

## No. 57.

*Report of Lieut. Col. William B. McCreery, Twenty-first Michigan Infantry.*

HDQRS. TWENTY-FIRST REGIMENT MICHIGAN INFANTRY,  
*Camp on Stone's River, January 7, 1863.*

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to report to you the following as the action taken by this regiment in the recent engagement before Murfreesborough:

On the morning of the 30th ultimo we took position on the hill, between Captains Hescoc's and Houghtaling's batteries, to act as a support to the Eighty-eighth Illinois, Colonel Sherman, who had previously taken position a few rods in front. About 3 p. m. we were moved forward into the cotton-field, still retaining the same relative position to the Eighty-eighth. We remained here until after dark, when we were ordered to move to a grass-plot a few rods to our right, where we remained during the night.

Before daylight we were ordered to occupy the same ground we had occupied the evening previous. Soon after daybreak an attack was made in force by the enemy upon our front and to our right. After a fierce contest, the forces on our front and right retired. At this time the enemy were delivering a murderous fire upon our front and right flank. After delivering our fire, and observing him closing in in heavy force upon us, I ordered the regiment to fall back. Owing to a barn and out-buildings which we were compelled to pass, the regiment was for the time being thrown into some confusion; but it was with much difficulty that I could compel the men to leave the cover they had taken behind the fences and buildings, where they were delivering a well-directed fire.

We immediately formed upon the right of the Eighty-eighth Illinois, and were ordered to move a few rods to the rear and left, and were then ordered to support Hescoc's battery until further orders, it having taken position a little to our left. The battery soon changed position to a point of woods, where we followed, in support. It was immediately engaged, and a heavy force of the enemy's infantry made their appearance on our front and left.

As soon as they had advanced to within short musket range, I opened a telling fire upon them, which was continued until the battery had retired, when we fought our way back to the woods in good order. We again took position in the woods, but, receiving a heavy fire on our front and flank, we were obliged to fall back. We made another stand farther back in the woods, and fought our way back to the clearing; after which I fell back beyond the railroad, where we remained until along toward evening, when we joined the brigade near Overall's Creek.

The next morning we were ordered to recross the creek, and took position on the right of the pike and to the left of the Twenty-fourth Wisconsin, in support of Colonel Bradley's brigade, where we remained without action until the next morning, when we moved to the right, occupying the ground previously held by the Thirty-sixth Illinois, in which place we remained until we took up our line of march for this place.

Both officers and men, with few exceptions, behaved with coolness and bravery. I am indebted to Major Hunting and Adj. M. B. Wells for valuable assistance, especially the latter, whom I recommend to your favorable notice.

The list of casualties is as follows:

Officers wounded.....	7
Enlisted men killed.....	18
Enlisted men wounded.....	82
Enlisted men missing.....	36
Total.....	143

Very respectfully,

WILLIAM B. MCCREERY,

*Lieutenant-Colonel, Comdg. Twenty-first Michigan Infantry.*

Lieut. J. B. WATKINS,

*Actg. Asst. Adj. Gen., First Brigade, Third Division.*

## No. 58.

*Report of Maj. Elisha C. Hibbard, Twenty-fourth Wisconsin Infantry.*

HDQRS. TWENTY-FOURTH WISCONSIN INFANTRY VOLS.,  
*Camp on Stone's River, Tenn., January 8, 1863.*

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the Twenty-fourth Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers in the late engagements resulting in the taking of Murfreesborough, viz:

On the morning of Tuesday, December 30, 1862, I marched the regiment from camp, right in front, following in rear of Bush's battery, with two companies deployed as flankers, according to orders from General Sill. About an hour's march from camp, and while firing was going on in front, I received an order to add one company to the flankers, and move them out farther from the column, which order was carried out. Soon after, I received an order from General Sill to move my regiment forward, and form line 200 paces in rear of the Thirty-sixth Illinois. These dispositions having been made, an order was received to have the men lie down. I remained in this position, just in the edge of the woods on the left of a white house (afterward used as a hospital), and on the right of Bush's battery.

I remained there until ordered to advance by General Sill, keeping directly in rear and 200 paces distant from the Thirty-sixth Illinois. Advancing to the open field beyond an old log-house, I halted and ordered the men to lie down, the enemy having opened on the advance with artillery, very effectually served.

Soon after, I was directed by an aide to send five companies to the woods in our front to support Bush's battery, which was then hotly engaged with the enemy's artillery. The five companies were sent under the command of the acting field officer. I remained in the field with the balance of the regiment, which was in a very exposed position, and had lost several men from the enemy's artillery, until ordered by General Sill to bring down the balance of my command to the support of the battery, as the enemy were about to make an effort to capture it. The artillery firing then ceased, night having put an end to the action. I was ordered by General Sill to have a picket posted, the balance to lie down on their arms, and allow half of each company to go to the rear and do some cooking. I posted one company as pickets, and allowed the men to boil some coffee; then placed them in line. The night was intensely cold, and the men were nearly frozen.

At 3 a. m. (31st) General Sill came down to the regiment and said we would be supported from the reserve brigade. The men were then awake and ready for action. At early dawn two regiments came into the woods and formed line at right angles with my left. They remained a few moments, and were marched away.

Soon after, firing began, and the pickets were driven in by the enemy's skirmishers directly in my front. Their column of attack came close on the rear of their skirmishers, and I ordered the men to fire. At the same time my attention was directed to a column coming out of the wood on my right flank. They were in line and advancing very rapidly. (I counted five battle-flags.) I immediately sent word to General Sill that the enemy were in force on my flank. About the same time the regiment on my right, formed at right angles, fell back; a battery, which had fired four rounds very effectively, followed them, leaving my flank entirely unprotected. I maintained my position, waiting for orders, until the enemy were in the woods in my rear, and had come on my flank and delivered a cross-fire, doing me considerable damage. No orders having been received, and thinking it improper to remain longer in this position, I ordered the regiment to break to the rear by companies. Some of the officers not hearing the order, the left wing did not move with the right, and the regiment came off in some disorder, but was quickly reformed in the open field to the right of the log-house used for a hospital. No regiment could have formed line more rapidly than they did, after retreating, surrounded on all sides by confused masses of fugitives—the veterans of some of the hardest battles of the war. Where such troops flee, new recruits assuredly deserve praise for standing their ground.

I then received the first orders during the day from Colonel Greusel to move my regiment up to a fence and have them lie down. My left then formed on the right of the Fifteenth Missouri. An order given by Colonel Schaefer for that regiment to move, left me entirely alone, unless I advanced with them, which was done. Moving up to the second fence in my front, I again ordered the men to lie down.

Soon after, an aide from General Sheridan directed me to move my regiment up to the woods. The order was obeyed, when I joined the Eighty-eighth Illinois, and was thereafter under the immediate command of Colonel Greusel. By his direction, we marched through the cedar swamp, a terrific fire of artillery and infantry roaring all around us. I crossed the railroad and marched up the Murfreesborough pike, placed my men, as per orders from him, in a thicket, with directions to deploy skirmishers and watch for the enemy's cavalry, which was annoying our train. Remained in this position some time. Was ordered up still farther to the right, and placed behind a rail fence, which position I occupied for about one hour. Again moving up the pike, by Colonel Greusel's direction, I supported one gun of the First Ohio Battery. Night coming on, I was directed to post three companies as pickets, keeping the remainder in reserve.

