

tantly did) and directed Captain Semple to act as chief of artillery. Captain Semple sent four of his 12-pounders, under Lieutenant [E. J.] Fitzpatrick, to General Breckinridge's division. In the desperate conflict which took place on the right that evening, this battery bore a conspicuous part. Out of 45 men and officers, 20 were killed and wounded; among them Lieut. Joseph Pollard, who is represented as having fought most bravely, and only yielded when his leg and arm were both broken; 14 horses were killed and wounded, and one piece of artillery was lost. For details of the noble conduct of this battery in the fight, I refer you to the report of Captain Semple, herewith sent.

About 11 o'clock that night the enemy made a reconnaissance in force in front of my division; he was driven back by my skirmishers. Immediately afterward I received orders to withdraw my pickets and resume the position held by me on the morning of December 30, on the right of the army, in rear of Breckinridge's division. Here I remained, enduring the incessant cold rain of that night and next day, until 11 p. m. of the 3d, when I commenced retreating on Manchester.

After the battles of Wednesday, I collected a large number of guns and sent them to General Bragg's chief of ordnance. I also got several artillery horses, with which I replaced most of the disabled horses in my batteries; also a large quantity of artillery ammunition, harness, and other articles necessary in batteries.

To the courage and patriotism of the officers and men, the good discipline which existed among them, and the unexpected suddenness of the attack, are alone due the success which attended my advance upon the enemy's right. With the exception of the wheel of my division, directed by General Hardee, on the morning of the great battle, there was no strategic movement attempted. It was one determined charge, sometimes checked, and even repulsed, by the enemy; sometimes delayed to procure a fresh supply of ammunition, but ever renewed and successful, until McCook's Federal corps of 18,000 men, composing the right wing of Rosecrans' army, had been swept away, and two or three lines of his successors had shared the same fate.

To Brigadier-Generals Johnson, Wood, and Polk, and Colonel Vaughan, commanding Smith's brigade, of Cheatham's division, the country is indebted for their great exertions on this occasion. Brigadier-General Liddell led his brigade with a skill, courage, and devotion which, I believe, saved my left flank from being turned by the enemy.

I found the following officers of my staff very efficient in this battle; they were at their posts all the time, and discharged their difficult duties with a courage, promptness, and intelligence not often equaled, viz: Col. W. W. Kirkland, chief of staff; Maj. Calhoun Beuham, assistant inspector-general; Capt. Irving A. Buck, assistant adjutant-general; Lieuts. J. W. Jetton and J. K. Dixon (the latter was wounded); Capt. T. R. Hotchkiss (wounded); John M. Johnson, chief surgeon; Surg. J. H. Erskine, chief inspector. Dr. Johnson showed the same zeal, courage, and energy in this battle which has distinguished him on every other occasion, and made me feel that my division was very fortunate in having secured his services.

In addition to the officers and men already mentioned in my report, the following officers and men have been brought to my notice for distinguished services on the field. I hope it will be considered no disparagement of the services of other brave men of my division, some of whom laid down their lives or lost limbs on this field, if their gallant deeds have been overlooked in this report.

In Wood's brigade I must specially mention the following officers and

men of the Sixteenth Alabama, viz: Col. W. B. Wood and Adj. B. A. Wilson (wounded); Captain [William] Hodges, Company F; Lieutenant [C.] Davis, Company B; Lieutenant [G. W. W.] Jones, Company G; Lieutenant [G.] Pride, Company A; Lieutenant [C. F.] Carson, Company C, who remained fighting after he was wounded; Lieutenant [D. O.] Warren, Company F; Lieutenant [Thomas J.] Salter, Company D, who was wounded, but returned to the field the moment his wound was dressed; Sergt. Maj. Robert H. Cherry and Private Harvey G. Sargent, of Company H; Privates William Boyce and James Peeden, of Company C; Sergeant Bowen, Company H; Sergt. H. W. Rutland, Company A; Privates Peter White, Company F; Robert Williams, Company B, and H. D. Smith, Company A; the latter, wounded in both legs, deserves promotion. In the Forty-fifth Mississippi: Lieutenant-Colonel [R.] Charlton, Major [E. F.] Nunn, Adj. Frank Foster, jr., Sergeants Asberry, Doolittle, Morrison, Vaughan, Stewart, Lieut. G. W. Williams, Sergeant-Major Kern, Corporals Mallett, Hackler, and Read, and Private McChadieu. Corporal Read volunteered to carry the colors after the color-bearer had been shot down. He is well qualified as an officer, and ought to be promoted. In the Thirty-third Alabama: Colonel [Samuel] Adams, Captains [W. E.] Dodson and Thomas Seay (severely wounded, in advance), Sergeant-Major Mizell (mortally wounded), Corpl. Isaac R. Smith, Company C; Sergeant Stewart, Company H; Privates Byrd, Company I; Foster, Company E, and Riley, Company D. In the Third Confederate: Major [J. F.] Cameron. Wood's Sharpshooters: Captain [A. T.] Hawkins.

Polk's Brigade.—In Fifth Confederate: Col. J. A. Smith and Adj. F. T. Smith. In First Arkansas: Colonel [John W.] Colquitt, Lieut. Col. Don McGregor, Adj. S. N. Greenwood, Captain [William A.] Alexander, Company B (wounded); Captain [W. H.] Scales, Company C (wounded); Captain [O. F.] Parrish, Company D (wounded); Lieut. John E. Letson (wounded); Corpls. Green M. McKenzie, Company A (killed); John S. T. Hemphill, Company B (wounded); Privates G. W. Sallee, Company C; J. C. Bogy, Company D; W. W. Chaney, Company E; Hardee J. Bullion, Company F, and A. P. Green, Company G (killed); James Beeson, Company H; John H. Curd, Company I (killed); Ocean C. Choat, Company K (killed). In Thirteenth and Fifteenth Arkansas: Capt. Thomas H. Osborne, Companies B and H, Fifteenth Arkansas; Lieut. John Dolan, Company A, Thirteenth Arkansas, ought to be promoted; Color-bearer Felix E. Lipe, Thirteenth Arkansas (wounded); First Sergt. J. M. Harkleroad, Company F, Fifteenth Arkansas; Private William Sandford, Company E, Thirteenth Arkansas (wounded), ought to be promoted; Lieut. William [H.] Pearce and Captain [W. H.] Kinsey, Fifteenth Arkansas. In Fifth Tennessee: Col. B. J. Hill, well worthy of promotion. Calvert's Battery: Joseph Lemon, color-bearer, deserves promotion.

Liddell's Brigade.—In Second Arkansas: Lieutenants [H. C.] Collier and [B. L.] Clegg, I fear killed; Lieutenant Colonel [Reuben F.] Harvey, Captain [J. K.] Phillips, Company F, ought to be promoted; Lieutenants [C. S.] Emerson, Company A; [M. D.] Brown, Company K, and [R. E.] Smith, Company G. In Eighth Arkansas: Adjutant [H. J.] McCurdy, a brave young soldier (killed); Lieutenant [S. B.] Cole, Company I; Lieut. Calvin East, Company H; Lieut. T. H. Beard, Company F (killed); Lieutenant [W. M.] Bass, Company E; Captain [W. H.] Lankford, Company A; Lieutenant [B. A.] Terrett, Company E. In Fifth Arkansas: Captain [A. B.] Washington, Company K; Privates John Atkinson, Company C; B. W. Maret, Company I, and C. Mattix,

Company F. This soldier was too badly wounded to carry his gun. He asked to be allowed to carry the colors, and did so through the rest of the day. Three color-bearers had been shot down previously. In Sixth and Seventh Arkansas: Captain [J. W.] Martin, Lieutenant [J. A.] Reeves, and Captain [S. C.] Brown, ever foremost in leading their men; Captains [J. G.] Fletcher, [W. E.] Wilkerson, and [M. M.] Duffie (wounded); Sergeant-Major Eddins, Sergeant Bratton, Company H; Private Hulse, Company K; the color-bearer, whose name has not been furnished to me.

