

10<sup>th</sup> SC

miring friends in the Legislature placed him in an official position, which made it his duty to remain in the State; and before the war ended he succumbed to his disease, and yielded up his life, as much a victim of the war as those who fell by shot and shell.

All this was done simply, unassumingly, as if a mere matter of course, involving no self-sacrifice. He thought it shame to withdraw any of his property from the State, but left it all to abide the fortunes of the Confederacy.

The State has had many sons more distinguished in her annals and in the field, but none whose record of "duties well performed, and days well spent," is more complete than his, and when she shall make up the roll of her tried and true sons, few names will be inscribed higher than that of Plowden Weston!

His life, although more conspicuous from his position and surroundings, was but a type of very many others which were freely given for the State they loved."

## CHAPTER IV.

### MURFREESBORO' CAMPAIGN.

Again "forward" and across the Cumberland Mountains to occupy Middle Tennessee, regained from the enemy by the Kentucky campaign. Moving by rail to Stevenson and thence by foot to Tullahoma, and after a brief stay there, on to Murfreesboro'. While at Tullahoma the novel expedient was tried of building a chimney to a tent—we had tents then. The rash radical who first tried the experiment, received the usual ridicule which reformers are always treated to, and the Regiment assembled to see the tent consumed when the fire was kindled. No such result ensued, the invention was a grand success, and before a week passed, every tent in the Brigade possessed a clay chimney.

Christmas in camp—our first since leaving home—was a merry day. All ranks were levelled, and every one joined in its sports. The country was ransacked for our Christmas dinners—dinners served with the best sauce, a good appetite.

The condition of the Regiment was splendid.

We had all received new clothes and full rations, and the health of the command was fine. On 10th December the sick list was only 15.

Rosencrans very considerably allowed due time for our Christmas dinners to digest, before advancing from Nashville. But on the 28th we were moved out to our position in line for the battle of Murfreesboro'. Withers' Division was posted on the left centre, Manigault's Brigade on the left centre of the Division, and the 10th Regiment on the right of the Brigade. Col. Manigault was in command of the Brigade and Lieut. Col. Pressley of the Regiment.

Murfreesboro' was a gentlemanly fight—tactically as well as strategically. Our cavalry being duly driven in, the Yankee cavalry attacked our infantry pickets, were repulsed, and the enemies pickets increasing their pickets to a line, drove our pickets slowly back and endeavored to develop our main line, which we prevented by an increase of our picket strength. Now came the battle. His right being protected by Stone River, Bragg extended and strengthened his left, assuming the offensive at day break on the last day of 1862. He moved to the attack by Brigades in echelon from the left, surprising the enemy and driving his right wing from every position. Rosencrans formed

a second line along the Nolensville Pike, almost at right angles to his former line, which checked the Confederates long enough to enable him to form his reserves and left wing in line on the Nashville Pike, behind nearly all his artillery, concentrated on a most commanding position.

The line of the Nolensville Pike was carried, and the Confederates pushed on through the cedar thicket, out to the open plain swept by over a hundred guns. Our victorious left wing being too much weakened by the two hard fights to attack this position, the troops of our right wing were thrown in, charged gallantly, but only to be repulsed—the position was too strong. The day closed with the enemy occupying their last position on the hill, and the weary Confederates in the cedar thicket at its foot, with their right wing crossing the Nashville Pike and protecting Murfreesboro'.