On the morning of January 1, 1863, under direction of Colonel Greusel, I brought the regiment back to the pike, and, following the Eighty-eighth Illinois, marched down to the cedar swamp, a mile beyond Stone's River, with orders to erect temporary breastworks. In this position I remained until the evening of the 2d, when, by directions of the colonel commanding, I moved my regiment on to the grounds occupied by a regiment on my right, which had marched.

On the morning of the 3d, I marched again, by directions of the brigade commander, to the left of Bush's battery, my right resting on the Thirty-

sixth Illinois, in which position we remained until we marched to this our present camp.

I cannot too highly speak of the men who passed through all the trials of the two days' fighting and the following four days of suspense, worse than the battle itself. Exhausted and cold, they stood their ground like veterans, and fought as good soldiers.

I desire to make special mention of the conduct of Captains Root, Austin, and Philbrook, and Lieutenants Balding, Chase, Nix, Chivas, Hartung, Goldsmith, Horning, Elmore, Parsons, Battle, Kennedy, Holton, and Greene. The surgeons (Major Hasse and Captain Wheeler) were not under my immediate observation, but I am informed they performed their duties nobly. To the chaplain of the regiment I return thanks for his kind attention to the wounded.

To the adjutant of the regiment (Arthur MacArthur, jr.) I am more than indebted for his aid and efficient service rendered during the engagements. Young and gallant, I bespeak for him an honorable career. Of the sergeant-major (Frank W. Riddle) and Sergeants Drake and Kerston I would make favorable mention. Sergeant Coburn, of Company A, deserves special notice for bringing off the body of Lieutenant Nix, mortally wounded.

Inclosing you a list of the casualties,\* and desiring, on behalf of the officers of the regiment, to acknowledge our indebtedness to the colonel commanding the brigade for his care and attention after assuming command, I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

E. C. HIBBARD,

*Major, Commanding Twenty-fourth Wisconsin.*

Lieutenant WATKINS,

*Actg. Asst. Adjt. Gen., First Brigade, Third Division.*

No. 59.

*Report of Lieut. Col. Bernard Laiboldt, Second Missouri Infantry, commanding Second Brigade.*

HDQRS. SECOND BRIG., THIRD DIV., RIGHT WING,  
January 7, 1863.

I have the honor to submit to you a report of the part taken by the brigade I now have the honor to command, in the battle in front of Murfreesborough:

The brigade, then in command of the lamented Col. Frederick Schaefer, was assigned position as reserve of the Third Division on December 30, and took no part in the engagement on the left on that day.

Shortly after daybreak next morning, December 31, Colonel Schaefer received orders to re-enforce General Sill's brigade with two regiments, and the Fifteenth Missouri Volunteers and Forty-fourth Illinois Volunteers, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Weber, of the Fifteenth Missouri Volunteers, were accordingly sent to General Sill, with orders to report to him for duty.

The Second Battalion of the Seventy-third Illinois Volunteers, under command of Major Presson, was detached to protect Captain Hescoc's battery, while the other battalion of the Seventy-third Illinois Volunteers and the Second Regiment Missouri Volunteers were held in reserve.

\* Embodied in revised statement, p. 209.

*Second (late Fifth) Brigade.*

(1.) Brig. Gen. EDWARD N. KIRK.	29th Indiana:
(2.) Col. JOSEPH B. DODGE.	Lieut. Col. David M. Dunn
	Maj. Joseph P. Collins.
34th Illinois:	30th Indiana:
Lieut. Col. Hiram W. Bristol.	Col. Joseph B. Dodge.
Maj. Alexander P. Dysart.	Lieut. Col. Orrin D. Hurd.
79th Illinois:	77th Pennsylvania:
Col. Sheridan P. Read.	Lieut. Col. Peter B. Housum.
Maj. Allen Buckner.	Capt. Thomas E. Rose.

*Third (late Fourth) Brigade.*

Col. PHILEMON P. BALDWIN.

6th Indiana, Lieut. Col. Hagerman Tripp.  
 5th Kentucky, Lieut. Col. William W. Berry  
 1st Ohio, Maj. Joab A. Stafford.  
 93d Ohio, Col. Charles Anderson.

*Artillery.\**

5th Indiana Battery, Capt. Peter Simonson.  
 1st Ohio, Battery A, Lieut. Edmund B. Belding.  
 1st Ohio, Battery E, Capt. Warren P. Edgerton.

*Cavalry.*

3d Indiana, Companies G, H, I, and K, Maj. Robert Klein.

## THIRD (LATE ELEVENTH) DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. PHILIP H. SHERIDAN.

*Escort.*

2d Kentucky Cavalry, Company L, Lieut. Joseph T. Forman.

*First (late Thirty-seventh) Brigade.*

(1.) Brig. Gen. JOSHUA W. SILL.  
 (2.) Col. NICHOLAS GREUSEL.

36th Illinois:  
 Col. Nicholas Greusel.  
 Maj. Silas Miller.  
 Capt. Porter C. Olson.  
 88th Illinois, Col. Francis T. Sherman.  
 21st Michigan, Lieut. Col. William B. McCreery.  
 24th Wisconsin, Maj. Elisha C. Hibbard.

*Second (late Thirty-fifth) Brigade.*

(1.) Col. FREDERICK SCHAEFER.  
 (2.) Lieut. Col. BERNARD LAIBOLDT.

44th Illinois, Capt. Wallace W. Barrett.  
 73d Illinois, Maj. William A. Presson.  
 2d Missouri:  
 Lieut. Col. Bernard Laiboldt.  
 Maj. Francis Ehrler.  
 15th Missouri, Lieut. Col. John Weber.

*Third Brigade.†*

(1.) Col. GEORGE W. ROBERTS.  
 (2.) Col. LUTHER P. BRADLEY.

22d Illinois:  
 Lieut. Col. Francis Swanwick.  
 Capt. Samuel Johnson.  
 27th Illinois:  
 Col. Fazilo A. Harrington.  
 Maj. William A. Schmitt.  
 42d Illinois, Lieut. Col. Nathan H. Walworth.  
 51st Illinois:  
 Col. Luther P. Bradley.  
 Capt. Henry F. Wescott.

\* The Fifth Indiana was attached to the Third Brigade, Battery A to the First Brigade, and Battery E to the Second Brigade.

† Formerly First Brigade, Thirteenth Division.

*Artillery.\**

Capt. HENRY HESCOCK.

1st Illinois, Battery C, Capt. Charles Houghtaling.  
 4th Indiana Battery, Capt. Asahel K. Bush.  
 1st Missouri, Battery G, Capt. Henry Hescoek.

## CENTER.

Maj. Gen. GEORGE H. THOMAS.

## PROVOST GUARD.

9th Michigan, Col. John G. Parkhurst.

## FIRST (LATE THIRD) DIVISION.

Maj. Gen. LOVELL H. ROUSSEAU.

*First (late Ninth) Brigade.*

Col. BENJAMIN F. SCRIBNER.

38th Indiana, Lieut. Col. Daniel F. Griffin.  
 2d Ohio:  
 Lieut. Col. John Kell.  
 Maj. Anson G. McCook.  
 33d Ohio, Capt. Ephraim J. Ellis.  
 94th Ohio:  
 Col. Joseph W. Frizell.  
 Lieut. Col. Stephen A. Bassford.  
 10th Wisconsin, Col. Alfred R. Chapin.

*Second (late Seventeenth) Brigade.*

Col. JOHN BEATTY.

42d Indiana, Lieut. Col. James M. Shanklin.  
 88th Indiana:  
 Col. George Humphrey.  
 Lieut. Col. Cyrus E. Briant.  
 15th Kentucky:  
 Col. James B. Forman.  
 Lieut. Col. Joseph R. Snider.  
 3d Ohio, Lieut. Col. Orris A. Lawson.