Johnson's Brigade.—In Twenty-fifth Tennessee: Capt. A. Green, Company G; Capt. G. H. Swope, Company H; First Lieut. D. S. Walker, Company D. In Forty-fourth Tennessee: Maj. H. C. Ewin and Capt. Samuel Stiles, Company A; Adj. R. G. Cross, Lieutenants [F. M.] Kelso, Company B; [J. W.] Dickins, Company C; [W. H.] Gibbs, Company F; A. P. Forester, Company K (wounded); Color-Sergt. M. J. Turner and Corpl. I. S. Berry, Company I (wounded); Corpl. John W. Gill, Company F (killed); Privates J. D. Stone, Company B; S. G. Heflin, Company C (killed); B. P. Hargroves, Company E (wounded); James D. Crenshaw, Company H (wounded), and J. M. Sellers, Company K. In Twenty-third Tennessee: Capt. N. R. Allen, Company E; Capt. W. H. Harder, Company G; Privates Henry C. Haynes, Company E, and Stephen M. Foster, Company C. In Seventeenth Tennessee: Adj. James [B.] Fitzpatrick.

I wish to call particular attention to the gallant conduct of Sergt. William N. Cameron, color-bearer of Twenty-fifth Tennessee Regiment. In the last fight he advanced in front of his regiment so far that when it fell back he was unable to follow, and was captured. He tore the colors from the staff, concealed them upon his person, and made his escape from Bowling Green, bringing with him the flag of the Twenty-fifth Tennessee Regiment.

In conclusion, I would state that I carried into the fight 6,045 men, out of which I lost 2,081 killed, wounded, and missing.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. R. CLEBURNE,
Major-General.

Maj. T. B. ROY,
Chief of Staff, Hardee's Corps.

No. 254.

Report of Brig. Gen. Lucius E. Polk, C. S. Army, commanding First Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS POLK'S BRIGADE,
January 13, 1863.

SIR: In obedience to circular of January 10, I submit the following report of the operations of my brigade in the battle before Murfreesborough:

My brigade was arranged in the following order from left to right: Fifth Confederate, First Arkansas [Infantry], Second and Fifth Tennessee, and Thirteenth and Fifteenth Arkansas Regiments.

On the evening of December 30, 1862, I received orders from the division commander to move my brigade from its position (the extreme right of our line of battle) across Stone's River to the left of General Cheat-

ham's division. This having been accomplished by 9 o'clock at night, I remained in line of battle until nearly 7 o'clock on the morning of the 31st. At that time I again received orders from division commander to wheel my command to the right, keeping the right connected with General Cheatham's left. General Cheatham's division not moving at same moment, I found if I attempted to keep with his line I should become separated from the division, then advancing. General Wood, about this time, having been ordered to my right by Lieutenant-General Hardee, and General Cheatham having commenced to move up, I continued my move, gaining ground slightly to the left. About 7.30 o'clock, and before I had moved more than 700 yards, I received word from Colonel [B. J.] Hill that my right had commenced to engage the enemy in a grove of cedars near the old Franklin dirt road. I did not believe at first that the enemy could be so near us, having understood that we were supporting General McCown. Riding to the place, I was received by a volley from the enemy, resulting in the severe wounding of my orderly (Mike Connell). In a few moments my entire line advanced across the Franklin dirt road, entered this cedar brake, and engaged the enemy all along the line. In a very short time, by the aid of Captain [J. H.] Calvert's battery, we succeeded in driving the enemy out of the cedars in great confusion. Here Major Carlton, Captain Dixon, and Lieut. William H. Pearce, Fifteenth Arkansas Regiment, were wounded while gallantly leading their men.

Following them closely as we could, we encountered them again in a woods pasture immediately in our front, in direction of Wilkinson Cross-Roads pike. After a few moments fighting, we succeeded in breaking their lines, and again they fell back in much confusion. From this position, after having reformed my line, I advanced in a line parallel to Wilkinson pike, General Wood on my right and General Johnson on my left *en echelon*, with the exception of the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment (which was in advance) of his (Johnson's) brigade. Advancing through the pasture, the enemy were seen posted across an open field near one of their hospitals and only a few hundred yards of the pike. My brigade was obliged to move across this open field with the enemy's artillery and infantry playing upon them. This they did most gallantly, causing the enemy to fall back across the pike under heavy ordnance growth of cedars. Getting possession at this place of four or five ordnance wagons, which were sent to the rear, I again moved on, but did not proceed far when the enemy's batteries, posted across a corn field on the right of the pike, commenced playing fearfully upon my ranks. Here Captain [Charles P.] Moore, Second Tennessee, was killed, and many other officers of that regiment. (See Colonel [W. D.] Robison's report.*)

The battery was so placed, by moving straight forward my line would have been enfiladed. To prevent this, my brigade was wheeled to the right. At this time, Captain Hotchkiss sending me word that he had three batteries that required supporting, I left two of my smallest regiments and moved the rest farther to the left, for the purpose of trying to move the enemy's batteries. The Fifth Confederate here first engaged the infantry supporting these batteries, and in a few moments (the First Arkansas arriving in position) their infantry gave way and their batteries changed their position, with the exception of four guns that fell into the hands of the Fifth Confederate and First Arkansas, and in eagerness of pursuit were passed over.

From this place I moved on with my brigade, the regiments left in

* Not found.

The fifth position was in the field west of the enemy's concentrated artillery, where we fought them until we had exhausted our ammunition, losing in this engagement one of our bravest and most expert No 1 cannoneers. The enemy turned a triple number of pieces upon us, and the missiles of death fell among us singing, whizzing, bursting, and crashing through the trees, as if Mount Vesuvius had at one instant poured all its pent-up furies into our midst. Our escape from beneath those powerful guns was fortunate, if not miraculous.

The sixth and last action was near that same intertwined and matted grove of cedars. Here also the contest was unequal. It was in this engagement that Lieutenant Fitzpatrick lost his left hand by a canister, and a cannoneer's head was shot off, and a number of horses were killed, and one howitzer slightly damaged. Finding that we could not move the enemy from his strong position, and that smooth-bore guns could not cope with Parrott and rifled guns, we withdrew from the contest.

The battery lost 3 men killed, 1 officer and 4 men wounded, 10 horses killed and wounded, and 4 sets of harness. We drove the Abolitionists from three positions, and in turn were driven from a like number.

The officers on Wednesday, the 31st, passed through the battle-storm with cool and lofty courage, and the men stood firmly to their guns, and showed their devotion to their country's cause by overcoming and extinguishing fear.

Respectfully, yours,

THOMAS J. KEY,

[Lieutenant] Commanding Helena Battery.

No. 256.

Report of Brig. Gen. St. John R. Liddell, C. S. Army, commanding Second Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS LIDDELL'S BRIGADE,
Wartrace, Tenn., January 10, 1863.

MAJOR: On the evening of the 30th ultimo my command was placed, by order of Major-General Cleburne, on the extreme left of the division, on the prolongation of Major-General Cheatham's line, with orders to move, by continued change of direction, to the right, to conform to the movements of General Cheatham's command in advancing upon the enemy. The line of battle I judge to have been over 2½ miles in length, and my movements had necessarily to be rapid to keep pace with the wheel of the line of battle, the pivot being on the right. This movement commenced a little after daylight, and after marching about 1 mile we came upon a brigade of Major-General McCown, which had just repulsed a regiment of the enemy. In a moment's conversation with General McCown, he wished me to take position in advance, as his men were somewhat exhausted by the fight. I proposed, instead, that he should move by the left flank and allow me to move up in line with his command, thus placing him on my left, which was readily consented to and done. We then moved forward in line, and almost immediately engaged the enemy. This, I suppose, was about 8.30 a. m. My battery was immediately placed in position on an eminence in rear of the line, and opened fire upon the enemy, who were posted behind a fence in front of us, about 75 yards distant, with another line 150 yards farther in their rear, in the

woods, from which position they had heavy batteries playing upon our line. After a contest lasting about half an hour, we repulsed the front line, driving it back upon the second, which also gave way upon our approach, after a short struggle. Here I lost sight of Brigadier-General Johnson's left, and continued to move straight forward against the enemy, with General McCown still on my left. We continued the pursuit, constantly skirmishing, until we reached a house, which was afterward found to be a hospital, where we re-engaged and drove back the enemy's second line of defense. My battery was here pushed forward within 60 yards of the hospital, and fired upon the retreating foe, now crossing the Wilkinson turnpike. My men continued the pursuit across the turnpike, when they were halted to wait for ammunition, to obtain which I dispatched Lieutenant [J. L.] Bostick, my aide-de-camp, to General McCown, who was near a house some 300 yards to the left of the hospital, with his command. Meanwhile my own ammunition arrived and supplied me.

