

THE  
**HISTORY**  
OF THE  
84TH REG'T ILL. VOLS.

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KENTUCKY CAMPAIGN

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History will prove tedious, abridge and condense as best we may. Before we close, we will endeavor to show the actual loss of the Regiment, from the time we left Louisville, until we encamped near Nashville. We will also state the loss of each company, in each battle and campaign, and the whole number of casualties during the whole term of service.

In closing this chapter we cannot forbear mentioning the fact, that throughout this memorable campaign our honored Colonel did all in his power to lighten our burdens, to secure all the supplies that could be obtained and by his constant cheerfulness and sympathy, won the affection and admiration of every man in the Regiment. He was to us not a severe and rigid commander, but seemed an elder brother enduring with us all our hardships and privations, never anxious on his own account, but always attentive to the wants of his Regiment.

CHAPTER III.

REORGANIZATION OF THE ARMY—THE MARCH TO STONE RIVER AND DESCRIPTION OF THE BATTLE.

About the middle of November, Gen. Buell having made a complete failure of the Kentucky campaign, was superseded by Gen. Rosecrans. This announcement was received with shouts of joy throughout the whole army, for Gen. Buell had become very unpopular; yes, hated and despised by all under his command; and after the battle of Perryville, as long as he had command, the soldiers cursed him day by day on the wearisome and profitless march. Almost as soon as General Rosecrans took command he organized a Pioneer Brigade, which was made up of two or three men from each company of each Regiment in each division. This took from our Regiment about twenty-five men, and many of them were among the best we had. Gen. Rosecrans immediately reorganized the army, and without changing position, we were informed that our Regiment was in the 3rd Brigade (Col. William Gross commanding), of the 2nd Division (Gen. Soucy Smith commanding), of the 21st Army Corps, under command of Maj. Gen. Crittenden.

The brass band which had been organized with the Regiment was no longer allowed to remain a regimental

band, but was detailed as a brigade band, and removed their quarters from the Regiment to Brigade Headquarters. We were very proud of our band, one of the finest in the army, and were sorry to lose it, but there was no alternative. At the same time the Quartermaster and Commissary departments, which had heretofore been under the control and direction of one class of officers, were entirely separated, and ever after continued distinct "institutions," each having its own officers and employes. Up to this time the Quartermaster of each Regiment had imposed upon him the onerous duty of drawing the necessary rations from the Brigade or Division Quartermasters, of transporting and issuing them to the several companies of his Regiment, in the same manner as clothing, camp and garrison equipage, but from this time forward, the rations were issued by the Brigade Commissary to the Commissary Sergeant of each Regiment, who issued to the company. As a Regiment we were fortunate in having a very energetic and competent Quartermaster, Lieut. S. L. Roe, but the severe incessant and arduous duties which fell to his lot on the Kentucky campaign, often requiring him to be in the saddle a considerable part of the night as well as day, impaired his health, so that on the 17th of November he felt it his imperative duty to resign. We were sorry to lose so capable and industrious an officer, and to be deprived of his valuable services in this important position. The place was temporarily supplied by the detail of Lieut. Joseph Nelson, of co. F, as acting Regimental Quartermaster.

We remained in camp near Nashville from November 26th, 1862, to December 26th, 1862, during which period we were constantly drilling, when not employed on other duty. Every fifth day the Regiment was on picket, and almost as often was sent out to guard forage trains or on a scout. On one of these expeditions, we

during the month, before Christmas, the men unable to march were sent off to hospitals, and from this, as well as other preparations we were well aware that a general movement would speedily take place. On the morning of Dec. 26th, all the sick and ailing were sent off to Convalescent Camp, and the remainder directed to be ready to march at 6 a. m., each man to carry only his overcoat and one blanket, and all our tents and camp equipage to be left behind.

So severely had our Regiment suffered from the diseases incident to the transition from the life of a citizen to that of a soldier, initiated as it was to actual service by a march of several hundred miles, through a country where for weeks good water could seldom be obtained, and undergoing within the space of a month the change from almost Summer's heat to early Winter's frost and snow, so that when we started on the march from Nashville toward Murfreesboro, there were of the whole Regiment fit for duty, only 25 officers and 337 enlisted men, the remainder being in convalescent camps and hospitals.