*Third (late Twenty-eighth) Brigade.*

Col. JOHN C. STARKWEATHER.

24th Illinois, Col. Geza Mihalotzy.  
 79th Pennsylvania, Col. Henry A. Hambright.  
 1st Wisconsin, Lieut. Col. George B. Bingham.  
 21st Wisconsin, Lieut. Col. Harrison C. Hobart.

*Fourth Brigade.*

Lieut. Col. OLIVER L. SHEPHERD.

15th United States, 1st Battalion:  
 Maj. John H. King.  
 Capt. Jesse Fulmer.  
 16th United States, 1st Battalion, and Company B, 2d Battalion:  
 Maj. Adam J. Slemmer.  
 Capt. R. E. A. Crofton.  
 18th United States, 1st Battalion, and Companies A and D, 3d Battalion, Maj. James N. Caldwell.  
 18th United States, 2d Battalion, and Companies B, C, E, and F, 3d Battalion, Maj. Frederick Townsend.  
 19th United States, 1st Battalion:  
 Maj. Stephen D. Carpenter.  
 Capt. James B. Mulligan.

*Artillery.†*

Capt. CYRUS O. LOOMIS.

Kentucky, Battery A, Capt. David C. Stone.  
 1st Michigan, Battery A, Lieut. George W. Van Pelt.  
 5th United States, Battery H, Lieut. Francis L. Guenther.

*Cavalry.*

2d Kentucky (six companies), Maj. Thomas P. Nicholas.

\* Battery C was attached to the Third Brigade, Fourth Indiana to the First Brigade, and Battery G to the Second Brigade.

† Battery A, Kentucky, was attached to the Third Brigade; Battery A, First Michigan, to the Second Brigade, and Battery H, Fifth United States, to the Fourth Brigade.

Return of casualties in the Union forces, &amp;c.—Continued.

Command.	Killed.		Wounded.		Captured or missing.		Aggregate.
	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	
<i>Second Brigade.</i>							
Col. WILLIAM P. CARLIN.							
21st Illinois	2	55	7	180	59		303
38th Illinois	2	32	5	104	34		177
101st Ohio	1	19	5	121	66		212
15th Wisconsin	2	13	5	65	1	33	119
Minnesota Light Artillery, 2d Battery	3	1	5		1	1	10
Total Second Brigade	7	122	23	475	1	193	821
<i>Third Brigade.</i>							
Col. WILLIAM E. WOODRUFF.							
Staff			1				1
25th Illinois	1	15	3	72	5		96
35th Illinois		10	2	49	25		86
81st Indiana	1	4	2	46	1	15	69
Wisconsin Light Artillery, 8th Battery	1			4		1	6
Total Third Brigade	3	29	8	171	1	46	258
Total First Division	11	176	40	785	2	400	1,414
SECOND DIVISION.							
Brig. Gen. RICHARD W. JOHNSON.							
<i>First Brigade.</i>							
(1.) Brig. Gen. AUGUST WILlich.*							
(2.) Col. WILLIAM WALLACE.							
(3.) Col. WILLIAM H. GIBSON.							
Staff					1		1
80th Illinois	1	9	1	45	94		150
32d Indiana		12		40	115		167
39th Indiana		30	3	116	2	229	380
15th Ohio		17	2	68	1	127	215
49th Ohio	2	18	6	88		108	222
1st Ohio Light Artillery, Battery A		1		4		24	20
Total First Brigade	3	87	12	361	4	697	1,164
<i>Second Brigade.</i>							
(1.) Brig. Gen. EDWARD N. KIRK.†							
(2.) Col. JOSEPH B. DODGE.							
Staff			1				1
34th Illinois	2	19	2	98	2	72	195
79th Illinois	1	23	3	68	3	121	219
29th Indiana	1	14	2	66	1	51	135
30th Indiana	1	30	2	108	2	70	213
77th Pennsylvania	1	4	1	28	2	28	64
1st Ohio Light Artillery, Battery E		3		5	2	22	32
Total Second Brigade	6	93	11	373	12	364	859
<i>Third Brigade.</i>							
Col. PHILEMON P. BALDWIN							
6th Indiana		17		50	1	36	104
5th Kentucky	1	18	7	73		26	125
1st Ohio		8	1	46		81	136

\* Wounded and captured December 31.

† Wounded December 31.

Return of casualties in the Union forces, &amp;c.—Continued.

Command.	Killed.		Wounded.		Captured or missing.		Aggregate.
	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	
<i>Third Brigade—Continued.</i>							
93d Ohio		12	3	45		64	124
Indiana Light Artillery, 5th Battery		3	1	18		1	23
Total Third Brigade	1	58	12	232	1	208	512
<i>Oscany.</i>							
8d Indiana, Companies G, H, I, and K		4		6		15	25
Total Second Division	10	242	35	972	17	1,284	2,560
THIRD DIVISION.							
Brig. Gen. PHILIP H. SHERIDAN.							
<i>First Brigade.</i>							
(1.) Brig. Gen. JOSHUA W. SILL.*							
(2.) Col. NICHOLAS GREUSEL.							
Staff	1		1				2
36th Illinois	1	45	7	144	2	13	212
88th Illinois	1	13	2	48		48	112
21st Michigan		18	7	82		36	143
24th Wisconsin		19	2	55		98	174
Indiana Light Artillery, 4th Battery		6		17		3	26
Total First Brigade	3	101	19	246	2	198	669
<i>Second Brigade.</i>							
(1.) Col. FREDERICK SCHAEFER.*							
(2.) Lieut. Col. BERNARD LAIBOLDT.							
Staff	1						1
44th Illinois	1	28	5	104		17	155
73d Illinois	1	15	3	61	1	7	88
2d Missouri		7		40	1	14	62
15th Missouri	3	9	4	51		5	72
1st Missouri Light Artillery, Battery G	1	5		13		1	20
Total Second Brigade	7	64	12	269	2	44	398
<i>Third Brigade.</i>							
(1.) Col. GEORGE W. ROBERTS.*							
(2.) Col. LUTHER P. BRADLEY.							
Staff	1						1
22d Illinois		21	7	109	2	54	193
27th Illinois	1	8	2	67		25	103
42d Illinois	1	19		96	1	45	161
51st Illinois	1	6	4	37		9	57
1st Illinois Light Artillery, Battery C		5	2	19		25	51
Total Third Brigade	4	58	15	328	3	158	566
Total Third Division	14	223	46	943	7	400	1,633
Total Right Wing	85	641	121	2,700	26	2,084	5,697
CENTER.							
Maj. Gen. GEORGE H. THOMAS.							
Staff and escort		1	1				2

\* Killed December 31.

Stone's River; also a list of the animals, means of transportation, and other property captured from the enemy and picked up on the field and at Murfreesborough, as reported by the quartermasters of the several divisions named. A large number of the wagons that were partially burned by the enemy have been recovered and turned into the repair shops. Some wagons and a large number of animals reported as lost have been picked up by the several regiments, and will be taken up and accounted for by the quartermasters in their monthly returns, so that the actual loss is much less than appears by the annexed statement.