In passing the hospital in advance, I was called upon by the Yankee officers to protect them, as there were a great many prisoners and wounded men in and around it and among the numerous tents in the inclosure. I left one man in charge of it, and told him to proclaim it as under my protection, and then passed on with my brigade. I refused taking any prisoners, as I did not wish to be delayed in my forward movement, or to lose the men necessary to guard them, but ordered prisoners reporting to me to remain there or move to the rear and proclaim themselves as my prisoners. I do not know what became of them afterward, though I think they were subsequently taken by General Johnson's brigade. It was at this point, in rear of the hospital, that the Federal General Sill was killed by the **Second Arkansas Regiment Infantry**, while being engaged with the enemy at the hospital, Colonel Govan ordering his men to fire at officers on horses near the building. I forgot to mention that in the first engagement [Lieutenant-]Colonel [Thomas B.] Tanner, Twenty-second Indiana Regiment, was left wounded on the field and became a prisoner.

The brigade being now supplied with ammunition, after having crossed the Wilkinson turnpike, was rapidly pushed forward through the woods a quarter of a mile or more, and coming up with the enemy on the edge of a field, which opened in view of a church, in some open woods on Overall's Creek, some 500 yards distant on our left, and engaged him, driving him in confusion over the crest of a hill beyond. Finding myself alone at this point, with no support on my right or left, I halted my command in the woods near the fence, and threw forward a line of skirmishers to reconnoiter and develop the enemy, not then visible from our position. Lieuts. J. M. Dulin and [J. L.] Bostick, of my staff, who had gone forward with the skirmishers, immediately returned and reported the enemy in line of battle in the valley of Overall's Creek, some 400 or 500 yards distant from the crest of the hill. I at once ordered forward my battery to the crest of the hill, and directed it to fire upon him, as I was in good supporting distance with the brigade. This was done with decided effect, resulting in turning the enemy back and driving him from view behind the railroad embankment. The turnpike road at this time was filled with trains of wagons moving in the direction of Nashville, which the Texas cavalry charged, and I ordered the battery to fire upon that part of the train to the right of the cavalry, which caused the train to break in confusion and seek shelter behind the embankment of the railroad. While this change of route by the enemy was taking place, I continued firing as long as any of the train and enemy appeared in view.

There were some instances of cowardice stated in the reports of the colonels, which are herewith inclosed.

We lament our brave dead; we feel for our wounded brothers, while we honor them. The heartfelt thanks of those of us who have escaped, unhurt, through the storm of death are due to a kind Providence, to whom we pray for safety and success in all the coming contests for our country's cause.

Respectfully submitted.

ST. JOHN R. LIDDELL,
Brigadier-General.

Col. W. W. KIRKLAND,
Adjt. Gen. and Chief of Staff, Cleburne's Div., Hardee's Corps.

No. 257.

Reports of Col. Daniel C. Govan, Second Arkansas Infantry.

WARTRACE, TENN., *January 10, 1863.*

CAPTAIN: I have the honor herewith to make the following report of the part taken by the Second Arkansas Regiment in the late battles before Murfreesborough:

On the night of December 30, [1862,] the Second Arkansas Regiment was moved with the rest of the brigade to a position on the extreme left.

Early on the morning of the 31st, immediately after daylight, we were advanced at a rapid pace on the enemy. Occupying, as our brigade did, the extreme left of General Cleburne's division, and moving in a circular direction, the right of the division being the point, we advanced in this direction nearly a mile, when, pressing through an open field, exposed to severe cannonade, we encountered the enemy, who were posted behind a fence and in the woods immediately in front. After a severe engagement of half an hour, the enemy were driven from their position and pursued rapidly through the woods, when a running fight took place for some distance. My regiment suffered heavily in this first fight. It was here that the gallant young Lieutenants Collier and Clegg, of Company H, fell, I fear mortally wounded, while nobly doing their duty. The enemy were closely followed through the woods, when we encountered a second line of the enemy, posted behind a fence and in the woods near a house used by the enemy as a hospital. The Second Arkansas Regiment, being on the extreme right of the brigade, engaged the enemy near this building. The right of the regiment rested within 15 or 20 steps of this building, and were exposed to a heavy fire from the enemy in our front, and also from a portion of the enemy who had taken refuge in and behind the buildings adjacent to this hospital. It was near this point that General Sill, of the Federal Army, was killed. After a severe engagement the enemy were driven from this second strong position. The hospital, together with many prisoners who had taken refuge there, were taken possession of by General Liddell, and a guard of two men detailed from my regiment to guard the prisoners. No other brigade or regiment was at this time in sight of the hospital. Our brigade, after moving forward a short distance, was halted for the purpose of replenishing our exhausted supply of ammunition, and were then moved forward in the direction of the enemy, whom we engaged in a neck of woods on the edge of a field. A second line of the enemy

showed itself on the opposite side of the field, and advanced some 100 yards into the open field opposite my regiment, but were driven back by one well-directed fire. The enemy having fled immediately in my front, and finding him still making a stubborn resistance to my left, I moved my regiment by the left flank, and then forward on the enemy in the neck of woods. A very closely contested fight here took place, the enemy holding their position until the Second Arkansas Regiment approached within 25 steps of their line, when it gave way in confusion and fled across the field, exposed to a murderous fire from my regiment, which told with effect, as their dead were thick on the ground. It was at this point that the color-bearer was shot down by one of my men, and the colors were lost in the confusion of the fight.

Our brigade then moved forward, and was halted some 50 yards in the open field from the edge of a cedar ridge, being unable to advance, as General Johnson's brigade, which had moved forward on our right, had, after halting, moved by the left flank, which placed a portion of his brigade immediately in our front. At this point (General Liddell having gone to reconnoiter and select a place for a battery) the commanders of the different regiments reported to me that their supply of ammunition was nearly exhausted. I immediately sent an officer (Lieutenant Dulin) in search of the ammunition, and, while awaiting its arrival, General Johnson's brigade, immediately on my right and front, gave way and fell back in confusion. I was at first at a loss what course to pursue. Our success had been all that we wished, and we had not met with a single repulse, but when I reflected, first, that the ammunition of the brigade was nearly, if not quite, exhausted; that the brigade on our right and front had given way; that we had no support either on our rear or left; that our position was an exposed one, being in an open field, while the enemy were concealed under cover of the thick cedars on the opposite ridge, I concluded the only alternative left was to order the brigade to retreat, which I did—not, however, until the brigade on my right had passed me some 100 yards or more. Be it said, to the credit of the whole brigade, that all stood firm, and neither officers nor men showed any disposition to retire until I gave the command to retreat. The brigade retired some 300 yards, and was immediately halted and reformed. The enemy showed no disposition to follow us.

