

train back to Nashville, and left camp, following, in the order of march, the Thirtieth Indiana and **Thirty-fourth Illinois**. The divisions of Generals Davis and Sheridan preceded the Second, and in the skirmishing with the enemy on the road and near Nolensville we had not an opportunity to take a part.

On the 27th, the Second Division and Second Brigade were the advance forces, and in regular order the Twenty-ninth Regiment Indiana Volunteers followed the **Thirty-fourth Illinois**. We had not marched over 1 mile when sharp skirmishing was heard ahead, between our cavalry and that of the enemy. Pushing rapidly forward to the summit of a ridge, beyond which the skirmish was going on, we became exposed to the fire of a masked battery of the enemy, which opened on the head of the column, with shot and shell.

Advantage was taken by Generals Johnson and Kirk of a cedar thicket, covering this ridge, to move the **Thirty-fourth Illinois** and Twenty-ninth Indiana to the left of the road and toward the enemy. Orders were immediately given by General Kirk to Colonels Bristol and Dunn to throw out skirmishers to cover their regiments, the **Thirty-fourth Illinois** and Twenty-ninth Indiana, which were drawn up in line of battle in front of the thicket, but in an open field.

The skirmishers, being ordered forward, moved over the ground just wrested from the enemy by our cavalry, until they reached the top of another ridge, divided by a narrow valley from the rebel battery. Here we were ordered to halt, to await the issue of an artillery duel between it and Captain Edgerton's battery (E, First Ohio Artillery), attached to the Second Brigade, as well as the lifting of a dense fog, which rendered a hasty movement to the front extremely perilous.

When objects at a distance could be distinctly seen, and the rebel battery silenced, we were again ordered forward, without seeing the enemy, until we had reached a hill overlooking the town of Triune. Large bodies of rebel cavalry were posted in the town and in our front, on the left of the road, about three-quarters of a mile distant. Our artillery was again brought into action, leaving us the privilege of witnessing the hurried retreat of both bodies of the rebels.

When we next advanced they moved their cannon toward us and plied the advancing regiments with shot, shell, and grape-shot. Supporting their artillery we discovered a large force of dismounted cavalry, posted on a hill covered with timber, whose leaden compliments attracted our attention. The skirmishers were ordered forward on double-quick, but the torrent of rain which poured down on us had made their clothing and the plowed field so heavy that the efforts of the men at double quick were painful and almost futile. They pushed on, however, as rapidly as possible, and by a well-directed fire drove the rebels from the woods, and prevented them again forming within rifle range.

The rebel artillery retreated toward Triune, taking advantage of every rise of ground to check our advance, until the skirmishers of the Twenty-ninth Indiana had almost secured a position in the woods to the rebel right, from which the capture of the rebel guns was perfectly feasible, when the bugle again sounded a halt, and the rebels moved off rapidly. Forward once more, and the line of skirmishers had reached the top of another ridge and halted, leaving the reserve at its base, when we were surprised by the sudden appearance of a regiment of rebel cavalry on our left, within 20 yards, and moving leisurely to the front. I ordered the reserve to wheel to the left and fire, which was heard by the rebels, who instantly quickened their pace to a gallop, but were unable to pass in time to save their entire column. Several were seen to reel in their sad-

dles, and all changed direction by the left flank, making for the woods. Immediately afterward a squad appeared, made a demonstration on the deployed line (Company A, Twenty-ninth Indiana), but failed to intimidate the men or force the line. With a shout, the skirmishers rushed forward, poured in a galling fire, unhorsed 4 or 5, took 1 prisoner, badly wounded, while Company F, Twenty-ninth Indiana, on reserve at the same time, forced another to surrender without a wound.

This cavalry force was the First Confederate Regulars, and I only regret that the fear that this might be Colonel Stokes' cavalry, which had all day supported our left, but of whose personal appearance I was ignorant, rendered their loss so slight. We advanced half a mile farther, when we bivouacked for the night.

After we had reached our final halting place, the Federal (Stokes') cavalry emerged from the woods on our left, but at sufficient distance to leave a gap, through which the rebels escaped.

Until December 30 we were not again engaged in any movement or preparation for the attack on Murfreesborough. On this day we moved in reserve to the column of General Davis until 3 p. m., when the Second Brigade, Second Division, was ordered to the right of General Davis' division, which was threatened by rebel cavalry. The Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania and Thirty-eighth [Thirtieth] Indiana were thrown forward as skirmishers, to the first of which the Twenty-ninth acted as reserve. We moved forward until we reached the reserve of General Davis' right, where the rebel cavalry was distinctly visible in line of battle, but not within range. Captain Edgerton's battery having taken position, soon put them to flight. While in line at this point we were exposed to the fire of the rebel battery supporting their skirmishers, but it was immediately silenced by ours.