Very respectfully,

JOHN W. TAYLOR,  
*Lieutenant-Colonel and Quartermaster.*

Maj. Gen. W. S. ROSECRANS,  
*Commanding Department of the Cumberland.*

*Statement of public animals and means of transportation captured by the enemy, killed in battle, and lost and destroyed from December 26, 1862, until January 16, 1863.*

Command.	Wagons.	Ambulances.	Harness, sets.	Horses.				Mules.	Animals.
				Draught.	Artillery.	Cavalry.	Total.		
<b>RIGHT WING.</b>									
Headquarters	10	1	60					60	60
<b>FIRST DIVISION.</b>									
Headquarters			3	7		1	8	5	13
Ammunition and supply train	25		204	4		8	7	204	211
<b>First Brigade.</b>									
Headquarters			4	3		1	4		4
22d Indiana	1		6			2	2	5	7
59th Illinois	2	1	12			2	2	11	13
74th Illinois	2		12					12	12
75th Illinois	1		6					12	12
5th Wisconsin Battery	2		30		21		21	12	33
<b>Second Brigade.</b>									
Headquarters			24			1	1	24	25
21st Illinois	4		13					13	13
38th Illinois	2		14	1				15	16
15th Wisconsin	2	1	28	3			3	25	28
101st Ohio	4		2						
2d Minnesota Battery							13	13	13
<b>Third Brigade.</b>									
Headquarters						4	4	1	5
25th Illinois	1		6			1	1	6	7
35th Illinois	1		6			4	4	6	10
81st Indiana	2		10	4		1	5	6	11
8th Wisconsin Battery			8				18	18	18
36th Illinois Cavalry, Company B.						3	3		3
2d Kentucky Cavalry, Company G.						7	7		7
<b>SECOND DIVISION.</b>									
3d Indiana Cavalry		1	18			30	30		30
Supply train	2		12					18	18
Ammunition train	2							12	12

*Statement of public animals and means of transportation captured by the enemy, killed in battle, lost and destroyed, &c.—Continued.*

Command.	Wagons.	Ambulances.	Harness, sets.	Horses.				Mules.	Animals.
				Draught.	Artillery.	Cavalry.	Total.		
<b>First Brigade.</b>									
15th Ohio		1	5	4			4	1	5
49th Ohio		2	4						
32d Indiana		1		1			1	1	2
39th Indiana	1	1	4	4			4	4	4
89th Illinois		3	2	2			2		2
89th Illinois		1							
1st Ohio Artillery, Battery A.		1	30		62		62		62
<b>Second Brigade.</b>									
Headquarters						7	7	7	14
34th Illinois				1			1		1
79th Illinois	1			2			2	1	3
29th Indiana	1	1	2	2			2	4	6
30th Indiana				1				2	2
77th Pennsylvania				2			2		2
1st Ohio Artillery, Battery B.			82	7	75		82	6	88
<b>Third Brigade.</b>									
Headquarters	1		6					6	6
93d Ohio		1	4	5			5		5
5th Kentucky (Louisville Legion)	1		6	1			1	6	7
6th Indiana		1	6	1			1	6	7
5th Indiana Battery			13		24		24		24
<b>THIRD DIVISION.</b>									
Headquarters ammunition and supply train.	58		348					348	348
<b>First Brigade.</b>									
36th Illinois	1		6					6	6
88th Illinois	2	1	14	2			2	12	14
24th Wisconsin	1		6					1	1
4th Indiana Battery	1	1	8	2	43		45	6	51
<b>Second Brigade.</b>									
Headquarters	1		6					6	6
2d Missouri	1		4					4	4
15th Missouri									
44th Illinois									
73d Illinois	1		6					6	6
1st Missouri Artillery, Battery G.	1		6		37		37	6	43
<b>Third Brigade.</b>									
Headquarters	1		6					6	6
22d Illinois	1		6					6	6
27th Illinois	2	2	16					16	16
42d Illinois	1	2	8					8	8
51st Illinois	2	1	14	18			18	18	36
1st Illinois Artillery, Battery C.	1		8		85		85	8	92
<b>CENTER.</b>									
<b>FIRST DIVISION.</b>									
<b>Second Brigade.</b>									
3d Ohio	1							4	4
88th Indiana	1		4	1			1		1
1st Michigan Battery				10			10		10
<b>Fourth Brigade.</b>									
Headquarters						1	1		1
1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, U. S.			2					10	10
2d Battalion, 18th Infantry, U. S.		1	2					2	2
5th U. S. Artillery [Battery H]					15		15		15

## General summary of casualties of Right Wing—Continued.

Regiments.	Killed.	Wounded.	Total.
SECOND DIVISION—Continued.			
34th Illinois .....	18	100	118
5th Kentucky .....	18	80	98
Battery A, First Ohio Artillery .....	1	5	6
5th Indiana Battery .....	3	18	21
77th Pennsylvania .....	4	29	33
Total .....	216	952	1,168
THIRD DIVISION.			
36th Illinois .....	45	159	204
88th Illinois .....	15	55	70
24th Wisconsin .....	19	58	77
21st Michigan .....	18	84	102
42d Illinois .....	21	109	130
22d Illinois .....	25	88	113
51st Illinois .....	6	48	54
27th Illinois .....	8	55	63
73d Illinois .....	22	52	74
44th Illinois .....	6	34	40
15th Missouri .....	14	44	58
2d Missouri .....	2	22	24
4th Indiana Battery .....	5	16	21
1st Missouri Artillery, Company G .....	6	13	19
1st Illinois Artillery, Company C .....	5	20	25
Total .....	217	857	1,074
Aggregate .....	608	2,647	3,255

Respectfully forwarded.

C. McDERMONT,

Surgeon U. S. Volunteers, Medical Director of Right Wing.

A. McD. McCook,  
Major-General, Commanding.

General summary of killed and wounded at the battle of Stone's River, near Murfreesborough, Tenn., from December 30, 1862, to January 3, 1863, of Right Wing, Fourteenth Army Corps, Department of the Cumberland.

## FIRST DIVISION.

(JOHN L. TRUD, medical director.)

Regiments.	Killed.	Wounded.	Total.
38th Illinois .....	34	110	144
22d Indiana .....	7	39	46
5th Wisconsin Battery .....	1	7	8
15th Wisconsin .....	15	72	87
74th Illinois .....	8	33	41
59th Illinois .....	7	43	50
35th Illinois .....	11	53	64
25th Illinois .....	16	79	95
2d Minnesota Battery .....	2	5	7
75th Illinois .....	2	22	24
81st Indiana .....	6	48	54
101st Ohio .....	18	125	143
21st Illinois* .....			
8th Wisconsin Battery .....	1	4	5
Total .....	128	640	768

\* Not reported.

General summary of killed and wounded at the battle of Stone's River, &amp;c.—Continued.

## SECOND DIVISION.

(S. MARKS, medical director.)

Regiments.	Killed.	Wounded.	Total.
34th Illinois .....	18	100	118
77th Pennsylvania .....	4	28	32
79th Illinois .....	19	80	99
30th Indiana .....	29	100	129
6th Indiana .....	15	52	67
1st Ohio .....	8	38	46
93d Ohio .....	12	41	53
5th Kentucky .....	18	80	98
32d Indiana .....	12	8	20
39th Indiana .....	30	109	139
15th Ohio .....	17	106	123
1st Ohio Artillery, Battery A .....	1	5	6
89th Illinois .....	10	45	55
49th Ohio .....	16	96	112
5th Indiana Battery .....	3	18	21
Total .....	212	906	1,118

## THIRD DIVISION.\*

(D. J. GRIFFITHS, medical director.)