My regiment, both officers and men, behaved with distinguished gallantry, with the exception of a few men, whose names I herewith forward.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey I here make my acknowledgments, and bear willing testimony to his gallantry and bravery during the fight, rendering me great service in the management of the regiment, and setting an example of gallantry worthy of emulation. I deem any mention of the services of any particular officer of the regiment almost invidious, but cannot refrain from calling the attention of the brigadier general commanding this brigade to the particularly distinguished and gallant conduct of Captain [J. K.] Phillips, commanding Company F; of Lieutenant [C. S.] Emerson, commanding Company A; Lieutenant [M. D.] Brown, commanding Company K, and Second Lieutenant [R. E.] Smith, of Company G. They were foremost in the fight, and by word and action encouraged their men to emulate their example.

It is rather a singular circumstance that the Second Arkansas Regiment should again in this fight have engaged the Twenty-second Indiana Regiment, capturing the lieutenant-colonel, the same regiment which it encountered at Perryville, committing such slaughter in its ranks.

On the succeeding days of the fight, little fighting, other than skirmishing, occurred until our forces were withdrawn.

Respectfully, yours,

D. C. GOVAN,

Colonel, Commanding *Second Arkansas Regiment.*

[Capt.] G. A. WILLIAMS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

WARTRACE, TENN., March 4, 1863.

GENERAL: In accordance with your request, and after making diligent inquiry of the men and officers of my regiment in reference to the taking of the Yankee hospital near the Wilkinson pike, in the late battle of Murfreesborough, I beg leave to submit the following statement of facts:

When I made my report, I was under the impression that the right of my regiment passed on the left of the hospital. I have since been informed by Captain [E. G.] Brasher (commanding the right company) and others that one-half of this company passed on the right of the hospital, and a portion of it passed through the yard. One of his men was killed in the yard, within a few feet of the house, and two others wounded. Some dozen or more of my regiment were wounded in close proximity to the hospital. Private Elder, of Company D, Second Arkansas Regiment, left by you to guard the hospital and prisoners, stated as follows: That, in obedience to your orders, he and Private Faidley, of the same company, took possession of the hospital, which he understood was the residence of a Mr. Griscom. The yard was filled with Yankee tents and their wounded, together with about 250 prisoners. Prisoners were continually accumulating there, but were sent to Murfreesborough by General Cheatham's order. He did not see General Johnson's brigade until some time after he had been stationed there as a guard. Your brigade had then passed to the front, and there was no fighting at or about the hospital after that time.

The body of General Sill was brought to the hospital about 11 a. m. He was killed not far from the hospital, near the fence or lane. My regiment passed, still fighting, immediately over the ground where he was killed. Private Guest, of Company D, got General Sill's gloves and gave them to the captain of his company (Captain Brasher). He states that General Sill then had his uniform on, which he would have taken, but it was too large for him.

Private Faidley, of Company D, the man detailed as guard to the hospital, corroborates the statement of Private Elder, except that he says that he saw the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment, General Johnson's brigade, come up within 75 yards of the hospital about fifteen minutes after your brigade passed on.

Very respectfully,

D. C. GOVAN,

Colonel, Commanding *Second Arkansas Regiment.*

Brig. Gen. ST. JOHN R. LIDDELL.

[Indorsement.]

GENERAL: The foregoing facts I submit for your consideration, and am personally familiar with most of them. Until it can be established

that men from other brigades in our army fell at Griscom's house, or hospital, the credit of its capture and the killing of Major-General Sill, U. S. Army, should justly belong to the Second Arkansas Regiment.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

ST. JOHN R. LIDDELL,

Brigadier-General.

Major-General [P. K.] CLEBURNE,
Tullahoma, Tenn.

No. 258.

Report of Lieut. Col. Reuben F. Harvey, *Second Arkansas Infantry.*

WARTRACE, TENN., March 25, 1863.

I wish to call your attention to a portion of the report of Colonel Floyd in regard to the capture of the Federal hospital commonly known as the Jenkins house. You discover from Colonel Floyd's report that there was a farm around the hospital, inclosed by fences, running as follows: On the south side running from southeast to northwest, or nearly so; on the north side running parallel with the above; a lane passing through the farm on the west of the hospital, running north and south to the Wilkinson pike, the pike running parallel with the fence, and that there was a skirt of woods south of the first-named fence south of the hospital, and that when his (Colonel Floyd's) regiment entered this skirt of woods we were some distance to his left and rear, and that Colonel Keeble says (whose regiment was between his left and our right) about this time your brigade passed still farther to the left, and that his line was being enfiladed by the enemy, who seemed to be on a line with his regiment and to his left, and that he ordered the "forward" as soon as that line gave way. He also states that his regiment (the Seventeenth Tennessee) just before leaving this skirt of woods made a right half-wheel; otherwise would have passed on the west of the hospital; but [Lieutenant]-Colonel Keeble states that when your brigade was last seen it was moving to the left, and also states that he passed up the lane and covered the hospital with three of his companies. This position would have thrown the *Second Arkansas Regiment* at least one-quarter of a mile west of the lane at the time of entering the skirt of woods, which was about a quarter of a mile wide, and after obliquing across this skirt of wood we would have been at least half a mile west of the lane.

Now, sir, the facts known to me and the officers of the *Second Arkansas Regiment* are as follows: First, that we drove a line of the enemy from behind the fences at the south end of the lane referred to and through the field to the hospital, distance about 250 yards, and beyond the Wilkinson pike; that a part of the regiment passed up the lane to the hospital, firing on the enemy retreating; that we were fired upon from and about the hospital; that we saw the enemy pass the hospital and cross the pike; that we did, after halting for some time at a fence running west from the hospital, move forward 300 yards beyond the hospital referred to, and then halted for ammunition. So you see, according to Colonel Floyd's report, before leaving the wood he was west of the lane when he moved forward, made a right half-wheel, and had to cross the fence south of the hospital; then both fences, making the lane in order to pass on the east of the hospital. Colonel Keeble being on his left, and we (according to his report) marching still to the left, where could we have gone to? Then, you see,

we had to march by the right flank about half a mile, then by the left flank in line of battle, in order that the right of the brigade might cover the mouth of the lane before entering the field, unless, however, the colonel will deny we approached the hospital by this route, which no man on earth need to deny. Did you, sir, make such a movement as that? No, sir; you pushed your brigade upon the enemy in a run, as straight forward as the nature of the case would admit, without any perceptible change of speed or direction until your ammunition became exhausted. You know that if any change of direction had been made up to this time it was to the right, as you know that General Hardee came to our lines early in the morning, and ordered a general change of direction to the right, which was made by your brigade so far as to lap one or more of the regiments of General Johnson's brigade. This, however, was corrected before any general engagement took place. The brigade rested at the pike about three-quarters of an hour, when General Johnson's brigade moved up and formed on our right. I do not say the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment had not arrived up to this time to the position referred to in Colonel Floyd's report.

With reference to the capture of the Federal hospital, I should dislike for it to amount to a question of veracity; but it seems strange to me that the hospital had been surrendered by the violent waving of a white flag, as Colonel Floyd states, a half hour before we arrived, and then our men were falling right and left from a fire coming from and about the hospital, and that we should drive a heavy column of the enemy through and from the field and yard, which he had passed half an hour before, and yet we were half an hour behind, according to Colonel Floyd's report. I would further add, that line repulsed from behind the fence, south of the hospital, which was in a position to enfilade General Johnson's brigade, was certainly much nearer the hospital than Colonel Floyd, as Colonel Keeble was on his left, and between the Seventeenth Tennessee and **Second Arkansas Regiments**. Colonel Keeble states that we were going to his left, which would certainly throw Colonel Floyd considerably to our right; also shows that we repulsed the enfilading line; at the same time proves that we preceded him to the hospital, or that he ran over and left a heavy column of the enemy at the fence, all of whom were mad men, well armed and unhurt, or that he passed considerably to the right of the hospital and left this line in his rear—which he did not do, for in his report he states he ordered the "forward" when his enfilading line gave way, and I know, and a just God at his bar will prove to Colonel Floyd and his officers that we were not half an hour or fifteen minutes getting to that hospital from the time we entered the skirt of wood. I further add, that after we halted some time at the hospital, behind the fence running west from the hospital, General Liddell ordered his men out of the yard, where the Federals were about 250 in number, into line, looking for a charge of the enemy's cavalry from our left, and, on entering the yard a short time after halting, three Confederate prisoners, who said they were captured the day previous, reported to me.