About dusk a line of battle was determined upon, and, by order, the Twenty-ninth Indiana took position on the left of the **Thirty-fourth**, which supported the battery on a lane leading to Murfreesborough and behind a dense thicket of cedars. Steps were at once taken to guard against surprise. A large company (B) of our regiment was sent out as pickets, with instructions to act as skirmishers should the enemy appear, our line connecting that of the **Thirty-fourth Illinois** on the right and the Thirtieth Indiana on our left, both of which lines were established sufficiently in advance to command a wide range of vision, and enable the regiments to form in time to meet any attack. The night passed without alarm on our line until about 3 a. m., when a shot fired on the picket line, to our right, brought every man to his place in the ranks.

About daylight we were again alarmed by general firing on the picket line, and immediately afterward by shouting in front, but to our right. The men instantly grasped their loaded guns, while I, by Lieutenant-Colonel Dunn's order, rode to the front, along the lane, to ascertain the cause of the firing, and, the force coming down on us emerging from behind the thicket, I saw a heavy column moving rapidly down on the **Thirty-fourth Illinois**, firing as they advanced, and opposed bravely and vigorously by the pickets and skirmishers. Riding farther down the lane, to obtain a view of the open country beyond the thicket, I saw a column of like proportions moving down on the Twenty-ninth Indiana. I galloped back to the regiment with this information, and found that Lieutenant-Colonel Dunn, anticipating, had thrown forward another large company (C) to support the pickets and skirmish among the cedars. This company, ably and gallantly led by Lieut. S. O. Gregory, pushed forward through the entangled mass until within a few yards of the

rebels, and only fell back when overpowered, leaving some of his men killed and wounded. Situated as our regiment was, we dare not first lest we kill our own men, whom we could not see, from which circumstance we were obliged to receive the storm of bullets without a response; and the resistance of our skirmishers under Lieutenants Gregory, Hess, and Macomber was so obstinate that the rebel column had advanced within 20 yards of our line before they received a shot from us.

Our first fire, delivered lying down, partially checked the advance, and enabled the men to load and fire four or five times; but while engaged in front, the column which pressed on the **Thirty-fourth Illinois** and the battery had moved so far forward as to uncover our line, giving them the opportunity to deliver a raking fire upon us. The troops on our right had fallen back, and Lieutenant-Colonel Dunn considered that the peril of his situation demanded a retreat. We fell back about 80 rods, and formed behind a corn-field fence, every man loading and firing in retreat, through which field the rebels were pushing vigorously; but as no other troops appeared ready to sustain the shock, the regiment was moved some rods farther to a piece of woods, where we took our position in line of battle.

The Thirtieth Indiana now made its appearance from a corn-field in front and to our left, and, moving still farther to the left, took position behind a fence facing the advancing enemy, who had not yet emerged from the woods at that point. To gain a position beside the Thirtieth Indiana, Lieutenant-Colonel Dunn moved by the flank, under cover of the woods, until directly in its rear, but 40 rods distant, when a section of Simonson's battery came up and unlimbered directly in our front.

The rebel infantry now poured into and through the corn-field, meeting with obstinate resistance from the Thirtieth Indiana and Seventy-ninth Illinois, and the artillery, which the Twenty-ninth now supported. Here we lost Capt. Frank Stebbins, Company G, who was struck by a 12-pound ball in the thigh, causing his death very soon. He had bravely led his men, and by his own conduct inspired them with courage and daring.

Up to this time we had the discreet and tried leadership of Lieutenant-Colonel Dunn, and the valuable assistance of Captain Jenkins, acting field officer; but the former got separated and cut off from the regiment, and the latter, going a short distance to the rear for ambulances to carry off our wounded, of whom we had a great number, was also cut off from us. We did not see Lieutenant-Colonel Dunn again, nor Captain Jenkins until the afternoon; but both, we heard, were busy rallying the runaways and stragglers at the pike and railroad, until the former was taken prisoner, and the latter had turned over his men to their respective regiments.

The artillery limbered up, moved to the rear, passing General Davis' division hospital, which we followed until we reached the wood near the hospital, where we found the Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania, under Captain Rose, in line of battle. I at once formed the Twenty-ninth on its right to await the rebel onset. All seemed pushing to the rear, and, finding our shattered forces unsupported, we again moved in perfect order still farther toward the pike, and again formed our line, having the Ninety-third Ohio on the right, and, I believe, a Kentucky regiment on the left. The artillery did not halt here, and before any enemy appeared in front we found our small force flanked on the right by rebel infantry and cavalry, and on the left by an unknown force.

Again we moved leisurely back to a point designated by General Johnson as one suitable to make a stand. This was on the elevated ground west of the pike, on the east side of which we saw a large force

of Federal troops congregated. Colonel Dodge, Thirtieth Indiana, now commanding our brigade, placed us in position in a thicket, our left resting on the section of artillery planted on the most elevated point, and supported on the right by the Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania, its right resting on the woods.

