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Historical Sketch of the 4th Ind Battery.

by J Haddock.

The Spring and Summer of 1861 had come and gone with its passing events, and civil war with all its accompanying horrors had broken upon this nation carrying with it desolation and bloodshed.

The call by President Lincoln for 75,000 three months troops had been nobly responded to, and the boys in blue had met the boys in gray on many a field of blood.

Co B of the 9th Indiana recruited in Michigan City.

[Aug 12 1880]

had returned from its 3 months service in Western Virginia covered with glory, and the citizens of Michigan City welcomed with warm hearts the patriotic sentiment in its young men.

Some of the returning members of Co B. notably among whom was Lieut Buck, suggested the project of raising a battery of artillery to join the 9th Ind Regiment then in Camp at LaPorte, in response to the first call of President Lincoln for 300,000 Three Year troops.

A meeting was called August 30

-vening at Uno Hall, at
young men signed their
nd Volunteers their
n their Country defence,
men
g representn. the bone
e sinew and it of the
ilies of Michigan City,
were the hea. that ached
tears that fell these 40
en pressed the way through
ice to enlist for their Country
nd if need be shed their
d that the case of
might be maintained,
ay Sept 2nd the company
en increased & further

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Enlistments, here and at Valparaiso,
~~were~~ was ordered into camp at LaPorte,
Taking the New Albany R.W. at
noon for the crossing they reached
LaPorte at 3 P.M. where they were
mustered into the State service
by Col Milroy. Thursday
Sept 5th the company organization
was perfected by the election of the
following officers.

A. K. Bush Capt.

Mark L. DeMotte } First Lieutenants
Leonard R DeGroff }

Augustus A Starr } Second Lieutenants
David Flansburg }

Saturday Sept. 14th the 9th Ind.a Regiment broke Camp & Marched for Western Virginia,

The same day the 4th battery were ordered to Indianapolis and found Quarters at Camp Morton, where soon after they were mustered into the U.S. Service by Col S. J. Wood,

Sept 19th the battery moved to Camp Vajen where they were supplied with tents, horses, guns, ammunition, Uniforms &c, &c. Here was presented to the company a silk flag by the Fire department of Michigan City, which was afterwards captured in an ambulance by the rebels at Stone River. The battery remained

in Camp Vajen until November 16th learning the manly arts of war & the various duties of the soldier, the monotony of Camp life being varied by an occasional furlough to Michigan City, or an escape by night and a stolen ride upon the top of the cars home to see a sweetheart, a pass to the city to attend Church or prayer meeting, and more often to visit a certain little Restaurant which emptied the pockets of the boys in return for its delicious treats of Ice Cream and the Cream Cake of which we never tired,

Bugler Wards dear Mother taking pity upon the boys with colds, sent

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down a large amount of Maple Sugar flavored with hoar hound which greatly helped the colds, and we recall the boxes that from time to time came down from the dear hands at home, filled with certain toothsome and delicious preparations that made camp life in Indianapolis a delight. Thus passed the days with the 4th until the dread order came & reveille at 4 ocks on the morning of Nov 16th called us to move to Jeffersonville, From there we crossed the river to Louisville Nov 20th & for the first time planted our feet on Southern soil.

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The patriotic ladies of Louisville must be remembered, for providing a bountiful repast for the tired & dusty troops while passing through their City.

The company remained in the vicinity of Louisville until Dec 17th when we were ordered to Mumfordsville Ky. While in camp at Louisville we were visited by our townsmen Messrs H H Roberts Leonard Woods & Charles Winship. Here Dec 12th having come under the command of Capt Terrill battery H 5th Regular the first act of Insubordination broke out. Capt Bush fired by

the example of Capt Terrill ordered the whole company into one mess, for the purpose of dispensing with an extra number of cooks.

But the raw recruits unused to the strict discipline of Military life rebelled, declared the arrangement a nuisance and a trespass upon their rights, kicked over the camp kettles, spilled the coffee, put to rout the cooks, & broke up the company mess.