About 7 o'clock a. m. December 26th, Gen. Crittenden's Corps, now consisting of Gen. Palmer's, Gen. Woods and Gen. Van Cleve's Divisions marched out on the Murfreesboro Pike, and were scarcely in motion before the rain began to fall, rendering the air damp and chilly, and the roads muddy and slippery. It was currently reported that Gen. Thomas and Gen. McCook were moving on the Nolansville Pike, which we eventually learned was correct. Gen. McCook's position was on the right, Gen. Thomas' in the center and Gen. Crittenden's on the left. Gen. Palmer's division was in the latter, and the 3d Brigade to which we belonged, was near the center of the corps. Some ten miles from Nashville the enemy's pickets were driven in, and a sharp skirmish was continued till we came in sight of

believe it was on the 29th of November, our Regiment came very near getting into an engagement with greatly superior numbers on the Nolansville Pike, it had however only a slight skirmish and retired in good order. The event was ever afterward jocosely referred to as the "Battle of Apple Jack." While in this camp we were well supplied with the usual army rations and furnished with all the clothing we desired. The camp seemed to be in a healthy location, but the health of our Regiment instead of improving, as had been anticipated, almost daily grew worse. The sick list constantly increased instead of diminished, and daily our ambulances were loaded for the hospital, which must be attributed to privations and exposure endured on the march thither. The effect continued long after the primary cause was removed, as the heat of summer, though caused by the more nearly vertical rays of the sun, is more intense days, and often weeks, after the rays begin to fall less vertically upon the earth.

About the 1st of December Gen. Palmer superseded Gen. Smith in command of the 2d Division, which was especially gratifying to our Regiment as Gen. Smith was far from being popular, and Gen. Palmer was from our own State.

On the 2d of December Gen. Rosecrans had a grand review of the whole army under his command—and our Regiment, for the first time, took part in this necessary, but very wearisome mode of inspection. Several times the enemy, who were encamped near Murfreesboro, were reported advancing upon Nashville, and everything was placed in readiness for an attack; but these reports originated from scouting parties reconnoitering our lines, the enemy's advance posts being in the neighborhood of Laverge, fifteen miles from Nashville. The weather during this month continued very pleasant, though we had some snow and frequent rains. Every few days

Laverge, fifteen miles from Nashville, where the enemy made a stand. The 2d division was not engaged, and our brigade halted for the night, on the left of the pike, about three miles from town. It had rained all day and continued a good part of the night.

The morning of the 27th was foggy, and very little advance was made until near noon. About this time the enemy was driven from the town, and the army advanced along the pike steadily skirmishing with the enemy's cavalry. We halted for the night near Stewart's Creek, some five miles from Laverge, and ten miles from Murfreesboro. It had rained all the afternoon, and we thought we were having pretty rough weather for an offensive movement and campaign. Just before sunset the dense clouds broke away in the West, and a double rainbow, very bright and beautiful spanned the sky in our front. A few centuries ago this might have been considered a ghastly omen, but to men of this age, wet and weary with marching, it was simply a natural phenomenon, an object of remarkable beauty, beheld for a few moments, and speedily forgotten. Our camp was on the very same ground of one lately occupied by the enemy that the fires were not yet out. The creek was about a mile in our front, and after dark we could see the camp fires of the enemy across the bluffs on the opposite side. On the morning of the 28th we moved to the brow of the hill, half a mile from the creek, and formed in line of battle, where we remained all day, Sunday, with the enemy's pickets in full view upon the opposite bluffs. On the morning of the 29th, the 36th Indiana formed in a line of battle on our right, and the Brigade advanced, our left resting on the pike. We immediately waded the creek about waist deep, and advanced along the pike in line of battle.—We heard heavy skirmishing several miles to our right, and from this apprehended that the whole army was in

motion. During this days march, in line of battle, our Brigade (81) was arranged as follows: Mendenhall's (4th U. S.) Battery on the pike, 84th Ills., 36th Ind. and 23d Kentucky in front line of battle; 6th and 24th Ohio in the second line of battle, some eighty or a hundred yards in our rear. Two companies of each advance regiment were four or five hundred yards ahead as skirmishers, and three or four times during the day were engaged, but as soon as a gun of the battery could get into position the enemy fell back. At dusk we were about two miles from Murfreesboro, and within about a mile of Stone's River, our Regiment's left resting on the pike, our right in the edge of a thick cedar grove, the 30th Indiana in the center on our right and the 23d Kentucky fell back on a line with the 24th and 6th Ohio, a short distance in our rear. Immediately in front of our Regiment was a cotton field of about forty acres, at the south-east corner of which a very large brick house was burning when we came up. It was reported that the enemy set fire to the out-buildings to make room for a battery and the house accidentally caught fire from them. The railroad from Nashville runs a short distance to the left of the pike, opposite where we lay, and crosses the pike some sixty rods below the cotton field; from this intersection of the railroad and pike to the river is about half a mile. The river is very crooked, and the bend where the pike crosses is the nearest point to Murfreesboro. The railroad for a mile or more before its intersection with the pike, runs nearly parallel with the general course of the river.