Sharp cannonading ensued; but a few minutes' hot work satisfied our artillerists that they could not contend with two batteries and hold their position. They retired to the pike. Colonel Dodge now directed us along the woods to the road, where we again formed our line. The yells of the rebels coming through the cedar woods became plainer and plainer. The balls rained among us. When within range and in sight, the order to advance was given by Colonel Dodge. With a yell, the line rushed forward, determined to stop the sweeping tide or die. This very unexpected attack on the victorious column entirely changed the aspect of affairs. For the first time that day it was checked. It tried to withstand the withering fire, but soon gave way; at first slowly, but, as our line rushed on, the retreat became a rout. We still pushed on rapidly, few in numbers, but determined, with orders not to waste ammunition, and followed the running horde until every cartridge was expended, when Colonel Dodge, after great exertions, got other troops to take our places. We fell back to the railroad for ammunition, when intelligence was brought that our rear, in the vicinity of the hospitals and train, was threatened by cavalry.

To repel this attack we were marched to a point near the hospitals, where we stood in line half an hour; but no enemy appearing, we again moved to the railroad. After this our force changed its position, as the heavy fire indicated a bloody contest, but we were not again under fire. At night we bivouacked on the pike.

Morning brought with it signs of a renewal of yesterday's fight, and we were placed in position on the edge of the cedar grove, nearest the enemy's line, where the men at once went to work securing their position with breastworks and abatis. The Twenty-ninth had no share in any of the ensuing contests, and was entirely occupied on picket duty, and standing to arms on every alarm to resist any attack on our line.

Volunteers were called for to drive the enemy's skirmishers into the woods and burn some log-houses, in which their sharpshooters found shelter and excellent positions to annoy us. Among the number were several of the Twenty-ninth Indiana, one of whom was killed.

Nothing further of importance occurred, unless I mention the fatigue duty performed by details from this regiment, which succeeded in finding and burying our dead and all our wounded, except those who fell into the enemy's hands.

I cannot close without paying a tribute of praise, well merited and proudly given, to the officers and men of my command, who, Spartan-like, rallied at every call around our glorious old flag, and who would not desert it when all around looked dark and hope had almost fled. Allow me to mention, with feelings of extreme gratification, the names of those who nobly did their duty:

First, Adjutant Coffin, who, exposed more than any other, carrying orders to different parts of the line, never once quailed before the storm. He is an excellent officer, fearless, prompt, and deserving of the highest praise.

Captains Stebbins, Jenkins, and McCaslin Moore. First Lieutenants Melendy, who, though wounded, would not leave until trampled by cavalry; N. P. Dunn, who stuck to the flag, severely wounded, until forced by his companions to retire to a hospital; A. Dunlap, J. E. Hough-ton, G. W. Maloon, T. J. Henderson, and Hess; also Second Lieuts. S.

O. Gregory, commanding Company C, and Hess, commanding Company B, directed the skirmishers; Irenus McGowan, C. P. Butler, William H. H. McDonald, John Cutler, Macomber, and O. C. Sabin.

While the storm raged without, Surgeon Keen and Rev. Mr. Shaw, chaplain, were busy dressing wounds and doing all they could to alleviate the sufferings of our wounded. Assistant Surgeon Griffith, hospital steward, and corps were elsewhere engaged, but all were busy with their duties. I would not pass over the names of the non-commissioned officers, who, with very few exceptions, were heroes in the fight, giving a noble example to the men, and assisting very materially in maintaining order and discipline; but this report is already too long, and I close.

Accompanying this is a list of casualties.*

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. P. COLLINS,

Major, Commanding Twenty-ninth Indiana Volunteers.

Capt. D. C. WAGNER,

A. A. A. G., 2d Brig., 2d Div., Right Wing, 14th Army Corps.

No. 43.

Report of Lieut. Col. Orrin D. Hurd, Thirtieth Indiana Infantry.

HEADQUARTERS THIRTIETH INDIANA VOLUNTEERS,
Camp near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 7, 1863.

SIR: In accordance with circular dated January 7, issued from Headquarters Second Division, requiring a minute statement from regimental commanders of the operations of their respective regiments, including casualties, I have the honor to report that on Friday, December 26, 1862, this regiment, under command of Col. J. B. Dodge, left camp, near Nashville, Tenn., marched half a mile south of Nolensville, where we encamped for the night.

Next morning, December 27, the Second Brigade being in advance, we left camp at sunrise, and moved in the same direction on the turnpike as day previous. After advancing 1½ miles we were ordered into line of battle to support Captain Edgerton's battery, in which manner we moved 3 or 4 miles, and until dark, when we were ordered out on out-post picket.

On the next day, December 28, after being relieved from picket, we remained in camp without any actual service.

On December 29, we moved back toward Nashville 2 miles and took a cross-road leading toward Murfreesborough, and, after moving 6 miles, encamped for the night.

On December 30, we moved toward Murfreesborough 3 miles, when we were ordered off to the right, and, after throwing forward two companies each from the right and left flanks as skirmishers, moved forward 1 mile in line of battle, and bivouacked for the night in a cedar thicket.

On the morning of December 31, the enemy moved upon us in force about daylight, driving in our pickets, making it necessary for us to fall back or move out by the flank to the right; the latter movement was made with the loss of 1 man, slightly, and 1 mortally, wounded, except upon the picket line, which, being doubled during the night by two additional companies, to insure vigilance and safety, suffered severely upon being driven in.

