Morris, slightly in left ankle; Alfred Coffman, slightly in left han Missing: Corporal George Bard; Privates Elerius Barwill, Walter Harris and Calvin Ogle.

Company E, (Captain W. H. Snodgrass.)—Killed: Sergeant Patrick Madd and Private Samuel W. Leap. Wounded: Privates Thomas A. Wilson, severe in right thigh; William H. Davis, slightly in thumb; Levi Kelso, severely right hand; Henry W. Bard, slightly in left hand; William Thompson, severe in right foot; Josiah W. Snyder, severely in left shoulder. Missing: Fr erick Holt, James Cain, and Henry Jordan.