

## A31st Indiana Cruff's Brigade Diary

December 1862

Mon. 22nd Went out foraging 9 miles south of Nashville Found an abundance of forage which we got and then returned to camp making 26 miles of a march that day and we were all sure tired

Tues. 23rd Rested in forenoon. Battallion [sic] drill in afternoon

Wed. 24th Revalier [sic] beat at 4AM and we were ordered to be ready to march at day, with 3 days rations in our haversacks, and at day we were ordered to be ready for inspection at 9AM and it rained at that hour. We cleaned up streets afternoon.

Thurs. 25th Went on Picket at 8AM all was quiet except the Christmas guns fired by the boys in camp. We heard some cannonading out on the Franklin Pike, and there was considerable nois [sic] during the night

Fri. 26th. Our Division moved out on the Murfreesboro Pike at day, and there was rations brought out to us and we followed them and caught up at Lavern [sic] here our Division was scirmishing [sic] with the Rebels, we were thrown out on the left, rested a little in the wood and then threw out one Co. (E) of scirmishers [sic] who went to work on the Rebel cavalry driving them back and we followed up until we came to the creek and there the Rebe's [sic] threw a few shells at us, but we scared their battery away by our going Double quick a short distance and hollowing [sic]. We halted after we crosed [sic] the creek and laid there until dark. There was some sharp firing to our right while we were on the creek bank We could hear heavy cannon on the Franklin Pike to our right all the after noon [sic]. At dark our Division drew off and Woods [sic] Division went in front. We marched 12 miles that day with our knapsacks on. It rained during the night.

Sat. 27th We arose got breakfast and were all ready for action at day but we laid still, and listened while Wood engaged the Rebs which he did about day. We could also hear cannon on the Franklin Pike. Our division moved out about noon being next to Wood with the 31st Ind. in front of 44 Division. It commenced raining about 1 P.M. We saw several wounded men in [illegible] Co. I was thrown out on the right as scimershers [sic] and moved on to Stewards's [sic] creek at which [illegible] we reached at dark, and we halted the [sic] for the night. We heard heavy scirmishing [sic] on our left in the eavening [sic], but all was quiet after dark

Sun. 28th Arose and got breakfast and all ready to move at day but we laid still all day. The Rebs [sic] Pickets were in sight on the opposite side of the creek and they and our pickets kept exchanging shots occasionally [sic] all day. Pike Recd [sic], reinforcements in the eavening [sic]

Mon. 29th We opened some cannon in the morning and drove the Reb pickets and we then moved forward in line crosing [sic] the creek which we waded about 14 miles below the bridge and then formed in line moved forward slowly driving the Rebels before us

until dark when we got within 2 1/2 miles of Murfreesboro, we then camped for the night, There was some firing between the Pickets after dark, but it soon ceased. There was some rain fell during the night.

Tues. 30th. We arose at day we moved out on the front lines formed our lines, sent out 2 Co's E and C for scirmishers [sic] and they kept firing occasionally [sic] all day; but we (31st In) laid still all day and listened to some heavy fighting on our right by Negley, and others, and there was some heavy firing - from our batteries but we got no answer, We (22nd Brigade) changed our position and front a little farther to the East just before dark and drove their scirmishers [sic] far, and then Co's (A and B) relieved C and E, we then laid still until 3 next morning. There were 2 men of Co. E slightly wounded. There was some rain fell during the day and turned cold at night.