On the morning of the 30th, the 6th and 24th Ohio took a position about 150 yards in our front and were skirmishing all day. On our right we heard constant skirmishing, occasionally artillery, and once in the afternoon quite an engagement took place. We then understood that Gen. McCook was getting his corps into

## BATTLE OF STONE RIVER. 29

crowd of stragglers increased in number, each moment the firing became more rapid and nearer to us,

"Nearer, clearer, deadlier than before."

Until the advance regiments of our brigade, the 6th and 24th Ohio, were engaged, and for a few minutes we hoped they would be able to hold the thick cedar woods. They fought well a short time, but soon began to fall back. Their officers tried in vain to rally them, but they were rapidly falling into confusion and were forced to fall back. Before they came out of the woods, our regiment had laid down to be out of range of the shower of balls that whistled over and around us. On came the 6th and 24th Ohio Volunteers in full retreat. Our officers joined in trying to rally the 24th, a part of which passed directly over our regiment, but could prevail upon but few to stop and fall in with us. They rallied and formed about forty yards in our rear. Two batteries now opened, throwing shell and grape directly over us. Soon the enemy came out of the woods about three or four hundred yards in our front. Our boys sprang up with a loud shout and gave them a volley, then laid down and loaded and fired at will. We were partly protected by a low ledge of rocks, and the whole Regiment firing as fast as they could load, with the help of the batteries in a short time drove the enemy back into the woods, and soon after their firing gradually ceased. The leaden shower which had fallen like hail for at least an hour, stopped for a time, and we hoped, alas, how vainly! that the foe was effectually repulsed. While we were thus engaged, we had been exposed to a cross fire from a regiment of the enemy, who had advanced up the pike, on the left hand side.—We had several men wounded while in this position, but none killed.

Shortly after the enemy were driven back, our

position, and slowly driving Hardee's Corps back.

We had two men wounded in skirmishing on the 20th and on the 30th, the 6th and 24th Ohio lost several men. The enemy had a line of sharpshooters lying behind the railroad in rifle pits, which harassed our front line, and many a ball during the day whistled through the lines of the 84th. We knew a great battle was about to be fought, and the boys were anxious for the ball to open. On the morning of the 31st, the second brigade came up and relieved the 6th and 24th Ohio, and our brigade was retired about three hundred yards.

At daylight the battle commenced on the extreme right of the army and gradually drew nearer, and partly to our rear as though the enemy were turning our right flank. About 8 1-2 or 9 o'clock stragglers and runaways began to come from the right, who said their regiments and brigades were all cut to pieces. It was now evident that the whole army had been flanked during the night, and we afterwards learned that General Johnson's division was surprised and cut to pieces, almost without firing a gun. Our front was now changed to the west and we lay parallel with the Pike about seventy-five yards from it; the 6th and 24th Ohio in our front, in very thick cedar woods. Now out of the thick cedars came a host of fugitives from the broken Corps on our right. Terrible sight! hundreds, yes thousands of men, many of whom had thrown away guns, cartridge-boxes and knapsacks, each looking as though death was at each moment expected, terror the only expression upon their countenances, as through our lines they came, on a run or brisk walk, panting from fear and fatigue, and they could not, would not be rallied. Soon the heavy firing told that the enemy were sweeping all before them, and coming directly upon us, from our now front and right. Each moment the