88th Illinois .....	15	55	70
21st Michigan .....	18	84	102
36th Illinois .....	45	159	204
27th Illinois .....	9	35	44
24th Wisconsin .....	19	58	77
51st Illinois .....	6	48	54
23d Illinois .....	25	88	113
42d Illinois .....	21	109	130
44th Illinois .....	6	34	40
73d Illinois .....	22	52	74
2d Missouri .....	2	22	24
15th Missouri .....	14	44	58
Total .....	202	788	990

General summary of Right Wing, Fourteenth Army Corps, Department of the Cumberland (C. McDermont, medical director.)

Divisions.	Killed.	Wounded.	Total.
First Division .....	128	640	768
Second Division .....	212	906	1,118
Third Division .....	202	788	990
Total .....	542	2,334	2,876

No. 17.

Report of Brig. Gen. Jefferson C. Davis, U. S. Army, commanding First Division.

HDQRS. 1ST DIVISION, RIGHT WING, 14TH ARMY CORPS,  
January —, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the division under my command in the recent operations

\* This division reports no batteries.

field, and to Orderly Sergt. Isaac P. Rule, for taking command of Company I from January 1 to January 5, Captain Barnes being sick and unfit for field duty.

First Lieut. Asa R. Hillyer and Second Lieut. John B. Biddle fell while heroically attempting to rally their men. The regiment has lost in them officers whose places cannot be filled, and the country patriots who served faithfully to the last.

The regiment is particularly indebted to Asst. Surg. Walter Caswell for gallantly staying by them under the heaviest fire.

We have now present for duty 10 commissioned officers and 178 enlisted men. Present, on detached service, 15 enlisted men, and report 19 enlisted men known to have gone to Nashville.

Respectfully,

I. M. KIRBY,

*Major, Comdg. One hundred and first Regt. Ohio Vol. Infy.*

Capt. SAMUEL P. VORIS,

*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 27.

*Report of Col. William E. Woodruff, commanding Third Brigade.*

HEADQUARTERS THIRD BRIGADE, FIRST DIVISION,  
RIGHT WING, FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,  
January 5, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report the operations of the Third Brigade, First Division, of the right wing, in the five days' battle before Murfreesborough.

This brigade having held the advanced position on Overall's Creek in the afternoon and night of Monday, December 29, was the base of formation for the line of battle on Tuesday morning. At an early hour on the morning of the 30th, I received instructions that we would move forward in line of battle.

I was directed to join my left with Brigadier-General Sill's brigade, holding the right of the Second Division, under Brigadier-General Sheridan, and that Colonel Carlin, commanding the Second Brigade of the First Division, would connect his line with my right.

This brigade was accordingly formed in two lines, the Thirty-fifth Illinois Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Chandler, on the right; the Twenty-fifth Illinois Regiment, Col. T. D. Williams commanding, on the left, in the first line of battle, and the Eighty-first Indiana Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Timberlake, in the second line in reserve, the extreme left on the right of [the Wilkinson?] turnpike; the Eighth Wisconsin Battery, of four guns, Captain Carpenter commanding, being placed in the interval between Brigadier-General Sill's right and my left. My front was curtained with two companies of skirmishers, detailed from the Twenty-fifth and Thirty-fifth Illinois Regiments, under the command and immediate supervision of Major McIlwain, of the Thirty-fifth Illinois Regiment. The commands to my right and left were formed in the same manner.

We moved forward on the morning of Tuesday, the 30th, at about 10 o'clock, and halted on the edge of a large cotton-field, immediately in front of a wood running parallel with the turnpike, our lines facing Murfreesborough, which was in a southeasterly direction. This was about 11 a. m.

No enemy being visible in our front, I caused a few shells to be thrown into the woods beyond, but met no response. The topography of the country in this line and in my front was a cotton-field, which we then occupied, at the farther end of which was a belt or strip of timber, ending at a corn-field on my left and front, and immediately in front of Brigadier-General Sill's right. This corn-field extended to a narrow, heavy-timbered wood, bordered by a rail fence. Beyond this timber was a corn-field, receding toward a ravine, terminated by a bluff wood bank, along the foot of which, in the ravine, was the enemy's line of battle, with its supports and artillery on the elevation.

We remained in position until about 3 p. m., when my skirmishers were ordered forward to occupy the belt of timber, which they did. Major McIlwain, who was in command, reported to me that the enemy's skirmishers were in the farthest wood to our front and left, and desired me to send him a further support of one company, which was sent him, with orders to press their skirmishers back. The skirmishing soon commenced briskly, and my brigade was ordered to advance, which it did in admirable order, and was halted in the first belt of timber.

Desiring to know the position of the enemy's line, and the situation of their skirmishers, I proceeded to the line of skirmishers, to assist in directing their movements and urge them on, and, having given them directions in person, returned to my command, to be ready to move forward to their support. The wood was so thick and brushy on my right that it was difficult to see farther than the left of the Second Brigade; but as I discovered it advancing, we moved forward also, to protect its flank. Sheridan's division had halted some 100 yards in rear of my brigade, his line of skirmishers joining my line of battle.

At this juncture my skirmishers commenced falling back rapidly, and I endeavored to get the officer in command of those of Sheridan's division to advance to their support, as those of my brigade had not only driven the enemy from my front, but General Sill's also; but, as he had no orders to move forward, he refused. The emergency being imminent, Colonel Williams was ordered to detach the left company of his regiment, and deploy it forward as skirmishers, to relieve or strengthen those engaged, as circumstances might require, while the brigade was advanced to support them.

The command pressed forward in splendid order, and soon became hotly engaged, and drove the enemy back through the wood and corn-field in their own lines. As we were now far in advance of any support upon the left, I deemed it advisable to halt and wait for them to come up, and, therefore, took position in rear of the rail fence, my right nearly at right angles to my line of battle, thereby obtaining an oblique, as well as direct, fire; but the space to be occupied by this brigade was so great that the Eighty-first Indiana Regiment was ordered up to complete my line, thereby leaving me no reserves.

The battery was placed in the angle of the fence to protect my right and front. Shortly after taking this position, Brigadier-General Sill joined me on the left. We remained in position, receiving a heavy fire, and occasionally replying with shell, until toward night, when the enemy opened a heavy artillery fire, apparently on the right of Colonel Carlin's brigade. Thus, discovering their battery, and mine being in good range and position to enfilade theirs, Captain Carpenter was ordered to silence their battery, which he did in handsome style in about five minutes.

An attack of infantry was then made from the same point on Colonel Carlin, and as their lines presented the same advantage, Captain Car-

penter again opened fire with such terrific effect that their yells of pain, terror, and anguish, as our shells exploded in their dense ranks, could be distinctly heard where we stood. So well was the battery served that their attack ceased, and darkness closed the conflict.

We slept on our arms without fires, prepared for the battle which we well knew would open on the morrow. During the night we discovered what appeared to me to be a continued movement of troops, which led me to believe that the enemy were massing troops on our right, which information I had the honor to report to my immediate superior, Brigadier-General Davis.

As soon as day dawned I examined the line of battle, and, as I had no supports, placed three pieces in battery on my left, and pointed out to Brigadier-General Sill the weakness of the line at this point, and requested him to order up some regiments of his brigade, held in reserve, to strengthen his right and protect my left, feeling certain that the enemy meditated an attack, and that it would be made at that place. He agreed with me, and immediately ordered up two regiments, which remained there but a short time, and then resumed their former positions as reserves. Deeming the knowledge of this fact of paramount importance, I dispatched a staff officer to Brigadier-General Davis to give him the information. Afterward the general informed me that I must hold the position as best I could, for he had no supports to send me.