Such is the outline of our first general engagement. Now to the part the 10th Regiment took in it. When the Yankee cavalry first attacked our line, they struck to the right of Company A, which was on the right of our Brigade pickets. The picket line on our right had been re-adjusted just before, leaving a gap and through

this, a squadron of cavalry rode in. Capt. C. C. White hearing of the gap, had gone to the right of his Company to arrange it, was surrounded and captured with the two right groups of his pickets. Leaving a Lieutenant and squad in charge of these disarmed Confederates, the squadron dashed in to the rear of the line. Seeing the Lieutenant tremulous, Capt. White in his stentorian voice commanded "Company A, rally on the right." Rallying, they hesitated to shoot for fear of wounding their friends. "Never mind us, fire!" came from Capt. White, and grappling their captors, the prisoners secured them, regained their arms and rejoined their Company.\*

Company A promptly changed front to meet the squadron; Company B closed up, and the cavalry was driven off. Col. Pressley, Brigade officer of the day, arrived on the ground with Company C. Another charge from a fresh squadron, which was handsomely repulsed, and the Yankee cavalry had enough, having lost one Major and thirteen men killed, besides one Major and many men wounded and some prisoners.

On the 30th, the picket fight amounted almost

\*Capt. White was then 1st Lieutenant Commanding, and was promoted Captain on the field for distinguished gallantry.

to a battle. Early in the morning the Federal infantry began pressing forward, and gradually driving in our picket line, until about 3 P. M., it was only about one hundred and fifty yards from the main line of battle. A determined effort by the Federal infantry and artillery to drive them into the line and develope it, was frustrated by an equally determined stand. At one time it required more than half the Regiment on its picket line.

The enemy now established his main line about 500 yards from ours, not so near in the days of smooth bore muskets as it now seems. Confident in their strength, they lighted their fires at nightfall, prepared their suppers and passed the camp joke, within our sight and hearing. On our line silence and darkness reigned, we spoke only in a whisper and not a fire or light was to be seen. During the night the orders for the next day were received.

Before day break on the 31st we quietly took our places in ranks and calmly awaited the signal to move. The roar of musketry is now heard on the extreme left—nearer and nearer it rolls down the line, amid the victorious cheers of the Confederates. Forward goes the 34th Alabama, the 28th Alabama, the 24th Alabama. The 19th South Carolina moves up

and the 10th wheels into position. The movement being on the right of the 10th Regiment as a pivot, neither the 10th or 19th South Carolina were advanced very much, but they received a heavy fire. Success has covered the movement. The batteries which annoyed us in the picket fight of the day before, are now within our lines. The enemy has disappeared from our front and we move up to find him. A battery on the Nolensville Pike shows the position of the foe. Manigault is told that it is unsupported and ordered to capture it. The 10th South Carolina Regiment, supported by the 19th South Carolina, is detailed for the work. Pushing vigorously through the cedars, they drive in the pickets, the picket reserve one line of battle and find the battery on the far side of the Pike, on a hill, with two high rail fences in its front. The fire of the Yankee line is concentrated on the two Regiments. They halt under the shelter of the trees and rocks, and pour in a disastrous fire. Now only one gun of the battery is replying, the remainder are manned only by the dead and dying. But the terrible concentrated fire is almost too much for the gallant Carolinians. A shout is heard in the rear. The Brigades moves up to our support. Anderson on the right moves

victoriously forward, the Tennesseans on our left advance and the enemy now pressed on all sides, gives way, and we follow, sweeping over the battery captured by the South Carolina Regiments. Through the cedar thicket to the West of the Pike we press in hot haste and debouch on the open field. The very earth now quakes with the thunder of Rosencrans' concentrated artillery. The air seems filled with crashing, bursting shells. The tried Confederates waver, halt, reform at the edge of the wood, too weak to carry this last position of the enemy. The sharp rattle of musketry is heard to our right. Breckenridge's Division, fresh from the right, attacks the hill, but is driven back. Gradually the fire ceases, at dark the pickets are thrown out, our lines adjusted, details made to carry off the wounded and bury the dead, and we sleep on our arms.

We pass over the horrors of that night. The mourning over lost friends, the counting of vacant places, all around us the mangled bodies of the slain and from the ground between the picket lines comes the piteous, heart-rending cries of the wounded and dying. Our litter bearers venturing out to relieve the sufferings of the wounded enemy (for nearly all those who fell here were Yankees) were driven away

from their godly labor by the fire of the enemies pickets.