I hope no honor due the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment will ever be seized by the **Second Arkansas Regiment**. We have confidently looked upon them as worthy and brave fellow-soldiers (which they deserve to be called) in the day of battle, and if they captured the Federal hospital referred to, or passed it half an hour before we did, that everything that is glorious be inscribed upon their banner, for they are insensible of danger and fearless of numbers, and noted for speed as well as cool courage, to have advanced their colors and general guides,

formed a correct line, and obtained a supply of ammunition from the enemy's own wagons between the lines of his proud legions, and no support nearer than twenty minutes' run; but Colonel Floyd would do well to obtain more proof before asserting that no Confederate troops had reached the hospital before his regiment, for there was a sufficient force there when we approached it to have annihilated any three companies; but if he did capture the hospital, may the future establish the fact or prove otherwise, and satisfy him, as well as the just tribunal into whose hands this may fall, that I am his friend and fellow-soldier.

R. F. HARVEY,

Lieutenant-Colonel, Comdg. Second Arkansas Regiment.

General LIDDELL.

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS LIDDELL'S BRIGADE,

March 25, 1863.

Respectfully forwarded.

It is possible that there is a mistake as to the identity of the Yankee hospital. The one taken by the Second Arkansas Regiment was called the Griscom house. If, however, the Jenkins hospital and the Griscom house are one and the same, and General Johnson claims its capture by the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment, then I do not understand why the enemy was left still in possession of it, with a long line of battle stretching westward, with which my brigade had to contend, and finally drive away with musketry and cannon shot. In this affair I certainly must attach some credit to the evidences of my own senses, that, too, corroborated by my field and regimental officers; but if these prove unavailing, I have nothing more to say. I see that General J[ohnson] refers the subject to the Secretary of War in his indorsement on Lieutenant-Colonel Floyd's report. I shall be satisfied to let our claim rest with the division commander, who, it is presumed, is familiar with all the facts and persons interested, and if it should be in the way of General J[ohnson]'s glory, I am willing to let it go without further contention, however well assured I am, nevertheless, of what is due my brigade.

ST. JOHN R. LIDDELL,

Brigadier-General.

No. 259.

Report of Lieut. Col. John E. Murray, Fifth Arkansas Infantry.

ESTILL SPRINGS, TENN.,

January 7, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report that on the morning of December 31, 1862, after having bivouacked the previous night on the right bank of Stone's River about 2 miles from the town of Murfreesborough, Tenn., my command, with the other regiments of Liddell's brigade, was moved forward, gradually changing direction to the right as we moved forward. At about the hour of 7.30 a. m. we came in sight of the enemy, strongly posted with artillery and infantry in the edge of a piece of woods about 200 yards in our front, who immediately opened a well-directed and most deadly fire upon our advancing line. My command halted and immediately commenced returning the fire, and for about twenty minutes the command remained in an open field, exposed to a most deadly fire of artillery and infantry. At the end of this time the

January 11, 1863

ineffective by being in our rear on level ground, killing and wounding several of our men while firing over them. After crossing the fence with my regiment and reaching the position occupied by the enemy's abandoned battery, it was observed that that line of the enemy in front of the Fifth and Second Arkansas Regiments had not given way, but still occupied their position behind the fence. Our men were ordered to face obliquely to the rear and deliver an enfilading fire that soon routed them, when the pursuit was maintained by the whole brigade across the wide scope of woods in front to the vicinity of a cotton-field and Yankee hospital, where the enemy again made an attempt at a stand, but were rapidly driven back, the right of our regiment passing near the hospital, across the turnpike and into the woods beyond, where we were halted to rest the men and get a fresh supply of ammunition, the firing still being kept up by brigades on our right. We were soon ordered forward, and encountered the enemy on the borders of an old field, across which we drove them until, General Johnson's brigade coming up to relieve us, we were ordered to halt and reform our disordered lines. As soon as our line formed, we moved forward as a reserve to General Johnson, and found the enemy in the edge of a cedar thicket, warmly contesting the ground with him. Our men, gaining a ridge about 100 yards in rear of General Johnson and in sight of the enemy, raised a shout and started forward at double-quick, when the Yankees faced to the right-about and disappeared in the thicket, General Johnson's brigade pursuing them to the edge of this thicket, where they (Johnson's brigade) had a strong position, protected by rocks and the nature of the ground, while our line had been halted in the rear in an exposed position behind the fence on a ridge. Just at this time, though the firing did not seem heavy in our front, and one of the enemy's batteries had been abandoned and was in our possession, General Johnson's brigade gave way, the movement commencing on their right, and, I think, occasioned by the retreat of Ector's brigade, still farther to the right. After General Johnson's brigade had passed our line, and it was found that we were entirely unsupported on either flank, Colonel Govan gave the order to fall back (Colonel Smith was wounded at this point and the command devolved upon Lieutenant-Colonel Cameron) to a stronger position across the open fields and into the woods in rear, where we reformed our line and awaited the advance of the enemy that was never made, and closed the fighting on our part for the day.

As our subsequent movements on the succeeding days were only intended to develop the enemy, and, if possible, draw him from his strongly fortified position without resulting in any actual engagement, it is needless for me to make any report, though I may state that on the third day we lost two of our men by fire from batteries in the same thicket from which our troops had been repulsed, and that Lieutenant-Colonel Cameron was dangerously wounded by a ball shot from a Yankee hospital, from which their flag was then flying.

Throughout the entire action our men exhibited the most enthusiastic courage, never flinching from any charge, no matter how desperate, well sustaining that reputation they had won at such cost on other fields. Of the action of the Sixth Arkansas Regiment I need only refer to their long list* of killed and wounded to show how gallantly they had acted throughout that day. The Seventh Arkansas Regiment was not behind in gallant deeds, if I except those men reported by their captains as having left the field; those remaining were as true as steel.

* Embodied in No. 191, p. 680.

In making this imperfect report I have been greatly assisted by Captain Martin for that part of the engagement when I was not on the field. Of the gallantry of individual officers and men I would beg leave to defer special mention until the return of Colonel Smith, whose wound will detain him some weeks from the command.

W. F. DOUGLASS,
Major, Commanding.

Captain [G. A.] WILLIAMS,
[Assistant Adjutant-General.]

No. 261.

Report of Col. John H. Kelly, Eighth Arkansas Infantry.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., January 7, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report as to the action of my regiment in the late battles at Murfreesborough:

Early on the morning of December 31, [1862,] I received orders from the brigadier-general commanding to advance with my regiment and to conform to the movements of the regiments on my right, which was done by gradually wheeling to the right. A short time after advancing I was ordered to throw forward skirmishers to cover my front. Very soon after the deployment had been made, a brisk fire began, and skirmishers soon succeeded in driving back those of the enemy; the lines of battle confronted, and the contest began. My regiment was posted in an open field; the enemy was strongly posted behind a fence. After a continued and obstinate resistance, the order to charge was given (I should have mentioned that at this juncture Brigadier-General Rains' brigade came up on my left), which was obeyed with promptness and alacrity. The enemy fled in confusion; we pursued rapidly for several hundred yards, when he rallied to make another stand, but the impetuosity with which we followed him up soon hurled him again to the rear. As the second charge was ordered from this point, he was rapidly pursued for over half a mile, when it became necessary for us to halt, in order to refill our empty cartridge-boxes. This was soon accomplished, and again we moved forward. After proceeding several hundred yards, we marched by the left flank for about one-quarter of a mile, and then forward to a position several hundred yards in advance in an open field; from this point we withdrew to a position in the wood, a little to the rear. The next position taken placed the left of my regiment on a large field, the remaining portion being in the wood. The lines of battle soon met again. The fire at this point was very heavy. The enemy outflanked my left, but the timely arrival of Swett's battery dispensed all apprehension of danger from that quarter. Another charge was made, and the enemy was falling back rapidly under heavy fire. At this juncture I was wounded and retired from the field. I think it was about 1.30 p. m. The action of the regiment after this will be reported by Lieutenant-Colonel [George F.] Baucum, to whom I turned over the command.

