

once rode briskly over, and, arriving upon the hill near the ford, saw our infantry retiring before the enemy. The general asked me if I could not do something to relieve Colonel Beatty with my guns. Captain Swallow had already opened with his battery. I ordered Lieutenant Parsons to move a little forward and open with his guns; then rode back to bring up Lieutenant Estep, with his Eighth Indiana Battery. Meeting Captain Morton, with his brigade of Pioneers, he asked for advice, and I told him to move briskly forward with his brigade, and send his battery to the crest of the hill, near the batteries already engaged. The Eighth Indiana Battery took position to the right of Lieutenant Parsons.

Seeing that Lieutenant Osburn was in position (between Lieutenants Parsons and Estep), I rode to Lieutenant Stevens (Twenty-sixth Pennsylvania Battery), and directed him to change front, to fire to the left and open fire; and then to Captain Standart, and directed him to move to the left with his pieces; and he took position covering the ford. I found that Captain Bradley had anticipated my wishes, and had changed front to fire to the left, and opened upon the enemy; this battery was near the railroad. Lieutenant Livingston's (Third Wisconsin) battery (which was across the river) opened upon the advancing enemy, and continued to fire until he thought he could no longer maintain his position, when he crossed over, one section at a time, and opened fire again. The firing ceased about dark.

During this terrible encounter of little more than an hour in duration, forty-three pieces of artillery, belonging to the left wing, the Board of Trade Battery of six guns, and the batteries of General Negley's division, about nine guns, making a total of about fifty-eight pieces, opened fire upon the enemy. The enemy soon retired, our troops following; three batteries of the left wing, besides those of General Davis, crossed the river in pursuit.

During this engagement Lieutenant Parsons had one of his howitzers dismounted by a shot from the enemy, but it was almost immediately replaced by one captured from the enemy, and brought over by the Nineteenth Illinois Regiment.

The following are the casualties, &c., in the several batteries:

Designation of battery.	Commanding officer.	Commissioned officers wounded.	Enlisted men.			Horses.			Guns.		Rounds of ammunition expended.	
			Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.	Killed.	Disabled.	Missing.	Disabled by enemy.	Disabled by firing.		
Batteries H and M, 4th Artillery.	Lieut. C. C. Parsons.	.....	2	14	6	20	.....	.....	1	.....	2,299	
Battery B, 1st Ohio .....	Captain Standart .....	.....	3	13	3	21	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,610	
Battery F, 1st Ohio * .....	Captain Cockerill .....	1	2	12	.....	24	.....	.....	.....	2	1,080	
7th Indiana Battery .....	Captain Swallow .....	1	4	7	.....	1	4	4	.....	.....	408	
3d Wisconsin Battery .....	Lieutenant Livingston.	.....	.....	4	.....	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	358	
26th Pennsylvania Battery.	Lieutenant Stevens.	.....	2	7	.....	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,650	
8th Indiana Battery .....	Lieutenant Estep .....	.....	6	6	15	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	871	
10th Indiana Battery .....	Captain Cox .....	.....	1	4	.....	12	.....	.....	.....	2	1,442	
6th Ohio Battery .....	Captain Bradley .....	.....	2	2	1	16	5	.....	.....	.....	500	
<b>Total</b> .....	.....	.....	2	16	69	16	125	13	4	1	4	10,212

\*This battery had a limber blown up on the 31st.

Captain Cockerill and Lieutenant Buckmar were both wounded on the 31st. The former commanded Battery F, First Ohio, and the latter belongs to the Seventh Indiana Battery.

Major Race, First Ohio Artillery, chief of artillery in the First Division, and the several battery commanders, with their officers and men, all, with one exception, deserve most grateful mention for their coolness and bravery throughout the battle.

Lieutenant Parsons, commanding Batteries H and M, Fourth Artillery, and his officers, Lieutenants Cushing and Huntington, deserve great credit for their courage under the hottest of the enemy's fire; they were probably under closer fire and more of it than any other battery in the left wing, and perhaps in the army. I am more than pleased with the way they behaved, as well as the brave men that were under them. Captain Bradley, Sixth Ohio Battery, deserves particular notice for the manner in which he handled his battery.

The one exception above referred to is Lieut. Richard Jervis, of the Eighth Indiana, who is represented to have acted in a very cowardly manner, by retiring a section of the battery at a critical moment, without orders or notifying his battery commander.

I am, major, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

JOHN MENDENHALL,

*Captain Fourth Artillery, Chief of Artillery.*

Maj. LYNE STARLING,

*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 96.

*Reports of Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Wood, U. S. Army, commanding First Division.*

NASHVILLE, TENN., January 6, 1863.

SIR: On the morning of the 26th ultimo, the left wing of the Fourteenth Army Corps broke up its encampment, in the vicinity of Nashville, and moved toward the enemy. Reliable information assured us that he was encamped in force at and in the vicinity of Murfreesborough; but as his cavalry, supported occasionally by infantry, had extended its operations up to our outposts, and as we had been compelled for some days previous to the movement on the 26th ultimo to fight for the greater part of the forage consumed by the animals, it was supposed we should meet with resistance as soon as our troops passed beyond the line of our outposts. Nor was this expectation disappointed.

The order of march on the first day of the movement placed the Second Division, General Palmer, in advance, followed by my own. Several miles northward of La Vergne, a small hamlet nearly equidistant between Nashville and Murfreesborough, parties of the enemy were encountered by our advance guard, a cavalry force, and a running fight at once commenced. The country occupied by these bodies of hostile troops affords ground peculiarly favorable for a small force to retard the advance of a larger one. Large cultivated fields occur at intervals on either side of the turnpike road, but the country between the cultivated tracts is densely wooded, and much of the woodland interspersed with thick groves of cedar. The face of the country is undulating, presenting a succession of swells and subsidences. This brief description is applicable to the whole country between Nashville and Murfreesborough,

and the Twenty-sixth Ohio about four hours, were exhausted and very nearly out of ammunition. I, therefore, relieved the Fifty-eighth Indiana with the Fortieth Indiana, from Colonel Wagner's brigade, and the Twenty-sixth Ohio was relieved by the Twenty-third Kentucky. There was now not more than an hour of day left, and though the enemy was continually maneuvering in our front, no formidable attack was made upon us, except with artillery. The enemy having been three several times repulsed from their attack on that position, seemed satisfied to keep at a respectful distance, and the sun set upon us as masters of the situation.

We had sustained ourselves and held the only position of the original line of battle that was held throughout by any portion of the army. To have lost this position would have been to lose everything, as our left would then have been turned, and utter rout or capture inevitable.

To the "fearless spirits who hazarded and lost their lives on this consecrated spot" the country owes a deep debt of gratitude. No purer patriot, more upright man, and devoted Christian than Colonel McKee, of the Third Kentucky, ever offered up his life in defense of his country.

To the members of my staff present with me on the field—Capt. Edmund R. Kerstetter, assistant adjutant-general; Lieut. James R. Hume, aide-de-camp, and Lieut. James R. Warner, inspector-general—I am under the greatest obligations. They were constantly with me in the thickest of the fight, ably and gallantly assisting me in every way possible. My escort was also faithful and efficient. With the exceptions already alluded to, all of us were so fortunate as to get through unscathed.

The casualties in our brigade were as follows: The Third Kentucky Regiment went into action with 13 officers and 300 men, and lost—officers killed, 1; wounded, 9; enlisted men killed, 12; wounded, 77; missing, 34. The Fifty-eighth Indiana Regiment went into action with 19 officers and 386 enlisted men, and lost—officers killed, 1; wounded, 4; enlisted men killed, 16; wounded, 91. The One hundredth Illinois went into action with 27 officers and 394 enlisted men, and lost—officers killed, 1; wounded, 6; enlisted men killed, 5; wounded, 33. The Twenty-sixth Ohio went into action with 12 officers and 374 enlisted men, and lost—officers killed, 1; wounded, 2; enlisted men killed, 9; wounded, 77.

#### RECAPITULATION.

The brigade went into action with 71 officers and 1,454 enlisted men and lost—officers killed, 4; wounded, 21; enlisted men killed, 42; wounded, 278; missing, 34. Total killed, wounded, and missing in brigade, 379.

For more minute particulars of the parts performed by the different regiments I transmit herewith their respective reports.

During the evening of the 31st I was notified that, in consequence of the indisposition of General Wood and a wound received during the day, he was relieved of the command of the division, and that the same would devolve upon myself. I, therefore, turned over the command of the brigade to Col. George P. Buell, of the Fifty-eighth Indiana, and assumed the command of the division.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

MILO S. HASCALL,

*Brigadier-General of Volunteers, Commanding Brigade.*

Capt. M. P. BESTOW,

*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, First Division, Left Wing.*

#### HEADQUARTERS FIRST DIVISION, LEFT WING, *Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 10, 1863.*

I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of this division during the recent battles, after the command devolved upon me, on the evening of December 31, 1862:

At that time the division was considerably scattered, as Colonel Harker's brigade had been in action during the 31st on the extreme right, and had not returned. Colonel Wagner's was in position to the left of the railroad, where it had been in action during the day, and my brigade was to the right of the railroad.

About 11 p. m. of that day Colonel Harker returned with his brigade, and the division was once more together. At this time I received an order to send all the wagons of the division to the rear, and, shortly after this was executed, I received an order from General Crittenden to fall back, so that my right should rest on the position occupied by Stokes' battery, and my left on the right of General Palmer's division. This brought the new line of the division about 500 yards to the rear of the one of the day before. The line of the division was now nearly at right angles with the railroad, with the center of the line resting on it—the First Brigade, Colonel Buell, on the right; the Third, Colonel Harker, in the center, and the Second, Colonel Wagner, on the left.

In this position we lay all the next day, January 1, with nothing more to break the silence than picket firing and an occasional artillery duel. The division lost, however, several killed and wounded during the day. Each of my brigades was in line of battle, and I was occupying so much front that it kept the men constantly on the alert. Most of the other divisions had one or two brigades in reserve, and could, therefore, relieve their men some.

We maintained this position during the night of the 1st, and till about 8 o'clock in the morning of the 2d, the battery occupying the intervals between brigades. At this time the enemy opened upon us the most terrific fire of shot and shell that we sustained during the entire engagement. It appears that during the night before they had massed and masked several batteries in our front, so they opened on us from a line of batteries one-quarter of a mile long, all at once. They had our range perfectly, so that their fire was terribly effective from the first.

Estep's battery, on the right of my line, being in an exposed position, and receiving a very heavy fire, had to retire at once; not, however, till so many horses had been killed as to render it necessary for two of the pieces to be hauled to the rear by the infantry. Bradley's battery, with Colonel Harker in the center, having a better position and longer-range guns, opened a brisk fire on the enemy in return, and had every probability of maintaining their position until Stokes' battery, in their rear, undertook to open on the enemy with grape, which took effect on Bradley's men instead of the enemy, and compelled Bradley to retire. The infantry, however, along my entire line, though suffering severely from the enemy's fire, all maintained their position.

After about half an hour this firing ceased, and nothing further worthy of note happened till about 4 o'clock in the afternoon of that day. At this time General Van Cleve's division, which was stationed across Stone's River to our left, was suddenly attacked by a heavy force of the enemy under Breckinridge, and so fierce was the onslaught that the division was compelled to give way almost immediately. General Jefferson C. Davis and General Negley were immediately ordered to their relief with their divisions, and, as soon as they had time to get over, the attack was checked and the enemy began to retire.

At this time I received an order from General Crittenden to cross with my division, and immediately put the different brigades in motion. While crossing at the ford, one or two pieces of the enemy's artillery were playing upon us, but as it was then dusk, their firing was not accurate, and I think we sustained no loss in crossing. By the time we were over it was quite dark, and the firing had nearly ceased. Negley's division was returning, and Davis' had taken up a position a little in advance of where Van Cleve's division was attacked, his right resting on the bank of the river. I moved up and went into position on the left of Davis, my left inclining somewhat to the rear, to prevent it from being turned.

General Davis and myself then fortified our fronts as well as we could with the logs, stones, and rails at hand, and remained in this position that night, the next day (January 3), and till about 12 o'clock that night, without anything more than picket firing transpiring. I should remark that it rained very hard all day of January 3, and during the night, so that our men and officers suffered severely.

By this time the rains had so swollen the river that General Crittenden became apprehensive that it would not be fordable by morning, and we might be cut off from communication with the main body of our army. He, therefore, ordered us back, and my division took up a position in reserve, near General Rosecrans' headquarters, arriving there about 2 o'clock at night, completely drenched with mud and rain. They had now been on duty four days and nights, some of the time with nothing to eat, and all the time in the front, where they had to be constantly on the alert. The next morning we heard that the enemy had retreated, and the battle was over.

The conduct of the division throughout was admirable, and it can be truthfully said concerning it that it held its original position and every other position assigned to it during the whole four days, and this is more than can be said of any other division in the entire Fourteenth Army Corps.