Almost simultaneously with the withdrawal of the reserves ordered up by Brigadier-General Sill, the enemy made their attack in five heavy lines, and we were immediately engaged. Captain Carpenter's battery opened with terrific effect with grape and canister, and they were mowed down as grass beneath the sickle, while the infantry poured in a well-directed and very destructive fire. Sheltered by the rail fence, they were partially protected, and fired with the coolness of veterans.

As soon as the battle became general, the Twenty-fourth Wisconsin, which joined my left, gave way, leaving my battery and left flank exposed to an enflaming fire. I finally succeeded in rallying them as a reserve. At this moment the right of Brigadier-General Sill's brigade commenced to swing to the rear, and Colonel Carlin's was discovered falling steadily back.

I then received orders to take position to the rear, some 300 yards, in the belt of timber. I informed the staff officer who brought the order that we could maintain our position if supported. He said the order was peremptory, and I hastened to execute it, but not until I was flanked both on the right and left. The brigade moved to the rear in good order, and halted on the new line; but the right and left continuing the march, and being severely pressed, we made a vigorous charge and drove the enemy back in our front, and, strange to say, not only carried our point, but swung the enemy's lines upon right and left with it.

Had we been supported here, they would have been routed; as it was, we regained our position occupied when the battle opened, but could hold it but a moment, when we were forced to yield to superior numbers, and steadily fell back to the ground from which the charge was first made. From this point we charged a second time, compelling the enemy to yield ground, but our ammunition beginning to fail, and no wagons to be found from which to replenish the stock, the brigade was ordered to hold its position as best it could, and, if pressed too hard, to fall steadily back until the battery could be got into position to protect their movement across the cotton-field. I placed the battery in position, and gave the officer in command (Sergeant German) directions where to

fire, pointing out to him the position of the brigade, and what he was required to do.

The ammunition of the regiments now entirely failing, and a perfect rout appearing to have taken place, the brigade fell back to the ground occupied by them on the morning of Tuesday. At this time the whole wing was in the utmost confusion, and I used every endeavor to rally and organize them, but without avail. There seemed to be no fear, no panic, but a stolid indifference, which was unaccountable. Officers and men passed to the rear; no words or exhortation could prevent them. In three different positions I used every exertion to reform our lines, but it became impossible. Reaching the Murfreesborough pike, a stampede or panic commenced in the wagon-train, but, succeeding in getting a regiment across the road, it was stopped, and, by a vigorous charge of cavalry, saved from the enemy.

We were then placed in reserve to our division along the Murfreesborough pike, and there waited in anxious expectation to make or repel attacks until the afternoon of Friday, when we were ordered to move in double-quick to the extreme left, to support the division which was being driven in by the enemy, and, although fatigued and worn out by exposure to the rain, without tents or blankets, for seven days, and want of sleep (two days of which time we had had nothing to eat but parched corn), the command, with yells of joy, rushed forward, and, after fording the river three times, pushed the enemy back with the greatest rapidity, the ground being covered with rebel dead and wounded. We went into position about 2 miles from the ford, and on the extreme left. During the night we threw up an abatis of rails, and laid on our arms, without fires, in a drenching rain.

The next morning (Saturday, January 3) we expected an attack, but none occurred during the day. That night we changed position to the right again, nothing but picket skirmishing having occurred during the day. When the morning of Saturday passed without an attack, I became satisfied in my own mind that the enemy were evacuating Murfreesborough, and so expressed it.

I cannot speak in too high terms of the gallant conduct of the officers and men under my command. If indomitable daring, cool courage, and invincible bravery in the midst of the turmoil of such a battle, when all space seemed occupied by some deadly missile, amid carnage and noise, be any proof of heroism, they certainly possess it. Many instances of personal daring and feats of individual prowess were visibly performed, but I must refer you to the reports of subordinate commanders for names and instances.

To the officers and men of the Twenty-fifth and Thirty-fifth Illinois Regiments and Eighth Wisconsin Battery I owe especial thanks for the determined bravery and chivalric heroism they evinced throughout; and also to the officers and men of the Eighty-first Indiana, a new regiment, the first time under fire, who, with but a few exceptions, manfully fronted the storm of battle, and gave earnest proof of what may hereafter be expected of them.

I desire to call the attention of the commanding officer to the gallant conduct of Lieutenant-Colonel Chandler, commanding the Thirty-fifth Illinois, whose cool, steady courage, admirable deportment, and skillful management evinced the soldier, true and tried, and who at all times proved himself worthy of the trust he holds. Major McIlwain, of the same regiment, I cannot praise too much; his good management and skillful handling of the skirmishers, of which he was in charge, elicited enco-

miums of well-merited compliment—at all times cool, determined, and persevering. Lieutenant-Colonel Timberlake and Major Woodbury, of the Eighty-first Indiana, displayed manly courage, and held their regiment firm and steady under heavy fire; for officers young in the service their efforts are worthy of imitation. Capt. W. Taggart, who succeeded to the command of the Twenty-fifth Illinois Regiment, behaved as a soldier should, everywhere efficient, and ever ready to execute orders. First Sergeant German, of the Eighth Wisconsin Battery, merits much praise for the cool, skillful, and determined manner in which he served his battery after he succeeded to the command.

To my staff, Capt. George Austin, acting assistant adjutant-general; Capt. A. C. Keys, Lieut. C. P. Ford, Lieut. John F. Isom, Lieut. William R. McChesney, and Lieut. H. S. Park, I owe especial thanks for the manner they served upon the field, carrying my orders, wherever required, through a storm of shot, shells, and bullets, regardless of all save the performance of their duty.

During the conflict it became necessary, in the absence of staff officers on duty, to make use of orderlies to supply their places. In connection herewith I take great pleasure in testifying to the brave conduct of Orderlies A. T. Greeman and Abijah Lee, on my escort.

Amid the glorious results of a battle won, it gives me pain to record the names of the gallant men who offered up their lives on the altar of their country; but we must drop the tear of sorrow over their resting-place, and offer our heartfelt sympathies to their relatives and friends, trusting that God will care for them and soothe their afflictions. And while we remember the noble dead, let us pay a tribute of respect to the gallant Col. T. D. Williams, Twenty-fifth Illinois Regiment, who died in the performance of his duty. He fell with his regimental colors in his hands, exclaiming, "We will plant it here, boys, and rally the old Twenty-fifth around it, and here we will die." Such conduct is above all praise, and words can paint no eulogium worthy of the subject. And here let me call the attention to the conduct of Captain Carpenter, of the Eighth Wisconsin Battery, who fell gallantly serving his guns until the enemy were within a few yards of their muzzles. He died as a soldier would wish to die, with his face to the foe, in the smoke and din of battle.

The casualties of the command are small in comparison to the fire they received and the service done.

The Thirty-fifth Illinois lost 2 commissioned officers wounded, 8 privates killed, 49 wounded, and 32 missing; the Twenty-fifth Illinois, 1 commissioned officer killed and 3 wounded, 14 privates killed, 69 wounded, and 35 missing; the Eighty-first Indiana, 2 commissioned officers killed, 2 wounded, and 1 missing, 3 privates killed, 40 wounded, and 39 missing; the Eighth Wisconsin Battery, 1 commissioned officer killed, 4 privates wounded, and 19 missing. Total, 4 commissioned officers killed, 7 wounded, and 1 missing; 25 privates killed, 162 wounded, and 125 missing. Aggregate killed, wounded, and missing, 324.\*

I hope a portion of those missing may yet return, as all cannot have been made prisoners.

I have the honor to submit the above report to your consideration, and remain, dear sir, yours, most respectfully,

W. E. WOODRUFF,  
Colonel, Commanding Third Brigade.

Lieut. T. W. MORRISON,  
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, First Division.