For the next three days we remained in the same position and not further engaged, as we took no part in the fight on the right. Exhaustion and exposure to the dreadful weather were telling on the army. The river in our rear was rapidly rising and becoming unfordable, so on the night of the 3d January, 1863, Bragg quietly fell back to the line of Duck river, the Camp of Manigault's Brigade being near Shelbyville, Tenn.

The loss of the Regiment was 118 killed and wounded. The battery of Napoleon Guns, captured by the 10th and 19th South Carolina Regiments, was given to them by General Bragg, "for brilliant deeds on the battlefield of Murfreesboro," inscribed with the names of four of the gallant dead, and to be presented by the two Regiments to General Beauregard, commanding the Department of South Carolina, as a trophy of the battle. The captured Battery was sent to him under an escort detailed for their distinguished gallantry in the action.

The following is General Bragg's address to the Army after the battle:

HEAD-QUARTERS, ARMY OF TENNESSEE,  
WINCHESTER, January 8th, 1863.

*Soldiers of the Army of Tennessee:*

Your gallant deeds have won the admiration of your General, your Government and your Country. For myself I thank you and am proud of you. For them I tender you the gratitude and praise you have so nobly won.

In a campaign of less than one month, in the face of winter, your achievements have been unparalleled. You have captured more than ten thousand prisoners, taken and preserved thirty pieces of artillery and seven thousand small arms, in addition to many thousand destroyed. You have besides captured eight hundred wagons, loaded chiefly with supplies, which have been destroyed or brought safely to your lines, and in pitched battles you have driven the enemy before you, inflicting a loss at least three to one greater than you have sustained.

\* \* \* \* \* Soldiers! the proudest reflection of your General's life is to be known as the commander of an army so brave and invincible as you have proven. He asks no higher boon than to lead such men to victory. To share their trials and to stand or fall with them will be the crown of his ambition.

BRAXTON BRAGG,

*General Commanding.*

The remainder of the winter and all the spring, was spent in the quiet of winter quarters at Shelbyville—relieved only by an occasional hour of picket duty, and such amusements as could be improvised in camp.

The casualties of actual service having greatly reduced the various commands, a general consolidation of companies and regiments was made in January, 1863. The 10th S. C. and 19th S. C. Regiments were consolidated; the

field officers of the 10th S. C. Regiment being all retained. The 10th Regiment furnished six Companies, as follows:

1st Company, Companies A and G, commanded by Capt. C. C. White.

2d Company, Companies C and D, commanded by Capt. R. Z. Harllee.

3d Company, Companies H and I, commanded by Capt. W. J. M. Lee.

4th Company, Companies E and L, commanded by Capt. G. P. Anderson.

5th Company, Companies K and M, commanded by Capt. J. S. Palmer.

6th Company, Companies B and F, commanded by Capt. W. J. Tolar.

A full quota of officers was retained, and all over this sent to the places of enlistment of their Companies to recruit.

We remained near Shelbyville until the latter part of June, when the new campaign opened.

## CHAPTER V.

### CHICKAMAUGA CAMPAIGN.

We had seen the snows of winter slowly disappearing from the fertile hills of Middle Tennessee—the green wheat cover the fields, ripen, the harvest commenced and the grain all but gathered into the Confederate graineries. But the fruitful promise of plenty was never realized, as Rosencrans, largely reinforced, advanced on us. Bragg concentrated at Tullahoma, offering battle, which Rosencrans declined and moved on our communications. Bragg retired, recrossed the Cumberland Mountains and the Tennessee River, and took up position around Chattanooga.

Why these magnificent barriers, the mountains and the river were never used by either side as a line of defence, seems strange. When we advanced into Kentucky, neither was used by the enemy. Shiloh and Chickamauga were both on the south bank of the Tennessee, the Federal advance across the river in either case, having been unimpeded. If Johnston's army, which won so complete a victory the first day at Shiloh, and Bragg's, which won its only complete