

THE
WAR OF THE REBELLION:

A COMPILATION OF THE
OFFICIAL RECORDS

OF THE
UNION AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES.

PREPARED, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR, BY
The late Lieut. Col. ROBERT N. SCOTT, Third U. S. Artillery.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF
Lieut. Col. HENRY M. LAZELLE, Twenty-third U. S. Infantry

PURSUANT TO ACTS OF CONGRESS.

SERIES I—VOLUME XX—IN TWO PARTS.
PART I—REPORTS.

WASHINGTON:
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1887.

and camped until the 29th ultimo, when we were ordered in the direction of Murfreesborough. Advanced about 8 miles and camped in the woods, without tents or fires. The next morning advanced slowly, and camped within sight of the enemy's lines; fired a few rounds from the Parrott guns, and again the men lay by their guns, without tents or fires, all night. At daylight we were up and ready for an attack. As soon as it became light the enemy could be seen from our position, in great numbers, marching upon the right wing. We were soon ordered to its support, and in a short time took position in a corn-field, supported by the Twenty-second Indiana Regiment on the right, and the Fifty-ninth Illinois on the left. The enemy could be seen in heavy force advancing upon us. We opened fire immediately from all our guns. They soon made their appearance over a knoll directly in front of our guns. A few rounds of canister caused them to move to the left, under cover of a thick clump of bushes. They were followed by another line, and they then advanced upon us. After firing upon them for about thirty minutes, the order was given to limber up and fall back. This was done in good order, though we were obliged to leave one gun and two caissons on the field, on account of the horses being killed.

The battery fell back to the Murfreesborough pike in good order, when the rebel cavalry dashed in from the left and captured the whole battery, with the exception of one gun. We were soon relieved by our own cavalry, and the battery was got together, and fired a few rounds at the enemy's cavalry, who were in strong force about 2 miles in rear of our former position; lay by our guns that night, and the next morning (January 1) were ordered to join our brigade, near our present position. We took position, and lay there until the afternoon of January 2, when we were ordered over the stream to the left of the pike, where we lay within sight of the enemy's lines until the morning of the 4th, when we fell back to our present position. During the time of action the officers and men behaved with coolness and bravery, and though they were exposed to the weather, with uncooked rations, not a man appeared unwilling to do his duty. They were much worn out, but the two days of rest that they have had fitted them for the field.

The following is a list of casualties suffered: * Killed, 1 private; wounded, 1 officer and 5 men; missing, 4; taken prisoners, 2. Total loss, 1 captain and 11 enlisted men, 2 wagons and 12 mules.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES B. HUMPHREY,
Lieutenant, Commanding Fifth Wisconsin Battery.

No. 19.

Report of Lieut. Henry E. Stiles, Eighth Wisconsin Battery.

HEADQUARTERS 8TH WISCONSIN BATTERY,
3D BRIG., 1ST DIV., RIGHT WING, 14TH ARMY CORPS,
January 9, 1863.

GENERAL: I have to report the following as a detailed account of the part taken by the Eighth Wisconsin Battery in the recent engagements near Murfreesborough, Tenn., December, 1862, and January, 1863:

December 26, 1862, by order of Brigadier-General Woodruff, we formed

* Nominal list omitted.

in battery three different times at Nolensville, and fired 38 rounds at the enemy; effects of the shots unknown.

December 30, we took up our line of march with the brigade. By order of Brigadier-General Woodruff, we took position in front about noon and shelled a piece of woods in our front for two hours, when we were ordered to advance. We then came into position on the left of the Third Brigade, in the edge of a belt of timber, near a small corn-field, in the immediate vicinity of the enemy, from which point we shelled them until dark, the enemy only firing two shots at us while in this position, one of which struck a tree over one of our caissons, the other burst in our front, a piece of shell striking the wheel of a gun-carriage. At dark we fell back with three of our guns, by order of General Woodruff, and stationed ourselves over a hill in the rear of the infantry, remaining all night with harness on our horses; one gun on picket.

December 31, as soon as it was light, we took a position to the left of the position occupied the night before, with our three guns. Immediately on taking our position the enemy charged on us in force. We opened on them with canister, with good effect, checking them considerably. Our infantry support here gave way, and we were ordered to fall back. Capt. Stephen J. Carpenter was killed before we ceased firing, and 4 men wounded. Our battery retired in some confusion, with the loss of one 10-pounder Parrott gun, and 11 horses killed and wounded.

By order, we again came into position in a large corn-field in our rear, from which point we opened on the enemy, and continued to fire until our support left us, when we were again obliged to fall back. We then moved a little to the right and rear, when we came into position and opened on the enemy as they advanced out of the woods in our front. We did some execution with canister and shell, but our support again leaving us we were obliged to fall back. By this time the confusion seemed to have become general; our battery fell back to the rear and left, and reported to Brigadier-General Woodruff's headquarters at 3 o'clock in the afternoon with three guns, 50 men, and one gun-limber.

January 1, 1863, by order of General Woodruff, we drew 100 rounds of ammunition, and sent one 6-pounder gun, caisson and limber, to a 10-pounder Parrott gun to the rear, where they were captured by the enemy, with 1 man taken prisoner and 3 horses lost. Went into position with two guns, and remained till next day.

January 2, were ordered to march with the brigade. Moved to the left, and took a position between our brigade and that commanded by Colonel Carlin, by order of General Davis, commanding division. Immediately on coming into position the enemy opened a volley of musketry on us, when we were ordered to fire. Opening on them with canister, they soon fell back.

January 3, we lay in front all day, exposed to the fire of the enemy's sharpshooters.

January 4, at 3 o'clock in the morning, we were ordered to fall back to our former position on the pike, which we did, thus ending the fight on our part. We fired about 400 rounds of ammunition during the engagements.

Respectfully submitted.

HENRY E. STILES,

Lieut., Comdg. Eighth Wisconsin Battery, Volunteer Artillery.

Brig. Gen. JEFFERSON C. DAVIS,

Comdg. First Division, Right Wing, Fourteenth Army Corps.

No. 20.

Report of Col. P. Sidney Post, Fifty-ninth Illinois Infantry, commanding First Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE, FIRST DIVISION,
RIGHT WING, FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
In Camp, south of Murfreesborough, January 9, 1863.

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the First Brigade in the late engagements, resulting in the taking of Murfreesborough:

In compliance with the order of Brigadier-General Davis, commanding division, we left camp, at Saint James' Chapel, at daylight December 26, 1862, and marched in the direction of Nolensville, this brigade being in advance. We soon came upon the enemy's cavalry. Company B, Thirty-sixth Illinois Cavalry, under direction of Captain Pease, of Brigadier-General Davis' staff, occupied the road, and the Fifty-ninth 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 (Fifth 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 Twenty-second Regiment Indiana Infantry was moved to the right to repel this attack, and Colonels 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 Twenty-second Indiana and the Seventy-fourth Illinois on its right, and the Seventy-fifth and Fifty-ninth Illinois on its left. The enemy were posted in a position of great natural strength, about 2 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 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, toward Murfreesborough. About 2 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.

On the morning of December 30, we marched across the fields on the right of the Wilkinson pike, the Seventy-fourth and Seventy-fifth Regiments Illinois Infantry deployed on the right of Colonel Carlin's bri-

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ville, where the enemy were posted in considerable force. I threw my regiment into line of battle on the right of the brigade, occupying a strong position on a high ridge reaching from our extreme right to the town, on our left. The fight had already begun, and the enemy now opened on us a heavy fire of canister and grape, but, fortunately, too high, and no serious injury was done us. The enemy's cavalry now moved to their left, with the evident intention of gaining our right flank or rear, but in this attempt they were foiled, for I now threw out a heavy body of skirmishers, who, with one section of Captain Pinney's Fifth Wisconsin Battery, not only held the enemy in check, but drove them from their ground. With the brigade, my regiment pursued the fleeing enemy, driving them from every position. Night now set in, and we bivouacked till morning, lying on our arms.

From thence we marched toward Murfreesborough. On the morning of the 30th we came in contact with the enemy's pickets, and drove them for 3 miles through a dense thicket of cedar and underbrush. But our advance was now checked by a heavy fire from the enemy's batteries. The cannonading lasted for some hours, but with little effect. Night now again set in, and we laid down on our arms, facing the foe, and only 300 yards distant. We could plainly hear the rebels converse during the night. At daylight next morning they could be seen moving to our right, by thousands, which movements were promptly reported. I now sent out five companies to the front as skirmishers, instructing them to fall back as our lines did, which they did, hotly contesting every inch of ground, and shooting down numbers of the enemy. With the remaining five companies of my regiment I took position on the right of the Fifth Wisconsin Battery. I was now on the extreme right of our lines. The enemy made their appearance in great numbers, advancing in solid column from the dense cedar thickets in our front. On and on they came, nothing daunted at the heavy charges of canister and grape the battery on our left was pouring into their ranks. When they had advanced within 30 yards, I ordered my regiment to fire, which they did, with deliberate aim. Our fire was returned by a raking fire from their extended lines of infantry, while their batteries played on us from our front and right. Our battery being hotly pressed, began to fall back, and I ordered my regiment to fall back. I rallied them again on the right of General Rousseau's command, and took position on the right of a battery, and successfully aided in supporting it. Late in the evening of the same day I was ordered to the right of the division again, where we remained until the evening of the 2d of January, at which time I was ordered, double-quick, to the support of our left across the river. I reached them just as the enemy were giving way and being hotly pursued by our forces. Nothing worthy of note occurred during the night and the following day. On the night of the 3d the enemy retired, leaving us undisputed possession of the field.