* Embodied in revised statement, p. 208.

The movement by the flank was a fortunate one for us, for had we remained any longer in that position we would have been cut to pieces or taken prisoners by the enemy, who were in great force on our front. After moving to the right and rear about half a mile, we formed a line of battle in a meadow behind a fence, where we were joined by the remnants of the four companies which were on picket the night before. After sending out two companies as skirmishers across a field to a fence directly in our front, we moved up to the same place, and the action commenced.

General Kirk having been wounded early in the morning, and Colonel Dodge, of this regiment, having taken command of the Second Brigade, the command of this regiment fell upon the undersigned.

After the regiment upon our left and we had sustained the enemy's fire for some time, the Seventy-ninth Illinois Volunteers advanced to our immediate right and supported us gallantly; but being outflanked by a superior force of the enemy, and exposed to a heavy cross-fire, they fell back, and we were obliged to do the same, having no support whatever, and having suffered heavy loss, as hereinafter stated. In retiring, the men became very much scattered, but were mostly collected again, and then we were ordered to the front, on the right of the Murfreesborough turnpike, 3 miles from the town.

January 1, after erecting breastworks we remained behind them, without any further active service, except skirmishing on picket line.

January 2, the same routine of duty as the day previous, except in the evening, when the left wing was sent out with parts of other regiments of this brigade as skirmishers to feel the position of the enemy; but after receiving a severe fire, and supposing the enemy to be in force, we returned their fire briskly for some time and then retired to the breastwork.

January 3, same routine of picket duty as the day previous. It is unnecessary for me to particularize the services of any officer or man, for both officers and men performed their duties well and gallantly.

I have also a statement of the killed, wounded, and missing to submit, as follows:

Killed	30
Wounded	108
Missing and prisoners	70
Number in battle:	
Commissioned officers	24
Enlisted men	463

All of which is respectfully submitted.

O. D. HURD,

Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Regiment.

Capt. D. C. WAGNER,

A. A. A. G., 2d Brig., 2d Div., Right Wing, 14th Army Corps.

No. 44.

Report of Capt. Thomas E. Rose, Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania Infantry.

HDQRS. SEVENTY-SEVENTH REGT. PENNSYLVANIA VOLS.,
In Camp near Murfreesborough, January 8, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of the Seventy-seventh Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, from the time of leaving

camp, near Mill Creek, Tenn., December 26, 1862, to January 3, 1863, viz:

We broke up our camp, near Mill Creek, December 26; sent our wagon train to Nashville, and took up our line of march in the direction of Shelbyville, on the Nolensville turnpike, and encamped in the evening a short distance beyond Nolensville.

December 27, we continued our march in the same direction and on the same road. At 8 a. m. we encountered the enemy within 2 miles of Triune. We were immediately placed in position with the balance of our brigade on the left of the road. Our front line was composed of the Twenty-ninth Indiana Volunteers on the left, the **Thirty-fourth Illinois Volunteers** on the right, and the Thirtieth Indiana Volunteers in the center. Our regiment and the Seventy-ninth Regiment Illinois Volunteers were held in reserve, but advanced with the brigade, our regiment covering the Twenty-ninth Indiana Volunteers. Skirmishers were thrown forward by each of the three first-named regiments, as also were two companies of the Seventy-seventh Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, which occupied the extreme left of the line. In this manner we advanced toward Triune, driving the enemy from his position, and took possession of the town, the enemy retreating toward Shelbyville. We encamped about 1 mile beyond Triune, near the turnpike.

December 28, we remained in camp, where we stopped the evening before.

December 29, we retraced our march on the same road for 2 miles, and turned off on a dirt road running in an easterly course into the Salem turnpike, at the junction of which two roads we, silently and without fire, encamped for the night.

December 30, we marched toward Murfreesborough, on the Salem turnpike, for about 3 miles, when we were thrown into column, by division, into the woods on the right of the road, with the balance of our brigade and division. At this time heavy skirmishing was going on on our left and in front. We advanced for a short distance, when our regiment and the Thirtieth Regiment Indiana Volunteers were ordered to change front to the right, deploy column, and throw out skirmishers. We then advanced, moving toward the right of the general line of battle for about a quarter of a mile. We then changed front to the left, and occupied a dense cedar grove. The position of our regiment was now on the right of the Twenty-second Regiment Indiana Volunteers, of General Davis' division. It was here that we received a heavy fire from a rebel battery that was stationed to the right and in front of us in an open field by the edge of a woods, at a distance of 500 yards. After a sharp skirmish it was silenced, when we threw out our pickets and remained for the night. Our position was now on the left of our brigade and on the right of Davis' division.