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front was changed by a left half-wheel, and we marched forward very nearly to the position we occupied on the 30th, and during the night. Across the cotton field on the left hand side, (West) of the pike a Regiment of the enemy had taken position, lying down; and on our right, which was in the edge of the woods, we could see a heavy force, apparently coming upon the Brigade from the right. Our Regiment opened a brisk fire upon them as soon as it came into the position, which told upon the Regiment across the pike, as we could easily see, but upon the heavy force menacing our right it had no apparent effect. In the course of the next half hour, Col. Gross, commanding the Brigade, retired the left of our Regiment to make room for a battery, which swept the advancing columns of the enemy as they charged up towards the cedar woods. The Regiment immediately on the right of ours, fired briskly for a while, and valiantly maintained their position, but in the course of an hour began to fall back, which gave the enemy a strong position in the thick cedar woods, on our right; and now the balls came upon us in a perfect shower from that direction. Our Regiment was now terribly exposed, especially on the extreme right, for the enemy were coming in upon us through the thick cedars, giving us a perfectly enfilading fire. After enduring in this position a most withering and destructive fire for some time, perhaps an hour, and when the enemy were within about sixty yards, the right of the Regiment was retired so as to front the enemy, and now again fought desperately, every man working as though his life depended upon his own exertions. The enemy, in spite of our exertions, continued to advance, and were gradually turning our left flank, which seemed to be entirely unsupported or covered,

when our Regiment was again retired to a low ledge of rocks, about a hundred yards West of the pike, and here we fought nearly an hour longer. The "Board of Trade" battery was all the while throwing shell, grape and canister over our right, and Mendenhall's battery over our left, sweeping trees, underbrush, and the advancing enemy down at each discharge. The enemy was pouring in upon us a most galling fire as we lay in this position, the balls falling like hail in a heavy storm. At last, when we had been the only Regiment West of the pike for nearly an hour, the order came to retire, which was heard and obeyed by the left and centre, and afterwards the companies on the right followed across the pike, and then the railroad. The Regiment was in considerable confusion while falling back, from the fact that both wings had been severally retired, and the left and centre had the start of the right in executing the maneuver. The Board of Trade battery saved us very much, as we were falling back, and the officers and men of that splendid battery deserve great credit for the pertinacity with which they held their position by the railroad. Our great loss was at the ledge of rocks near the pike, and in falling back to the railroad. Here twenty-five of our Regiment fell dead, and scores were wounded. At and near the railroad a considerable portion of Gen. Palmer's Division had by this time rallied, and presenting a solid front, poured in a terrible galling fire upon the enemy who were struggling manfully forward across the partially open field between the cedars and the railroad. Soon the enemy began to find the fire too hot for them, and shortly after we fell back across the railroad, they retired into the woods. Our Regiment rallied on the West side of the railroad where they were under fire

from one of the enemy's batteries, planted on the opposite side of the river; so we were marched back some distance, probably a mile northwest, into the woods, where we stacked arms, and rested, after nearly six hours of incessant exertion.

Tears coursed down the cheeks of our brave Colonel when he counted only one hundred and thirteen guns in the stacks, and not a few cheeks that had not blanched in battle, were moistened with manly tears. Each survivor had lost comrades and friends, and several found near and dear kinsmen and brothers missing. But not all who were then and there absent were to be counted among the ten thousand killed and wounded on that terrible day of carnage and slaughter. Some were assisting their wounded friends from the field, and some were wandering about trying to find the balance of the Regiment. It was now late in the afternoon, and the battle was still fiercely raging, but the arrangement of troops was such that our services were not required, in the front line. We had been in the heat of the engagement for six terrible hours, and the Regiment was more than decimated, but the actual loss we could not then determine. The very decisive stand made by our Brigade and Division seems to have turned the tide of battle. Other Divisions rapidly came to the assistance of Gen. Palmer's Division, and the enemy was driven back a considerable distance towards the river that evening, and there held in check.

About dusk we moved still further back from the railroad, refreshed ourselves with such rations as we had brought off from the encounter, and when night came on stiff and exhausted from the day's effort, we laid down to sleep and rest, thinking of the old stanza,

"The bugles sang truce, the night clouds had lowered  
The sentinel stars set their watch in the sky,  
And thousands had sunk to the ground overpowered  
The weary to sleep, and the wounded to die."

Alas! how many were dying, every hour of that long, chilly comfortless night; who can describe the horrible sufferings of the thousands who were lying wounded on the field? With those who had escaped unscathed, it was a severe night, for we were so situated that fire could not be allowed, and lying on the frozen ground, with few blankets to cover us, we could only chill, shiver and ache with cold.