\* But see revised statement, p. 208.

No. 28.

*Report of Capt. Wesford Taggart, Twenty-fifth Illinois Infantry.*

HDQRS. TWENTY-FIFTH REGIMENT ILLINOIS VOLS.,  
THIRD BRIGADE, FIRST DIVISION, RIGHT WING,  
Camp near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 8, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor of submitting to you the following report of the operations of the Twenty-fifth Regiment Illinois Infantry during the late battle before Murfreesborough, Tenn.:

The regiment left camp, near Nashville, Tenn., at 6.30 a. m. December 26, 1862, under command of Maj. R. H. Nodine, and, after a march of 10 miles, in company with balance of brigade, encountered a force of the enemy near Nolensville.

About 3 p. m. were deployed on the right of the brigade; Companies A, I, and K were thrown out to the front as skirmishers. After sharp action, of about two hours' duration, the enemy were driven back, and we bivouacked for the night on the field, the rain falling in torrents. Took 1 prisoner of the Eighth Texas Cavalry.

At 7 a. m. on the 27th resumed the march at a distance of 10 miles, encamping near Triune, Col. Thomas D. Williams assuming command early in the morning, Major Nodine being detailed on the staff of Major-General McCook.

At 6 a. m. on the 29th resumed the march; encamped on Stone's River. Distance marched, 15 miles. Detailed five companies as advanced picket.

At 3 p. m. on the 30th fell into line. At 8 a. m. marched in close column, by division, in company with rest of brigade. After marching a distance of 1½ miles, arrived at the front; deployed in line of battle, the men stripping knapsacks. Company A, under command of Lieut. T. H. West, was deployed to the front as skirmishers, and immediately afterward joined by Companies I and K, under command of Capt. Samuel Houston and Lieut. M. B. Thompson. These companies, in conjunction with others of the brigade, continued skirmishing until dark, driving the enemy's skirmishers into his main line, Company A losing 6 men wounded, Company I 2 killed and 3 wounded, and Company K 1 wounded.

The regiment advanced in line of battle into a strip of timber, and, covered under shelter of a rail fence, a corn-field of about 150 yards in width separating our forces from that of the enemy, Company A was thrown out to the front as skirmishers a distance of 60 yards. The regiment lay in this position until 3 a. m. of the 31st, at which time it was called into line, the Thirty-fifth Illinois on our right and the Eighty-first Indiana on our left, supporting the Eighth Wisconsin Battery. At daybreak a line of the enemy's skirmishers advancing, opened fire on our skirmishers, and were followed immediately afterward by their main body advancing in four consecutive lines of battle diagonally on our left. A change of front was ordered by Colonel Williams, which was executed under a heavy fire of musketry. Our regiment then opened a murderous fire on the enemy, completely checking him, and finally driving him back in confusion. The enemy immediately made another advance, and were received with a terrific fire of musketry. Our regiment was, however, forced back a short distance.

At this time, while bravely rallying his men, Colonel Williams fell mortally wounded by a musket-ball passing through his right breast. He was carried from the field immediately. I then assumed command of the regiment, which by this time had fallen back a distance of 150

found where the fight was thickest, ready to carry orders, assist in taking out and putting in horses, &c. I must also give great credit to Private Frank Williams, who, with great courage and skill, saved my five remaining caissons, which were at one time cut off and in the rebel lines.

My loss of men was 6 killed, 17 wounded, 2 paroled, and 1 missing.

I remain, sir, your obedient servant,

A. K. BUSH,

*Captain, Commanding Fourth Indiana Battery.*

Captain HESCOCK,

*Chief of Artillery, General Sheridan's Division.*

No. 54.

*Report of Col. Nicholas Greusel, Thirty-sixth Illinois Infantry, commanding First Brigade.*

HDQRS. FIRST BRIGADE, THIRD DIVISION, RIGHT WING,  
*Camp on Stone's River, Tenn., January 15, 1863.*

SIR: Not being in command of the brigade until General Sill's death, Wednesday morning, December 31, 1862, I am unable to give a very correct report of its operations previous to that time, but have succeeded, from what I observed myself and by reports of other regimental commanders, in getting very near, if not quite, a correct report of the movements of the brigade.

In obedience to orders from General Sill, the brigade was under arms from 4 a. m. Tuesday, December 30, till 8 o'clock, on the Wilkinson pike, about 5 miles from Murfreesborough, and at 9 o'clock we moved forward, this brigade being the center of the division. Skirmishers were deployed and soon were engaged with the enemy's skirmishers.

When within about 2 miles from Murfreesborough, the brigade was ordered by General Sill to the right of the pike, and formed the first line of battle on the edge of the timber, in the following order: The Thirty-sixth Illinois on the right, Eighty-eighth Illinois on the left, Bush's Fourth Indiana Battery in the center, the Twenty-first Michigan supporting the Eighty-eighth Illinois, and the Twenty-fourth Wisconsin supporting the Thirty-sixth Illinois.

Sharp skirmishing was kept up until 3 p. m., when General Sill ordered an advance, and the brigade moved forward (changing front to the left), the regiments keeping their relative positions across a corn-field, and the battery was advanced into the woods beyond, supported by the Thirty-sixth Illinois and five companies of the Twenty-fourth Wisconsin. Soon after the advance into the woods, a battery of the enemy opened on us from the low ground across a cotton-field, and in the edge of a strip of timber, scarce 500 yards distant, and then ensued a terrific artillery duel between our battery and the enemy's, which finally resulted in their battery being silenced and withdrawn. It now being near dark, our battery was moved to the rear, just out of the woods, and the brigade formed in nearly the same relative positions as at first, and lay upon their arms all night, with strong lines of skirmishers out as pickets.

Soon after daylight, on the morning of the 31st, the enemy advanced out of the woods on the opposite side of the cotton-field (referred to before) in great force immediately on our front, but were met by such a

fire from our artillery and infantry that they were finally repulsed and driven back with great loss across the cotton-field.

About this time, 7 a. m., while directing the movements of the brigade, our brave General Sill was struck in the face by a musket ball and instantly killed. I then received your order to take command of the brigade. The enemy having turned our right, and again advancing in force, I moved to the rear with the Twenty-fourth Wisconsin and Eighty-eighth Illinois, and across the road, where I formed on the left of the Eighty-first Indiana, Woodruff's brigade, leaving the Twenty-first Michigan to support Hescock's battery, where they were assailed by great numbers of the enemy, but held their ground until the battery was moved, when they retired in good order, losing heavily in killed and wounded. (See report of Lieutenant-Colonel McCreery.) Having expended all the ammunition of the two regiments with me, I retired to and got a supply from the train of General Rousseau, ours having been cut off.

I then reformed my line on the east of the railroad, and moved forward to the Murfreesborough pike. Here I received orders from General McCook to move to the extreme right of our line, to support the cavalry, who were threatened by the rebel cavalry, and in some danger of being flanked. I formed and supported the Fifth Wisconsin Battery and remained in this position until dark, after which I retired the Eighty-eighth Illinois to the rear of the battery, and detailed the Twenty-fourth Wisconsin for picket duty, Colonel Kennett supporting my pickets with his cavalry.

At 2 a. m., January 1, I received your order to move the brigade to the vicinity of your headquarters, when, in accordance with your orders, I formed line of battle in the rear of Colonel Laiboldt's brigade in the following order: The Thirty-sixth Illinois on the right, Fourth Indiana Battery, Eighty-eighth Illinois, and Twenty-fourth Wisconsin on the left, the Twenty-first Michigan being for the time joined to the Third Brigade, Colonel Bradley commanding, where we lay during the 1st, 2d, and part of the 3d of January, 1863, inactive, with the exception of being ordered to form double column on Friday, January 2, to support the left wing (then heavily engaged with the enemy), if necessary, but were not needed.