December 31, we were under arms at 4 a. m., and at daylight we discovered the enemy in large force within 60 yards of our pickets, who immediately commenced firing, when the enemy advanced to a furious attack. As the pickets retired, our regiment advanced to meet the enemy, and resisted their attack with desperate valor, repulsing the forces immediately in front, with great slaughter, and compelling them to retire across the brook, where we first found them posted, into a cornfield beyond. This was the first attack that was made on our lines; but almost at the same time the enemy's columns on our left, which were directed on those regiments on our right, pressed furiously onward, bearing down everything before them. Those regiments on our right fell back after a short but desperate resistance, as was shown by

the great mortality on both sides. Soon after this, the regiment on our left changed position to our rear, leaving our regiment completely isolated and battling against great odds, with the danger of being surrounded. We were ordered to retire for about 150 yards, and then march to the right, in order, if possible, to reattach ourselves to the balance of our brigade, which had been driven from its first position. While doing this we fell in with a portion of General Davis' division, and were advised that we had better co-operate with that division for the present, as our brigade had by this time retired so far that it would consume much valuable time in finding it that could be used at this particular juncture to great advantage by re-enforcing one of his (Davis') brigades. We posted ourselves on the right of Davis' division, in front of which was a rebel battery, at a distance of about 400 yards. A little to the right and in front of this was Edgerton's battery, which had been previously captured by the rebels in the onset, and was still in their possession.

It was here that our regiment charged alone, recapturing Edgerton's battery, and up to the guns of the rebel battery, through a hurricane of grape and canister, until we were confronted by several thousand of the rebel infantry, when, as we were unsupported, we were obliged to retire to the line from which we started on the charge, leaving our much-loved battery in the hands of the rebels, as we had no means of moving it off. Yet we were repaid for this desperate charge as much as for any we made during the day in damaging the enemy and holding him in check.

We retired in good order, and halted and formed in our previous position, on the right of Davis' division. Here Colonel Housum fell. The battle was here hotly contested for some time, when our forces began to give way, fiercely pursued by the enemy, who came near taking a battery of ours at this place.

As soon as the battery was safely off, we retired to the fence, on the opposite side of the field, where we stood alone for some time contending with the rebels, until they commenced scaling the fence on our right and left, when we retired to the woods, and again made a stand. We thus continued for some time, taking advantage of everything that came in our way, moving slowly, and our line never broke once throughout the day; but we fought every time we could find a line to rest on, or wherever we could gain a position in which we could for a minute successfully make a stand.

When we came near the Nashville and Murfreesborough turnpike we fell in with a portion of the Twenty-ninth Indiana Volunteers, under the gallant Major Collins; also a portion of the Thirtieth Indiana Volunteers. These, with our regiment, were now joined together as the remnant of the old Fifth Brigade, under Colonel Dodge, as brigade commander. We were posted on the edge of the woods by General Johnson, on the right of General Van Cleve's division, which had just come up. The rebels were now coming on with tenfold more impetuosity, and our men were ordered to lie down quietly behind a fence, which partly protected us. We waited here until the rebels were within a short distance, when we up and delivered our fire with such great effect that the rebels began to give way.

We now pitched into them with whoop and yell, all the time delivering a most destructive fire, and soon the whole rebel column was in full retreat. We drove them half a mile, when our ammunition gave out and we were relieved, when we retired to the railroad to obtain a fresh supply. This was the first check of importance that the rebels received,

as it saved our ammunition train and secured for our forces an important position. From the break of day until 12 m. our regiment was under constant fire, and terribly our ranks were thinned. At night our regiment went on picket.

January 1, 1863, we remained under arms on the crest of the hill, where we ended our final charge on the 31st ultimo.

At 4 p. m. we received a heavy fire from a rebel battery, which was soon silenced.

January 2, remained in the same position as on the 1st. A heavy battle was fought on our left, in which we took no part. In the evening we went on picket. A heavy skirmish took place immediately in front of our line.

January 3, still remained under arms in our old position. At night, in the midst of the rain, the last final struggle was made, in which we took no part.

During this great battle our little regiment did no discredit to the old Keystone State. Officers and men stood up and did their duty nobly. Among those noted for conspicuous valor I must mention Adj. S. T. Davis, who rendered me invaluable assistance throughout the battle; also Capt. F. S. Pyfer, Company K; Capt. William A. Robinson, Company E; Capt. A. Phillips, Company G, and Capt. J. J. Lawson, Company C, all of whom cheered and encouraged their men throughout the battle with a coolness which belongs to none but veteran officers. That our line never broke shows that our men fought like veterans.

We went into action with 238 men. We lost, in killed, 5, including Lieutenant-Colonel Housum; in wounded, 29, including 1 commissioned officer; missing, 29, including 2 commissioned officers. Total, 63. Of those missing the greater part are either killed or taken prisoners.

I must not forget to mention the valuable services and noble conduct of Dr. Downey, the assistant surgeon of our regiment. He remained with us throughout the battle, and displayed the most indomitable energy and courage in attending to our wounded, and in superintending the whole medical department, which came within his sphere.

I regret to say that, notwithstanding the great valor displayed by our regiment as a body, there were some miserable cowards who skulked away during the excitement of the battle, and left their comrades to perform their duty. I have carefully obtained their names and rank, however, and shall forward them without delay.