The next day, January 1st, 1863, but little fighting was done, though there was a great deal of manoeuvring for position, and some heavy cannonading. Our Regiment remained West of the railroad near the river, all day, and were not engaged. The wounded were being collected at hospitals, and numbered thousands. On Friday, Jan. 2nd, General Van Cleve's Division crossed the river nearly opposite where we had the hard fight on Wednesday, and advanced a short distance toward Murfreesboro; and our Brigade was ordered to cross, and take position in reserve or to support them. After crossing, Gen. Van Cleve's Division moved in a Southwesterly direction, and our Brigade commander arranged the Brigade in two lines of battle fronting Northwest and North, and then "about faced" each Regiment—so that the left of the 34th Ill. rested on the bluff next to the river, and the right extended out across the hill, where it joined the 6th Ohio—the other Regiments when "about faced" fronted nearly South almost at right angles with the foregoing. We mention these positions thus accurately because we have heard or read of no similarly accurate military movement or conduct, unless it be that of Gen. Pillow in digging

his famous ditch, at Comargo, during the Mexican war.

No sooner had Gen. Van Cleve's Division made a slight advance, than it was attacked by Gen. Breckinridge with five Brigades of infantry, some artillery and a heavy force of cavalry. Van Cleve's Division fought bravely a short time and then fell back, Brigade by Brigade, losing most of their artillery—part of it crossing the river where our main force lay.—Out of the woods into the open fields in our front, when we had "about faced," they came, in the greatest possible confusion. The whole division was in full retreat, and apparently taking one of those terrible stampedes which any troops will, when routed and pressed by the enemy. Each man seemed to be looking out only for himself, and making every possible effort to get out of danger. Out of the woods, pursuing them came the Brigades of the enemy in most splendid lines of battle, their colors flying and apparently secure of an easy and complete victory.

The 3rd Brigade had made a slight breastwork of logs, &c., behind which it was lying, and not a shot was fired until the enemy was within about three hundred yards. Then the 84th Ill. and 6th Ohio raised with a yell and gave them a volley, then loaded and fired at will. The balance of the Brigade (24th Ohio, 36th Ind., and 23rd Ky.) fell back in considerable confusion, perhaps owing to the fact that they had lost most of their field officers on Wednesday. Soon the several batteries massed by order of Gen. Rosecrans, on the opposite bank of the river began to pour a heavy fire into the enemy. At our first volley the enemy wavered, and soon began to fall back. The 84th Ill. and 6th Ohio now sprang over their breast works with a yell that was heard three miles, and charged on the enemy, who were soon in full retreat. We advanced but a short distance at first,

fearing to expose the weakness of the reserve, but in a few minutes the balance of the brigade rallied as also did Van Cleave's Division, and after the enemy they went, into the woods, retaking the batteries lost, and one gun of the famous Washington battery of the enemy. The loss of the enemy in the open field and woods was immense. We were over the field in the evening and the dead were lying in heaps, and hundreds of wounded were on every side. The 84th getting short of ammunition, pursued the enemy only half a mile in the woods, and then retired to their breastworks, and remained there during the night.— We had one killed, three severely and several slightly wounded in this day's battle, and in the evening all were in fine spirits; the reverse of Wednesday was scarcely remembered in view of the brilliant success of to-day, which had virtually decided the battle of Stone River.

On Saturday there was little fighting done, some cannonading at intervals during the day, and a sharp engagement about dark, in which a regiment or two drove the enemy out of the front line of their intrenchments. Sunday the enemy were evidently withdrawing, and our advance entered Murfreesboro about four o'clock. Our regiment remained near the battle-field until the 7th. On Monday those who fell on the field were buried, and their graves fenced in with logs and numbered so that they could be identified for years. Our wounded were by this time collected at one hospital, where there were unfortunately few preparations for their comfort.

The condition of the wounded during this great battle was deplorable. On the morning of January 1st, 1863, we assisted in gathering together at one of the field hospitals, all the wounded of the Regiment, where their wounds were attended to by Assistant

the battle. Our Lieut. Col., like the Colonel, was brave and ever at his post. He was knocked from his horse by a shot, which would have pierced his heart had it not been for the steel plates in his vest. He was bruised by the fall as well as by the bullet, and did not recover from these injuries while in the service. Major Norton, too, was ever present, cool, calm and collected in the moments of greatest peril. He had one horse killed and one badly wounded under him on the 31st ult., and was slightly wounded in the left knee. The officers of the line, without exception, proved themselves not only calm and courageous men, but brave and intrepid officers. Lieutenants Ball and Aborcrombie, of co. H, both young men of fine talent and brilliant promise, were instantly killed. Capt. Davis, of co. D, was so severely wounded that he survived but a few days, and Lieutenants Scott, Wisdom, Frost, Mills and Roberts, were severely wounded. The splendid conduct of the Regiment while under fire, astonished the old Regiments of the Brigade, and the 84th received not a few compliments, from officers of high rank who witnessed the engagement. It was our first battle, and yet the Regiment held the positions assigned to it, more resolutely than the veteran Regiments which surrounded it. It here secured the hard earned reputation of a "fighting Regiment," and was from this time forward, considered one of the most reliable Regiments in the service.