I am under great obligations to my brigade commanders, Colonels Wagner, Harker, and Buell. Colonel Wagner had his horse shot under him on the 31st, and his clothes completely riddled with bullets. He, nevertheless, stood by throughout, and ably and gallantly performed his duty. The conduct of Colonel Harker was equally brave and efficient. They have each commanded brigades for nearly a year now, and it seems to me that common justice demands that they now receive the promotion they have so gallantly earned. Colonel Buell came in command of the First Brigade in consequence of my taking command of the division, and, although comparatively inexperienced, he performed every duty gallantly and well.

All the officers of the division, with a single exception, behaved gallantly and well; therefore I need not discriminate. The exception was Col. John W. Blake, of the Fortieth Indiana, and I consider it my duty to draw the line of distinction broad and deep between those who do well and those who prove recreant. He became so drunk as to be unfit for duty before going into action on the 31st, and was sent to the rear, in arrest, by his immediate commander, Colonel Wagner. The next day that was heard of him he was in Nashville, claiming to be wounded and a paroled prisoner. For this bad conduct I recommend that he be dishonorably discharged from the service.

For minute particulars, and for a complete report of the part performed by the different brigades, I refer you to the reports of brigade commanders, herewith inclosed.

My staff officers, including Captains Palmer and Bestow, of General Wood's staff, not heretofore mentioned by me, all performed their duty gallantly, and ably assisted me in every way possible.

I would also refer to my report as brigade commander, as that gives more in detail and more truthfully than any other report the operations of Colonel Wagner's and my brigade on the 31st, they being both under my personal observation and control after the heavy fighting commenced that day.

The casualties in the division were as follows:

The First Brigade went into action with 71 officers and 1,454 enlisted men, and lost—officers killed, 4; officers wounded, 21; enlisted men killed, 42; enlisted men wounded, 278; enlisted men missing, 34.

The Second Brigade went into action with 86 officers and 1,389 enlisted men, and lost—officers killed, 2; officers wounded, 18; enlisted men killed, 54; enlisted men wounded, 269; enlisted men missing, 32.

The Third Brigade went into action with 97 officers and 1,790 enlisted men, including the Sixth Ohio Battery, and lost—officers killed, 5; officers wounded, 17; enlisted men killed, 104; enlisted men wounded, 312; enlisted men missing, 101.

#### RECAPITULATION.

The division went into action with 254 commissioned officers and 4,633 enlisted men, and lost—officers killed, 11; officers wounded, 56; enlisted men killed, 200; enlisted men wounded, 859; enlisted men missing, 167. Total killed, 211; wounded, 915; missing, 167. Total killed, wounded, and missing in the division, 1,293.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

MILO S. HASCALL,

*Brigadier-General of Vols., Comdg. First Division, Left Wing.*

Maj. LYNE STARLING,

*Assistant Adjutant-General, Left Wing.*

HEADQUARTERS FIRST DIVISION, LEFT WING,  
*Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 11, 1863.*

Having just received the report of the batteries attached to my division,\* I hasten to forward them to the general, in order that he may allude to them in his report as their merits deserve. It will be seen by their reports that they all did their duty nobly, with perhaps a single exception on the part of one of the officers attached to Estep's battery. I allude to Richard Jervis, second lieutenant of that battery, who behaved badly throughout the entire four days' action. I recommend that he be dishonorably discharged the service, on account of his bad conduct.

I have already alluded to the distinguished services of these batteries, both in my brigade and division reports, and only desire further to add that, with the exception above alluded to, the conduct of both officers and men was admirable. Particular credit is due to Major Race, in command of the batteries, for the gallantry and good judgment displayed by him throughout the entire four days. The conduct of Stokes'

\* See Nos. 98-101.

battery, in firing upon Bradley's battery on January 2, was such as, in my judgment, demands immediate investigation, in order that the parties guilty of such gross carelessness may be properly punished.

I am, sir, most respectfully,

MILO S. HASCALL,

*Brigadier-General of Vols., Comdg. First Division, Left Wing.*

Major STARLING,

*Assistant Adjutant-General, Left Wing.*

HEADQUARTERS FIRST DIVISION, LEFT WING,  
*Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 17, 1863.*

In the hurry of making out my official report as division commander, I neglected to allude to the very valuable services rendered by Surg. W. W. Blair, medical director of this division, during and since the recent battles. His services were such as merit special commendation, and I desire that this may be forwarded as a part of my report, in justice to Dr. Blair. He reports to me that all the regimental surgeons were efficient and rendered valuable service.

I am, sir, respectfully,

MILO S. HASCALL,

*Brigadier-General of Vols., Comdg. First Division, Left Wing.*

Major STARLING,

*Assistant Adjutant-General, Left Wing.*

No. 98.

*Report of Maj. Seymour Race, First Ohio Light Artillery, Chief of Artillery.*

HDQRS. ARTILLERY FIRST DIVISION, LEFT WING,  
*January 7, 1863.*

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to submit to you the official reports of the commanding officers of the batteries of this division.

About 9 a. m. of December 31, 1862, Capt. Cullen Bradley, Sixth Ohio Light Battery, by orders, moved his battery, with Harker's brigade, to the extreme right of our lines, where they engaged the enemy's artillery (two four-gun batteries, supposed) and infantry in a most severely contested battle. Before superior numbers of the enemy, the brigade and battery (after repulsing the first attack of the enemy) were obliged to retire, but not without disputing every inch of ground, Captain Bradley being obliged to leave two of his guns on the field. They were soon after retaken by the Thirteenth Michigan, Colonel Shoemaker, whose timely support forced the enemy to retire.

Captain Bradley's battery was under my immediate observation, and the conduct of Captain Bradley, his subordinate officers, and men was such as to entitle them to great credit. The conduct of this battery on January 2, under the fire of three batteries of the enemy, was gallant in the extreme. The enemy's batteries were nearly silenced, when Captain Stokes' battery opened, 300 yards in rear of Bradley, with canister, at a distance of at least 2,200 yards from the enemy's guns. Captain Bradley had 5 men and 5 horses wounded by their fire, and was obliged to retire.

I respectfully ask an investigation into the conduct of Stokes' battery on this occasion. Capt. J. B. Cox, Tenth Indiana Battery, and Lieut.

George Estep, commanding Eighth Indiana Battery, were closely engaged during the battle of December 31, on the left of our lines, supported by General Hascall's and Colonel Wagner's brigades. Captain Cox was under the fire of three batteries of the enemy for seven hours during the day, but succeeded in administering to them all in a manner perfectly satisfactory to me, and to the great discomfiture of the enemy.

On January 2, when in position on the right, he repulsed, with canister, a desperate charge of a brigade of the enemy's infantry. Captain Cox, his officers, and men behaved with great gallantry and bravery. Lieutenant Estep's battery, by a free use of case-shot and canister, on December 31, succeeded in repulsing three successive charges of the enemy's infantry, and otherwise, during the three days' battle, did most excellent service. Lieutenants Estep, Voris, and Winsor, and the non-commissioned officers and men of this battery, with few exceptions, behaved with commendable coolness and bravery. Lieut. Richard Jervis acted in a most cowardly manner. I will devote a special communication to his case.

For full particulars of the engagements and losses, I respectfully refer you to the accompanying reports of battery commanders.

Respectfully submitted.

S. RACE,

*Major, Chief of Artillery, First Division, Left Wing.*

Capt. E. R. KERSTETTER,

*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 99.

*Reports of Lieut. George Estep, Eighth Indiana Battery, including skirmishes at La Vergne and on the Murfreesborough pike, at Stewart's Creek Bridge.*

IN THE FIELD, December 28, 1862.

GENERAL: While connected with your brigade yesterday, on the march from the camp of the previous night, I could at no time (on account of the disposition of the enemy to retire) get an opportunity to fire more than two or three shots. I fired in all 42 rounds; that these were damaging to the enemy or his guns I am unable to tell. In the last position which I took, commanding the Stewart's Creek Bridge, I fired 8 rounds, and received about the same number in return; one of the enemy's shots took a spoke from the wheel of one of my gun-carriages. I am happy to say no other damages were done. The officers of my battery behaved with commendable coolness.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE ESTEP,

*First Lieutenant, Commanding Eighth Indiana Battery.*

Brigadier-General HASCALL,

*Commanding Fifteenth Brigade.*

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH INDIANA BATTERY,  
*In the Field, near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 4, 1863.*

I have the honor, respectfully, to submit the following official report of the Eighth Indiana Light Battery, on December 31, 1862, and 1st and 2d days of January, 1863:

I put my battery in position on Wednesday morning about 9 o'clock,

field. When near the hospital, about one-fourth of a mile in the rear of my former position, I discovered the enemy's skirmishers deployed out and advancing. I at once drove them back with canister. During the day I silenced each one of the batteries in my front and on my flank several times. They had a cross-fire on us during the entire day. We were at one time fighting four batteries, but my men, not the least disheartened, were determined to hold their position at all hazards, which one, I believe, was the only one held by any battery on the field. On this day I had 1 man killed and 6 slightly wounded.

On January 1, I was removed to the right wing, and about 10 o'clock drove back a brigade of infantry, which was advancing.

On January 2, in the evening, our skirmishers were thrown forward and drew the fire of a brigade in ambush. This we expected, and had prepared by cutting the fuses the proper length and getting the proper elevation and range, and showered their ranks with shrapnel, every one bursting precisely at the spot needed. They became badly disorganized and fled in great disorder.

To Lieutenants Naylor, Cox, Cosner, and Clifford I return my warmest thanks for their coolness, gallantry, and promptness in obeying commands. Their actions deserve the highest commendation.

To my sergeants and corporals, and to the members of my battery, too much could not be said. They fought gallantly for seven hours, and until they were completely exhausted from their excessive labor; but it is enough to say that the whole battery, men and officers, did their whole duty as soldiers, and maintained their original position on the 31st against three, and part of the time four, batteries, and the determined charges of the enemy's troops. The battle-field in front is the witness of their execution.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. B. COX,

*Captain Tenth Indiana Battery.*

Major RACE,

*Chief of Artillery, First Division, Left Wing,  
Army of the Cumberland.*

No. 101.

*Report of Capt. Cullen Bradley, Sixth Ohio Battery.*

HEADQUARTERS SIXTH OHIO BATTERY,

*On Battle-field, near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 5, 1863.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following official report of the engagement of December 30 and 31, 1862, and January 1 and 2, 1863, viz:

At 8 a. m., December 30, the battery was put in position on the left bank of Stone's River and near camp, and engaged a four-gun battery of the enemy at a range of 1,500 yards, who held a high, strong, and commanding position on the opposite bank of the river, and silenced the enemy's battery after an engagement of fifteen minutes, expending 72 rounds of shell and solid shot, sustaining no damage, except the loss of one sponge-bucket, struck by an enemy's shot.

At 8 a. m., December 31, the battery, in accordance to orders, proceeded to the right of our lines. At 10.30 a. m. engaged two four-gun batteries of the enemy, supported by two brigades of infantry, at a range of 250

yards. We received a galling fire from the infantry as well as the batteries. We held our position twenty minutes, pouring a heavy and destructive fire upon the infantry, at the same time engaging the batteries with good effect, expending 150 rounds of case-shot and canister, and sustained a loss of 1 man wounded and 2 horses killed.

Our left flank having been turned, I retired my battery and took a position 500 yards in the rear. Again opened upon the enemy (with case and canister), who were advancing in force. After an engagement of five minutes, and expending 12 rounds of ammunition, I was again compelled to retire my battery and abandon two pieces of the battery, one of which I had spiked (since removed), and sustaining a loss of 1 man killed, 2 men wounded, and 1 man missing; also 8 horses killed and 3 wounded. About this time Colonel Shoemaker charged the enemy with the Thirteenth Michigan Regiment, driving them off the field and recovering the guns, and for which Colonel Shoemaker should receive full credit.

About 8 a. m., January 1, I again changed position to the front lines, and, in conjunction with several batteries, opened upon the enemy with case-shot and shell at a range of 2,000 yards, driving them back, expending 54 rounds of ammunition and sustaining no damage.

January 2, while occupying a position on the front line, the enemy advanced eighteen guns (supposed), and opened fire upon my battery with solid shot and shell. About 8 a. m. I was supported upon the right by two six-gun batteries, which gave way early in the action and retired. I silenced the enemy's guns and held the position, expending 177 rounds of ammunition, and sustaining a loss of 5 men wounded, 5 horses killed, and 3 horses wounded. About this time Captain Stokes' (Chicago) battery opened upon my battery several rounds of canister from a position 250 yards in rear, and from which I sustained much damage.

At 2 p. m. the enemy advanced a heavy column upon our left lines, and supported by two four-gun batteries. My battery took a strong position and opened on the enemy at a range of 3,000 yards with good effect, expending 35 rounds of shell, and sustaining no damage.