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

TOM. ELLWOOD ROSE,

Captain, Comdg. Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers.

Capt. D. C. WAGNER,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Second Brigade.

No. 45.

Report of Col. Philemon P. Baldwin, Sixth Indiana Infantry, commanding Third Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD BRIG., SECOND DIV., RIGHT WING,
In Camp near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 8, 1863.

I have the honor to submit a report of the operations of this brigade from the time of its leaving camp, December 26, until Saturday, January 3.

This brigade moved with the division, and on the 27th was engaged

in the skirmishing about Triune. I deployed the First Ohio and the Sixth Indiana on the right of the road, these regiments being supported by the Ninety-third Ohio and Louisville Legion, the battery taking post on the road, and later in the day being posted near the right of my line. We drove the enemy and bivouacked beyond Triune.

This brigade remained at Triune to cover the extreme right, in obedience to your order, and rejoined the division, on the 30th, in the woods to the right of Wilkinson's pike, about 3 miles from Murfreesborough.

At 2 o'clock this brigade moved off 2 miles to the right, to support a cavalry reconnaissance, Colonel Anderson's regiment being sent forward to support the cavalry, while the remainder of the brigade was held in reserve at a point on the Salem pike.

The brigade returned to the woods, near the headquarters of the division, after dark, and bivouacked there.

At daybreak next morning I was informed by stragglers, who were running across the open field in my front, of the attack on Generals Willich's and Kirk's brigades.

I immediately ordered the brigade under arms, and proceeded to form line of battle in the edge of timber facing the large open fields over which I knew the enemy must come to attack me.

I deployed the Louisville Legion on the right, and was proceeding to post the First Ohio in the center, and the Sixth Indiana on the left, holding the Ninety-third Ohio in reserve, to protect either flank, when you ordered me to move the First Ohio across the open field and post it at the fence. The Sixth Indiana was moved forward and posted in the edge of a skirt of timber to the left of the First Ohio, the Thirtieth Indiana and Seventy-ninth Illinois being posted on the right; a section of the Fifth Indiana Battery was posted between the First Ohio and Sixth Indiana. The Louisville Legion moved to within supporting distance of the First Ohio, and the Ninety-third Ohio held in reserve in the woods near the edge of the field.

These dispositions were scarcely made when the enemy, in immense masses, appeared in my front at short range, their left extending far beyond the extreme right of my line. My infantry and artillery poured a destructive fire into their dense masses, checking them in front, but their left continued to advance against my right. Here four pieces that Captain Simonson had posted near the woods, in rear of my first line, poured in a terrible fire; but the enemy came in such overwhelming numbers that, after half an hour's stubborn resistance, my line was compelled to retire, not, however, until the enemy had flanked my right and were pouring in an enfilading fire. Had my line stood a moment longer it would have been entirely surrounded and captured. Falling back to the edge of the woods, I endeavored to make a stand. I moved the Ninety-third Ohio up to the left of the Louisville Legion, but my line was again forced back, almost before I had got the Ninety-third in position. Ordering Colonel Anderson to retire in good order, I succeeded, after making several short stands in the woods, in forming the brigade near the railroad. Under your orders I took position on the right of the Nashville pike, together with the rest of the division, and held it during the succeeding skirmishes, throwing up a breastwork of logs, rails, &c.

Nothing occurred here but unimportant skirmishing, sometimes quite warm, but always resulting in our driving the enemy. A house about 300 yards from our line was held by the enemy's skirmishers, who annoyed us exceedingly by their fire. It was captured and burned by two companies of the Louisville Legion, after a severe fight.

The reports of subordinate commanders not yet received have been specially called for and are soon expected, when they will be promptly forwarded.

During the time the operations at Murfreesborough were being conducted, important expeditions, under Brigadier-Generals Forrest and Morgan, were absent in West Tennessee and Northern Kentucky. The reports already forwarded show the complete success which attended these gallant brigadiers, and commend them to the confidence of the Government and gratitude of the country.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
BRAXTON BRAGG,
General, Commanding.

General S. COOPER,
Adjutant [and Inspector] General, Richmond, Va.

[Indorsement.]

MARCH 9, 1863.

ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL:

Let this be copied at once for Congress, leaving out the clause of compliment to General Rosecrans.

J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary.

[Inclosure.]

Memoranda for general and staff officers, December 28, 1862.

1st. The line of battle will be in front of Murfreesborough; half of the army, left wing, in front of Stone's River; right wing in rear of river.

2d. Polk's corps will form left wing; Hardee's corps, right wing.

3d. Withers' division will form first line in Polk's corps; Cheatham's, the second line. Breckinridge's division forms first line Hardee's corps; Cleburne's division, second line Hardee's corps.

4th. McCown's division to form reserve, opposite center, on high ground, in rear of Cheatham's present quarters.

5th. Jackson's brigade reserve, to the right flank, to report to Lieutenant-General Hardee.