Lieutenant [S. B.] Cole, Company I, Lieut. Calvin East, Company H, and Lieut. T. H. Beard, Company F, fell while gallantly cheering and leading their men to victory. Adjut. H. J. McCurdy was also killed; faithful to the last. He was always at his post; no shock could discompose him. The coolness, bravery, and good judgment of this gal-

lant boy is highly commendable. The gallant conduct of the noble dead was conspicuous to the whole regiment.

I have the honor to call attention to the gallant conduct of First Lieutenant [W. M.] Bass, Company E, who was wounded in the first fight while bravely cheering his men. Captain [W. H.] Lankford, Company A, and Second Lieutenant [B. A.] Terrett, Company E, also deserve special mention for gallantry on the field.

In the first charge my regiment captured two stand of colors. These were handed to me by Private James Riddle, Company C, and Corpl. N. A. Horn, Company E, but, owing to the rapidity of the pursuit, I found it impossible to carry these along, and they were left on the field. Another stand was also captured, but was left in the same manner as the others.

A full list of killed and wounded will be furnished by Lieutenant-Colonel Baucum.

The regiment during the whole engagement was always prompt to move at the command.

Very respectfully,

JNO. H. KELLY,
Colonel Eighth Arkansas Regiment.

Capt. G. A. WILLIAMS,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Liddell's Brigade.

No. 262.

Report of Lieut. Col. George F. Baucum, Eighth Arkansas Infantry.

WARTRACE, TENN., January 12, 1863.

SIR: In the late battle of Murfreesborough, on December 31, 1862, where our brigade engaged the enemy, after leaving our camp on Stone's River in the morning, we were ordered forward, and in a short time we engaged the enemy first in a corn-field, where the firing became general along the line of our whole brigade, at which place our regiment suffered severely in killed and wounded. The firing was kept up for some ten or fifteen minutes in that exposed position, at which time McNair's brigade moved up on our left and on the enemy's right and opened fire, at which time the enemy's right gave way. Then we were ordered forward, and, after crossing the fence in front of our regiment and the Sixth Arkansas, we saw that the enemy in front of the Fifth and Second Arkansas was still contesting the ground. At this time the order was given to about face, and we gave them an enfilade fire, and they soon fell back. We then forwarded to where they had been compelled to abandon two pieces of their artillery.

At this engagement I had my horse shot, and halted for a few moments and ordered the infirmiry corps to carry our wounded to the hospital immediately in the rear. As I moved forward in the edge of the woods I saw Captain Williams, and asked how far the regiment was. His answer, as well as I remember, was, that it was some distance in the woods and that we were driving them like dogs. I moved on at double-quick through the woods, when I came to a cotton-patch and saw General Liddell, and he asked me what I was doing so far behind. I answered him that I had lost my horse and was very near broke down. He told me to catch up with my command. I went across the cotton-patch, passing a gin-house, and came to a cross fence, where the brigade was halted. There was some little firing with small-arms. Then Swett's battery opened on the enemy in the edge of the woods, and we were then ordered forward across a corn-field and into the woods a few hundred yards, and

were halted and received a new supply of ammunition. The firing still kept up on our right. After receiving our ammunition, we were ordered forward to an old field, and were moved some distance into the field and halted. Our battery went forward in the field and opened fire. Our skirmishers were moved forward and engaged. The brigade was ordered back to the woods. We then moved by the right flank for several hundred yards, and were then ordered forward, where we engaged the enemy in a neck of woods, where the ground was warmly contested for some time, at which time General Johnson's brigade came up and we were ordered to charge. The enemy was repulsed, we occupying the ground. The order was then given to cease firing. Johnson's brigade moved forward to the edge of a cedar thicket under cover of a cliff of rocks. We moved forward to a fence to the support of Johnson's brigade. As soon as we reached the fence the right of the front line gave way and the brigade in our front came to the rear in double-quick, passing through our lines. I tried to halt the men in front of my regiment, but they all passed through. After all had passed, Colonel Govan gave the order to fall back; we fell back to the woods under fire from the enemy.

This, I believe, is about as correct account as I can give, which I respectfully submit.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. F. BAUCUM,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Comdg. Eighth Regiment Arkansas Vols.
Capt. G. A. WILLIAMS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 263.

Reports of Lieut. H. Shannon, Warren Light Artillery.

ARTILLERY ENCAMPMENT, LIDDELL'S BRIGADE,
Wartrace, Tenn., January 11, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the battery under my command, attached to Liddell's brigade, moved with the brigade at daylight on the morning of December 31, 1862, against the right wing of the enemy in front of Murfreesborough. After advancing about 1 mile, crossing a lane, and passing through a narrow strip of timber, I posted the battery on an eminence in an open field to the right of the brigade, and within 600 yards of one of the enemy's batteries, in front of Brigadier-General Johnson's brigade, and opened with a well-directed fire of round shot and shrapnel, causing the enemy to retire. Our loss was one horse killed.

I then moved the battery rapidly to the front and left, and took position 100 yards in rear of the brigade, in front of and within 600 yards of one of the enemy's rifle batteries, firing about 20 rounds to the piece with good effect, when the brigade gallantly charged and captured the battery, consisting of one rifle brass 6-pounder (4-inch caliber and 10-pound shot) and one 10-pounder Parrott steel gun (2.9-inch caliber). From some unknown cause a shrapnel shot lodged about half way down one of the howitzers, thus temporarily disabling the piece, which was at once ordered a short distance to the rear. The limber being brought forward, I substituted the brass rifle piece just captured for the disabled howitzer, getting a good supply of ammunition from the enemy's chests. Our loss at this position was, Corpl. Martin Green, killed by a rifle shell; Sergt. John McMullen, severely wounded in the chest by a minie ball; Artificer Charles McDermit, severely wounded in the arm and chest by a minie ball; Private Peter Hogan, severely wounded in the foot by a

the captured wagons by using all that would fit our guns. We remained here full half an hour before any support came up, Colonel Keeble coming first of your brigade. After you reformed the brigade at this point to make a second advance in line, my regiment had but little to do with the enemy until after 12 o'clock, except Captain [F. B.] Terry's company, which was thrown forward as skirmishers near the Federal hospital, north of the Franklin pike. Here Captain Terry drove back the enemy's sharpshooters, killing several and having several of his own men wounded.

The next thing worthy of note was when you brought up your brigade to support General Liddell. In that action my regiment came up with, I think, the **Second Arkansas Regiment** in a wood lot. That regiment was driving the enemy slowly, but surely, before it. On reaching the fence on the north side of the lot, this regiment faced about and retired through my lines. I immediately gave the command forward, and nobly and gallantly did the boys clear the fence. This brought us into an open field in plain view of a fine battery of the enemy's guns, down at the foot of the hill (we occupied the top), distant about 500 yards. This battery was supported by a heavy line of infantry. The retreating force that Liddell had been driving made one stand against us before reaching the bottom of the hill and did us serious damage. I halted the regiment about half way down the hill, and gave the enemy a few rounds. Meanwhile his battery was playing heavily upon us, but the well-directed fire of our boys soon drove the gunners from their pieces and stopped the trouble from that quarter. Scarcely had I given the command "forward" before I perceived the boys going at a double-quick for the bottom of the hill.