I take pleasure in noticing the promptness and coolness displayed by First Lieut. O. H. P. Ayres, Second Lieut. A. P. Baldwin, and First Sergt. G. W. Smetts for the manner in which they managed their respective sections; Lieutenant Ayres having been slightly wounded, also his horse being wounded, and Lieutenant Baldwin having his horse shot.

The following non-commissioned officers and privates greatly distinguished themselves, viz: Sergts. G. W. Howard, H. Hartman, T. O. Casey, S. Miller, and J. Hersh; Corpls. N. Poole, H. A. Collier, and Acting Corpl. S. O. Kimberk. Corpl. E. H. Neal is entitled to much credit for the promptness and carefulness he displayed in keeping the caissons well screened, and for keeping the battery well supplied with ammunition. Privates W. C. Stough, J. Robinett, D. H. Evans, J. G. Barger, and Frank Leslie greatly distinguished themselves. The whole company, with but few exceptions, displayed great coolness, and are entitled to much credit.

Respectfully,

CULLEN BRADLEY,

*Captain, Commanding Sixth Ohio Light Battery.*

Maj. S. RACE,

*Comdg. Artillery, First Division, Fourteenth Army Corps.*

HEADQUARTERS THIRD KENTUCKY VOLUNTEERS,  
Near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 5, 1863.

SIR: By order of Col. George P. Buell, I herewith submit a report of the part taken by the Third Regiment Kentucky Volunteers in the action on Thursday, January 1.

By order of Colonel Buell, I moved my regiment, at 2 a. m., west of the railroad, and formed on the right of the One hundredth Illinois, the Fifty-eighth Indiana and Twenty-sixth Ohio in our rear. We remained here all day, ready at any time to meet an attack, but nothing of note took place, with the exception of an occasional shell passing over the regiment, which we shielded ourselves from by lying flat on the ground.

At 8 p. m. we moved to a skirt of woods about 500 yards to the front, and relieved the Third Battalion of Pioneers, where we remained during the night.

Friday, January 2, we remained in the position occupied the night previous, and during part of the time were under a heavy fire from the enemy's batteries.

About 5 p. m. we marched, with the balance of the brigade, across the river, where we formed in line in an open field. After standing under arms for some time in a drenching rain, we withdrew to a skirt of woods on the right of our position, where we bivouacked for the night.

Saturday, January 3, about 7 a. m., we marched to the front, and took position in the second line in rear of the fortifications, where we remained until about 1 p. m., when we moved forward and occupied the position previously held by the Fifty-eighth Indiana, where we remained until about 2 a. m.

Sunday, January 4, we recrossed the river about 2 a. m., and went into camp on the west of the railroad. The day was mostly spent in gathering up and burying the dead.

Respectfully, yours,

DANIEL R. COLLIER,  
Major, Commanding.

Capt. J. G. ELWOOD,  
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Fifteenth Brigade.

No. 107.

*Reports of Capt. William H. Squires, Twenty-sixth Ohio Infantry, including skirmishes at La Vergne and on the Murfreesborough pike, at Stewart's Creek Bridge.*

HDQRS. TWENTY-SIXTH OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,  
In Field, near La Vergne, December 28, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to report the following as the part performed by the Twenty-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, under my command, on the 27th instant:

Between 11 and 12 o'clock I first received orders to form the regiment in line of battle, and deploy my flanking companies as skirmishers. This being executed, and the order to advance being given, my skirmishers were ordered to enter La Vergne at a double-quick. On reaching the edge of the town, the firing on them became very severe, and at this point I received the order to advance my regiment at a double-quick and clear the town. This was performed by the regiment to my entire satisfaction. Having passed the town, the regiment, owing to the dense

woods and the difficulty of seeing our proper position, obliqued too far to the left, and a part of it was thrown on the left of the railroad, and encountered considerable opposition from a force of the enemy's cavalry, which were finally driven forward. After dispersing this body of cavalry, I received orders to move over to the turnpike, which I did, and was there relieved by the One hundredth Illinois Volunteers, which I was then ordered to support. I then advanced on a line with the Fifty-eighth Indiana to the present point, and, in obedience to orders, was moving my regiment to the rear for the purpose of camping, when I received orders to change front and form on line with the One hundredth Illinois, to cut off the retreat of the enemy's cavalry, which, at this time, were endeavoring to escape by cutting their way through to the turnpike in advance of our forces. This force of the enemy having escaped by passing to the left of the line, I was ordered to camp my regiment. I regret to report the following loss of enlisted men in my regiment, nearly all of which occurred during the execution of the order to charge through the town, viz: Company A, 1 man wounded; Company B, 2 wounded; Company C, 1 wounded; Company D, 2 wounded; Company F, 1 killed and 2 wounded; Company H, 4 wounded; Company I, 3 wounded; Company K, 2 wounded; total, 17 wounded and 1 killed. In considering the circumstances under which the regiment went into the engagement, to wit, with but 1 acting field officer, 1 acting staff officer, 11 commissioned line officers, and 380 men, under arms, and the fact of the men being heavily laden, their clothes and contents of knapsacks being very wet, I have every reason to be satisfied with their conduct. I would also report the fact that Captain Ewing, of Company B, and in command of my skirmishers, not having received the order to return to the regiment when relieved by the companies of the One hundredth Illinois, remained in advance of the skirmishers of the One hundredth, and, with the men under his command and the assistance of a few of the skirmishers of the Third Kentucky, saved the bridge a half a mile to our front and on the main pike. Not having received any report from the surgeons in charge of my wounded, I am unable to state the character of their wounds, though most of them are reported to be severe. In numbers, however, I believe the list of casualties to be perfectly correct.

My company officers deserve my most sincere thanks for their efforts and the success attained in keeping the men well in hand and perfectly cool.

I have the honor to be, yours, very respectfully,

W. H. SQUIRES,  
Commanding Twenty-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry.  
Capt. EDMUND R. KERSTETTER.

HDQRS. TWENTY-SIXTH OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,  
In Field, January 5, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report the following movements on the part of the Twenty-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry on January 1:

At an early hour in the morning I was ordered to fall back with my regiment from the position in which I had been placed by Colonel Wagner and join the Fifteenth Brigade. We were then drawn back and formed a reserve near and at right angles to the railroad.

At night the regiment was thrown across the railroad and into a hollow, for the purpose of allowing the men to build fires.

At 9 p. m. we were ordered forward to relieve the Pioneer Brigade, and the regiment was formed in rear of the Fifty-eighth Indiana as a support. This position was held all night. There were no casualties in the regiment on this day.

On the morning of January 2, the regiment was ordered forward to relieve the One hundredth Illinois and support the Eighth Indiana Battery, on our left flank, and the Board of Trade Battery, on the center and right. Immediately after taking this position the batteries of the enemy opened on our artillery, and severe fighting ensued.

During the day the enemy's skirmishers, advancing under cover, annoyed our line, and were twice driven back by our own skirmishers. Immediately after sundown the regiment, with the brigade, were thrown across the creek, and, being held in reserve, were thrown back into the woods and allowed fires.

The casualties of this day were 2 men killed and 8 wounded, most of which were caused by the artillery of the enemy.

On the morning of January 3, the regiment was ordered to relieve the Sixty-fourth Ohio Volunteer Infantry and occupy the breastworks built during the previous night. In this position the regiment remained during the day and night, nothing of interest occurring and no casualties taking place.

On the morning of January 4, the regiment recrossed the creek and was placed in camp in the present position.

In conclusion, I will add that the Twenty-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry entered into the engagement of December 31 with 374 guns, and lost during the interval a total of 1 commissioned officer killed and 2 wounded, and 9 enlisted men killed and 72 wounded. Many others were struck, and so slightly wounded as not to unfit them for duty, and are, therefore, not mentioned in this report.

I cannot mention in particular any of my officers, as each one seemed to vie with the other in deeds and examples of good conduct. The men, with a very few exceptions, behaved nobly, though a few, I regret to say, skulked to the rear.

I have the honor to be, yours, very respectfully,

W. H. SQUIRES,

*Captain, Commanding Twenty-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry.*

Captain ELWOOD,

*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Fifteenth Brigade.*

No. 108.

*Report of Col. George D. Wagner, Fifteenth Indiana Infantry, commanding Second Brigade.*

HDQRS. SECOND BRIG., FIRST DIV., LEFT WING,  
DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,  
*On the Field, near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 6, 1863.*

SIR: I have the honor to report the following as to the position and part taken by my brigade in the great battle of the last few days:

On the morning of the 31st ultimo my command was formed in order of battle, the right resting on the Murfreesborough road, about 2 miles from the town, and the left resting to the left of the railroad; one

section of Cox's battery commanding the pike, the remainder of the battery posted so as to command either side of the railroad.

While in this position I received an order to move forward. My skirmishers immediately became engaged with the enemy, and the enemy's artillery shelling my lines. There was a fearful battle going on at this time on our extreme right. I received orders to proceed no farther, but, if attacked, to hold my position. General Hascall's and Colonel Harker's brigades were posted on my left, but were soon after withdrawn; this made it necessary to extend my lines to the left, so as to prevent the enemy crossing Stone's River at a ford which had been held by Colonel Harker, and that I was now ordered to hold at all hazards by General Wood.

I accordingly moved all my brigade to the left of the railroad, with one section of Cox's battery at the railroad; the other sections were posted directly in front of the ford, on the crest of a hill, supported by the Fifty-seventh Indiana Volunteers, and in such position as to rake the front both to the right and left. Directly in front of this position, on the opposite side of the river, on an elevation defended by earthworks, were posted two of the enemy's batteries and a large force of infantry, under command of General Breckinridge. This was mainly the position of my command when the enemy made the first vigorous assault in front, which, after a long and continued struggle, was repulsed with great slaughter of the enemy, but to return in still greater force.

Learning that General Hascall, on the right of the road, was hard pressed, I sent the Ninety-seventh Ohio to re-enforce him, which did good service as they took position on the flank, and were sheltered by the nature of the ground from the fire of the enemy, and which prevented the enemy from raking our lines from the woods on the right. Colonel Lane maintained this position throughout the day. The enemy at this time had gained the woods on this side of the river, and I ordered the Fifteenth Indiana, supported by the Fifty-seventh Indiana, to advance to meet them. Captain Cox's battery, supported by the Fortieth Indiana, opened on them with canister and soon drove them back. At the same time they were repulsed in front by General Hascall, but only to return, as before, in greater force, this time evidently determined to carry my position, as a brigade was thrown on this side of the river, under cover of the woods in my front, at only about 300 yards distant.

Cox's battery had exhausted nearly all of their ammunition, and had tried in vain to procure more, which made it necessary for me to rely mainly on the infantry to dislodge the enemy from this position. I preferred making the attack myself rather than waiting an assault from them. I ordered forward the Fifteenth Indiana, supported by the Fifty-seventh Indiana, being all the troops I had in hand, the Fortieth Indiana being hotly engaged on the right of the railroad, with the left resting upon the river, so as to completely enfilade the enemy's line.

At this time Colonel Hines and Lieutenant-Colonel Lennard, of the Fifty-seventh Indiana, were severely wounded, and had to leave the field. From this position I directed Lieutenant-Colonel Wood, commanding Fifteenth Indiana Volunteers, to charge the enemy at a double-quick, and nobly did he and his men execute the order, killing, wounding, and capturing nearly one entire regiment, and driving two others in utter rout from the field; and nobly was the movement seconded by the Fifty-seventh Indiana Volunteers, although they had lost all their field officers; they poured volley after volley into the enemy, thereby aiding greatly to the success of the movements. Captain Cox's battery

rumbling of artillery moving from our right to our left. Upon investigation I was satisfied that the enemy was massing his forces on our left, and forthwith informed you of the fact.

At 2 o'clock on the morning of January 1, I informed General Rosecrans of this movement of the enemy, when he immediately arranged to relieve us from this position, which we had held since noon of the preceding day.

Our casualties during our absence from your brigade were: Wounded, Isaac McDonald, private Company B; Israel Garrett and J. C. Huffman, privates Company C; Austin Harvey and Evan Foulke, privates Company D; Lewellyn Echelberry, sergeant Company E; George Robinson, private Company G, and John Moore, private Company H. Killed: A. M. Hasom, color sergeant; August Reinsch, private Company B, and John Rodecker, private Company G.

At 3 o'clock on the morning of the 1st, I reported my regiment to you, and was assigned a place in the front line, about a half mile to the rear of the position occupied by me at the beginning of the engagement. We remained here during the day, with no other annoyance than an occasional shot or shell from the enemy's guns. At night we bivouacked on the spot.

On the morning of the 2d, our skirmishers were advanced a half mile to the front, where they remained undisturbed until 2.45 p. m., when the enemy attacked our forces across the river and our skirmishers were driven back. We were here subjected to a cross-fire from the enemy's guns for more than an hour, wounding Charles H. Claspbell, corporal Company K; Purley Dickson, sergeant, and Benjamin Kinsey, private Company D.

At 5 p. m. we crossed Stone's River and remained on its right bank until the morning of the 4th without further event.