6th. Two lines to be formed from 800 to 1,000 yards apart, according to ground.

7th. Chiefs of artillery to pay special attention to posting of batteries, and supervise their work, seeing they do not causelessly waste their ammunition.

8th. Cavalry to fall back gradually before enemy, reporting by couriers every hour. When near our lines, Wheeler will move to the right and Wharton to the left, to cover and protect our flanks and report movements of enemy; Pegram to fall to the rear, and report to commanding general as a reserve.

9th. To-night, if the enemy has gained his position in our front ready for action, Wheeler and Wharton, with their whole commands, will make a night march to the right and left, turn the enemy's flank, gain his rear, and vigorously assail his trains and rear guard, blocking the roads and impeding his movements every way, holding themselves ready to assail his retreating forces.

10th. All quartermasters, commissaries, and ordnance officers will remain at their proper posts, discharging their appropriate duties. Supplies and baggage should be ready, packed for a move forward or backward as the results of the day may require, and the trains should be in position, out of danger, teamsters all present, and quartermasters in charge.

11th. Should we be compelled to retire, Polk's corps will move on Shelbyville and Hardee's on Manchester pike; trains in front; cavalry in rear.

BRAXTON BRAGG,
General, Commanding.

Lieutenant-General POLK,
Commanding Polk's Corps.

[Inclosure A.]

*Tabular statement showing the number of prisoners captured by the Army of Tennessee, under General Braxton Bragg, while at Murfreesborough, Tenn.**

At Murfreesborough, during battle before that place	6,273
At Hartsville, December 6, 1862	1,762
By Morgan's expedition into Kentucky, between December 24, 1862, and January 7, 1863	1,873
By Forrest's expedition into West Tennessee, December 20, 1862	1,530
Total	11,438

W. K. BEARD,
Inspector-General.

[Inclosure B.]

List and description of flags taken by General Bragg's army at Murfreesborough.

No. 1.—Bunting Stars and Stripes; regiment not known; date not known; name of captor not reported.

No. 2.—Large silk Stars and Stripes; Thirty-ninth Illinois [Indiana]; date not known; name of captor not reported.

No. 3.—Bunting Stars and Stripes; regiment not known; date not known; name of captor not reported.

No. 4.—Guidon (artillery); regiment not known; date not known; name of captor not reported.

No. 5.—Bunting Stars and Stripes; regiment not known; date not known; name of captor not reported.

No. 6.—Silk Stars and Stripes; regiment not known; December 31, 1862; captured by Private J. K. Leslie, Company C, Fifth Arkansas, Liddell's brigade.

No. 7.—Regimental standard (regulars); regiment not known; December 31, 1862; captured by Sergt. John F. Lovin, Company B, Third Confederate, Wood's brigade.

No. 8.—Silk Stars and Stripes (faded); **Thirty-fourth Illinois**; December 31, 1862; captured by Colonel Locke's Tenth Texas, Ector's brigade, McCown's division.

No. 9.—Fragment of silk Stars and Stripes; regiment not known; date not known; name of captor not reported.

No. 10.—Battle-flag of a regiment of General Polk's corps, which was left on the field covered with its slain bearers, and recovered by General Adams' brigade, of Breckinridge's division, during his severe engagement December 31, 1862.

These comprise but a small portion of the number of flags actually taken. Nothing is more difficult than to make officers send up these trophies, which the men seem to regard as their own, and are disposed of accordingly. General Cleburne deserves mention for collecting and forwarding his.

A. J. HAYS,
Lieutenant-Colonel and Assistant Inspector-General, Dept. No. 2.

* But see Series I, Vol. XVI, Part I, p. 1097.

train back to Nashville, and left camp, following, in the order of march, the Thirtieth Indiana and **Thirty-fourth Illinois**. The divisions of Generals Davis and Sheridan preceded the Second, and in the skirmishing with the enemy on the road and near Nolensville we had not an opportunity to take a part.

On the 27th, the Second Division and Second Brigade were the advance forces, and in regular order the Twenty-ninth Regiment Indiana Volunteers followed the **Thirty-fourth Illinois**. We had not marched over 1 mile when sharp skirmishing was heard ahead, between our cavalry and that of the enemy. Pushing rapidly forward to the summit of a ridge, beyond which the skirmish was going on, we became exposed to the fire of a masked battery of the enemy, which opened on the head of the column, with shot and shell.

Advantage was taken by Generals Johnson and Kirk of a cedar thicket, covering this ridge, to move the **Thirty-fourth Illinois** and Twenty-ninth Indiana to the left of the road and toward the enemy. Orders were immediately given by General Kirk to Colonels Bristol and Dunn to throw out skirmishers to cover their regiments, the **Thirty-fourth Illinois** and Twenty-ninth Indiana, which were drawn up in line of battle in front of the thicket, but in an open field.