We should probably mention the only member of our non-commissioned Staff on the field, Sergt. Maj. Frierson who was at his post in each day's fight, doing his whole duty.

Lieut. Joseph Nelson, who at this time was acting Regimental Quartermaster, (Lieut. Roe having resigned, Nov. 18) deserves much credit for his incessant

Surgeon McGill, assisted by Lieut. Alex. P. Nelson of company K, who, being a member of the medical profession, was detailed for duty, in the absence of Surgeons Kyles and Marshall, who were sick or on duty in hospital. But when we had collected all these suffering men, at the Division hospitals we were unable to procure tents to shelter one tenth of them; nearly all for two or three days had to lie out of doors, upon the damp ground, covered only with blankets, and having a good fire at their feet. As rapidly as possible they were sent to the hospitals at Nashville, but suffering as they were, the torture was most excruciating, as they rode twenty-six miles in army wagons. On the 4th of January we visited the general field hospital, where the vast amount of pain and suffering made us truly "sick and sore at heart." Here were acres of ground covered with hospital tents, all of which were full of wounded men, nearly four thousand in all, and wounded in every possible manner. There were probably a hundred brave men dying daily at these hospitals. Such is war! but we cannot describe its horrors.

This being the first engagement in which we engaged, it cannot be amiss to notice the conduct of officers and men more particularly:

Our Colonel exhibited the greatest coolness and bravery during the whole action. On Wednesday he sat on his horse in the thickest of the fight, watching every movement, and no more excited than though engaged in an ordinary lawsuit. When brave Gen. Yocum fell, Col. Waters rushed to the spot, seized the colors, and brought them from the field. In the fight on Friday he was the first to leap the breastwork and lead the charge, and while so doing a ball passed through his hat, doing no injury whatever, and this was but one of several narrow escapes during

his exertions in bringing up supplies; by running his wagon trains day and night, he was able to keep the Regiment as well supplied with rations as they were when in camp.

Our entire loss in this battle as entered on the Regimental Records, [see Part II], was as follows:

Killed on the field.....	33
Severely Wounded.....	114
Taken Prisoners.....	8

Total.....155

Thirty-one out of the one hundred and fourteen wounded, died of their wounds.

Besides these there were at least forty others, slightly and very slightly wounded, who were not reported. Indeed, there were very few men who did not carry from the field, some mark of the deadly Minnie upon their persons or clothing. In proportion to the number of men engaged, we probably lost more heavily than any Regiment in the Division, and perhaps in the army—and by valiant service on this memorable occasion, secured a glorious reputation.

## CHAPTER IV.

## CAMP NEAR MURFREESBORO, FORAGING, SCOUTING, ETC.

For several days after the battle of Stone River, the whole army that had taken part in this terribly bloody engagement remained near the battle field. All were needing rest, for the exertions of both officers and men had been extremely fatiguing, but situated as the army was, without tents, with a very scanty supply of blankets, at midwinter; even in this thickly timbered country we could not pass the nights comfortably, now that the excitement of action had subsided. During the battle, night after night no res were permitted. The officers and men wore out by the labors of the day, would lie down and sleep all chilled through, and often wet through by the old rain, then walk and run till warmed by exercise. At now the battle was over and each day we were anticipating an advance in pursuit of the enemy, who had fallen back to Tullahoma, or orders to go into winter quarters.

On the morning of the 7th of January, the 2nd Division was ordered to march, and slowly moved out from the thick woods, Northwest of the battle field of December 31st, and passed directly by it, on the road

to Murfreesboro. We crossed the river about a mile Northwest of the town, and between the river and town noticed the broad fields, where the enemy had a few days before been encamped. Many of their chimneys were still standing, from which it was evident, that they had been built to last for the Winter. Passing through Murfreesboro where all the public buildings, and many private residences, had been converted into hospitals, in which the enemy had been compelled to leave hundreds of their wounded—we took the pike leading towards McMinnville. After marching out about three miles the division encamped, and our Regiment was detailed for grand guard or picket.— On the next day we were relieved and found, on returning from picket, that the brigade had gone into camp, and was expecting to remain some time. Our teams had during the day come up from Nashville, bringing most of our tents and baggage, and with them came a score of men, who had been sent to Convalescent camp when we started out for the fight. The ensuing day was passed in hard work, cleaning up camp, building chimneys, &c., and about 4 o'clock, p. m., the whole brigade was moved some two miles to the Northwest, and again encamped near the Lebanon pike, in a thick grove.