Our loss during the whole engagement was 3 killed, 15 wounded, and 6 missing.

The officers and men in my command everywhere acquitted themselves nobly, and we never lost a position after once taking it.

I have the honor to be, colonel, your obedient servant,

JOHN Q. LANE,

*Colonel Ninety-seventh Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry.*

Col. G. D. WAGNER,  
*Commanding Twenty-first Brigade.*

No. 112.

*Report of Col. Charles G. Harker, Sixty-fifth Ohio Infantry, commanding Third Brigade.*

HDQRS. THIRD BRIGADE, FIRST DIVISION, LEFT WING,  
FOURTEENTH A. C., DEPT. OF THE CUMBERLAND,  
*Murfreesborough, Tenn., January —, 1863.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the troops under my command from the 29th ultimo to the 4th instant, inclusive:

The Third Brigade, First Division, left wing, Fourteenth Army Corps, Department of the Cumberland, formerly the Twentieth Brigade, Sixth Division, consisting of the Fifty-first Regiment Indiana Volunteers, Col.

A. D. Streight commanding; the Thirteenth Regiment Michigan Volunteers, Col. M. Shoemaker commanding; Seventy-third Regiment Indiana Volunteers, Col. G. Hathaway commanding; Sixty-fourth Regiment Ohio Volunteers, Lieut. Col. A. McIlvain commanding; Sixty-fifth Regiment Ohio Volunteers, Lieutenant-Colonel Cassil commanding, and the Sixth Ohio Independent Battery, commanded by Capt. Cullen Bradley, left Stewart's Creek about 10 a. m. on Monday, the 29th ultimo, marching most of the time in line of battle, with the right of the line a little in the rear of the left of the Second Brigade, Colonel Wagner commanding.

Our skirmishers soon came upon the enemy's cavalry, engaging them briskly and driving them slowly before them. We proceeded in this manner, cautiously feeling our way until our left arrived at the left bank of Stone's River, which was reached about 4 p. m.

Up to this time we had suffered no casualties from the enemy's skirmishers. We took up a position near Stone's River, about 400 yards to the left of the Nashville and Murfreesborough pike, the Second Brigade, Colonel Wagner commanding, being on the right, and the First Brigade, General Hascall commanding, being on the left, and somewhat to the rear, owing to the conformation of the ground.

We remained in this position until about dark, when we received orders to proceed to Murfreesborough. Stone's River being fordable in our front, we at once commenced crossing the stream. Throwing a strong line of skirmishers over the stream, orders were given to the Fifty-first Indiana, Thirteenth Michigan, and Seventy-third Indiana Volunteers to cross simultaneously, form on the opposite bank, press forward, and seize the commanding heights beyond, while the Sixty-fourth and Sixty-fifth Ohio, with Bradley's battery, were directed to follow as rapidly as possible.

The skirmishers had barely left the bank of the river before they were vigorously attacked by those of the enemy, concealed in a thicket and behind a fence in our front. Our skirmishers, in no way daunted by this fierce assault of the enemy, pressed gallantly forward, driving the foe until they came upon the enemy in force. The skirmishers were soon supported by the front line of the brigade. The enemy seemed to have been entirely disconcerted by this bold movement of our troops, and fell back in confusion. In this movement our loss was 2 men killed and 3 wounded. This slight loss must be attributed to the able manner in which the officers of the brigade conducted their commands. A prisoner taken reported an entire division of the enemy on my front; movements along my entire front and flanks indicated that a strong force was near me. I reported this to the general commanding the division, at the same time stating that I could hold the position until re-enforced.

I soon received orders to recross the stream, which I did, occupying nearly the same ground as before crossing. This movement was so quickly executed as not to excite the suspicion of the enemy.

Too much praise cannot be accorded to the brave officers and men of this brigade for their bravery and skill in driving a concealed enemy from a strong position after nightfall, and holding their ground in the face of an enemy three times their numbers. Though little was accomplished by this feat, it nevertheless made manifest the indomitable courage of the men under the most trying circumstances, and augured well for the more severe work which awaited them.

On December 30, the Sixty-fourth Ohio, being on picket and outpost duty, was somewhat annoyed by the enemy in the slight skirmishing in the front, losing 1 man killed.

About 8 a. m. the enemy's battery, stationed on an eminence near the right bank of Stone's River, opened a severe fire of shot and shell upon my camp. Bradley's battery was ordered into position to engage that of the enemy. After a severe engagement of fifteen minutes, Captain Bradley succeeded in silencing the enemy's battery. My command sustained no loss in this engagement. Aside from this, it was generally quiet on my front during the day.

About 8 a. m., December 31, I received orders from General Wood, commanding division, to cross the river with my command. The movement was commenced, in obedience to General Wood's order, but was suspended for a few moments by an order emanating from Major-General Crittenden, commanding the left wing. While awaiting further orders, Major-General Rosecrans passed my command, and gave me direct instructions to proceed immediately to the support of the right wing of our army, which was yielding to the overwhelming force of the enemy at that point.

We had hardly commenced moving toward the right, when a Confederate battery, located on the south bank of the river, opened upon us, killing 1 man and wounding 2. Not stopping to reply to this battery, we pressed steadily forward. On approaching the right, much confusion was visible; troops marching in every direction; stragglers to be seen in great numbers, and teamsters in great consternation endeavoring to drive their teams they knew not whither. My progress was impeded by the confusion, while the enemy was pouring shot and shell upon us from at least three different directions, wounding several men in my command. The brigade was, however, extricated from this perilous position as soon as possible, and pressed on to a position on the extreme right of our line, Colonel Fyffe's brigade, of General Van Cleve's division, being immediately upon our left.

After reaching this last position, my brigade marched in two lines, the Fifty-first Indiana on the right, the Sixty-fifth Ohio on the left, the battery a little retired and opposite the interval between the Sixty-fifth and Fifty-first, the Sixty-fourth Ohio on the right of the second line, the Seventy-third Indiana on the left, with the Thirteenth Michigan in rear of the caissons. We marched in this order about half a mile, when our skirmishers came up with those of the enemy, and the fire became brisk in front. About this time a battery from the enemy, situated in a cornfield, and nearly opposite my right flank, opened upon my command with canister. In order to get a commanding position for artillery, and at the same time guard well my right flank, which I was fearful the enemy would attempt to turn, I moved the command a little to the right.

While this movement was being executed, a staff officer from the command upon my left reported a strong force of the enemy in his front. I replied that my right was in danger, and that a strong force and battery was in front. No sooner had I taken a position on the crest of the hill than a most vigorous engagement commenced. The position selected for my brigade proved a most fortunate one. The enemy was completely baffled in his design to turn my right; not only were the batteries in my front silenced and the enemy there repulsed, but a most destructive fire from Bradley's battery played upon the heavy columns of the enemy then pressing the troops upon my left. This engagement had continued about twenty minutes, when it was reported to me that the troops on my left had given way, and that the enemy was already in rear of my left flank, and about 200 yards from it, pouring a destructive cross-fire upon my troops.

At this time my command was in a most precarious situation, with a

strong foe in front, which, though repulsed, could not be followed up for want of support; my right threatened, and my left already turned. It therefore became necessary to change the disposition of my command and fall back. The commander of the Sixty-fifth Ohio anticipated my order, when he found his left turned, and fell back in good order. I directed this regiment to make a stand behind a rail fence running obliquely to the first line of battle.

During this movement this regiment was subjected to a most galling fire from the enemy, but they stood up under it nobly and fought desperately. While this movement was being executed, the Seventy-third Indiana was left in position on the second line, and the battery retired to a position about 400 yards to the rear, when it again opened. The Sixty-fourth Ohio was now ordered to change its front to the left and charge the enemy. The direction was indicated to the commanding officer, but, unfortunately, he moved too far to the right. Though this regiment handsomely repulsed the enemy in its front, it did the work of the other regiments already in position, leaving the left of the Seventy-third Indiana exposed, and permitting the enemy to advance much farther than could have been done had my design been carried out.

I do not, however, desire to censure the commanding officer of this regiment, who acted most gallantly through the engagement, but attribute it to a misunderstanding of the order. Bradley's battery, having taken its second position, opened again, with great effect, upon the advancing enemy, but, being in an exposed position, it was again ordered to withdraw, being badly crippled by loss of horses; two pieces were abandoned, one of which was spiked.

The command was now ordered to fall back and form on a rocky eminence covered with cedars, being a very strong position. The Thirteenth Michigan, from their position, opened upon the enemy with telling effect, and, having caused his ranks to waver, followed up the advantage with a charge, supported by the Fifty-first Illinois Volunteers, who had now come to our relief. They completely routed the enemy. The Thirteenth Michigan retook two pieces of artillery, abandoned by our battery, and captured 58 prisoners. For this act of gallantry Colonel Shoemaker and his gallant regiment are deserving of much praise.

The enemy thus driven from our right did not again attempt to annoy us in that quarter. How far the brave troops of this brigade contributed toward repulsing the strong columns of the enemy designed to turn the right flank of our army, and thus preventing most disastrous consequences to our army, must be inferred by the position occupied by this command and the part it took in the engagement.

Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon Colonel Shoemaker, commanding the Thirteenth Michigan Volunteers; Colonel Hathaway, commanding the Seventy-third Indiana Volunteers; Lieutenant-Colonel McIlvain, commanding the Sixty-fourth Ohio Volunteers; Lieutenant-Colonel Cassil, who commanded the Sixty-fifth Ohio Volunteers until injured by the falling of his horse, and Major Whitbeck, though wounded in action, remained in command of the Sixty-fifth Ohio Volunteers after Lieutenant-Colonel Cassil was injured, and Captain Bradley, commanding Sixth Ohio Battery, for their bravery and good conduct during this engagement.

My thanks are also due to Col. A. D. Straight, commanding Fifty-first Indiana Volunteers, for valuable information of the movements of the enemy during this engagement. From the less exposed position of his regiment it suffered less than any other regiment of my command.

On the evening of the 31st, I received orders from the major-general commanding to rejoin the First Division, which was done about 11 p. m.

On January 1, this division was moved a little to the right and rear. My brigade occupied a central position in the division, on the front line of battle, and a short distance to the left of the Murfreesborough pike. We were hardly in position before the enemy drove in our skirmishers. Bradley's battery, in conjunction with several others in our front, opened a most destructive fire of case-shot and shell, driving the enemy from our front and sustaining no loss.

On January 2, Bradley's battery being in position on a small eminence on our front, supported on the right by the Sixty-fourth and Sixty-fifth Ohio, behind a small clump of trees, and on the left by the Fifty-first Indiana Volunteers, lying in a skirt of timber, while the Thirteenth Michigan and Seventy-third Indiana were in reserve, three batteries of the enemy opened upon us. They were promptly responded to by Captain Bradley and other batteries on my right, when the most fearful artillery engagement ensued which I had yet had the experience to witness. The enemy, having our range quite perfectly, poured upon us a most destructive fire, causing the battery on our right to be abandoned; but Captain Bradley continued his well-directed firing until the enemy's batteries were silenced.

While this engagement was going on, Captain Stokes' battery, posted in our rear, opened upon us, mistaking us for the enemy. It is due to Captain Stokes, however, to say that I believe this firing was commenced without his orders, and was stopped by him as soon as it was possible for him to do so, but not until we had sustained some injury.

During the engagement we had 1 man killed and 11 wounded.

On the evening of the same day, when the enemy attacked the left flank of our army with great vigor, Bradley's battery was again placed in position, and did good service in silencing those of the enemy.

About dark on the evening of the 2d instant we were ordered to cross Stone's River. My brigade was placed in the front line, my right resting on the left of General Davis' division. We were hardly in position before the enemy opened upon us, killing 1 man of the Sixty-fourth Ohio.

During the night we constructed a musket breastwork of rails, and remained on the front until about 9 a. m., January 3, when we were relieved and ordered to the rear in reserve, where we remained until about 3 p. m., when we were again ordered to the front to relieve Colonel Wagner's brigade, and occupied a position on the left of the First Division.

We remained in this position until about 1 a. m., January 4, when we received orders to recross Stone's River. We crossed the stream and took a position in rear of the main body of our force, and about 500 yards to the left of the railroad, where we remained until our troops had occupied Murfreesborough.

The loss in killed, wounded, and missing during these six days' engagements was as follows:

The Fifty-first Indiana—officers wounded, 2; enlisted men killed, 7; wounded, 32; missing, 9. Total, 50.

The Sixty-fourth Ohio—officers killed, 1; wounded, 3; enlisted men killed, 23; wounded, 61; missing, 17. Total, 105.

The Thirteenth Michigan—officers wounded, 2; enlisted men killed, 17; wounded, 70. Total, 89.

The Seventy-third Indiana Volunteers—officers killed, 2; wounded, 3; enlisted men killed, 22; wounded, 48; missing, 36. Total, 111.

The Sixty-fifth Ohio Volunteers—officers killed, 2; wounded, 8; enlisted men killed, 33; wounded, 92; missing, 38. Total, 173.