I here wish to mention the names of some of the officers of my regiment who distinguished themselves by their courage and bearing: Capt. W. H. Taggart, Company C; Lieut. William F. Riggs, Company F; Lieut. John Gooding, Company A; Lieut. Patrick Carney, Company D. Lieut. Col. T. B. Tanner was severely wounded in the hip while at his post in the performance of his duty. Major Shea and Adjutant Adams rendered themselves highly conspicuous in attempting to rally the regiment, and by their bravery and noble daring. Capt. William Powers, Company H; Lieut. A. D. Sawyer, Company B; Lieut. R. V. Marshall, Company I; Capt. W. H. Snodgrass and Sergt. A. J. Moss, commanding Company G, are brave and good officers and did

their whole duty. With few exceptions, the men of my regiment fought with a willingness and determination rarely equaled. But while I make favorable mention of the above-named officers, I cannot but censure the conduct of Capt. N. De Versey, Company A; Lieut. James McGrayel and Lieut. A. W. Griffith, Company G, and Lieut. L. C. Orrill, Company K, who left the field in the early part of the engagement. On the morning of the 31st of December they went to Nashville, taking with them quite a number of non-commissioned officers and privates of my command, most of whom were taken prisoners and paroled at La Vergne, and who are still at Nashville.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

M. GOODING,
Colonel, Commanding Regiment.

Lieut. S. M. JONES,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 25.

Report of Col. William P. Carlin, Thirty-eighth Illinois Infantry, commanding Second Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND BRIGADE, FIRST DIVISION,
RIGHT WING, FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
January 6, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of this brigade since leaving Knob Gap, near Nolensville, December 27, 1862:

The brigade took up the line of march on the morning of the 27th, in a heavy rain, in the direction of Triune, bivouacking within 1 mile of that place, where it remained during the 28th, moving on the morning of the 29th in the direction of Murfreesborough.

That night we bivouacked on Blackman's farm, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of that town.

Early on the morning of the 30th we crossed Overall's Creek, on the right of the Wilkinson pike, and took up position in a heavy wood south of Asa Griscom's house.

At 2 p. m. I was ordered to advance; passed through a corn-field, entering another heavy wood, where my skirmishers first met those of the enemy. Before making this advance, Brigadier-General Davis, commanding division, informed me that my brigade was to direct the movements of the division, and that Colonels Post and Woodruff, commanding, respectively, the First and Third Brigades, were ordered to keep on a line with me. My skirmishers, under Lieutenant-Colonel McKee, Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteers, continued to drive those of the enemy through the wood for about one-fourth of a mile, when I halted and sent a request to Colonels Post and Woodruff to keep pace with my advance.

At this point my skirmishers, having suffered severely, were withdrawn, and my battery (Second Minnesota, Capt. W. A. Hotchkiss) opened on the enemy with canister and spherical case, inflicting serious damage. I then threw forward another line of skirmishers, under Lieutenant-Colonel McMackin, Twenty-first Illinois Volunteers, which advanced so slowly that my front line of battle soon closed upon it, driving

in, however, the skirmishers of the enemy. My first line of battle was now within 180 yards of the enemy's line, at the house of Mrs. William Smith.

At this point a battery, about 100 yards west of the house, opened with canister upon the Twenty-first Illinois Volunteers, and another, on the east of the house, 250 yards distant, on the Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteers, killing and wounding a number of my men. Here it was my intention to halt until the First and Third Brigades should come up, on my right and left, respectively; but Col. J. W. S. Alexander, commanding Twenty-first Illinois Volunteers, without instructions from me, ordered his regiment to charge on the battery in his front. His command was moving, with a shout, at double-quick step, within 80 yards of the battery, already abandoned by its cannoners, when a very heavy fire was opened upon it by infantry, which lay concealed behind fences and outhouses, on the right and left of the battery. This fire killed and wounded a large number of the Twenty-first Illinois Volunteers, and threw the left companies into some disorder, when the regiment was halted and formed on the right of the Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteers.

The fight was now fairly opened, and continued vigorously until night by the front line of my infantry and the battery which had been placed between the two regiments. The batteries in our front were soon silenced, but another was then opened on my right flank, distant about 500 yards, which completely enfiladed my lines and considerably injured us; but this, too, was driven out of sight by Captain Hotchkiss, after a vigorous and well-directed fire.

Again I sent a request to Colonels Post and Woodruff to come up, but they continued to remain in rear of my lines. I maintained my position during the night, having at dark relieved my front line by the Thirty-eighth Illinois and One hundred and first Ohio Volunteers.

My loss during this day, in killed, wounded, and missing, was about 175 officers and men. Before daylight on the morning of December 31, perceiving indications of an advance by the enemy, I retired my battery about 200 yards. At daylight the enemy advanced. Seeing that the troops on the right and left of my line would not come up, I fell back, with my infantry on a line with my battery, and made a stand; the Twenty-first Illinois Volunteers about 200 yards to the rear, and on the right of the One hundred and first Ohio Volunteers; the Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteers were posted on the rocks in front of my battery, and the Thirty-eighth Illinois Volunteers on the left of the One hundred and first Ohio Volunteers.

My men were falling rapidly on the front line, and, wishing to increase the fire on the enemy, I sent an order to Colonel Alexander to advance and form on the right of the One hundred and first Ohio Volunteers, and to Colonel Heg, Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteers, to form on the left of the Thirty-eighth Illinois Volunteers, and to my battery to retire. To my surprise, I received a reply from Colonel Alexander that he was already so hotly engaged that he could not come forward. The startling intelligence was also at this moment communicated to me, by one of my orderlies, that all our forces on our right had left the ground. Immediately afterward a heavy fire of musketry and artillery from the enemy, from my right flank and rear, unmistakably announced that I was also attacked from that direction.

On my left Woodruff's brigade had left the ground. My command was thus exposed to fire from all points, except the left of my rear. When too late to retire in good order, I found that I was overpowered, and but a moment was wanting to place my brigade in the hands of

the foe. I decided to retreat by the left flank, when my horse was shot under me and myself struck, and all my staff and orderlies dismounted or otherwise engaged, which prevented me from communicating the order to the regimental commanders. The rear line, then consisting of the Twenty-first Illinois Volunteers, was the first to withdraw, by the order of Lieutenant-Colonel McMackin, then commanding, Colonel Alexander having been wounded. Colonel Stem and Lieutenant-Colonel Wooster, of the One hundred and first Ohio Volunteers, having been shot down, and the ranks of the regiment dreadfully thinned by the fire of the enemy, it gave way and retreated. The Thirty-eighth Illinois Volunteers held its position until the enemy was within a few steps, and then retired. This regiment would have suffered far more severely in its retreat had not a heavy fire from the Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteers, judiciously posted by Colonel Heg to its left and rear, kept the enemy in check until it had left the wood and partially reformed along the fence, on the right of the Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteers, where an effective fire was kept up, holding the enemy at bay.

This only gave the foe on our right and left the more time to envelop us. All that now remained of my brigade crossed two open fields and entered a wood about 200 yards east of Griscom's house.

The regiments were painfully reduced in numbers, but I formed a line at this point, and several volleys of musketry and artillery were fired with destructive effect upon the ranks of the enemy; but the foe was still on our right at Griscom's house, with none of our forces at that point to oppose them, and being informed that General Davis had ordered a still farther withdrawal, I retired my command about half a mile to our rear, and again endeavored to rally the men, but it was evident that they were so utterly discouraged that no substantial good could result, while no supports were in sight.

At another point, about half a mile farther to our rear, I rallied all who could be found, and took a strong position in the edge of a cedar grove, holding it until the enemy came up, when my men fired one volley, and broke without orders. I conducted them to the rear, passing through the lines of our reserves, and halted at the railroad, where we remained during the afternoon collecting our scattered men.

During the two days' fight the loss of officers was so great that some companies had not one to command them, and others not even a sergeant. Our regimental colors were all borne off the field flying, though four color-bearers in succession, of the Twenty-first Illinois Volunteers, were shot down, and two of the color-guard of the Thirty-eighth Illinois Volunteers, three of the color-guard of the Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteers, and four of the color-guard of the One hundred and first Ohio Volunteers fell. Our artillery was all brought off in safety.

I have to report the loss of many officers, who were ornaments to our army, and who will be mourned by all who knew them. Col. L. Stem, One hundred and first Ohio Volunteers; Lieut. Col. David McKee, Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteers, and Lieut. Col. M. F. Wooster, One hundred and first Ohio Volunteers, were unsurpassed in all the qualities that make up the brave soldier, the true gentleman, and the pure patriot. Capt. James P. Mead, Thirty-eighth Illinois Volunteers, fell, shot three times, while bravely fighting the enemy with his revolver after his regiment had retired. Lieut. John L. Dillon, Thirty-eighth Illinois Volunteers, commanding Company E, fought with a musket until he was shot once, when he drew his sword and cheered on his men till he fell dead. Other instances of equal gallantry were observed in the other regiments, but to recount all would give my report an undue

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SECOND DIVISION.