The succeeding two weeks passed without incidents of special interest. We were in the midst of material for building log houses and shanties, but not yet having learned this material portion of the great art, of making life in the army not only endurable, but agreeable, we built no houses but contented ourselves with the old Sibley tents, which were subsequently thrown aside as murderous, and totally unfit for white men to live in. Almost day by day, those who had fallen sick on the Kentucky campaign and at Nashville were rejoining us, so that the decimated ranks

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were speedily filled up, and we had more men present for duty than we had on the eve of battle.— The weather was not very cold, but continued damp, rainy and disagreeable.

On the 23rd of January drilling again commenced, but the same day we were suddenly surprised by the "assembly" being sounded at Brigade headquarters, and within an hour were on the march toward Woodbury. We marched that evening twelve miles to Readyville, where the 1st and 2nd Brigades of the 2d Division were encamped. On the 24th the whole division advanced on Woodbury, eight miles distant, from which the enemy were driven after a brief skirmish, and the division returned into the same evening to the vicinity of Readyville. Here our brigade remained until 4 o'clock p. m. of the next day, when the order came to return to camp near Murfreesboro, which we reached about 7 o'clock p. m., having made about half the distance on the "double quick," while the rain was pouring down in torrents.

About this time the report of Col. Grose upon the battle of Stone River was published, and elicited no little angry feeling in our Regiment. We thought then, and still think that he did us gross (Grose) injustice. He complimented all the regiments of his brigade for their valor, and closed by saying that the new regiments (ours was the only new regiment in the brigade) seemed to vie with the old, &c., &c.,— when we claimed, and to this day stand ready to prove, that we withstood the furious charges of the enemy more firmly, and maintained our positions more tenaciously, than any other regiment in the Brigade. For some time before the battle, Col. Grose and Col. Waters had not been on very friendly terms; in fact, on the Kentucky campaign some hostility of feeling was engendered between them, which only

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ended by reparation at the close of the war, and at the time above mentioned and frequently thereafter proved not only an annoyance, but an actual injury to the Regiment, giving it severer duty and depriving it of its just deserts. But of this anon.

This was a season in which rumors and reports were constantly pervading camp, one of the most amusing of which was that our Regiment was shortly to be mounted on donkeys, for outpost and scouting duty.

On the 28th day of January, the Regiment was detailed to work on the extensive fortifications, which were then being erected Northwest of the town of Murfreesboro. The weather was rainy, windy, and excessively cold; and double rations of whiskey having been served out, there were not a few amusing incidents transpired "in the shanks in the evening." Some men who had never before been known to taste liquor, came to camp seeing double and marching mightily cross-legged. Who was it that found the "rolling-pin?"

On the 31st of January, the Regiment was detailed to guard a wagon train to and from Nashville, (from which place up to this time we had drawn all our supplies in wagons,) and marched through the same day. The next day, while the trains were being loaded, the officers and men had an opportunity to see their sick and wounded friends in the hospitals. The wounded of our Regiment were not recovering as rapidly as might have been expected, the effects of the fall campaign still lingered in their systems, and having been deprived of vegetable diet for months before they were wounded, there were many cases of erysipelas and gangrened wounds.

On the 3rd day of February Col. Waters returned from home, where he had made but a very brief stay.

and brought the very gratifying intelligence, that the 84th had been heard of in our own State; that at home it was appreciated, if it could not be by our ~~friends~~ ~~for the weather~~ had been severely cold the last two days they were out.