The Sixth Ohio Battery—officers wounded, 1; enlisted men killed, 2; wounded, 7; missing, 1. Total, 11.

Total loss in killed, wounded, and missing, 539.

The following is a correct list of the killed and wounded officers of my command:

Of the Fifty-first Indiana, Capt. Francis M. Constant, Company G, and Second Lieut. Alfred Gude, wounded.

Of the Sixty-fourth Ohio, Capt. Joseph B. Sweet, killed; First Lieuts. Warner Young, Joseph B. Ferguson, and Chauncey Woodruff (regimental adjutant), wounded.

Of the Thirteenth Michigan, Capt. Clement C. Webb, Company E; Second Lieut. John E. McIvor, Company E, wounded.

Of the Seventy-third Indiana, Capt. Miles H. Tibbits, Company F, and Peter Doyle, Company H, killed; Maj. William Krimbill, wounded; Second Lieuts. Emanuel Williamson, Company I, and John Butterfield, Company K, wounded.

Of the Sixty-fifth Ohio, Capt. J. Christophel and Second Lieut. Dolson Van Kirk, killed; Lieut. Col. A. Cassil, Maj. H. N. Whitbeck, Capt. R. M. Voorhees, Company F, First Lieut. A. A. Gardner, Second Lieut. and Regimental Adj. William H. Massey, Second Lieuts. Peter Markel, Joel P. Brown, Frank Pealer, and Acting Lieut. R. S. Rook, wounded.

Of the Sixth Ohio Battery, First Lieut. O. H. P. Ayres, wounded.

From the 29th to the 2d, inclusive, my brigade occupied some portion of the front, and during each day some portion of the forces under my command were engaged with the enemy, and sustained greater or less losses. For the cheerful manner in which they stood up under these fatigues and exposures they are entitled to commendation.

I cannot close this report without paying a tribute of respect to the memory of the soldierly Sweet, the conscientious Christophel, and the intelligent and noble-hearted Van Kirk, who fell while manfully encouraging their men in the trying hour of battle. The country will do justice to the memory of the brave soldiers who so gloriously fell on the morning of December 31.

Great praise is due to Dr. J. M. Todd, Sixty-fifth Ohio, acting brigade surgeon, for the care and professional skill extended to our wounded after the battle.

Where all behaved so gallantly it would be unjust to particularize, but I cannot refrain from mentioning in terms of special praise the name of Capt. Cullen Bradley, of the Sixth Ohio Battery, attached to my brigade. This gallant officer, ever at his post, was always ready to engage the enemy whenever he opened upon our troops, and managed his battery with so much judgment and skill as to silence those of the enemy in every instance. Such valuable services and such meritorious conduct, I believe, will not be overlooked. I therefore take great pleasure in recommending Captain Bradley for some position commensurate with his merit and ability in the artillery branch of the regular service.

Of both officers and men under my command I can speak in tones of unqualified praise for their bravery and good conduct throughout the engagement in front of Murfreesborough. I must also mention a circumstance worthy of notice which occurred on Friday, the 2d instant. The enemy's sharpshooters, taking advantage of the woods in our front and to the right and left, had crept up sufficiently near our camp with the evident intention of picking off our general and field officers. They

annoyed us exceedingly, firing at every mounted officer or man who appeared near the front. Desirous of dislodging this concealed foe, I directed the skirmishers to advance and clear the woods if possible. Captain Chambers, of the Fifty-first Indiana, had command of the skirmishers, consisting of 40 men from his own company; Company B, Seventy-third Indiana Volunteers, Captain Gladwyn commanding; Company D, Seventy-third Indiana, Lieutenant Grimes commanding; Company H, Sixty-fifth Ohio, Lieut. Joel P. Brown commanding; Company E, Sixty-fifth Ohio Volunteers, Lieutenant Hinman commanding; Company K, Sixty-fifth Ohio Volunteers, Lieutenant Mathias commanding, and Company E, Sixty-fourth Ohio Volunteers, Sergeant Holden commanding. The little detachment numbered only 120 men. The enemy's force was much larger. Our skirmishers drove them until they were checked by the enemy's batteries.

Thus these brave men not only drove a concealed enemy from a strong hiding place, but elicited valuable information concerning the position of his masked batteries. This act of gallantry elicited the praise and admiration of all who witnessed it.

To my personal staff, Capt. S. L. Coulter, acting assistant adjutant-general; Lieut. A. B. Case, acting assistant inspector-general, and D. L. Wright, aide-de-camp, I am indebted for valuable assistance throughout this memorable battle.

For details I would most respectfully refer you to the reports of regimental commanders.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
C. G. HARKER,

*Colonel Sixty-fifth Regiment Ohio Volunteers, Comdg. Brigade.*  
Brigadier-General HASCALL,  
*Comdg. First Division, Left Wing, Fourteenth Army Corps.*

No. 113.

*Report of Col. Abel D. Streight, Fifty-first Indiana Infantry.*

ON THE BATTLE-FIELD,  
*Near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 4, 1863.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by my regiment in the battle near Murfreesborough, from the 29th ultimo to the 2d instant, inclusive:

At about 4 p. m. I arrived on the west bank of Stone's River, about one-half mile north of the Murfreesborough and Nashville pike, and 2 miles from Murfreesborough, where I was ordered to halt until further orders. Here I remained until about dark, when I received orders to cross the river, preparatory to moving upon Murfreesborough. Being fully aware that the enemy occupied the opposite bank, and as none of our troops had at that time crossed the river, it became necessary to proceed somewhat cautiously, in order to avoid the danger of running into an ambuscade; consequently I deployed Companies A and F to act as skirmishers, and ordered them to cross in advance and engage the enemy briskly, and, if possible, to seize the heights on the east side of the river.

No sooner had my skirmishers crossed than the enemy opened a brisk fire from under cover of a strong fence but a few yards distant.

My skirmishers were ordered forward at a double-quick, and charged upon the enemy, who instantaneously fled from their hiding places. At this moment it became evident, from the brisk firing of the enemy, that large numbers of them were concealed in the standing corn on the hill side; and fearing that my skirmishers would be overwhelmed, I ordered the whole regiment forward at a double-quick, but before the regiment had entirely crossed the river, Captain Russell informed me that the enemy was advancing in line of battle just beyond the crest of a ridge, about 400 yards to our front.

I at once determined to seize the crest before the enemy could get there, if possible; consequently the whole line was ordered forward on the run, and although the whole ridge seemed to issue forth a continuous flame of fire, not a man faltered, but each seemed to strive to reach the desired point in advance of his comrades. The boldness of the movement, and the alacrity with which it was executed, together with the brisk and well-directed fire of my men, struck terror to the enemy, who fell back in great confusion at our approach. I was at this moment ordered to advance no farther, but hold my position. I then ordered my men to lie down, so as to conceal them as much as possible, and in a few moments the enemy were plainly seen advancing upon our position. They were allowed to advance to within 30 paces, when fire was opened upon them with such effect that they hardly waited to reply, but broke and fled again. Re-enforcements soon arrived on my right and left.

We remained in our position without further molestation until about 10 o'clock at night, when I was notified that orders had been given to retire to the opposite bank of the river. After waiting until the balance of the troops had recrossed, my regiment was marched by the rear rank to the river, when it recrossed also. In the mean time my skirmishers were gradually withdrawn. The regiment was marched about 500 yards from the ford, where it bivouacked for the night.

Slight skirmishing was all that occurred of interest until the morning of the 31st, when it became evident from the terrific roar of artillery and musketry that the enemy was turning the extreme right of our army. We were at once ordered to the right and rear at double-quick. We had moved but a short distance, when we came within range of the enemy's artillery; and, although several were wounded when we had no chance of striking a blow at the enemy, yet my men moved a distance of over a mile as regularly as they could have moved had we been on drill; and even when we came in contact with excited teams and teamsters, every command was promptly obeyed without confusion. After marching about 2½ miles we reached the extreme right of the army.

We had hardly reached our position, when we were ordered forward in line of battle across open cotton and corn fields. Companies A, B, and F were deployed as skirmishers to cover my extreme right and front. We had proceeded in this order but about one-half mile, when my skirmishers, approaching the crest of a ridge in front, running at an angle of about fifteen degrees to the right, were fired upon by a large force of the enemy concealed in the standing corn to my front and right. I at once ordered the whole line forward at a double-quick. My skirmishers came in sight of the enemy in a moment, when our well-directed fire soon put them to flight. I was here again, by rapid movements, particularly fortunate in getting the advantage of the enemy in my position. We had a fair chance at them while they were retreating some 400 yards, and large numbers of them were killed and wounded. Although the

From the fact that our hospital was nearer the battle-field than any other, we were during the fight necessarily crowded with hundreds of the wounded from other divisions, making our duties very responsible and laborious; and I cannot, in justice, submit this report without making honorable mention of all the medical officers in your division. They have shown themselves equal to their responsible duties, and have been untiring in their efforts both day and night to alleviate the sufferings of the wounded who have come under their notice; and more especially would I make honorable mention of Dr. J. B. Armstrong, acting brigade surgeon of the First Brigade, and Dr. S. H. Kersey, acting brigade surgeon of the Third Brigade, who were selected as operating surgeons, and they have proved themselves abundantly competent to the task, and have not allowed themselves one moment's rest while the suffering needed their attention.

Their devotion to their suffering fellow-soldiers should win for them the esteem and unbounded confidence of all who know them.

Very respectfully,

M. G. SHERMAN,  
*Acting Medical Director, Second Division, Left Wing,  
Department of the Cumberland.*

Brig. Gen. J. M. PALMER,  
*Commanding Division.*

No. 120.

*Report of Capt. William E. Standart, Battery B, First Ohio Light Artillery.*

JANUARY —, 1863.

On December 26, was ordered to march; took up line of march toward Murfreesborough; in the afternoon moved to the front, and fired on the enemy at and in the vicinity of La Vergne. One man wounded by premature discharge.

December 27, 28, and 29, no casualties.

December 30, was ordered to the right of the Twenty-second Brigade, and in the afternoon fired at long range for one hour; 1 horse killed.

December 31, in the morning took same position; was soon ordered to advance and move in connection with Brigadier-General Negley's division, which was on my right, the battery being on the right of the Twenty-second Brigade. General Cruft's brigade, General Negley's division, not moving to the front, and the artillery that was on my left being moved off, changed our section from the right to the left of the Twenty-second Brigade.

The fight at this time was general along our front and right and left of our position near the fence. The enemy showing himself in great numbers on the left, brought all the guns to bear on the cotton-field. The division of General Negley at this time gave way; we received a heavy fire from our right, held our position for a short time, and, the ammunition being expended, were forced to retire, the enemy following us close.

The caisson was ordered out and pieces followed. Had 86 rounds in the boxes when went to the supply trains, filled up the limbers of the pieces, and sent the caisson to the rear, it being all the ammunition that I could get.

Loss: Killed, 1; wounded (3 since died), 9; missing, 2; 15 horses killed.

In the afternoon of January 1, I was ordered up the pike by General Rosecrans. Not having anything to do, was ordered to relieve Captain Stokes' (Chicago Board of Trade) battery. Lieutenant Baldwin took the same position with three pieces, and Lieutenant Sturges, with three pieces, as was occupied by Captain Stokes' battery.

In the morning the enemy opened a heavy fire on the three pieces of Lieutenant Baldwin, who was soon forced to retire. Lost 1 man killed and 5 horses. Lieutenant Sturges, not replying to the enemy's fire, retained his position. In the afternoon was ordered to the left with three pieces, and opened fire as the enemy was being successfully repulsed. Remained on the field for the night.

On January 3, in the evening, Lieutenant Sturges opened fire on the woods in his front, and the enemy's pickets being driven back, was relieved from picket duty. One thousand six hundred and ten rounds of ammunition expended. The battery wagon, being among the wagon trains, was broken down; the axles have been used to repair carriages, and contents have been taken by different batteries. Lieutenants Baldwin and Sturges, as well as every one in the battery, did their whole duty.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. E. STANDART,  
*Captain Battery B, First Ohio Light Artillery.*  
Brigadier-General PALMER,  
*Commanding Second Division, Left Wing of the Army.*

No. 121.

*Report of Lieut. Norval Osburn, Battery F, First Ohio Light Artillery.*

HDQRS. BATTERY F, FIRST OHIO LIGHT ARTILLERY,  
*January —, 1863.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by Battery F, First Regiment Ohio Volunteer Artillery, in the march from Nashville, and the recent engagements near Murfreesborough, Tenn.:

Our battery numbered on the morning of December 26, 1862, 125 enlisted men and 3 commissioned officers, Capt. Daniel T. Cockerill commanding.

We left our camp, near Nashville, about 9 a. m. December 26, 1862, receiving orders from you to march with the Nineteenth Brigade, commanded by Col. W. B. Hazen. Went into camp late in the evening near La Vergne, having taken no part in any of the skirmishing during the day.