Maj. Gen. P. R. CLEBURNE.

First Brigade.

Brig. Gen. L. E. POLK.

1st Arkansas, Col. John W. Colquitt.
 13th Arkansas.
 15th Arkansas.
 5th Confederate, Col. J. A. Smith.
 2d Tennessee, Col. W. D. Robison.
 5th Tennessee, Col. B. J. Hill.
 Helena (Ark.) Artillery, Lieut. T. J. Key.

Second Brigade.

Brig. Gen. ST. JOHN R. LIDDELL.

2d Arkansas, Col. D. C. Govan.
 5th Arkansas, Lieut. Col. John E. Murray.
 6th Arkansas, } Col. S. G. Smith.
 7th Arkansas, } Lieut. Col. F. J. Cameron.
 8th Arkansas: } Maj. W. F. Douglass.
 } Col. John H. Kelly.
 } Lieut. Col. G. F. Baucum.
 Swett's (Mississippi) battery, Lieut. H. Shannon.

Third Brigade.

Brig. Gen. BUSHROD R. JOHNSON.

17th Tennessee:
 Col. A. S. Marks.
 Lieut. Col. W. W. Floyd.
 23d Tennessee, Lieut. Col. R. H. Keeble.
 25th Tennessee:
 Col. J. M. Hughs.
 Lieut. Col. Samuel Davis.
 37th Tennessee:
 Col. M. White.
 Maj. J. T. McReynolds.
 Capt. C. G. Jarnagin.
 44th Tennessee, Col. John S. Fulton.
 Jefferson (Miss.) Artillery, Capt. Put. Darden.

Fourth Brigade.
 Brig. Gen. S. A. M. WOOD.

16th Alabama, Col. W. B. Wood.
 33d Alabama, Col. Samuel Adams.
 3d Confederate, Maj. J. F. Cameron.
 45th Mississippi, Lieut. Col. R. Charlton.
 15th Mississippi Battalion Sharpshooters,
 Capt. A. T. Hawkins.
 Alabama Battery, Capt. Henry C. Semple.

McCOWN'S DIVISION.*

Maj. Gen. J. P. MCCOWN.

First Brigade.†

Brig. Gen. M. D. ECTOR.

10th Texas Cavalry, Col. M. F. Locke.
 11th Texas Cavalry:
 Col. J. C. Burks.
 Lieut. Col. J. M. Bounds.
 14th Texas Cavalry, Col. J. L. Camp.
 15th Texas Cavalry, Col. J. A. Andrews.
 Texas Battery, Capt. J. P. Douglas.

*Second Brigade.*Brig. Gen. JAMES E. RAINS.
Col. R. B. VANCE.

3d Georgia Battalion, Lieut. Col. M. A. Stovall.
 9th Georgia Battalion, Maj. Joseph T. Smith.
 29th North Carolina, Col. R. B. Vance.
 11th Tennessee:
 Col. G. W. Gordon.
 Lieut. Col. William Thedford.
 Eufaula (Ala.) Light Artillery, Lieut. W. A. McDuffie.

*Third Brigade.*Brig. Gen. EVANDER MCNAIR.
Col. R. W. HARPER.

1st Arkansas Mounted Rifles: ‡
 Col. R. W. Harper.
 Maj. L. M. Ramsaur.
 2d Arkansas Mounted Rifles, † Lieut. Col. J. A. Williamson.
 4th Arkansas, Col. H. G. Bunn.
 30th Arkansas:
 Maj. J. J. Franklin.
 Capt. W. A. Cotter.
 4th Arkansas Battalion, Maj. J. A. Ross.
 Arkansas Battery, Capt. J. T. Humphreys.

* Of Smith's corps, serving with Hardee.

† The regiments of this brigade serving as infantry.

‡ Serving as infantry.

Return of casualties in the Confederate forces—Continued.

Command.	Killed.			Wounded.			Missing.			Aggregate.	Officers killed.	
	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Total.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Total.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Total.			
<i>Ector's Brigade—Cont'd.</i>												
14th Texas Cavalry *		5	5	10	42	52	1	11	12	69		
15th Texas Cavalry *		5	5	5	31	36		3	3	44		
Douglas' battery					2	2				2		
Total		28	28	39	237	276	5	43	48	352		
<i>Rains' Brigade.</i>												
3d Georgia Battalion		6	6	5	28	33				39	Lieut. W. L. Prior mortally wounded.	
9th Georgia Battalion		1	1	2	9	11				12		
29th North Carolina		5	5	3	47	50		5	5	60		
11th Tennessee		8	8	10	54	64		11	11	83		
Eufaula (Ala.) Artillery.					3	3		2	2	5		
Total		20	20	20	141	161		18	18	199		
<i>McNair's Brigade.</i>												
1st Arkansas Rifles		9	9	13	69	82		4	4	95		
2d Arkansas Rifles		1	9	10	17	82		4	7	120	Capt. Thomas F. Spence.	
4th Arkansas			8	8	9	52		61	1	9	79	
4th Arkansas Battalion		1	4	5	19	19		5	5	29	Lieut. W. C. Douglass.	
30th Arkansas		2	8	10	12	51		63	22	95	Capt. S. T. Black and Lieut. D. J. Wright.	
Humphreys' battery				1	5	6				6		
Total		4	38	42	52	278		5	47	52	424	
Escort company			2	2		2		2		1	1	5
Grand total Mc-Cown's division. †		4	88	92	111	658		10	109	119	980	
JACKSON'S BRIGADE.												
5th Georgia		2	10	12		48		48			60	Col. William T. Black and Lieut. J. W. Eason.
2d Georgia Battalion Sharpshooters			3	3	3	26		29			32	
5th Mississippi		1	5	6	8	66		74			80	Capt. J. H. Morgan.
8th Mississippi		1	19	20	12	101		112			133	Lieut. J. J. Hood.
Total		4	37	41	23	241		264			305	

RECAPITULATION.

Polk's corps	51	547	601	282	3,404	3,686	5	161	166	4,453
Hardee's corps	47	450	497	251	1,796	3,047	18	565	583	4,127
McCown's division	4	88	92	111	658	769	10	109	119	980
Jackson's brigade	4	37	41	23	241	264				305
Grand total §	109	1122	1236	667	6,099	7,766	33	835	868	9,865

* Dismounted.

† Notes on original lists indicate that all these casualties, except 4 of the wounded in Rains' brigade, occurred December 31, 1862.

‡ Note on original list indicates that all these, except 1 man wounded January 2, 1863, occurred near Cowan's house, between 12 noon and 4 p. m., December 31, 1862.

§ No nominal lists for Buford's, Wharton's, or Wheeler's cavalry brigades; but see Inclosure C to Bragg's report, p. 674. No returns from Pegram's cavalry brigade.

Lieutenant Pollard, whose right arm and leg were broken by musket shots), were killed or severely wounded, and 10 (with 14 horses) slightly wounded.

I found upon the field, and appropriated to my use, about 130 rounds of excellent 12-pounder fixed ammunition, and also the rear part of a caisson, which I took in place of one of mine.

HENRY C. SEMPLE,
Captain Company Light Artillery.

Major-General [P. R.] CLEBURNE.

No. 280.

Reports of Maj. Gen. John P. McCown, C. S. Army, commanding division, Smith's corps.

SHELBYVILLE, TENN., *January 16, 1863.*

Lieut. Gen. W. J. HARDEE,
C. S. Army, Tullahoma, Tenn.:

GENERAL: I send in my report of the part my division took in the battle in front of Murfreesborough, Tenn., on January [December] 31, 1862. The accompanying papers, including subordinate reports, I hope will give you all the information you desire.

Very respectfully, &c.,

J. P. McCOWN,
Major-General.

[Inclosures.]

HEADQUARTERS SECOND DIVISION, SMITH'S CORPS,
Shelbyville, Tenn., January 20, 1863.

Having acted under the orders of Lieutenant-General Hardee at the battle before Murfreesborough, on December 31, 1862, I have the honor to make the following report of the part taken by my division:

My division is composed of three brigades, constituted as follows,†
* * * my effective force being about 4,000 men.

My command was located at Readyville, Tenn., 12 miles east of Murfreesborough.

At 12 o'clock, on the night of December 26, I received orders from the general commanding to move at once to Murfreesborough. I arrived at 9 a. m. on the 27th, this march being made in a cold and drenching rain. In obedience to orders, my division was posted near the Nashville pike, behind Stone's River, as the reserve to the Army of Tennessee.

On the 29th, I moved my division to our extreme left, to fill an interval between Lieutenant-General Polk's left and the Triune road. Not finding an interval, I posted my command on the left of the Triune road, in a lane at nearly right angles to said road, and about 150 yards in advance of Lieutenant-General Polk's advance line, with Brigadier-General McNair's brigade in reserve; two batteries in reserve, and one (Eufaula Light Artillery) near my center.