In this charge I lost Captain Orr, killed, and several others wounded. On reaching the foot of the hill, I halted the regiment, discovering a fine position behind a fence in some sinks or basins, bordered by rocks, &c. The men promptly took advantage of these things, and commenced pouring a deadly fire into their ranks as they were lying in the edge of a cedar glade. The distance between our lines ranged from 75 to 100 yards, or less. Here my boys commenced the work of destruction in good earnest. Never have I seen such cool, deliberate aim taken in battle. The enemy stood the fire well, and returned it briskly, but with little effect. The engagement at this point lasted some thirty minutes, when the enemy arose to retreat, but a deadly volley from our boys prevented most of them from escaping. Another "forward," and the boys soon occupied the ground the Yankees had just left.

In this charge we gained full possession of the fine battery that had annoyed us so but a short time before. My men took a position behind a ledge of rocks that bordered the cedar glade, which afforded a fine shelter from the enemy's bullets. Along the edge of the cedar glade was the greatest destruction of Yankees I have seen on any battle-field. I do not claim for my regiment full credit for taking the battery captured at this point. Colonel Keeble did some effective work here, although the battery was opposite the left wing of my battalion. The position I occupied at this point I considered a very safe one, believing that we could hold it against any reasonable force with but little cost; but after remaining there for some time, I was notified that the right was rapidly giving way. On looking in that direction, I saw the brigade on the right of yours had fallen back considerably, and that the right wing of your brigade was falling back also. I turned to the left, and found it giving back, too. I immediately ordered my command to fall back to the fence, which they did in good order, many of them taking the position again from which they had done such noble work a

little while before, and commenced firing. But no one seemed disposed to stop and support me, and I ordered my men to fall back as rapidly as possible. But by this time the enemy had got so near that I knew my men would suffer severely, having to fall back through an open field for some 500 yards before getting out of danger, and that up hill. The men were nearly exhausted from six or seven hours' hard fighting and maneuvering.

I herewith submit a list* of casualties; the list of missing, I am sure, not large enough by one-half to cover the real loss.

Too much praise cannot be awarded the officers and men who fought under my command on that memorable day. The officers all did their duty nobly; the men gallantly, bravely, effectively.

I cannot close this already too tedious report without making special mention of our color-bearer, W. T. Jones, who was lost on the last field. He carried the colors well to the front through every engagement and every charge. A braver, better soldier never went forth to battle, or offered up his life a sacrifice to the cause of justice than W. T. Jones.

Respectfully submitted.

WATT W. FLOYD,

Lieutenant Colonel, Comdg. Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment.
Brig. Gen. B. R. JOINSON.

TULLAHOMA, TENN., *March 18, 1863.*

GENERAL: I submit some additional facts in regard to the hospital that I claimed in my report of the battle of Murfreesborough as having been captured by the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment.

If any Confederate troops reached that hospital before the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment, I cannot understand when or how they got in advance of us. When we started into the last skirt of woods, which lies south, or, rather, west of south, from the hospital, the enemy on our left were nearly on the same line with my regiment and enfiladed our line. General Liddell was some distance to the left and rear of my regiment. Colonel Keeble, whose regiment was on the left of our brigade, says that about this time General Liddell's brigade had separated from him some distance, and seemed to be moving still farther to the left. I ordered the "forward" here as soon as the enemy gave way on my left, as stated in my report. I know that my regiment at this point was in advance of any other portion of our line that was in sight of me. Every officer in my regiment who went through the fight will corroborate this, as well as any other statement I shall make.

On entering the woods above mentioned, my line was perpendicular to the lane which passes to the left and near by the hospital. Had my regiment continued to march straight forward it would have passed to the left of the hospital, but just before leaving the woods the regiment made a half-wheel to the right. Now, I am perfectly satisfied that it was impossible for General Liddell's brigade (or any part of it) to start on my left and rear, as it did, separated from me, as it was, by more than the length of Colonel Keeble's regiment, and enter the woods west of south from the hospital, make the circuit on the large exterior curve, which it must have done in the face of the enemy, and yet reach the hospital by this lengthened route before the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment did, moving, as it did, on the interior curve rapidly and without halting. After passing from the woods west of south from the hospital, the Seventeenth Regiment was fired on by the Yankees from both sides

* Embodied in No. 191, p. 680.

of the old gin-house and the hospital, and this regiment continued to return a brisk fire until a white flag was violently waved by a Yankee advancing from the hospital. The firing pretty well ceased in the regiment after this white flag was exhibited, and two companies (Captains [T. H.] Watterson's and [G. W.] McDonald's) passed through the yard of the hospital and on both sides of it, and Captain [U. C.] Harrison's company passed entirely on the left of the yard. When the regiment reached the hospital, a brisk fire was again opened upon some Yankees who were running toward the Wilkinson pike, but particularly on some Yankees who were trying to get off some ammunition wagons which the Seventeenth Regiment captured, and from which the men of that regiment filled their boxes. Captains Watterson's and McDonald's companies fired from the yard fence in rear of the hospital upon the Yankees retreating toward the pike. After we had entered the woods beyond the hospital, we halted and the regiment was reformed. After we had been reformed about twenty minutes, a Federal officer came galloping up from our left, apparently thinking we were Yankees, and we captured him and his horse. The capture was made by Lieutenant [M. W.] Black, of Company E, Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment. The enemy were now in full view near the Wilkinson pike.

Now, it is proposed to deny, in the face of the men and officers of the Seventeenth [Regiment] who were engaged, that any such a conflict as described occurred at the point indicated. It is claimed that the **Second Arkansas Regiment** was the first to reach this hospital, and that there was no fighting about the hospital afterward. Private Elder, of the **Second Arkansas Regiment Infantry**, left to guard the hospital by General Liddell, states that, with Private Faidley, he took possession of the hospital, which he understood was the residence of a Mr. Griscom, and that he did not see General Johnson's brigade until some time after he had been stationed there, when General Liddell's brigade had passed to the front, and that there was no fighting at or about the hospital at that time. Private Faidley, of Company D, **Second Arkansas Regiment**, says he saw the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment, General Johnson's brigade, come up within 75 yards of the hospital about fifteen minutes after General Liddell's brigade passed. Thus it is proved that the Seventeenth Regiment had no conflict at the hospital, and that it reached the hospital after General Liddell's brigade had passed. This, I must be permitted to say, proves too much. No combinations of proof can demonstrate to the officers and men of the Seventeenth Regiment that they did not have a fight in and about the yard of the hospital.

The simple explanation of all this; and the fact that the **Second Arkansas Regiment** had men wounded and killed near the hospital, is to me plainly as follows: The Seventeenth Regiment, after passing the hospital, entered the woods beyond, obliquing considerably to the right, and the regiment was here reformed, with the left resting about 75 or 100 yards to the right of and beyond the hospital. In this position, and after the regiment had passed the hospital, the half of the right company of the **Second Arkansas Regiment** might, perhaps, have passed to the right of the hospital without touching or seeing the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment. The enemy were still in the woods, and might have wounded and killed men of the **Second Arkansas Regiment** by firing from the left, and, perhaps, the front of the hospital. By no other method can it be explained how Privates Elder and Faidley failed to witness the conflict which the Seventeenth Regiment had at the hospital. The regiment which these men saw approach was the Twenty-third Regiment, or, perhaps, some other regiment of our brigade, which came up over half an hour after the Seventeenth Regiment passed the

hospital. And I quite agree with Private Elder, of the **Second Arkansas Regiment**, that there was no fighting at or about the hospital after he was placed there. In common with the officers of my regiment, I am satisfied that there could not have been any Confederate soldiers guarding the hospital at the time we passed it. Indeed, it is evident, from the nature of our conflict at that point, that no Confederate soldiers could have been there at that time.