December 27, received orders to move with the Nineteenth Brigade on the Smyrna pike. We came upon the enemy's cavalry at the crossing of the railroad. Colonel Hazen ordered a section of our battery to the front. Our cavalry made a brilliant charge, and drove the enemy beyond the Stewart's Creek Bridge, when the enemy rallied, under cover of a wood, and formed. We threw a few well-directed shell into their lines, which dispersed them, killing some 2 or 3, as we afterward ascertained. Bivouacked near the bridge for the night.

December 28 (Sunday), remained on the same ground during the day.

December 29, we moved with the Nineteenth Brigade to the Murfrees-

borough and Nashville turnpike, joined our division, and encamped for the night on the right of the turnpike, about 3 miles from Murfreesborough.

December 30, heavy cannonading and brisk skirmishing during the day, but we, being held in reserve, did not take any part.

December 31, we were ordered forward with the Nineteenth Brigade early in the morning to take a position near a burnt brick house on the right of the turnpike, but before we gained the position designated we discovered the right wing giving way so rapidly before the enemy that it was deemed imprudent to advance farther. We received orders from Colonel Hazen to fall back. We then took up position between the railroad and turnpike. The enemy opened a destructive fire of shot and shell from two batteries before we got into position. Captain Cockerill, deeming it prudent, ordered the caissons to the rear under cover, but the drivers, misunderstanding the order, did not go where ordered, excepting one. Five of them got entirely separated from the battery, and could not be found until 12 m. We opened upon the enemy and maintained our position, with the support of the gallant Nineteenth Brigade, which suffered terribly from an enfilading fire of the enemy's artillery, until our ammunition was exhausted.

In the mean time we had 1 man killed and 6 wounded; we had 16 horses killed and disabled, Captain Cockerill having a horse shot under him. One limber was blown up by a shell from the enemy's artillery, killing and disabling the team, so as to render it impossible for us to bring the piece off the field, but was saved from falling into the enemy's hands by the unflinching courage of our supporting infantry. Two of our other pieces, upon examination, were found to be unfit for service, the axles being badly shivered.

After finding our caissons, replenishing our limbers, and repairing one of the disabled pieces, we discovered the enemy's cavalry attacking our train on the opposite side of the river, and we brought our guns to bear upon them, fired a few rounds, when a field officer ordered us to cease firing; that we were firing upon our own men; but we afterward found that he was mistaken. We were then ordered by Captain Mendenhall to take position in a corn-field to the left of the railroad, supported by the Nineteenth Brigade on our left, and the Tenth Brigade, Colonel Grose commanding, on our right.

No sooner had we taken our position than the enemy opened upon us with two batteries, one in front, the other on our left. Our fire for a short time was directed at the enemy's advancing columns of infantry with marked effect, but our attention was soon drawn to the enemy's artillery, which was doing much damage. Our fire was now directed at their batteries. We soon succeeded in silencing the battery on our left, but the one in our front kept up a destructive fire.

Our ammunition again becoming exhausted, we drew off the field, with the loss of 1 man killed. Our gallant and much esteemed captain was severely wounded in the foot by a 12-pounder solid shot, and had to be borne from the field, to the great mortification of his whole command. Eight enlisted men wounded, also 8 horses killed and disabled. We retired to the rear to replenish our ammunition chests and prepare some refreshments, also to seek some rest, which was so much needed. The command of the battery now devolved upon me.

January 1, we were held in reserve with the Nineteenth Brigade.

January 2, we took position early in the morning to the left of the railroad, by order of Captain Mendenhall, supported by the Twenty-first Brigade, Colonel Wagner commanding, the Seventh Indiana Bat-

tery on our right. Our skirmishers advanced across the field in our front, when, nearing the wood on the opposite side of the field, about 1,000 yards distant, the enemy opened upon them with artillery, to which we promptly replied, silencing the enemy's guns in a very few moments. We remained silent until 3 p. m., when the enemy made an advance on our left on the opposite side of the river. We opened fire on a battery in our immediate front, which was operating against our infantry, which was on the opposite side of the stream. We then received orders from Captain Mendenhall to change front, to fire to the left on the advancing columns of infantry which were pressing our left wing back. We here fired several shots, when we received orders from one of General Rosecrans' aides to take position in an open field to our left, on the right of the Chicago battery. We here kept up a continuous fire until ordered to cease. We then bivouacked for the night upon the field.

January 3, we were ordered to take the same position that we occupied the morning of the 2d instant. We were ordered inside the fortifications in the evening, where we remained during the night.

Not expecting to be called upon at the beginning of the recent engagements to make a report of the part taken by us, I am not prepared to give it as minutely as I desire, but I sum up our casualties as follows: Two enlisted men killed, 1 commissioned officer and 13 enlisted men wounded, 2 enlisted men missing, 24 horses killed and disabled; lost 2 sets wheel harness, 6 sets lead harness, 6 Sergeant's saddles and bridles, 7 navy revolvers, and 12 paulins; 2 gun-carriages disabled and 1 limber blown up.

I cannot speak too highly of the non-commissioned officers and men of the battery, who, with a very few exceptions, displayed great coolness throughout the entire contest, being the first time they were ever under fire of any consequence.

N. OSBURN,

*Lieutenant, Comdg. Battery F, First Ohio Vol. Artillery.*

Capt. W. E. STANDART,

*Chief of Artillery, Fourth Div., Army of the Cumberland.*

No. 122.

*Report of Lieut. Charles C. Parsons, Fourth U. S. Artillery, commanding Batteries H and M.*

CAMP NEAR STONE'S RIVER, TENN.,

*January 5, 1863.*

CAPTAIN: Agreeably to instructions of yesterday, I have the honor to report the part taken by Batteries H and M, Fourth U. S. Artillery, under my command, in the recent operations against the enemy at this point.

These batteries opened fire for the first time on the morning of December 29, from their position commanding Stewart's Creek. After a few rounds of shell, the enemy's pickets were dislodged from their shelter, in the opposite heights, when, upon receiving information from General Palmer that our own infantry had forded the creek, I returned to the pike, crossed the bridge, and moved forward with our first line of reserves. About 1 mile from the creek I observed indications that the enemy had taken position with his artillery, awaiting our approach. With General Palmer's permission, we opened fire with our rifles, and

again dislodged him, after which the advance was continued. We fired no more during the day, and at night moved into park, in rear of the line of battle, 3 miles from Murfreesborough.

On the morning of the 30th the enemy's artillery opened upon Cox's battery, to our left and front. During a spirited cannonading one of his shells struck in Battery H, killing 1 private, 1 horse, and wounding 1 sergeant. We moved at once into the position assigned us by General Palmer, and formed the batteries *en échelon*, supported on the left by the Tenth, and on the right by the Twenty-second Brigade. I found no occasion, however, to open fire until about 4 p. m., when, upon receiving information that an artillery demonstration from the left wing to support our right, then hotly pressed, was necessary, we commenced shelling the enemy's rifle-pits beyond the brick house; at the same time elevating the range of the rifled pieces, in order, if possible, to awaken the enemy's batteries. The latter effort was successful; but after exchanging a few shots, during which but 1 of my men was wounded, the enemy's fire was silenced. Satisfied that my position was an unfit one for artillery at night, I retired from the cedars after dark and went into park in the open field behind them.

On the morning of the 31st I thought it most in accordance with my instructions from General Palmer to remain in the position where I then was, in order to check the advance of the enemy, should he turn our right. At about 8 a. m. our infantry came falling back from the pine wood in this direction, when our batteries were swung around and brought at once into action. The approach of the enemy was parallel, instead of perpendicular, to our front, and when he had arrived within about 300 yards we opened upon his first line and column of reserves an enfilade fire of canister. The attempt to advance was continued for a few moments; then an effort to change front was followed by a feeble charge upon the batteries, when, upon being repulsed, the enemy fell back beyond our view. He reappeared shortly afterward to our left; but again, upon receiving our fire, fell back, and a portion of our infantry. I then took position upon the slight elevation, nearer the pike, in season to assist in checking the enemy's advance upon General Rousseau's position; after which both batteries changed front and opened fire, by order of General Palmer, upon the brick house, to co-operate with Colonel Hazen's brigade. So soon as I believed the enemy dislodged from this position, our pieces were moved to the front and directed upon his infantry, advancing into the cedar wood formerly held by the Twenty-second Brigade. The enemy, meanwhile, directed one of his batteries upon us, but I did not think it proper to reply, so long as our ammunition could be used with better effect upon his infantry. At about 12 m., just as I had nearly given out of ammunition, I received orders from Captain Mendenhall to retire.

At about 4 o'clock I moved to the front, by order of General Palmer, and from the elevation on either side of the railroad opened upon the enemy's infantry. His advance was effectually checked, and at sunset I was ordered to retire and refit.

At daylight, January 1, we moved to a position on General Rousseau's front, where I was ordered by General Rosecrans. Except for the fire of the enemy's sharpshooters, whom we dispersed at intervals by firing spherical case, we were not actively engaged during the day, and at night retired to a position near the pike, where our horses were fed and watered.

During the night and on the next morning I was ordered by different officers to resume my previous position. I was obliged to decline

obeying these orders, owing to those I had received from Captain Mendenhall, directing me to await his own. The position in which I was placed by this conflict of orders was exceedingly painful, but I found myself justified by subsequent events.

At about 4 p. m. of the 2d instant, after I had been placed in position by Captain Mendenhall on an elevation near Negley's division, two of the enemy's batteries opened upon us from the front, while a third gave signal for his last attack upon our left. I advanced the four rifles, holding my howitzers in reserve for the shortest range. The batteries around me were silenced far too soon, for when my rifled ammunition was exhausted I found that some scoundrel had led off my caissons, and I was left only with the howitzers to reply to the enemy's concentrated artillery fire. Fortunately, Captain Swallow's battery came up beside us, and the crest of the hill was held until our re-enforcements came up, when, with the assistance of **Captain Stokes' battery**, the enemy's guns were silenced.

We ceased firing, with our last shot exhausted. We have not again been engaged or under fire. I have to remark, in this connection, that if through the five consecutive days, during which we were thus more or less severely engaged, we expended an unusual amount of ammunition, it must be recognized that we have been longer, and, in general, more closely engaged than perhaps any other batteries of the army, and that nearly all our ammunition has been expended at short range.

The following are our casualties, &c.: Number of men killed, 2; number of men wounded, 14; number of men missing, 6; horses killed, 20; pieces disabled, 1; rounds of ammunition fired, 2,299.

In place of the piece disabled, the Nineteenth Illinois gave me one captured by them from the enemy.

I do myself honor, sir, in asking your attention to the efficient and meritorious services of Lieuts. Harry C. Cushing and Henry A. Huntington, both of the Fourth U. S. Artillery. Disregarding all personal exposure under all circumstances, and especially during the hottest fires of December 31 and 2d instant, these gallant officers discharged their duty with such coolness and fidelity that they deserve my most grateful mention.

My brave men look for their reward to the generous appreciation which has been freely offered them by the troops with whom they fought and the general commanding the division in which they serve.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHAS. C. PARSONS,

*First Lieutenant Fourth U. S. Artillery, Comdg. Battalion.*

Capt. D. W. NORTON,

*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 123.

*Reports of Brig. Gen. Charles Cruft, U. S. Army, commanding First Brigade, including skirmish at La Vergne, December 26.*

HDQRS. FIRST BRIGADE, SECOND DIVISION, LEFT WING,  
*In the Field, before Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 8, 1863.*

CAPTAIN: I herewith submit, for the consideration of the general commanding the division, the following report of the operations of this brigade in the recent action before Murfreesborough, Tenn.:

The brigade broke camp, near Nashville, on the morning of the 26th

January 3 found the battery in the same position. General Negley ordered the battery to open fire upon a line of the enemy's infantry, which did no good, and wounded 1 of my own men by the premature discharge of one of the guns.

During the whole engagement I expended 406 rounds of ammunition; had 1 lieutenant and 7 men wounded; 4 men killed; 4 horses wounded, 1 killed, and 4 missing.

I should have done more firing, but General Rosecrans told me he wanted some ammunition reserved for an emergency.

Respectfully,

G. R. SWALLOW,  
*Captain Seventh Indiana Battery.*

No. 146.

*Report of Lieut. Alanson J. Stevens, Battery B, Pennsylvania Light Artillery.*

HEADQUARTERS PENNSYLVANIA LIGHT ARTILLERY,  
*January 5, 1863.*

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of the part taken in the recent action by the Pennsylvania battery:

On the morning of December 31 we were ordered to cross the river with the First Brigade, to take position, which we had barely time to do when we were ordered back again. We then followed the First Brigade toward the right wing, where the battle was raging fiercely. We found everything there in confusion, and it impossible to follow our brigade, and the battery nearly in the lines of the enemy. You then gave me the permission to fight on my own hook, and do the best in my power. I then countermarched the battery and took position on the rising ground on the left of the old block-house, along the line of the railroad, and opened fire on the enemy, who were advancing through the woods on the right of the pike and in our front. We fired as rapidly as possible with spherical case from our smooth-bores and Schenkl shells from our rifles, when, finding the enemy checked and our infantry advancing, we limbered to the front, advanced a short distance across the pike, where we came in position and fired a few rounds, when the **Board of Trade Battery** advanced and took position on our left, covering all the intermediate ground in our front.