Saturday, January 3, we moved, by your order, the whole brigade (the Twenty-first Michigan having joined) to the position before held by General Davis' division, to the right and front of our former position, where we remained inactive until Tuesday, January 6, when we moved to our present camp, south of Murfreesborough.

I am unable to give sufficient praise to the officers commanding the different regiments in the brigade; all have done their duty; but I must say that, in regard to Major Miller, Captain Olson, and Adjutant Bid-dulph, of the Thirty-sixth Illinois; Colonel Sherman and Major Chandler, of the Eighty-eighth Illinois; Lieutenant-Colonel McCreery and Adj. M. B. Wells, of the Twenty-first Michigan; Major Hibbard and Adjutant MacArthur, of the Twenty-fourth Wisconsin, they behaved with great coolness and presence of mind, ever ready to obey my command. Of my staff, I would especially notice Lieut. J. B. Watkins, acting assistant adjutant-general; Lieut. J. L. Mitchell, aide-de-camp; Lieut. N. S. Bouton, brigade quartermaster, who was very active in procuring ammunition, and Quartermaster Sergt. Frederick Colburn, Thirty-third Ohio, acting as volunteer aide to General Sill, and after his death in the same capacity to me, and who showed great coolness and activity in carrying orders during the thickest of the fight. Brigade

Surg. D. W. Young deserves especial notice for his untiring efforts to care for the wounded.

In General Sill we all feel that we have lost an able commander and a kind friend; though but a short time with us, he had endeared himself to the whole command by his quiet, unassuming disposition, combining gentleness with strict discipline, courageous in action almost to a fault. We all feel that the brigade and the service have lost an officer hard to be replaced.

I inclose with this the reports of the commanders of the different regiments; also a complete list of casualties, the aggregate of which is as follows: Killed, 102; wounded, 369; missing, 200. Total, 671.\*

I am, sir, yours, very respectfully,

N. GREUSEL,

*Colonel, Commanding First Brigade, Third Division.*

Lieut. GEORGE LEE,

*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Third Division.*

No. 55.

*Report of Capt. Porter C. Olson, Thirty-sixth Illinois Infantry.*

HEADQUARTERS THIRTY-SIXTH ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERS,  
January 9, 1863.

The Thirty-sixth Illinois Regiment, Col. N. Greusel commanding, was called into line at 4 o'clock on Tuesday morning, December 30, 1862, and stood under arms until daylight, to the left of the Wilkinson pike, and our right resting upon it, and 5 miles from Murfreesborough. At 9 a. m. we moved forward to Murfreesborough; two companies were deployed as skirmishers to the right of the road, and were soon engaged with the enemy's skirmishers. When 2 miles from Murfreesborough the regiment was deployed in the corn-field to the right of the pike, and two companies were deployed forward as skirmishers, as ordered by General Sill. The regiment lay in line in this field until 2 p. m., at which time the whole line was ordered to advance. The skirmishers kept up a sharp fight, the enemy's line retreating and ours advancing. We drove the enemy through the timber and across the cotton-field, a low, narrow strip stretching to the right into the timber. A rebel battery, directly in front of the Thirty-sixth, directed a heavy fire on us. Our skirmishers advanced to the foot of the hill, near the cotton-field, and here kept up a well-directed fire. We were ordered to support Captain Bush's battery, which was brought into position in the point of timber where our right rested, and opened fire with terrible effect upon the enemy. We remained as a support until nearly dark, when Captain Bush went to the rear, the enemy's battery, or, rather, its disabled fragments, having been dragged from the field. In this day's engagement the regiment lost 3 killed and 15 wounded; total, 18. We occupied the hill during the night, and our skirmishers were in line at the edge of the cotton-field.

On the morning of December 31, soon after daylight, the enemy advanced in strong force from the timber from beyond the cotton-field opposite our right. They came diagonally across the field. Upon reaching

\* But see revised statement, p. 209.

the foot of the hill, they made a left half-wheel and came up directly in front of us. When the enemy had advanced up the hill sufficiently to be in sight, Colonel Greusel ordered the regiment to fire, which was promptly obeyed. We engaged the enemy at short range, the lines being not over 10 rods apart. After a few rounds, the regiment supporting us on our right gave way. In this manner we fought for nearly half an hour, when Colonel Greusel ordered the regiment to charge. The enemy fled in great confusion across the cotton-field into the woods opposite our left, leaving many of their dead and wounded upon the field. We poured a destructive fire upon them as they retreated until they were beyond range.

The Thirty-sixth again took position upon the hill, and the support of our right came forward. At this time General Sill was killed, and Colonel Greusel took command of the brigade. A fresh brigade of the enemy advanced from the direction that the first had come, and in splendid order. We opened fire on them with terrific effect. Again the regiment on our right gave way, and we were again left without support. In this condition we fought until our ammunition was exhausted, and until the enemy had entirely flanked us on our right. At this juncture Major Miller ordered the regiment to fall back. While retreating, Major Miller was wounded, and the command devolved upon me. We moved back of the corn-field to the edge of the timber, a hundred rods to the right of the Wilkinson pike and 2 miles from Murfreesborough, at 8 a. m. Here I met General Sheridan, and reported to him that the regiment was out of ammunition, and that I would be ready for action as soon as I could obtain it. We had suffered severely in resisting the attack of superior numbers. I had now only 140 men. The regiment fought with great obstinacy, and much is due to Col. N. Greusel for his bravery in conducting the regiment before being called away.

Adjutant Biddulph went to find the ammunition wagon, but did not succeed. I then informed Quartermaster Bouton that I needed cartridges, but he failed to find any except size .58, the caliber of most of the arms being .69. I was now ordered by Major-General McCook to fall back to the rear of General Crittenden's corps. I arrived there about 10 a. m. I here obtained ammunition, and dispatched the adjutant to report to Colonel Greusel the condition and whereabouts of the regiment. He returned without seeing the colonel. Lieutenant Watkins soon rode up, and volunteered to take a message to Colonel Greusel or General Sheridan. He also returned without finding either officer. I now went in search of General Sheridan myself; found him at 12 o'clock; reported to him the regiment (what there was left of it) ready to move to the front. He ordered that I should hold the regiment in readiness and await his orders.

At 2 p. m. I received orders from General Sheridan to advance to the front, on the left of the railroad, and connect my command temporarily with Colonel Laiboldt's brigade. We were here subject to a very heavy artillery fire. A 12-pounder shell struck in the right of the regiment and killed Lieut. Soren L. Olson (a brave and faithful officer, commanding Company F) and Corporal Riggs, and wounded 3 others. At dark we were moved by Lieutenant Denning one-quarter of a mile to the rear, where we remained for the night.

At 3 a. m. January 1, 1863, by order of General Sheridan, we marched back to his headquarters, on the Nashville pike, a distance of half a mile, where, at daylight, I reported to Colonel Greusel. As ordered by him, we took position to the right of Captain Bush's battery, fronting west.

THE  
WAR OF THE REBELLION:

A COMPILATION OF THE  
OFFICIAL RECORDS

OF THE  
UNION AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES.

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PREPARED, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR, BY  
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PUBLISHED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF  
Lieut. Col. HENRY M. LAZELLE, Twenty-third U. S. Infantry

PURSUANT TO ACTS OF CONGRESS.

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