As already stated, the enemy was in full view near the Wilkinson pike when we halted beyond the hospital. Feeling apprehensive that the enemy might charge upon us, I sent Lieutenant [J. D.] Floyd back, some twenty minutes after we halted, to bring up any of our men who might be at the hospital. He stated that he saw nothing but Yankees there, and that General Liddell's brigade was then being formed in rear of the fence which runs on the north side of the large cotton-field on the left of the hospital. Captain Watterson, of the Seventeenth [Regiment], states that, in passing the hospital at the time when the regiment first came up to it, he got a drink of water from one of the surgeons. The surgeon made some complaint about the hospital having been fired into, but said he could not blame us, as the hospital had not been properly prepared.

It may be proper here to state that the hospital is named on the engineer's maps of the field of battle as the Jenkins house, and not as Mr. Griscom's house.

The following statement, made by Captain Terry, will exhibit circumstantially the length of time which must have elapsed after the capture of the hospital by the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment before General Liddell's brigade came up to it:

When the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment halted in the woods beyond the hospital, its guides were thrown out and the line dressed. I then visited the captured wagons, loaded with ammunition, and returned to my company. I then sent Lieutenant [J. H.] Hastings, Company A, Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment, back, on foot, to Brigadier-General Polk's skirmishers, who were advancing on our right, to inform them where we were, that they might not fire on us. Lieutenant Hastings went to the rear, got on a stump to attract the attention of the skirmishers, and was fired at. He then returned to his regiment. I now took the horse captured by Lieutenant Black and the colors of the regiment, and rode back to notify our forces, which were advancing, that the Seventeenth [Regiment] was in front. I communicated with one of the regiments of General Polk's brigade and returned to my regiment. I then went to the hospital, passed through the yard into the first field on the left of the lane and north of the woods already indicated as being west of south from the hospital, met Brigadier-General Johnson here, and notified him where the Seventeenth Tennessee was. Met a battery; asked some one who seemed to be connected with it (I think it was the captain) whose battery that was, and was told that it belonged to General Liddell's brigade; then saw the infantry of this brigade near the fence on the north side of this first field—the large cotton-field. I am satisfied this was at least half an hour after we halted. I passed on and met the rest of Johnson's brigade just moving out of the woods, told them where the Seventeenth [Regiment] would be found, returned to the regiment, and remained there some minutes, during which time the Fifth Confederate Regiment passed through our lines, which was still halted. I then took 3 men from my company, went to the captured ammunition wagons, and got three boxes of cartridges. While there, Brigadier-General Polk sent some men to guard the ammunition wagons. They told me that General Polk had ordered them not to allow any ammunition to be taken out of the wagons. I replied that I had already as much as I wanted. I then returned to my company and went to the hospital; found General Liddell at the yard gate which faces toward the Wilkinson pike. As I rode up, General Liddell asked a major of his brigade if he was too badly wounded to go on in the fight. The major replied that he was not, and that he would go on. The general then told the major to go ahead to his regiment. The general then ordered the Confederate soldiers that were in the yard to go to their regiments; spoke to one particular soldier, and, pointing to him, told him to go to his regiment. The soldier replied, "You, General Liddell, just placed me here on guard." The general then said, "Well, remain there." At this time General Liddell's brigade had passed into the second field on the left, was advancing, and was nearly through it.

When the Seventeenth Regiment passed the hospital, the companies of Captains Watterson and McDonald passed through the yard of the hospital, and Captain Harrison's passed entirely on the left of the yard, a number of men of that company passing along the lane, and, as has already been shown, the firing was commenced again in rear of the hospital. General Sill's body was found not far from the hospital, "near the fence or lane," in the words of Colonel Govan, of the Second Arkansas Regiment.

Now, the foregoing statements having, in my mind, conclusively established the fact that the Seventeenth Regiment captured the Federal hospital at the Jenkins house, and that it reached that house some thirty minutes before any other troops, I cannot resist the conviction that the probabilities quite as much indicate that it was the Seventeenth Regiment which killed General Sill as that any other regiment did it. Until other facts are developed in reference to this matter, I am disposed to think that no regiment can establish this claim in its own favor. Sill might have been killed by the Seventeenth [Regiment] from the fence and lane in rear of the hospital, or he might have been killed by the **Second Arkansas Regiment**, which came up some thirty minutes later. Sill's body was found on the right of the lane, near the fence, and about 75 yards in rear of the hospital, and it appears exceedingly probable that he was killed by the Seventeenth Regiment firing from the fence in rear of the hospital. This is the impression prevailing in the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment.

In making the foregoing statement, I profess to be actuated by a simple desire to do justice to all parties concerned. I would rather suffer from injustice to myself than to do injustice to a fellow soldier. I am disposed to submit the foregoing facts, with any counter statements that may be made, to the decision of the impartial tribunals into whose hands they may be destined to fall.

WATT W. FLOYD,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Comdg. Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment.

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS JOHNSON'S BRIGADE,
Tullahoma, Tenn., March 20, 1863.

I respectfully request that this communication may be forwarded to the War Department as a part of the report of the services of my brigade in the battle of Murfreesborough.

I may here add that John Wilson, a private of Company A, of Seventeenth Regiment Tennessee Volunteers, was wounded near this Federal hospital.

[B. R. JOHNSON,]
Brigadier-General, C. S. Army.

No. 267.

Report of Lieut. Col. R. H. Keeble, Twenty-third Tennessee Infantry.

JANUARY 5, 1863.

The following report of the part taken by the Twenty-third Tennessee Regiment in the battle of Murfreesborough is respectfully submitted:

Having been changed from the right to the left wing on the evening

before the battle, its position was in an open field, the left resting upon the road leading to the McCullough house. On the morning of the battle, the brigade and division made a right-wheel, in doing which it passed the house above referred to and continued to wheel and march until its course was almost at right angles with the one it held the evening before, marching in its wheel through a large corn-field and a meadow. Down on the edge of the meadow and to our right before we completed the wheel were stationed some of the enemy's sharpshooters, who opened upon us, doing, however, no damage. Having completed the wheel, we marched forward, obliquing to the right to avoid lapping General Liddell; we marched through a hedge-field grown up with cedar undergrowth until we reached a large corn-field. Here we received a most terrific fire from the enemy of canister, grape, and small-arms. The enemy (from where we received this fire, which lasted some time, and wounded [several] of the regiment) were within a thicket beyond the corn-field, considerably to my left and in front of General Liddell. We passed through the corn-field into an open wood, under fire of the enemy's battery, to our left, and small-arms. During all this time the enemy were concealed in the bushes, and but little, if any, firing was done on our part. Having gotten down into the woods, I was told by General Johnson that I was too far to the right, when I moved by the left flank across a road into an open field, faced to the front, and, forming with the rest of the brigade, marched through a skirt of wood across a road, leaving a hospital and old gin-house to our left. Here a change of front was made upon the First Battalion. When this was done we marched into an open field, then by the left flank across a road and into another open field. The enemy were evidently within this field, upon the brow of the hill; their battery was throwing shells upon us from there. From this field we moved by the left flank into the open woods opposite a cedar glade. We here halted and faced the cedar glade, marched into it a piece, and had a sharp brush with the enemy, who were beyond the cedar glade in a field, and marched by the flank toward our left. General Polk's brigade in the mean time had fallen back and taken position on our left. We then moved farther to the left, and, again facing to the front, marched through an open corn-field, fighting the enemy during the time. We halted at the far end of the field, having driven the enemy to the edge of the glade. Here the action continued for about an hour, when the enemy fled into the glade. I immediately advanced to his battery which he had left, when we received a heavy fire from them, concealed in the midst of the glade. It was here that Captain [N. R.] Allen, who deserves to be especially noted for his bravery, gallantry, and coolness, fell, mortally wounded. While they were firing upon us, and we were unable to get to them or see them on account of the [under]growth, my attention was called to the fact that our right had fallen back. We then fell back also, intending to reform at our old position at the fence, which, however, we found occupied by a portion of General Liddell's command (I think). We then fell back to the skirt of woods and reformed. The firing soon after ceased, and nothing else occurred.

Most respectfully,

R. H. KEEBLE,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Twenty-third Tennessee.