We changed position by moving by the left flank, and occupied the rising ground in the corn-field to the right of the pike, and covering the woods, out of which General Rousseau's and Negley's troops were retiring. We reserved our fire until our own troops were clear of the woods, and the enemy's lines, with banners flying, came in sight on the verge of the timber, within 500 yards of our battery. We opened upon them with spherical case, shell, and canister, and fired briskly for about fifteen minutes, when, seeing no more of the enemy, we ceased firing; some of the enemy's advance fell within 15 or 20 yards of our guns. By General Rousseau's advice, we then fell back on the rising ground between that and the railroad, firing a few shots at the enemy.

By Captain Mendenhall's order, we again advanced to our former position in the corn-field on the right of the pike, and met with a warm reception from the enemy's musketry from the woods in our front, and, the right flank being at the same time under cross-fire from one of the enemy's batteries on our left, we opened fire on the woods in our front

and right, soon silencing the enemy's fire, when, finding that we had no support on either flanks or rear, we again withdrew to the rising ground between the pike and railroad. We then were ordered by Captain Mendenhall to take position across the pike, near the old log-house in our extreme front, having to guard against the enemy's advance up the pike and from the woods on our right, from which a continued fire of musketry annoyed us. At the same time a battery opened upon us from the brick house near the pike, injuring one of our trails and limber, to which we replied until our long-range ammunition, the supply of which was small, was exhausted, when I had the smooth-bores withdrawn and took a position to rake the pike with canister, in case the enemy advanced, and kept the two rifles in the advance until night, when the whole battery was withdrawn about 500 yards to the rear, and supplied with ammunition.

On the morning of January 1, by your order, we took position on the left of the railroad, and at a right angle with it, the Sixth Ohio Battery on our left. We did no firing that day, with the exception of a few shots in the morning thrown at the woods in our front, and kept in position ready for action in that vicinity nearly the whole day; at night went into park in rear of the log-house near the railroad.

At sunrise on the morning of January 2, we were saluted with a shower of solid balls from the enemy's batteries, falling in too close a vicinity to be agreeable. We mounted quickly and took position on the left of the railroad, on a small rise commanding the approach of the enemy in our front. Captain Mendenhall then ordered us to the front, to take a position commanding the open field to the left of the railroad. During the forenoon we were several times saluted with shots from the battery of the enemy planted in the woods beyond the opening in our front, to which we remained silent until near noon, when skirmishers of the Fifty-first Indiana, which supported us on the right, advanced across the opening and drove the enemy's pickets, when the enemy opened upon them with canister, at the same time upon us with solid shot. Our skirmishers falling back, we opened with solid shot, when the battery became silent, and remained so until 3 p. m., when it again opened, and, shortly after, heavy musketry was heard upon our left; we opened at the battery in our front, when it became silent.

When we saw the enemy advancing upon our left wing across the river, and our men falling back, we changed front, firing to the left, and opened a cross-fire on them, and continued it until our forces in their front compelled them to fall back beyond our range. We remained in position until 9 p. m., when we ascertained that our supports on our flanks had been withdrawn without we being notified of the fact; and no pickets in front between us and the enemy's lines, I withdrew the battery to the rear of the infantry and parked.

On the morning of January 3 we returned to our position of the previous day, support having returned, where we remained until 3 p. m., when we were ordered across and took the place occupied by the Third Wisconsin Battery, where we remained until near midnight, when we were ordered to recross the river, which we did, and parked on the ground we now occupy. We expended about 1,650 rounds of ammunition, lost 7 horses, 2 men killed and 7 wounded, a few small-arms, and a large quantity of clothing, camp and garrison equipage.

Yours, respectfully,

A. J. STEVENS,  
*First Lieutenant, Commanding Battery.*

Capt. G. B. SWALLOW,  
*Chief of Artillery, 3d Div., Left Wing, 14th Army Corps.*

No. 147.

*Report of Lieut. Cortland Livingston, Third Wisconsin Battery.*

CAMP OF THE THIRD WISCONSIN BATTERY,  
Near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 5, 1863.

SIR: I would report as follows the part taken in the actions of December 31 and the 1st, 2d, and 3d of January, 1863, by the Third Wisconsin Battery:

At daybreak on the morning of December 31 we moved from camp with our division, and crossed the ford at Stone's River to the east and Murfreesborough side. We took a commanding position in battery. In a short time we were ordered to recross to the west side and take up a position commanding the ford (all the troops that had crossed were ordered to recross). The Third Brigade, under Colonel Price, supported our flanks. Very early in the action the enemy gained on our right wing, and many wagons and ambulances moved across this ford. A hospital was established in some buildings there. I inquired of an officer, and was informed that we had infantry pickets and a small force of cavalry on the other side.

About 12 m. I saw a great stampede among the ambulances, wagons, and stragglers opposite, and was told some rebel cavalry were charging on them. I was fearful of making a mistake and firing on our own cavalry. We could not see the enemy until he got among the wagons and was taking them off. We then opened upon them and disabled 2 wagons, which blocked the lane and obliged them to leave without their booty. I think they got off with only 5 wagons. They left 1 man killed, and carried off their wounded. We shelled the woods in the direction they had taken. We expended 50 rounds of ammunition that day. The only casualty was 1 man, Henry S. Netley, wounded in the thigh, slightly.

January 1, Thursday, the battery was advanced across the river with the Third Division, under command of Colonel Beatty, with orders to protect the left from any flank movement, but not to bring on a general engagement. After moving forward about half a mile we discovered two regiments of infantry on a hill-side. We threw a few shells among them, and they withdrew to the woods on their left. We fired very little that day, only when we saw evidences of their massing troops. We had 1 man (A. J. Uleric) slightly wounded by the sharpshooters.

January 2. This morning we discovered the enemy had erected a fortification on the brow of the hill,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles to our front. Soon they opened on us with their 24-pounder brass pieces. We did not reply, and they did us no injury. Soon they moved these guns nearer to us, and more to their right. This gave them a flank fire, and we found it very dangerous to remain there. We were ordered to withdraw and take up a position a half mile to our rear and left, near the hospital. About half an hour after we had done so, we saw the enemy had drawn up in line and were advancing in great force. Just then General Rosecrans ordered me to change my position, so that I was a little late in opening my fire. The enemy advanced steadily, driving in our pickets. Our fire was very effective, but their ranks closed up immediately.

Soon I saw our right had given way that rested on the river. A heavy column had advanced under cover of the bank of the river and its skirt of woods, and had flanked the troops stationed there. I then sent my caissons across to the west side, and, seeing everything giving way, I sent one section at a time across, still working those that remained until the

others were over. When the last section reached the ford, one regiment of the enemy was within 100 yards of it, and poured a galling fire into us. Many of our horses were shot dead in the river, but our brave boys cleared them from the teams, and everything was got across. We opened fire on them as soon as we had crossed, though many of our caissons had not yet come up. We opened fire at three different positions after we crossed, and soon after the enemy gave back. Were crossed to the east side, to sustain General Davis, and took a position in advance of the one taken the day previous, January 1. We expended this day 300 rounds of ammunition. Our fire was very good, disabling two of the enemy's limbers and killing their horses, but our fire was directed mostly at their advancing lines. We lost 9 horses, 2 sets lead harness, and had 2 men, Sergeants Holenbeck and Daniel Robin, wounded, not seriously.

January 3. We had remained in our position, assigned us by General Davis, all night and until noon this day, before we were relieved. Our horses had had nothing to eat for forty-eight hours, and our men were wet with wading the river, and without shelter from the cold pelting rain; but when I told them it was the imperative order of General Davis and of vital necessity that we should hold out a little longer, they cheerfully obeyed. General Davis kindly divided what little he had to eat with our men, as did also Colonel Beatty the day before.

We had no rations issued since the 30th, and our provision and forage wagon had been sent back by order of some one. At 11 a. m. we were relieved by the Twenty-sixth Pennsylvania Battery, and fell back a little to feed. At 11 p. m. we recrossed the river, by order of Captain Mendenhall, and took up our old position on the west side, commanding the ford.

January 4. Remained at the ford until 5 p. m., when we were ordered to this camp.

We have expended in all 358 rounds of ammunition, lost 9 horses, 2 sets harness, and have 4 men wounded. Present for duty, 3 commissioned officers and 107 men.

Yours, &c.,

CORTLAND LIVINGSTON,

*Lieutenant, Commanding Third Wisconsin Battery.*

Captain SWALLOW,

*Chief of Arty. Brig., 3d Div., Left Wing, Army of the Cumberland.*

No. 148.

*Report of Col. Samuel Beatty, Nineteenth Ohio Infantry, commanding First Brigade.*

HDQRS. 1ST BRIG., 3D DIV., LEFT WING, 14TH A. C.,  
*In Camp, near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 9, 1863.*

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to submit the following report of the First Brigade, Third Division, left wing, Fourteenth Army Corps, in the action of December 31, 1862:

At 8 a. m., December 31, 1862, the Third Division having crossed Stone's River, on the extreme left of the army, formed line of battle, with the right of the First Brigade resting on the bank of the river. The line was scarcely established when an order was received to recross the stream and march to the right, across the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad track, and west of the Nashville and Murfreesborough dike.

Here the brigade, marching in advance of the division, was met by retreating columns, bearing unmistakable signs of disaster, who reported themselves belonging to the command of Major-General Rousseau. They broke through the lines of the brigade—infantry, cavalry, artillery, ambulances, baggage train, &c.—in the greatest confusion, frequently separating the regiments of the brigade, threatening serious trouble. Line of battle was finally formed upon a point indicated by Major-General Rosecrans in person, consisting of the Nineteenth Regiment Ohio Volunteers, Maj. Charles F. Manderson commanding, on the right; the Ninth Regiment Kentucky Volunteers, Col. Benjamin C. Grider commanding, on the left; in front, the Nineteenth Ohio Volunteers, supported by the Seventy-ninth Regiment Indiana Volunteers, Col. Frederick Knefler commanding, and the Ninth Kentucky, supported by the Eleventh Regiment Kentucky Volunteers, Maj. E. L. Mottley commanding. It was with the utmost difficulty that the line established was maintained. It was impossible to prevent the retreating columns from breaking through and almost destroying it; but the brigade stood fast and never wavered. The enemy was rapidly approaching in three heavy columns, to reach and capture the train of the army, immediately in rear and across the pike. Fire had to be reserved on account of our own troops, who were in front of the line. The front at last having been cleared by our own men, and the enemy's column appearing at a short distance, a heavy fire was opened by the front line of the brigade, which was kept up with very destructive effect, and completely checked the enemy's advance, who for some time maintained the position, inflicting severe loss upon us.

At this juncture the Eleventh Kentucky and Seventy-ninth Indiana Regiments were ordered to relieve the Nineteenth Ohio and Ninth Kentucky Regiments, in front, who by this time expended many rounds of their ammunition, wheeled into column, and the two supporting regiments passed through the intervals. The whole movement was accomplished in fine order, under the very heavy fire of the enemy. The new line immediately opened fire upon the enemy, who commenced falling back; bayonets were ordered to be fixed, and the Seventy-ninth Indiana and the Eleventh Kentucky were ordered to advance, supported by the other two regiments. They advanced rapidly, the enemy retreating. An uninterrupted fire was kept up, and the enemy compelled, after a pursuit of nearly a mile from the position first occupied by the brigade, to take refuge behind his works, which could not be assailed for the want of artillery, which could not advance in that direction, owing to the very rough and uneven nature of the ground.

While in this position, the Second Brigade of the Third Division, which had in the mean time advanced on the right of the First Brigade, and was now on a line parallel with it, was forced back by strongly re-enforced columns of the enemy again appearing in front. The First Brigade was ordered to fall back, to prevent a flank movement, which was accomplished in good order, to a distance of about 300 yards, and took position in a cedar thicket, where skirmishers thrown to the front kept up a continual fire.

At this point I was ordered by Major-General Rosecrans to move to the support of Mendenhall's and the Chicago Board of Trade Battery, on the left of the brigade. The Ninth and Eleventh Kentucky Regiments were ordered to that point, and the Nineteenth Ohio and the Seventy-ninth Indiana Regiments were ordered to fall back and to join the Second Brigade, on the right.

In this position the brigade remained until midnight, when the bri-

gade was ordered to recross the pike, and there bivouacked until morning. The brigade was hotly engaged for three hours. Regimental reports, which I have the honor herewith to transmit, have accurate lists of casualties, and I refer you to them for particulars.