On the 30th, the enemy extended his lines to our left, placing in position several batteries, and later in the day made a determined attack upon Robertson's battery, placed on General Polk's left. I directed the Eufaula Light Artillery to be posted so as to take the enemy's line and one battery in flank. Brigadier-General Rains executed this order, in person, with considerable damage to the enemy.

† See Organization of the Army of Tennessee, No. 149, p. 660.

About this time another battery opened upon my front, killing and wounding about 30 of my command, principally from Brigadier-General McNair's brigade. Night closed this almost a battle. During the night the enemy extended his lines, covering my front.

At the dawn of day, in obedience to orders from Lieutenant-General Hardee, I moved my reserve brigade (McNair's) and placed it on my right, and moved upon the enemy in my front, about 600 or 800 yards distant. I will here state that Major-General Cleburne's division was placed in rear of my command as a second line. The Triune road turned square to the left about 150 yards in front of Lieutenant-General Polk's left, and again square to the right about 400 yards from the first turn. An open field on my entire front; on the right of the field and in front of Lieutenant-General Polk's left was a cedar brake.

As I advanced, my right flank received a galling fire from this brake, as well as in my front, from both infantry and artillery. My men advanced steadily, reserving their fire until they were but a short distance from the enemy's position. A volley was delivered, and their position and batteries taken with the bayonet, leaving the ground covered with his dead and wounded, leaving also many prisoners in our hands; among them Brigadier-General [August] Willich, captured by Mr. James Stone, volunteer aide to General McNair, and another officer representing himself as a brigadier-general (name forgotten), captured by General McNair's orderly, volunteer King. The enemy made several attempts to rally, but failed, being closely pressed by my men, their defeat becoming almost a rout. The enemy was pressed near a mile. The force of the enemy in my front prevented me throwing forward my left wing as soon as instructed by Lieutenant-General Hardee.

In the mean time the enemy pushed a force to my right and rear, close upon the battery captured on my right. Captain [J. P.] Douglas coming up with his battery, came close upon this body of the enemy, discovering that the enemy supposed it to be a Federal battery. He obliqued to the left, came into battery, not bearing on the enemy, they waving their flags at him. In an instant he turned his guns upon them and opened with canister. The surprise was complete, and the enemy fell back in considerable disorder.

About this time a heavy force was brought against my right flank. Brigadier-General McNair, commanding the brigade on my right, discovered their movements and halted his brigade. I directed General McNair to face his brigade to the right, and file it to the right to check this movement. The moment was critical. I sent the same order to Generals Ector and Rains, which was promptly obeyed by them, leaving a strong body of the enemy in their front. Seeing General Liddell's brigade in the rear, I brought it forward and placed it on my right to cover this change of front. General Liddell became at once engaged with a largely superior force, the enemy under shelter of a fence, General Liddell in an open field. He gallantly maintained his ground until General McNair's brigade was placed on his left. General McNair at once moved upon the enemy, pushing his right on his center and forcing him from his position for half a mile. The enemy was here posted behind a rail fence. Again General McNair advanced across an open field for nearly 400 yards, and drove them from their position, capturing all but two guns of their battery—one of those afterward captured. General Liddell's brigade co-operated in this action. The enemy was actively pursued for about three-quarters of a mile, where the division was halted and ammunition issued—40 rounds having been nearly exhausted. Brigadier-General McNair, by his skill and energy, defeated the enemy in this last action before I could bring Generals Ector and

Rains into action. Here General McNair became exhausted, having left a sick bed to lead his brigade. I sent him back to camp, Col. R. W. Harper taking command of the brigade. Captain Humphreys, with his battery on my right, engaged one of the enemy's batteries in flank and rear. This battery was soon silenced or captured by our troops in its front.

We were now near the Wilkinson pike. The command was much exhausted, having forced the enemy's left back several miles, and three times defeated the forces sent to check our advance. I may here add that prisoners, except those of rank, were turned to the rear, my command being so small that I could not dispense with a single man, leaving them to be picked up by the cavalry and those in rear. Notwithstanding the exhausted condition of my men, having received orders from Lieutenant-General Hardee, I prepared at once to advance, leaving General Liddell's brigade receiving ammunition, at his request having sent my train to furnish him. I moved General Rains' brigade from the left of my division to the right, being the strongest and least cut up. He was directed to move some distance to the right, so as to take in flank the batteries posted by the enemy near the Nashville pike, at the same time that General Ector and Colonel Harper ([commanding] McNair's brigade) took them in front. General Rains met with a determined resistance, but succeeded in forcing the enemy from the woods and into the fields that lay south of their position on the Nashville pike, General Ector and Colonel Harper moving in a northeasterly direction, General Rains nearly due north. I soon discovered that my left would become engaged before my right could co-operate. I sent to correct my line, directing the men to be placed under cover and hold their ground. But before this order reached the command, General Ector came under a galling fire from infantry, sheltered in a cedar brake, and artillery. General Ector at once charged them, forcing their first line of infantry beyond their second, and their cannoneers from their guns in their front. I directed Colonel Harper (commanding McNair's brigade) to charge the batteries in his front with a like result. These two brigades were coolly firing into their second line of infantry, not 60 yards distant, notwithstanding they were enfiladed by a terrible fire from their batteries on our right. Every moment I expected to see General Rains take these batteries. I was doomed to disappointment. I was informed that General Rains fell, shot through the heart, at the moment the enemy was routed. The fall of this gallant officer and accomplished gentleman threw his brigade into confusion; also about this time General Cheatham gave some orders to a part of the brigade that tended to change their direction to their front. I now directed General Ector and Colonel Harper to fall back under cover, which was accomplished without demoralization or molestation from the enemy. As these brigades fell back, General Liddell was met in the edge of the woods, having replenished his ammunition. I directed them to form on his right. Captain Humphreys during this last contest passed through an interval in our lines and engaged the batteries on the hill on our right. The enemy turned sixteen guns upon him, but he gallantly maintained the fight until my command was under cover. Four of his guns were disabled and sent to the rear. One regiment of General Rains' brigade received orders from Lieutenant-General Hardee and was again in action.

My division had now been under fire from five to eight hours; although exhausted, the men were in good spirits. By direction of Lieutenant-General Hardee, the division was moved to the right, connecting with Lieutenant-General Polk's left.

Here the division remained on the defensive, at times skirmishing with the enemy and being shelled by their battery, until the night of January 2, when I was placed in reserve between the Nashville and Lebanon pikes. Here I remained until 1 a. m. on the 4th, when, in obedience to orders from Lieutenant-General Polk, I moved to this place.

During these operations one section of the **Eufaula Light Artillery** was detached with General [A.] Buford. Capt. L. T. Hardy's company of cavalry (acting as my escort) was thrown out to connect my left with General [J. A.] Wharton, where he suffered severely.

Among the many incidents of this severe and protracted struggle, I would mention the following: Col. J. C. Burks, commanding Eleventh Texas Regiment, though mortally wounded, continued to lead his regiment until exhausted. Colonel Burks was a gallant soldier, and idolized by his command. In the words of his brigade commander, "A better friend, a warmer heart, a more gallant leader than he was never drew the breath of life." Sergt. A. Sims, flag-bearer of the Tenth Texas (Colonel [M. F.] Locke), seeing in one of the charges a Federal flag-bearer with his flag waving his regiment forward, sprang forward and seized the Federal flag, when both fell dead waving their banners with their last breath. The Federal flag was captured. Sergt. James T. McGee, the only man left of the color-guard, seized our colors, but for a moment, when another of our noblest and bravest men fell to rise no more. Private Manning, of Company H, then raised the flag and bore it aloft the remainder of the day. Private James W. Clark, of Company G, carried the flag of the Fifteenth Texas Regiment in the first charge, during which he was killed. The colors were then taken by Lieut. L. De Board, of Company F, who bore them the remainder of the engagement. Private Clark [D.] Jenkins, of Company D, First Arkansas Rifles, seeing a Federal officer making great exertions to rally his command, detached himself from his company, and, taking deliberate aim, shot him from his horse. The saddle had the saddle-cloth of a general officer. In the first charge in the morning, Sergt. J. R. Perry, color-bearer of the Fourth Arkansas Battalion, had his arm paralyzed by a shot striking the staff, and the flag fell to the ground. Sergt. J. C. Davis, of Company A, immediately snatched the colors and bore them until reclaimed by Sergeant Perry. Color-bearer H. W. Hamblen, Second Regiment Arkansas Rifles, gallantly bore his flag until shot down. The colors were immediately seized by Corpl. J. W. Piles, of the color-guard, who bore them gallantly the remainder of the day. Color-bearer J. B. Bryant, of the Fourth Arkansas Regiment, was wounded. Lieutenant [John] Armstrong then took the colors and fell, mortally wounded. Lieutenant [G. D.] Goodner then took them, but was soon afterward wounded. Captain [John W.] Lavender bore the colors the remainder of the day.