Wed. 31st We arose at 3 A.M. and Co's H and P relieved A and B and at day the scirmishing [sic] commenced which grew into a heavy battle on our right about an hour by [illegible] and our right was flanked and drove back until the fighting was in our rear, and then about 11 A. M. we were attacked in front and Co H and P who were out as scirmishers [sic] fired a volley in to their heavy columes [sic] and then retreated over to the lines, and by the time all the schirmishers [sic] got in the Rebels came over the brow of the hill and we then poured a volley in to them thinning their ranks very much, and we kept up a hot fire for about 15 minutes when the Rebels fell back, out there was a Rebel Battery just at the left that we kept up a fire on from the left of the 31st. In where Co. I rallied when they came in from schirmishing [sic] and as they had no chance to make any breast works, they were very much exposed to the Enemys [sic] fire; But the Rebels soon appeared in our front again and the 2nd Ky. who jointed the 31st Ind. on the left fell back, but when they saw the 31st back, but when they saw the 31st still at their post faithfully discharging her duty, they returned again and fought bravely for about 15 minutes and then broke again, just as the 1st Ky. passed through the 31st and charged up into the field clear beyond the Rebel Battery which prepared to pay her respects to the 1st Ky. but the 1st seeing her danger fell back and then all on our left gave way and we were flanked on the left and right and were about to be entirely cut off when we started to retreat and there being a pond just in the rear of our Regt. divided it in the haste to get out of the way of the shot, grape and shell which were flying thick in the air. And allthough [sic] our Regt. were scattered there were a great many who did not forget what their guns were made for, so as they were retreating though the Cedar swamp they continued to load and fire on the graybacks [sic], as they pursued us, and thus gave them a retreating fight for about 1/4 of a mile through the Cedars when we came to where the dead were lying on the field that had been fought over in our rear; but the Rebels had been repulsed there and left us a little space to get out at; and we then went to the rear and gathered up what men we could find of our Brigade (1st) and we rallied, formed a line in the rear of a battery fixed bayonet for a charge if necessary; The 31st In. had Liet. [sic] Colonel Smith and Major Smith and about 75 men with her at that place, but as Col. Osborns [sic] was shot on the field and he had to retreat on foot and he [sic] being old and not very stout was wearried [sic] out in the retreat and was out on the Pike at a hospital. The battle continued to rage desperately until night, but the Rebels had to come to a halt and were repulsed again but held a part of the Battle field that night. Capt. Hallowell who behaved most gallantly in the engagement who was

acting Adjutant made his way out on the pike in the rear unhurt and he came to us at dark. Our Assistant Adjutant General Fairbanks was so drunk that he fell from his saddle in the midst of the battle and was carried from the field. The 31st In. lost all her knapsacks, blankets on the field, and when night came on it was quite cold. a heavy frost. The 31st In. went on picket in the after part of the night but did not have to stand over an hour until relieved.

January 1863

Thurs. January 1st 1863 The 31st In. with the 1st Brigade was on the reserve in forenoon with Negley and McCook in her front and after noon we moved farther to the left in the front. There was some little fighting on the right center in fore noon but afternoon all was quiet except Picket firing. At night we were taken back to the reserve and rested on the river bank. The 31st In. mustered 111 men and 16 Commissioned officers in the morning.

Frid [sic]. 2nd We were thrown out on the front lines again where the 31st threw up breast works and lay behind them with all quiet except an occasional Picket engagement until about, or near 4PM when the Rebels moved up on our left wing with heavy columns of infantry and Batteries, heavy cannonading then commenced and a continuous roar of musketry was heard on our left which lasted for about 20 minutes when our left began to give back, but soon we had a heavy colume [sic] come to our left which turned the tide which rolled back faster than it came; And just at dusk, the 31st was ordered to charge and drive the Rebels from a piece of woods, which they done most gallantly led by Lieut [sic] Col. Smith and General Farmer in person. The 31st In. lost 1 man killed and som [sic] 2 or wounded in the charge. 4 Co. I took 1 prisoner we laid still there in line for a while after routing the Enemy and then returned to the breast works where we had laid all day. There was some rain fell during the night. There was some heavy Picket firing on our right in the fore part of the night but after it ceased all was quiet again save the rattle of the ambulances carryin [sic] the wounded from the field.

Sat. 3rd Raining in the morning and continued so all day. There was some sharp firing in fore noon but it did not amount to much. The 31st In. still at the breast works until night when we moved out to the woods soon after night. The 2nd Tenn. Regt. went out in and drove the Rebels out of a piece of wood but not without considerable fighting first and some cannonading, but it soon ceased and all was quiet again except the whistle of the cars at Murfreesboro which was hear [sic] very frequent during the night and it kept on raining a little all night.

Sun. 4th. All was quiet in front, no Picket firing and it was generally supposed that the Rebels were gone which proved to be so when there were Cavalry scouts sent out to reconnoitre [sic]. There was then a detail of ten men and a Lieut. made to go out over our Wednesday battle field to bury our dead and we found and burried [sic] 4 on the field. Sergeat [sic] Davis of Co. I being one of the unfortunate. The 31st In. lost 5 killed, 45 wounded, 38 missing.

Mon. 5th The 31st In. laid in camp all day until in the evening [sic] when we moved 1 mile toward Nashville and camped on the East side of the Railroad. Rained during the night.

Tues. 6th. All quiet but very anxious to see our tent arrive. Cleared off in the evening [sic].