Commanders of regiments, officers, and soldiers did their duty gallantly, and their splendid conduct, repulsing the enemy when victoriously pursuing our disordered troops, contributed in no small measure to the successful result of the day.

My thanks are due to Lieutenants Sheets and Percival, of my staff, and the soldiers of my escort, for their efficient services in the action.

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

SAMUEL BEATTY,

*Colonel, Comdg. Third Div., Left Wing, Fourteenth Army Corps.*

Capt. E. A. OTIS,

*A. A. G., Third Div., Left Wing, Fourteenth Army Corps.*

No. 149.

*Reports of Col. Benjamin C. Grider, Ninth Kentucky Infantry, commanding regiment and First Brigade.*

IN CAMP, NEAR MURFREESBOROUGH, TENN.,

*January 1, 1863.*

LIEUTENANT: My regiment, the Ninth Kentucky Volunteer Infantry, was early yesterday morning ordered on the south side of Stone's River, and formed in line of battle in the front line, and on the left of the Nineteenth Ohio Volunteers (Major Manderson). We had advanced a short distance down the river, when we were ordered to recross, to support our forces in the center and on the right, understanding that the enemy were driving them, and had turned our right, and probably gained our rear. We moved by the flank, and at a double-quick, to the Murfreesborough pike, and thence along that pike about a half mile to our rear, to a skirt of woods, through which we saw our men retreating, and heard that they had been before forced back through them. We formed on the pike, the Nineteenth Ohio on the right and the Ninth Kentucky on the left, the two composing the front line, supported by the Eleventh Kentucky, Major Mottley, and the Seventy-ninth Indiana, Colonel Knefler, in the rear or second line.

As soon as our retreating troops cleared the woods, our front, the Nineteenth and Ninth, opened upon the enemy a cool, well-aimed, and deadly fire, which brought them to a stand. After a few such rounds we were ordered to advance, which the men promptly did with the alacrity and steadiness of veterans, gallantly led on by all their officers, driving the enemy with great slaughter for half a mile or more. Here, the ammunition of the front line beginning to fail, and the enemy's fire having almost ceased, we were ordered to open our lines for the reserve—the Eleventh Kentucky and the Seventy-ninth Indiana—to pass through, which they did in gallant style, seeing and hearing but little of the enemy for some hundreds of yards, when they found him rallied; but again he was forced to yield to the well-directed fire and gallantry of the Eleventh Kentucky and Seventy-ninth Indiana, and

thus, for a time, the advance was continued for some distance, when we found a body of our troops broken, and retreating from our right in a direction which passed them diagonally through our lines. Our men kept firm, and we tried to rally them, but with no effect. Thus our right was exposed and turned, and you gave the order to fall back, which we did in most excellent order under the heaviest shower of balls and missiles that we had encountered during the day. Our loss here was great, and the courage and coolness of men and officers was here put to a severer test than during the advance, and well did they meet the trying emergency.

We came back a short distance, and promptly formed in line to again meet the enemy. Here General Rosecrans in person ordered me to advance my regiment to close range of the enemy, and, after giving him a few fires, to charge. I ordered the advance, but had gone only a short distance when the general ordered us to halt and cause the men to lie down, while a battery in our rear opened over us upon the enemy. After remaining here for a short time, my regiment and the Eleventh Kentucky were ordered to take position to sustain the *Chicago Board of Trade Battery* and another, the name of which I do not know, then threatened by the enemy. This we continued to do until late in the night, after the battle was all over for the day.

We were during this time under fire from the enemy's artillery, and lost 2 men killed and several wounded. Our loss during the day was 2 commissioned officers—First Lieuts. Silas Clark and W. J. Cram—wounded; 2 sergeants, 1 of whom was the color-bearer, killed; 1 private killed, and 19 wounded. A full list will be handed in as soon as practicable.

I have no terms of praise that can do justice to the noble bearing and unflinching bravery of all the officers and men. I mention the names of them all: Lieut. Col. George H. Cram, Maj. John H. Grider, Adjt. C. D. Bailey; Capts. R. A. Read, Rufus Somerby, D. B. Coyle, William T. Bryan; First Lieuts. A. Sidney Leggett, T. Freely Heeter, W. J. Cram (commanding companies); R. T. Patton, Boyle O. Rodes, Henry W. Mayes, Silas Clark; Second Lieuts. Frederick F. Carpenter, D. C. Downing, John P. Grinstead, James M. Simmons, and Benjamin M. Johnson.

Company A, Capt. Henry F. Leggett, was on detached duty, and, I regret, could not be in the battle, as their services, brave men and well officered as they are, would have been valuable. First Lieut. John H. Wheat was not with the regiment, being detached on duty with the Pioneer Corps.

Respectfully submitted.

B. C. GRIDER,

*Colonel Ninth Kentucky Volunteers.*

Lieut. W. H. H. SHEETS,

*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, First Brigade.*

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HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE, THIRD DIVISION,  
*Camp in front of Murfreesborough, Saturday, January 3, 1863.*

COLONEL: I had the honor to be placed in command of the First Brigade, Third Division (formerly the Eleventh Brigade), on the morning of January 1, and being ordered by you as commander of the division, I at once marched with my command to the south side of Stone's River,

and bivouacked in the woods and fields belonging, as I learned, to a man named Hoover. Some skirmishing and picket firing was soon heard and some rebel cavalry seen, but nothing worthy of notice occurred during the day. That night the enemy attempted to drive in our pickets, but failed.

Next morning opened with brisk cannonading on the part of the enemy, to which our artillery made no reply. Our skirmishers in front were actively engaged all day. It was then ascertained that the enemy had planted a battery in our front, and a section or more on our left, and that a portion of their guns across the river, which came down in a course parallel with our right, could reach us with a raking fire, and interfere with our crossing at the first ford, if compelled to recross. It was also suggested by myself and other officers, Major Manderson, commanding the Nineteenth Ohio, particularly, that our right, resting on the river, was exposed, and might be attacked and turned, and that neither the depth of the stream nor character of the banks was a sufficient protection; that troops and artillery were needed on the opposite side to sustain our right. You and we all were assured that this was attended to, and we rested on that assurance.

Thus matters stood until about an hour before sundown, when artillery firing on the part of the enemy and heavy skirmishing on both sides commenced. We now supposed that the attack which we had all day expected would be postponed until daylight the next day, but were mistaken. The enemy were seen advancing in three lines, the front composed of a battalion of sharpshooters, and the other lines composed of the whole divisions of Generals John C. Breckinridge and Cheatham. Generals Roger W. Hanson and James E. Rains, of Kentucky,\* as I learn, were present in Breckinridge's command. The regiments of my brigade (the Nineteenth Ohio, Major Manderson, on the right; the Ninth Kentucky, Lieutenant-Colonel Cram, in the center, and the Eleventh Kentucky, Major Mottley, on the left) were, by your orders, held in reserve. The Seventy-ninth Indiana had been about noon ordered to form on and sustain the front line, composed of the Third Brigade, Col. S. W. Price commanding, and were not again seen by me during the day. I doubt not they will receive justice at the hands of the colonel under whose command they were placed.

The onset of the enemy, sustained as they were by their artillery, succeeded in breaking and driving back our first and second lines. You now sent me an order to bring up the reserve, which I instantly did, though it was almost manifest, from the character of the fire in front, that the force we had on the ground, unassisted as we at that moment were by artillery, could not check the enemy's advance. Yet our men (the Nineteenth Ohio, Ninth Kentucky, and Eleventh Kentucky), undaunted by the terrible and desperate state of affairs, with bravery that cannot be described, and led on by their officers, the most cool and daring, moved forward, some through a thick undergrowth of wild briars, which to some extent broke their lines, fearlessly meeting the enemy and breaking his first line. Seeing this from my position, between and slightly in front of the Nineteenth Ohio and Ninth Kentucky, and noticing you just in my rear, I said to you, "Colonel, we have them checked; give us artillery and we will whip them." You replied, "You shall have it."

I rode back and soon saw the right regiment (the Nineteenth Ohio)

\* Of Tennessee.

He is but eighteen years of age, and is one of the bravest soldiers in the army.

Our loss was as follows: \* Commissioned officers killed, 4; wounded, 7. Enlisted men, killed, 18; wounded, 80; prisoners, 3 (wounded). Of the above, 3 were killed and 21 wounded on the 31st. (See Colonel Grider's regimental report.)

I have the honor to be, your most obedient servant,  
GEO. H. CRAM,

*Lieutenant-Colonel, Comdg. Ninth Kentucky Volunteers.*

No. 152.

*Reports of Maj. Erasmus L. Mottley, Eleventh Kentucky Infantry.*

HEADQUARTERS ELEVENTH KENTUCKY VOLUNTEERS,  
January 6, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report the part my regiment (Eleventh Kentucky Volunteers) took in the action of December 31, 1862.

The night previous we bivouacked in an open field adjacent to the Murfreesborough pike. Next morning, about 8 o'clock, we were ordered to follow the Ninth Kentucky Regiment and cross the river, where we were placed in line of battle, supporting them. We remained in that position about half an hour, when we recrossed the river, still moving in our position as first placed, having marched about half a mile parallel with the pike.

Was then ordered to halt and front, still occupying my position in the rear of the Ninth Kentucky Volunteers. The firing then began by the regiments in front of me, and continued about half an hour, when I was ordered to move forward and relieve the Ninth Kentucky, which was about 100 yards in advance. We did so, moving in line of battle about 500 yards. We then halted, as our farther advance was interrupted by about four regiments of scattered troops rushing through my line. After they had passed we opened a heavy and destructive fire on the enemy, who were advancing against me, and remained in that position, firing, till the right of our division was nearly flanked, when we received an order from you to fall back, which I did (bringing several prisoners with me) in line of battle, till I reached a dense thicket, when I moved by the left flank. We then formed line in an open field, and were ordered by General Rosecrans in person to occupy the thicket through which we had just passed, and hold it at all hazards. We did so.

Just at this moment the enemy were advancing in strong force on our left, when the left wing of the regiment opened an oblique, galling fire upon them, making them fall back. We were then ordered back by you to the large open field on our left, to support two pieces of Terrill's Regular and the Chicago Board of Trade Batteries, where we remained the remainder of the day, my entire regiment, both officers and men, doing their whole duty.

Inclosed find list of casualties.†

Very respectfully,

E. L. MOTTLEY,

*Major, Commanding Eleventh Kentucky.*

Col. SAMUEL BEATTY,

*Commanding First Brigade, Third Division.*

\* Nominal list omitted.

† Embodied in revised statement, p. 213.

HDQRS. ELEVENTH REGT. KENTUCKY VOL. INFANTRY,  
January 6, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report the part my regiment (Eleventh Kentucky Volunteers) took in the engagement of January 2, 1863.

Having crossed the river the morning of January 1, and bivouacked 150 yards behind the main advance of our lines about 3.30 January 2, the enemy showed himself in strong force, sixteen regiments deep, advancing in column against us; also a brigade on our left. The firing now became general all along the lines. Seeing the regiments on the left giving way, I ordered my regiment to take arms (the arms had previously been stacked). Just then the front was falling back, and I ordered my regiment forward under the most terrific storm of shot, shell, and musketry it has ever been my lot to witness. I advanced about 100 yards, when I ordered a halt and commenced firing. I broke their ranks more than once, their colors shot down several times, but their broken ranks were speedily filled with fresh troops.

Casting my eyes to the right, and seeing I had no support in that direction, and being nearly outflanked, I gave the order to fall back to the wood in our rear, the men being pressed so closely some of them crossed the river.

After crossing the river, I, in conjunction with yourself and other officers, rallied parts of the different regiments of the brigade, and succeeded in putting the enemy to flight before us, and capturing four pieces of the celebrated Washington Artillery.

I must say, in conclusion, that my regiment was one of the very last to leave the grounds. For the gallantry of my entire regiment, they behaved as officers and soldiers should in such a cause.

The casualties of my regiment are as follows: \* Killed, 5; wounded, 61; missing, 9. Total, 75.

Very respectfully,

E. L. MOTTLEY,

*Major, Commanding Eleventh Kentucky Volunteers.*

Col. BENJAMIN C. GRIDER,

*Commanding First Brigade, Third Division.*

No. 153.

*Reports of Maj. Charles F. Manderson, Nineteenth Ohio Infantry.*

HDQRS. NINETEENTH REGT. OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,  
Field, near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 6, 1863.

LIEUTENANT: I transmit you the following report of the participation of the Nineteenth Regiment Ohio Volunteers, U. S. Army (Charles F. Manderson, major commanding), in the action in front of Murfreesborough, on Wednesday, December 31, 1862:

On the morning of that date the regiment was under arms in double column, between the Murfreesborough turnpike and Chattanooga and Nashville Railroad, being the right of the front line of the Third Division, left wing. By order of Col. Samuel Beatty, commanding First Brigade, after deploying column and loading, we moved by the right flank to the left, crossing Stone's River at the ford, and forming line (after throwing Companies A and K out as skirmishers), with the right

\* Stated by companies in the original.