In one of the charges of the Thirtieth Arkansas Regiment it had seven company commanders cut down and the color-bearer, yet the men never wavered. Later in the day a second color-bearer was wounded and the colors lost in a cedar brake, but whether found by the enemy or not is not known. The only field officer (Major [J. J.] Franklin) and several lieutenants also fell, and yet this regiment maintained its organization. Seven color-bearers fell in General McNair's brigade and three in General Ector's. Col. G. W. Gordon, Eleventh Tennessee Regiment, fell, dangerously wounded, while most gallantly leading his regiment. I was informed by prisoners that the Federal General [Joshua W.] Sill was killed by my division while endeavoring to rally his defeated troops. My division moved so rapidly, and was so constantly engaged, that the **guns captured were never counted; I am satisfied that [there were] at**

least twenty-three, besides caissons, forges, and other ordnance stores. The division passed, untouched, wagons, knapsacks, &c.

Brigadier-Generals Ector and McNair and Colonel Harper (commanding McNair's brigade in the latter part of the day) exhibited cool and dauntless courage, as well as skill, in the handling of their commands.

I cannot speak in too high terms of the regimental and company officers; all bore themselves gallantly and nobly.

To the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of my division I owe a debt of gratitude. I did not see a single straggler nor a single plunderer up to the attack on the enemy's position on the Nashville pike; every man seemed inspired.

To my staff on the field I am under many obligations for the efficient manner in which they performed their respective duties, viz: Maj. H. S. Bradford, assistant adjutant-general and chief of staff; Maj. G. A. Henry, jr., inspector-general; Maj. Batt. Barrow and Capt. F. S. De Wolff, assistant adjutants-general; Lieut. B. N. Mathes, assistant inspector-general; Lieut. H. S. Foote, jr., aide-de-camp; Mr. R. R. McClure, volunteer aide; Lieut. E. M. Ross, acting aide-de-camp; Capt. G. M. Mathes, chief of artillery.

Capt. J. D. Allison, ordnance officer, performed his duty well, not only supplying ammunition to my division, but to others.

Lieut. Col. W. E. Dyer, acting paymaster to Smith's corps in the field; Maj. M. Cheatham and Capt. C. W. Kennedy, assistant quartermasters, have my thanks for the efficient manner in which they performed duties assigned to them.

Maj. P. F. Glass, division commissary, and Maj. H. Brownson Smith, acting commissary of subsistence, rendered good service in their department in supplying the command in the field and the hospitals.

Division Surg. Gus. B. Thornton was untiring in his labors with the wounded. He is entitled to the thanks of the command.

On several occasions Lieut. D. C. Chamberlain, of my escort, carried my orders on the field to my satisfaction.

My two orderlies, William T. Brabson and William Forbes, bore themselves with great courage, and were useful to me in many ways. Mr. Armstrong, of Knoxville, behaved with great gallantry.

To Brigadier-General Liddell, commanding brigade in Cleburne's division, I am under many obligations. He came into action at my request at a critical moment, gallantly maintaining the fight until I could change my front and bring my troops into action. This was the only active support that I am aware of receiving until I was forced to abandon my purpose of establishing myself on the Nashville pike.

I feel grateful to Lieutenant-General Hardee for the consideration exhibited for my weary and exhausted command, as well as for the confidence (as exhibited by him in sharing our fortunes at one time in rear of the Federal army) reposed in them.

It is with pride and pleasure I record the gallant bearing of my division, but it is with a sad heart that I record the roll of the gallant dead and wounded.

Col. R. B. Vance, Twenty-ninth North Carolina, succeeded to the command of General Rains' brigade. Colonel Vance bore himself gallantly.

After the fall of General Rains, his staff on the field reported to me. Their bearing at all times when under my observation was very gallant. They are as follows: Capt. [Felix] R. [R.] Smith, inspector-general; Lieut. T. B. Thompson, aide-de-camp, and Capt. C. A. Nichols, volunteer aide-de-camp.

I send inclosed the reports of my subordinate commanders and a

list* of killed, wounded, and missing, which please append to this report. I also send a topographical sketch of the battle, drawn from memory.

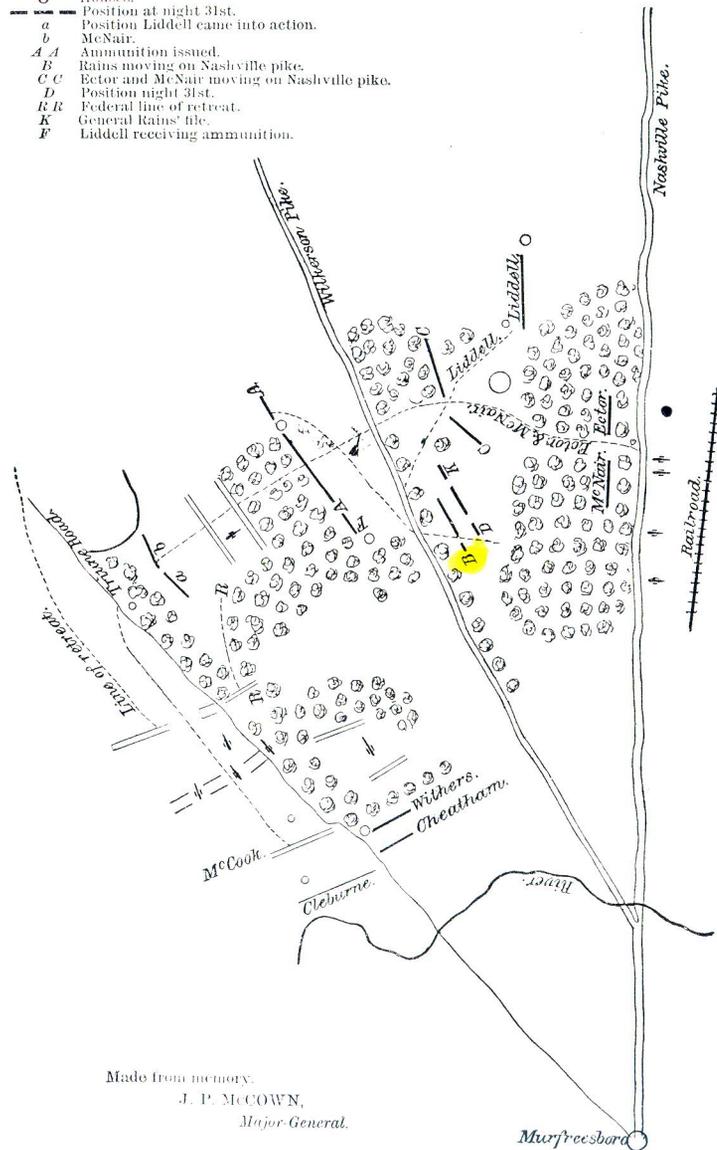
Yours, &c.,

J. P. McCOWN,

Major-General, Commanding.

Maj. T. B. ROY, Assistant Adjutant-General.

—	Confederates.
—	Federals.
⊥	Batteries.
○	Houses.
—	Position at night 31st.
a	Position Liddell came into action.
b	McNair.
A A	Ammunition issued.
B	Rains moving on Nashville pike.
C C	Ector and McNair moving on Nashville pike.
D	Position night 31st.
R R	Federal line of retreat.
K	General Rains' file.
F	Liddell receiving ammunition.



Made from memory.

J. P. McCOWN,

Major-General.

* Embodied in No. 191, pp. 680, 681.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., June 28, 1863.

In General Bragg's report of the battle of Murfreesborough I find the following:

The failure of General McCown to execute during the night an order for a slight change in the line of his division, and which had to be done in the morning, caused some delay in the general and vigorous assault by Lieutenant-General Hardee, but about 7 o'clock the rattle of musketry and the roar of artillery announced the beginning of the conflict.

This passage conveys to the mind of the reader that I had failed to execute an order, thereby delaying the attack, and that the attack commenced at 7 o'clock. Neither proposition is sustained by the facts in the case. Upon reading General Bragg's report, I applied to him to correct this error, in a communication addressed to his chief of staff, in which I say:

I received an order on the night of the 30th from General Bragg to change the position of Rains' brigade. The change was made during the night. I also received an order from Lieutenant-General Hardee to change the position of McNair's brigade. General Cheatham was to point out the new position, which he did. The brigade was placed accurately upon the ground indicated by General Cheatham before I left for General Bragg's headquarters. As to the hour of attack, I have to say the attack commenced at 6 o'clock. This fact is sustained by the reports of my subordinates.

I forward inclosed a copy of this application, marked A, together with a copy of the reply thereto, marked B, in which reply General Bragg refuses me the justice to which I am entitled, and, by some strange misapprehension on his part, he bases that refusal on the ground that my application and the certificates therein inclosed sustain his report. This mistake is singular and palpable. He says in his report that I failed to execute an order, whereby the attack was delayed. This statement I deny in my application and sustain the denial by proof. In General Bragg's reply he assumes that this denial constitutes an admission of the fact. His report places the beginning of the conflict at 7 o'clock. My application places it at 6 [o'clock], and the evidence therewith offered proves my statement correct; yet General Bragg in his reply assumes that my application and certificates "fully" sustain his report in this respect, notwithstanding they differ an hour as to the time of the beginning of the attack. When the rules of logic are so far reversed as to make a positive denial an admission of a fact, and when the laws of nature are so far changed as to make 6 [o'clock] in the morning and 7 o'clock one and the same thing, then General Bragg's assumption that my application for a correction of his report sustains the report itself will be comprehensible, and not until then. His report and my application are the reverse of each other, both as to my failure to execute an order and as to the time of attack. General Bragg's reply says that on these points they agree.

