

Fort Wayne Weekly Sentinel Article January 31, 1863

FROM THE 30TH REGIMENT.

HEADQUARTERS 2d Brigade, 2d Division, Right Wing, 14th Army Corps, in camp, Jan. 12, '63.

Editor Fort Wayne Sentinel,

DEAR SIR: - Again a bloody conflict has been waged; again we have met the foe; again victory perches upon the banner of the Union.

A fight, which for length, and the terrible earnestness displayed in it, is perhaps without parallel in the history of our country, has just been enacted before Murfreesboro. Again the troops of Indiana have been participants in the conflict. Once more have they shed glory upon the escutcheon of our noble Hoosier State.

The old 30th regiment, covered with laurels won upon the field of Shiloh, commanded by Col. Dodge, ever cool and brave, and the noble fearless Hurd, again distinguished itself and won new honors.

The old 5th Brigade (now the 2d) historic for its noble deeds upon the fields of Shiloh and Corinth, led now as then by the noble, gallant, and chivalrous Gen. E.N. Kirk, won for itself a name still brighter than before. Though attacked at early morn by a rebel column thirty thousand strong, and unsupported, it gallantly and resolutely resisted the rebel approach until over one hundred of its brave boys fell dead, and upwards of three hundred were wounded. Then it was forced to retreat. It was madness and instant destruction to the entire Brigade longer to stand. The retreat was made in good order, until our line reached a fence. Here Gen. Kirk, assisted by his staff, re-formed the line and opened anew the conflict. Here Gen. Kirk was wounded and borne from the field. Col. Dodge then assumed command of the Brigade, and waged with remarkable success the unequal battle.

After fighting, retreating, rallying, again fighting, then retreating, until it passed an interval of some two miles, it made a splendid stand, and supported by Simonson's Battery, gave the rebel Claiborne the first check he had received that day. At last we were again forced back, and Simonson having lost a number of horses, was forced to abandon two of his guns. Having gone some half mile we reached a prominent [sic] ridge of land, running near and parallel to the Murfreesboro pike. Here the old Brigade, almost alone, aided only by a few stragglers from other commands, repulsed the entire rebel column. The attack was fearful; the repulse given the rebels terrible; they left their dead in piles upon the ground.

Col Dodge managed the Brigade with ability, behaved with daring, showed indomitable pluck, and to-day ranks higher than ever before, in the hearts of the men of the entire command.

It is useless here to speak of Col. Hurd. He is well known to your readers for his courage and gallantry at Shiloh. He was early thrown in command of the 30th regiment and behaved gallantly. He was everywhere along his line daring death and inspiring all.

Major Fitzsimmons was wounded and taken prisoner.

Lieut. E.B. Stribley, Acting Adjutant, was killed while standing manfully at his post. He was a good officer and leaves many true friends to mourn his early loss.

Lieut. J.C. McElfatrick is on Brigade Staff as Topographical Engineer, and on the day of the battle he rendered valuable service.

I have made this much longer than I had intended and will close, by saying that the boys of the 30th seemingly outdid themselves. All honor to them! all honor to the glorious State they represent!

Enclosed I send you a copy of Col. Dodge's official report, which will speak for itself of the part taken by the 30th, as well as the other regiments of the Brigade.

Yours,

E.P.E.