As soon as Col. Waters returned, he directed elections to be held to fill the vacancies, occasioned by ~~death on the field and from wounds, as well as by resignation~~. 1st Lieut. Scoggun was promoted to Captain; 2d Lieut. Scoggun to 1st Lieut., and Sergeant H. B. Miller was elected 2d Lieutenant. Lieut. Kendrick, of company I, died in hospital at Bowling Green, Ky., in November, and the battle, as Capt. Griffith and 1st Lieut. Scott were both in hospital, when we marched from Nashville. Captain Griffith having resigned, Lieut. McDowell was now promoted to the Captaincy. Company II ~~had been particularly distinguished in the battle~~ 1st Lieutenant and Corporal J. N. White 2d Lieutenant, to fill these vacancies. While speaking of promotions, we may here mention the fact that 2d Lieut. James A. Russell, of company B, had been promoted ~~and was inactive, not being on duty as brigade~~ Commissary at the time, did not enter upon the duties of his office until January 1, 1862. Sergeant Dilworth had been promoted to 2d Lieut. of company B, and this we believe concludes the list of commis-

rary the question was started, and not a little agitated, as to seniority, or in common parlance who was the ranking Captain of the Regiment; a question of much importance in ~~case of the absence~~ when Capt. Irvin, whose claims were advocated by many (including the author), did not receive the honor justly merited, by organizing the first company for the Regiment.

On the 8th day of February, the Regiment was ordered ~~out to camp~~ and guarding it to camp. Though the Regiment had recruited very much since the battle, there were in February a great many sick, and as each company had only one wall and two Sibley tents, ~~we cannot think it necessary, with the tents in front of our camps were commenced, and for several days~~ heavy details were made for this duty. Still there were many (there always is), who remained in camp, but they are seldom idle. At this particular time, ~~about~~ ~~but~~ the beautiful white mussel shells, which were found in the shoals and on the banks of Stone River. Many of these articles, manufactured in camp, no doubt speedily found their way to the homes of the makers, and will long be remembered.

On the 20th of February, another of those hard days marches was made with a foraging train. The Regiment this time went back towards Nashville, and after crossing Stewart's creek, turned to the left in the neighborhood of ~~Stewart's creek~~.

the same night.

On the 22d of February, Gen. Rosecrans issued a very patriotic and complimentary order, and directed that a battery from each Division fire a salute. The ~~4th U. S. battery attached to our Brigade~~ Gen. Rosecrans also issued his order, directing the selection in each company of each Regiment, of the men who had particularly distinguished themselves in the recent engagement, directing that their names ~~should be entered upon a roll to be known as they~~ were the close of the war.

On the 24th of February, the Regiment drew a ration of soft bread, that is, ordinary baker's bread, the first that we had seen since we crossed the Ohio river. During the month of February, most of the officers of the Regiment were very busy making out their Ordnance returns, and the almost innumerable

other creditors and squared accounts. This custom ever continued prevalent in the army, and it was most common, on the day after pay-day to hear the men saying in exultant tone, that they OWED NO MAN ANY-  
 7. Waters, and several others who had been severely wounded, rejoined us able for duty. These were the first of our wounded, who had returned from hospital since the battle. At least two thirds of those who were severely wounded never rejoined us, ~~afterward~~ with Uncle Chaney Cook, (the oldest man in the Regiment), and J. G. Waters, visited the battle field of Stone River. We noted particularly the positions of both armies, and especially the positions held and so pertinaciously maintained by our Regiment, during that day of carnage, commotion and slaughter, December 31st 1862. Though more than two months

the recent deadly struggle, but at the ford of Stone River, where the Regiment crossed three times during the battle, we found many "minnies" among the beautiful shells. We secured a lot of memorials, and on our return towards camp, went to each of the strong positions taken by the defeated army; thence to the strong forts and breastworks, at this time nearly completed under the direction of Gen. Rosecrans, which have been the means of keeping Murfreesboro in our possession, ever since it was gained by the great battle of Stone River, by the blood and lives of thousands of brave, noble and patriotic men.

## CHAPTER V.

CAMP NEAR MURFREESBORO, AND AT CROPPLE CREEK,  
TENNESSEE.

On the 23d of March 1863, we again moved camp and took position only about a mile from the town of Murfreesboro. Col. L. H. Waters was now in command of the Brigade, in the absence of Col. Grose, who was at home on leave of absence. The Colonel selected a fine high dry location and arranged the camps of the Brigade in two lines, about two hundred yards distant from each other. A few days were occupied in putting our new camp in order, for the field selected had been last planted in corn, and now had to be leveled, and the stalks carried off and burnt; but soon we were sweeping it off every morning, and keeping it level, smooth and cleanly. While in this camp, many men of our Regiment were the happy recipients of boxes of good things, such as butter, dried fruit, pickles, onions, etc. etc. from home.

At the former camp as well as here the drill by battalion and brigade was most vigorously continued, and our Regiment could now in almost any maneuver compare very favorably, with the best drilled regiments of our division.

We continued to use our old, unhealthy, Sibley