The skirmishers, being ordered forward, moved over the ground just wrested from the enemy by our cavalry, until they reached the top of another ridge, divided by a narrow valley from the rebel battery. Here we were ordered to halt, to await the issue of an artillery duel between it and Captain Edgerton's battery (E, First Ohio Artillery), attached to the Second Brigade, as well as the lifting of a dense fog, which rendered a hasty movement to the front extremely perilous.

When objects at a distance could be distinctly seen, and the rebel battery silenced, we were again ordered forward, without seeing the enemy, until we had reached a hill overlooking the town of Triune. Large bodies of rebel cavalry were posted in the town and in our front, on the left of the road, about three-quarters of a mile distant. Our artillery was again brought into action, leaving us the privilege of witnessing the hurried retreat of both bodies of the rebels.

When we next advanced they moved their cannon toward us and plied the advancing regiments with shot, shell, and grape-shot. Supporting their artillery we discovered a large force of dismounted cavalry, posted on a hill covered with timber, whose leaden compliments attracted our attention. The skirmishers were ordered forward on double-quick, but the torrent of rain which poured down on us had made their clothing and the plowed field so heavy that the efforts of the men at double-quick were painful and almost futile. They pushed on, however, as rapidly as possible, and by a well-directed fire drove the rebels from the woods, and prevented them again forming within rifle range.

The rebel artillery retreated toward Triune, taking advantage of every rise of ground to check our advance, until the skirmishers of the Twenty-ninth Indiana had almost secured a position in the woods to the rebel right, from which the capture of the rebel guns was perfectly feasible, when the bugle again sounded a halt, and the rebels moved off rapidly. Forward once more, and the line of skirmishers had reached the top of another ridge and halted, leaving the reserve at its base, when we were surprised by the sudden appearance of a regiment of rebel cavalry on our left, within 20 yards, and moving leisurely to the front. I ordered the reserve to wheel to the left and fire, which was heard by the rebels, who instantly quickened their pace to a gallop, but were unable to pass in time to save their entire column. Several were seen to reel in their sad-

dles, and all changed direction by the left flank, making for the woods. Immediately afterward a squad appeared, made a demonstration on the deployed line (Company A, Twenty-ninth Indiana), but failed to intimidate the men or force the line. With a shout, the skirmishers rushed forward, poured in a galling fire, unhorsed 4 or 5, took 1 prisoner, badly wounded, while Company F, Twenty-ninth Indiana, on reserve at the same time, forced another to surrender without a wound.

This cavalry force was the First Confederate Regulars, and I only regret that the fear that this might be Colonel Stokes' cavalry, which had all day supported our left, but of whose personal appearance I was ignorant, rendered their loss so slight. We advanced half a mile farther, when we bivouacked for the night.

After we had reached our final halting place, the Federal (Stokes') cavalry emerged from the woods on our left, but at sufficient distance to leave a gap, through which the rebels escaped.

Until December 30 we were not again engaged in any movement or preparation for the attack on Murfreesborough. On this day we moved in reserve to the column of General Davis until 3 p. m., when the Second Brigade, Second Division, was ordered to the right of General Davis' division, which was threatened by rebel cavalry. The **Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania** and **Thirty-eighth [Thirtieth] Indiana** were thrown forward as skirmishers, to the first of which the Twenty-ninth acted as reserve. We moved forward until we reached the reserve of General Davis' right, where the rebel cavalry was distinctly visible in line of battle, but not within range. Captain Edgerton's battery having taken position, soon put them to flight. While in line at this point we were exposed to the fire of the rebel battery supporting their skirmishers, but it was immediately silenced by ours.

About dusk a line of battle was determined upon, and, by order, the Twenty-ninth Indiana took position on the left of the **Thirty-fourth**, which supported the battery on a lane leading to Murfreesborough and behind a dense thicket of cedars. Steps were at once taken to guard against surprise. A large company (B) of our regiment was sent out as pickets, with instructions to act as skirmishers should the enemy appear, our line connecting that of the **Thirty-fourth Illinois** on the right and the Thirtieth Indiana on our left, both of which lines were established sufficiently in advance to command a wide range of vision, and enable the regiments to form in time to meet any attack. The night passed without alarm on our line until about 3 a. m., when a shot fired on the picket line, to our right, brought every man to his place in the ranks.

About daylight we were again alarmed by general firing on the picket line, and immediately afterward by shouting in front, but to our right. The men instantly grasped their loaded guns, while I, by Lieutenant-Colonel Dunn's order, rode to the front, along the lane, to ascertain the cause of the firing, and, the force coming down on us emerging from behind the thicket, I saw a heavy column moving rapidly down on the **Thirty-fourth Illinois**, firing as they advanced, and opposed bravely and vigorously by the pickets and skirmishers. Riding farther down the lane, to obtain a view of the open country beyond the thicket, I saw a column of like proportions moving down on the Twenty-ninth Indiana. I galloped back to the regiment with this information, and found that Lieutenant-Colonel Dunn, anticipating, had thrown forward another large company (C) to support the pickets and skirmish among the cedars. This company, ably and gallantly led by Lieut. S. O. Gregory, pushed forward through the entangled mass until within a few yards of the