General Bragg further says, in his reply, that the statement in his report which I asked him to correct was based on the following paragraph in General Hardee's report:

Major-General McCown having failed to get McNair's brigade on the line of battle Tuesday night, as directed by me, the brigade was moved into position next morning.

I would respectfully state that I am at a loss to understand how General Bragg could base a statement in his report of February 23, 1863, on a paragraph in the report of General Hardee, dated February 28, 1863, five days after General Bragg's report.

I deem it proper here to relate clearly the facts in the case. Near sundown on the evening of December 30, 1862, Lieutenant-General Hardee came to the left and assumed command, and requested General

It affords me pleasure in being able to state that the promptness and energetic manner in which Lieut. J. N. Lane, of General McNair's ordnance; Lieut. H. C. Leigh, ordnance officer to General Ector; Sergt. C. F. Maxey, in charge of General Rains' ordnance, and Sergt. G. W. Morrie, of the division ordnance, moved in execution of orders, did much to assist me in supplying troops and disposing of my train.

I beg the honor, major, to be, very respectfully, your very obedient servant,

J. D. ALLISON,

Captain and Chief of Ordnance to Major-General McCown.

Maj. H. [S.] BRADFORD,
Chief of Staff and Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 282.

Report of Maj. George M. Mathes, ———, Chief of Artillery.

HEADQUARTERS MCCOWN'S DIVISION, SMITH'S CORPS,
Shelbyville, Tenn., January 11, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor of submitting the following report of the part the batteries of this division took in the engagements of December 30 and 31, [1862,] before Murfreesborough:

On the 29th, when the division was in position in reserve, in rear of Stone's River, near the Nashville pike, I received an order from the major-general commanding to detach one section of rifled pieces from one of the batteries, with orders to report to Brigadier-General [A.] Buford, on the Salem pike, which was done from the **Eufaula Light Artillery**, General Rains' brigade (Lieutenant [W. A.] McDuffie commanding), under charge of Lieutenant [W. J.] McKenzie.

When the division was ordered from its reserve position to the left, on the Triune road, the batteries were moved in mass in rear of the division to its new position. The batteries of Captains Douglas and Humphreys were placed in reserve, and Lieutenant McDuffie, commanding Eufaula Battery, was ordered to take position in line to support his brigade (Rains') during the day of the 30th, when the firing became very heavy on Robertson's battery. Lieutenant McDuffie was ordered to take position to support and relieve Captain Robertson, which he did, doing great damage to one of the enemy's batteries, forcing it to change position, and, prisoners state, dismounting one gun and killing several cannoneers. Lieutenant McDuffie kept his battery at 500 yards range until his ammunition was exhausted, when he was ordered to draw off his battery and fill his ammunition chests.

The lieutenant commanding and the men of the battery deserve great credit for the cool and skillful manner in which the battery was handled under the severe fire of two or more batteries. The loss of the battery was 1 man wounded and 1 horse killed.

At daylight on the morning of December 31, all of the batteries of the division were ordered forward. Captain Douglas, of General Ector's brigade, was ordered to take position and go into action on the left of the house on the left of Lieutenant-General Polk's line, which he did, engaging the enemy at short range, throwing the enemy into confusion and greatly facilitating the rout of the enemy on the left. On account of damages received by his battery, Captain Douglas was delayed in fol-

lowing up the division immediately, and was consequently some distance behind by the time he was in condition to move forward, which he did as soon as possible. Captain Humphreys' battery (McNair's brigade) was ordered up to take position on the right of Captain Douglas and to support him; but the enemy having fled before he could arrive, he pushed on his battery and passed to the right of the division, and engaged the enemy near the Wilkinson pike. He was engaged by a vastly superior force of the enemy's artillery, and had four of his guns disabled and five men wounded and several horses killed. He held his position with his two remaining guns until the artillery of the enemy was captured or forced to retire.

Both the officers and men of this battery deserve credit for the gallant manner in which they stood by their guns and served them. **The battery commanded by Lieutenant McDuffie not having been furnished with sufficient ammunition, it was left in reserve near the house on General Cheatham's left, where it remained until about 2 p. m., when it was moved across the Wilkinson pike, but was ordered back by Brigadier-General Maney to take position to cover the retreat of our division in case they were compelled to fall back at this place.** I put all the batteries of this division in position at the place where they remained until Friday night, when they were ordered to Murfreesborough.

I gathered up and sent to Murfreesborough on this day sixteen pieces of artillery, a number of caissons, and some battery wagons, forges, &c., captured by this division. Major [L.] Hoxton, chief of artillery, Lieutenant-General Hardee's corps, assisted and had others carried off the field. In consequence of the recent rains, the ground was almost impassable for the movements of artillery, and the division was, in a measure, deprived of this arm.

I am, respectfully,

GEO. M. MATHES,

Acting Chief of Artillery, Major-General McCown's Division.

Maj. H. S. BRADFORD,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 283.

Report of Brig. Gen. M. D. Ector, C. S. Army, commanding First Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE, MCCOWN'S DIVISION,
Shelbyville, Tenn., January —, 1863.

In obedience to special orders from division headquarters, it becomes my duty to make a report of the operations of my brigade in the recent battles before Murfreesborough.

During the night of the 30th ultimo, I was ordered to have my command in readiness to move upon the enemy at daylight on the next morning. General McNair's brigade was to move up in position on my right and General Rains' brigade on my left. The enemy were known to be in strong force immediately in front of us, supported by several batteries. These were posted near the edge of the timber. There was a level field between us, about 500 yards across it. A few minutes after 6 a. m. on December 31, the two brigades had arrived in the position indicated, and the command "Forward, march," was given. The three

took its place in the line of battle on the left of the brigade (Rains'), which was the extreme left of General McCown's division. Ten minutes after forming, the order to advance was given, which was done in good order until a lane half a mile from the point of starting was reached, when the enemy's pickets were encountered, and a short but brisk firing commenced, without, however, retarding the progress of the command for one moment. The pickets fell back behind the cover of a field battery of one brass piece (12-pounder howitzer), which the men, sweeping on, took before it could be got into position to open fire. Four of the gunners were captured at their guns, besides some other of the enemy's vedettes, who were run down by our men in the chase, which had now extended to 2½ miles. Not stopping at this gun longer than to send the prisoners to the rear, the regiment again pushed on (in its designated place in the brigade) for, perhaps, 2 miles farther, capturing meantime one six-mule team and wagon, loaded with ammunition, instruments of a brass band, kettle and bass drum, and one four-mule wagon, loaded with medical stores. Soon after, in passing through a dense oak wood, a battalion of the enemy's sharpshooters were discovered lying on the ground some 50 paces in advance. They fired one volley into us, which, being promptly returned, they retired rapidly across a corn-field and into a thicket of cedars, where the enemy were posted in strong force. This thicket of cedars was so dense that it formed in itself a natural breastwork and protection to the enemy posted therein. Halting the regiment but a moment for the stragglers to close up, the command was given to drive them out, and the men commenced promptly to advance. Here the struggle of the day took place. The enemy, sheltering themselves behind the trunks of the thickly standing trees and the large rocks, of which there were many, stubbornly contested the ground inch by inch. Our brave boys, cheered on and led by their field, staff, and company officers, advanced through a very tempest of leaden hail and drove them pell-mell from the thicket into an open field beyond. Here the enemy's batteries, on an eminence half mile beyond, began to play upon us. The men stood to their places amid this storm of shot and shell and grape and canister until it was ascertained that their ammunition was exhausted. Just at this moment, too, General Rains was seen to fall, and the news, running like wild-fire along the whole line, produced a temporary confusion, which induced the senior colonel of the brigade to order the command to fall back both to get ammunition and to shelter themselves from the enemy's batteries, against which they could do nothing.

During the engagement my horse was killed and Adjutant [John E.] Hoey's shot under him.

The regiment entered the fight with 300 men, but, from the long-continued chase, at least 50 fell out and were not in the fight in the cedars. We had 5 men killed, 46 wounded, and 5 missing, making a total of 56.

Some of the officers and men deserve especial mention for their daring, gallantry, and good conduct upon the field, while all engaged did their duty.

Respectfully submitted.

ROBT. B. VANCE,

Colonel, Commanding Twenty-ninth North Carolina Regiment.

Major [H. S.] BRADFORD,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND BRIGADE,
Shelbyville, Tenn., January 10, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit my report of the part taken in the battle of Murfreesborough on the 31st ultimo by the Second Brigade, McCown's division.

On the morning of the 31st, the brigade was formed in line at day-break, the Twenty-ninth North Carolina Regiment having just arrived from McMinnville, Tenn. The command "forward" was soon given, and the whole command promptly sprang forward, soon taking the double-quick step, which was kept, under the direction of General Rains (who gallantly led his troops forward), until arriving at a lane, where we encountered the enemy's pickets, who fired upon us and fled. One man in the Twenty-ninth North Carolina was killed in the first fire. Crossing the fences, the double-quick was taken again, the enemy's skirmishers continuing to retreat rapidly before our shouting and triumphant troops. The charge was continued for about the distance of 3 miles, when the command was halted, the left flank resting on a creek. Here the stragglers were gathered up and the brigade reformed.

During the charge the Twenty-ninth North Carolina Regiment captured one 12-pounder howitzer, one six-horse wagon laden with ammunition, and one medical wagon, while the gunners were driven from a battery on the right of Colonel Stovall, Third Georgia, and the pieces sent to the rear. The charge was so rapid that time was not afforded to ascertain the number of pieces thus sent back, as the command was not halted for a moment.

After resting for a short time, the command was moved some distance by the right flank, then moved by the front through several fields into a grove of oaks.

At this point the brigade was changed somewhat. Colonel Stovall, Third Georgia [Battalion], was placed on right; Major [J. T.] Smith, Ninth Georgia, next; then Colonel Vance, Twenty-ninth North Carolina, leaving Colonel [G. W.] Gordon, Eleventh Tennessee, on left. In this manner we advanced, encountering the enemy in force in a few moments. He delivered one fire and fell back in confusion, our boys pushing on with enthusiasm, charging through the forest, and driving the enemy pell-mell before them. The enemy formed again on a slight elevation in our front, from which they were soon driven into a cedar thicket, and from thence finally into a large field under cover of their guns, a heavy battery of which opened on us at once with shell, grape, and canister, while the enemy's infantry rallied and opened fire from two or three heavy lines of battle. Here was the struggle for the day, and a hard one it was. Almost immediately after this hard contest began our gallant and noble brigadier-general (James E. Rains) was shot through the heart, falling dead from his horse. Still, the troops fought on, though the fall of so daring a leader necessarily produced considerable confusion. Owing to the dense cedar thicket through which we were charging, the Third and Ninth Georgia Battalions got separated from the Twenty-ninth North Carolina and Eleventh Tennessee, on the extreme right. From the reports of Colonel Stovall and Major Smith, I learn that these gallant commands were hotly engaged in front and on the right flank, being subjected to an enfilading fire. They drove the enemy from his position, and, finding the line falling back, joined it and reformed in the oak woods. They subsequently obtained position on the right of General Johnson's brigade, and continued there until placed in the new line of battle near the cedar swamp, and were kept in line until Friday night, January 2, having occasional skirmishes with the enemy in front.

In the mean time the Twenty-ninth North Carolina and Eleventh Tennessee, after continuing the engagement for some time, found their ammunition exhausted, and accordingly retired to get supplied and to recover the line fully. Here again the Twenty-ninth [North Carolina] and Eleventh Tennessee became separated, as, through a mistake, the commands went to different points for ammunition. From [Lieutenant]-Colonel [William] Thedford's report (Colonel Gordon having been wounded in the cedar thicket), I learn that after getting the cartridge-boxes filled they went in with General Liddell's brigade and sustained heavy loss in a severe action, capturing several pieces, which they were compelled to abandon for want of support.

The Twenty-ninth North Carolina also returned to the field, and were ordered to attack a brigade of the enemy which was trying to flank General McNair. The command moved across the open field, being exposed to a raking fire from the enemy's battery near by; but meeting General McNair's brigade coming out, the command was ordered to join it, which it did in the woods to the rear, where they were also joined by the Eleventh Tennessee.

Receiving orders to obey the orders of Colonel Harper, I joined my two regiments to General McNair's brigade, and we were moved on the new line of battle, constituting General McCown's right, on General Cheatham's left. Here we lay in line of battle until Friday night, January 2, occasionally skirmishing in front and constantly expecting the attack to be renewed.

From the report of First Lieut. W. A. McDuffie, Eufaula Light Artillery, I learn that his battery was engaged with the enemy for an hour on December 30, and that he was then ordered to take position in front of his own (Second) brigade (he having been supporting Robertson's battery), but could not do so for want of ammunition, which was supplied during the night.

On Wednesday (31st) he was ordered to the front, and took position near the Nolensville pike, but was not engaged; Second Lieutenant [W. J.] McKenzie was ordered to take position with two pieces on the extreme left, with General Buford. Here he was engaged on the 31st for two hours, co-operating with General Wheeler's cavalry. The report speaks highly of the conduct of the men.

From all that I saw, and have since heard, of the conduct of the troops on the field, I feel that I cannot speak too highly of them. The ground charged over first and last was quite 5 miles, and the time occupied in the charge three and three-quarters hours.

The field and staff officers of the different commands, and the brigade staff officers, behaved nobly, and have surely merited high favors at the hands of their country.

It is perhaps unnecessary to speak further of General Rains. His gallantry and daring exposure of himself was certainly not surpassed upon the field. Peace to his ashes.

As coming under my own eye, I beg to mention Adjt. J. E. Hoey, of the Twenty-ninth North Carolina, who behaved with extraordinary courage upon the field, encouraging the men by word and deed.

Several officers had their horses killed.

For the casualties* of the command I refer you to report of killed, wounded, and missing.

Respectfully submitted.

ROBT. B. VANCE,
Colonel, Commanding Second Brigade, Army of Tennessee.
Major [H. S.] BRADFORD, Assistant Adjutant-General.

* Embodied in No. 191, p. 681.

No. 290.

Report of Lieut. Col. M. A. Stovall, Third Georgia Battalion.

— — —, 1863.

[I have the honor to submit the following] report of the engagement of the Third Georgia Battalion with the enemy on December 31, 1862:

On the morning of December 31, [1862,] the troops of our brigade were called up and ordered to remove the fence which had concealed us the day before to avoid the enfilading fire of artillery to which we had been subjected. This was finished just as day began to dawn. The men lay under cover of the line of fence until objects became distinctly visible. The command "forward" was now given, and the Third Georgia Battalion moved rapidly about 300 yards, when "double-quick" ran along the line, and with a yell the whole sprang forward. We received the fire of the enemy's pickets, who fled. If there was any line of the enemy in front of the Third Georgia Battalion they fled without firing, and we swept entirely around that which was in front of Ector's and McNair's brigades. The whole force now opposed to our battalion fled in confusion, and we pursued them with a running fire for 3 miles, to their abandoned encampment. Here the line of battle, which had been broken, was reformed, and we moved rapidly by the right flank several hundred yards, then again by the left flank, our line of battle sweeping around to the pike. Crossing this, my battalion moved in advance of the remainder of the division, who had halted for ammunition. Soon after entering the wood we came upon a regiment and skirmishers, who had been engaged with the enemy. Passing the skirmishers, we found their line posted in a hollow. Though we had killed several in the pursuit, here our fighting began. We delivered our fire at a distance of 150 yards or less, killing many. At the word the battalion sprang forward down the hill, while the enemy scampered away up another and halted, and began a galling fire from under cover of a ledge of rocks and cedar thicket. The enemy in front of the Ninth and Eleventh finding no such cover, continued to give way, and while the Ninth and Eleventh swept forward my battalion was checked for a moment. We soon, however, forced our position directly in our front, and when we moved up to occupy it we were subjected to a galling enfilading fire on our right. The attention of our right wing being directed to this annoying force of the enemy, they were soon driven off. Our men were rallied and formed among the rocks, and we moved by the left flank toward the cedar swamp, where the fire was the hottest. Here we met our lines retiring in confusion before a destructive fire of artillery. We filed out of the woods, in order, to the top of the hill, where we first fired upon the enemy. Here we made a stand, until Polk's brigade was rallied, when we marched out into the field and allowed Cleburne's division to pass. Here we rested a few minutes to procure ammunition, and by order of General Cheatham marched again to the front. Finding myself entirely alone with 300 men, it was deemed imprudent to make an unsupported attack upon the enemy.

General Johnson's brigade came up about 2 p. m., and, having obtained his permission, we took position on his right and co-operated with him until 4 p. m., when we again learned McCown's division was near the place we fought first in the morning. We rejoined the division and remained until night in line of battle. For the casualties, I respectfully refer you to the list* already furnished.

M. A. STOVALL,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Third Georgia Battalion.

* Embodied in No. 191, p. 681.

No. 291.

*Report of Maj. Joseph T. Smith, Ninth Georgia Battalion.*CAMP NEAR SHELBYVILLE, TENN.,
January 9, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to transmit a report of the part taken by my command in the late battle of Murfreesborough.

On the evening of December 30, 1862, we took up our position in line of battle on the left wing of the army, and soon after doing so the action commenced to our right. The position we had taken was such as to bring us directly within range of the enemy's artillery, and, though in open ground, no casualty occurred during the evening.

At a very early hour on Wednesday morning, December 31, we were under arms and informed by General Rains that we were to charge the enemy's line. At about 6 a m we commenced the advance, the men being so eager for the fray that it was in a manner impossible to restrain them in order. After advancing some 600 or 800 yards, we came upon the enemy's pickets, who were fleeing in all directions. We gave chase, and advanced so rapidly that we were at the enemy's batteries before he was able to fire upon us. We pushed forward without waiting even to examine the batteries, and, after thus advancing at a double-quick a mile or more, were halted by General Rains and reformed. We here swung round to the right, and, crossing the Franklin pike, passed into a dense woods. Upon proceeding a short distance we came upon the enemy occupying a strong position, and successfully resisting the advance of our right for a few moments, after which they fled. During the momentary check of our right wing, the left of my command, finding but little resistance, still advanced, and thus became separated from my right. A company or more of the left of my command by this means pushed forward with the Eleventh Tennessee Regiment, which occupied a position to my left, and did not join me again during the day. Upon routing the enemy from the clift of rocks where we first encountered them in the woods, we pushed forward in pursuit, but soon found ourselves confronted by the enemy's batteries, very heavily supported by infantry. My command, at this time not numbering over 130 men, and having no support, were reduced to the necessity of falling back, which was done in tolerable order. The men being utterly exhausted, I ordered a rest, and proceeded to gather together my stragglers, and in the mean time, ascertaining that we were to form a new line of battle near where we then were, in company with Lieutenant-Colonel Stovall's Third Georgia Battalion took our position in that line. At this place we remained until Friday night, January 2, having frequent skirmishes with the enemy's pickets, undergoing occasionally severe shelling from the enemy's batteries.

The conduct of my command, with some trifling exceptions, was worthy the highest praise.

The list of casualties* has heretofore been furnished.

The meagerness and incompleteness of this report must be accounted for by reason of my not having any facilities for writing with me at present.

All of which is very respectfully submitted.

JOSEPH T. SMITH,
Major, Commanding Ninth Georgia Battalion.

T. B. THOMPSON,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Second Brigade.

* Embodied in No. 191, p. 681.

No. 292.

Report of Lieut. Col. William Thedford, Eleventh Tennessee Infantry.

— — —, 1863.

On Wednesday, at daylight, the Eleventh Tennessee Regiment, Col. G. W. Gordon commanding, was drawn up in line of battle on the left of General Rains' brigade and of McCown's division. We remained in this position with the Twenty-ninth North Carolina Regiment on the extreme left, when we were ordered to charge the enemy, stationed some 800 yards in advance. The charge was led by General Rains in person, and resulted in a complete rout of the enemy, who were pursued for some 3 miles. A halt was then ordered and the command reformed. After a short rest we were again ordered to advance in line until we encountered a large force of the enemy. A charge was immediately ordered, which was obeyed with alacrity, until the advance was checked by the enemy's battery, which rained shot and shell into our ranks. Here General Rains advanced to the front and was immediately killed. Colonel Gordon was severely wounded while gallantly leading his regiment, and the command devolved upon myself. The enemy opposed our advance with obstinacy, and being strongly re-enforced, and our ammunition failing, we retired to the rear. Collecting the scattered of the regiment and procuring ammunition, we again advanced to the front, and were a third time ordered to charge the enemy. As before, the men obeyed with a shout, and drove the enemy before them until they gained a strong natural position. Here the ground was hotly contested until we were ordered to retire. Though constantly in line, the regiment was not again actively engaged. A large number of the regiment were engaged only in the first charge, in consequence of guarding the prisoners taken.

The following is a list of the casualties.*

Respectfully,

WM. THEDFORD,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Comdg. Eleventh Regiment Tennessee Vols.

— — —
No. 293.

Report of Lieut. W. A. McDuffie, Eufaula Light Artillery.

— — —, 1863.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to make the following report of my battery of the late engagement before Murfreesborough:

On [December] 30, [1862,] at 4 p. m., I engaged the enemy with four pieces, being ordered by General Rains to support Captain Robertson's battery. After an action of about an hour, I was ordered by General Rains to withdraw. I then received an order to go into position in the field occupied by the Second Brigade, but such ammunition as I could use having been expended, I was unable to comply. I was then ordered to retire beyond the range of the enemy's guns, there to await ammunition. It was supplied me during the night.

On the following morning I was ordered to the front, and took position near the Nolensville road and was not engaged.

* Nominal list, omitted, reports 8 men killed, 11 officers and 51 men wounded, and 10 men missing; but see No. 191, p. 681.

Second Lieut. W. J. McKenzie, on the 29th, was ordered by the chief of artillery of General Bragg's staff to report with two pieces to General Buford, on the Salem road. He was engaged on the extreme left on the 31st at 3 p. m. He was in action about two hours and co-operated with General Wheeler's cavalry.

The men, during the engagement, acted well. I expended 213 rounds of ammunition.

My casualties are 1 corporal and 1 private wounded* and 1 horse killed.

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

W. A. McDUFFIE,

First Lieutenant Eufaula Light Artillery.

ACTING ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL, SECOND BRIGADE.

No. 294.

Report of Brig. Gen. E. McNair, C. S. Army, commanding Third Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD BRIGADE,
In Camp near Shelbyville, Tenn., January 10, 1863.

SIR: Through you I have the honor to make the following report to the major-general commanding the division, of the action of my brigade in the late battle before Murfreesborough, on December 31, 1862:

In obedience to orders received from division headquarters at 7 p. m. on December 30, 1862, I formed my brigade in line of battle on the ground designated at that time.

At 6 a. m. on December 31, I moved forward about 150 yards, and joined Brigadier-General Ector's brigade on the right. We then moved forward together to meet the enemy, who was in force immediately in front of us. We had advanced but a short distance before the enemy's pickets and sharpshooters opened fire upon us. At this point I cautioned my brigade to reserve their fire and push forward. I had advanced but a short distance when the fire became general along the line, indicating that we were near the enemy in position; and at that moment he opened upon us with a six-gun battery a most terrific fire of shell and grape shot. I then ordered a charge, which was responded to with alacrity and good will. It was but a moment until his battery was ours, his long line of infantry routed and dispersed, and the strong position which he held in security but a moment before covered with his dead and wounded. My command continued to pursue the enemy for three-quarters of a mile, pouring a destructive fire into his broken and scattered ranks, strewing the ground with his killed and wounded. At this point, discovering that the support on my right had not come up as expected by me, and the enemy having thrown a heavy force partly in my rear, their sharpshooters having already commenced to fire upon my wounded men, I halted my brigade and moved them to the rear by the flank, for the purpose of protecting my wounded men. After having moved but a short distance, I discovered Brigadier-General Liddell advancing with his brigade on my right, thus obviating any further movement on my part in the direction in which I was then moving. I then

* Nominal list omitted.

immediately wheeled my brigade, thus changing my front and joining Brigadier-General Liddell on his left. Again I ordered a forward movement, pushing the enemy back upon his center in a direction due north from that point. Here a heavy skirmish commenced with fresh forces of the enemy, supposed to be about one division; they were driven from every position for the distance of half a mile. Here they took position, protecting themselves behind a rail fence to the right-oblique of my line of battle. The enemy had already engaged General Liddell's brigade, on my right, holding them in check and pouring a destructive fire into their ranks. Discovering his critical position, I immediately ordered a forward movement, and had to advance across an open field a distance of about 400 yards. Again I directed my brigade to reserve their fire, which was done, until we had advanced within about 300 yards. Though the enemy poured a heavy fire upon my line from behind their cover, yet not a man faltered, but pushed forward with the stern determination of veterans. Here I ordered a charge, and, as before, officers and men seemed to vie with each other in performing acts of gallantry, and one simultaneous shout rent the air. The enemy, made bold by his front being protected by the fences, held his position with more tenacity than usual; but the terrific fire poured upon his ranks, and the velocity with which my men charged, drove him from his position in confusion, thus relieving Brigadier-General Liddell's brigade, which was already faltering under the heavy fire of the enemy, thus for the second time driving the foe from his choice and strong position. This was perhaps the hardest contested engagement of the day. Here my loss in killed and wounded was heavy, though small compared with that of the enemy.

Without halting, I pursued the enemy through an open field, pouring a deadly fire into their disordered ranks for half or three-quarters of a mile, until I arrived at another fence in front of a dense forest. Fearing an ambush, and at the same time finding the men were out of ammunition, I ordered a halt and rested the men in rear of a fence, at the same time ordering up the ammunition train, which arrived in due time, and proceeded to replenish the cartridge-boxes.

At this place, general, as you are aware, having become exhausted (my health having been bad for several days previous), I was unable to remain longer upon the field, and placed Col. R. W. Harper, of the First Arkansas Mounted Riflemen (dismounted), in command of the brigade, and most respectfully refer you to his report for the further action of the brigade upon that day.

In regard to the casualties of the brigade—as already reported, killed 42, mortally wounded 6; killed, wounded, and missing 427—I am happy to report that a very large proportion of the wounds are slight, and most of the men will report for duty very soon.

And here, general, I beg leave to call your attention to the surgeons of my brigade. Surg. W. L. Gammage, with the limited means at his disposal, did all that could be done to relieve the sufferings of the wounded men. The regimental surgeons, with their assistants, proved themselves worthy of the high and responsible positions they occupy. By their united efforts, with the assistance of the infirmary corps, not one wounded man was left uncared for during the night.

As you are aware, general, we turned the right wing of the Federal army, driving them 4 miles or more, taking one brigadier-general (Willich) prisoner, a large number of officers of the line, and privates innumerable, capturing fourteen pieces of artillery, caissons, and ord