For their conduct on this & other occasions they acquired from Capt Terrill the cognomen of Bush Lahoos. Nevertheless when

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another similar transgression occurred, Capt Terrill returned to his quarters and sent to the boys a keg of Whiskey in token of his regard & esteem.

The battery remained at Munfordsville until Feb 13, the winter being spent in drill, Target shooting, & review, with now and then a long roll & a beat to arms & a general preparation to meet the enemy who were always reported in full force just across the river.

The camp was located in a low damp spot on the edge of a cemetery, and all the drinking water

the thousands of Soldiers encamped there was taken from ponds of standing water whose color partook of the clayey soil of the region. Sickness & disease made its inroads upon the once healthy troops, and the hospitals were being filled with those who for the lack of the proper food and nourishment went down to early graves.

Here we buried Allen Billings & Edmond O Corey the first of our number,

The camp was afterward moved 2 miles from town to a high & dry location, and to this place Dr

Beatty came from the city and dispensed his pills & Calomel to the already reduced & emaciated troops. Feb 13th 1862 the Command was ordered with others to reinforce Grant at Fort Donelson & moved out of camp in a shower of rain, which soon turned to snow, at Bacon creek we received orders to return, Fort Donelson having surrendered, and to join the main army on its advance on Nashville,

This March was noted for its hard and almost impassable roads and for the great scarcity of rations. the men subsisting

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on such scanty supplies as their haversacks contained, with a complement of old salt pork obtained at Bowling Green.

John Bouchard flanked and captured a barrel of flour, out of which the boys made flapjack Dickies, which would never pass muster in our Mothers Kitchen,

Nashville by the combined efforts of army and navy fell an easy prey to the Union forces, here the army remained until march 29 enjoying the satisfaction of Camping on the hills so recently in the Enemy possession, and indulging in the

pleasures and sights of the famous Capital of Tennessee. Which having been reorganized it set out for Shiloh.

Time fails me to tell of this first long march of 120 miles, over the Cumberland Mountains down into the Valley of the Tennessee with its mud & rain, or of the many foraging parties which always returned laden with turkys geese Chickens &c &c. Shiloh was reached one week after the battle, its Report of its Cannon reaching us on the Mountains 40 miles away.

Signs of the dreadful Slaughter were still visible in the unburned

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Remains of Men & Horses,

On the way from Shiloh to Corinth we were made glad by a visit from our Townsman C. E. D. Wolfe Esq who came down to see how we fared & to visit the battle field.

Here we recall the Sutler who pitched his tent in our Camps & Exhibited many cans of Oysters for Sale, but the increasing Cases of drunkenness revealed the fact that not Oysters but Whiskey were the Contents.

The battery participated in the advance on Corinth & its final capture without the loss of a man. From here

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We passed east through Florence & Tuscumbia Tennessee to Athens Alabama, July 5th the battery left Athens for Nashville 120 Miles North, without escort, marching the entire distance by land, sleeping at night in the Camps just vacated by the rebel guerrillas, arriving in Nashville aug 10th with its entire train, Aug 13th 2 Sections of the battery were ordered to join an Expedition under Col John Miller to Gallatin Tenn, where after a severe Skirmish they routed a rebel force under Morgan, Sept 14th the Company joined the main army in its Northern

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March to Louisville, thence in pursuit of Bragg - overtaking him at Perryville Ky, where occurred the short but severe conflict of Chaplin Hills or Perryville. Here fell

Sergeant Isaac. E. Smith
Corporal Francis, R. Hildebrant
Private Thomas Nengent.

brave & gallant Comrades -

The wounded were Corporal Amos Young
Privates Gorham Blair, Willis, T. Francis
Robert H. Hainer Carl Kasbaum
Belding R McClellan James H Ray
Oscar Reynolds & Russel Tremaine,

Thomas J Mowery was taken prisoner and being paroled was ordered to report

in person at Camp Chase Ohio, failing to find the Camp he sailed for England & forgot to return, 32 horses were killed in this engagement,

Bragg retreated to Murfreesboro Tem, & the Union forces under Genl Rosecrans followed, the 4th battery being in the right wing under Brig Genl Phillip. H. Sheridan,

Here occurred the disastrous battle of Stone River on the 30 & 31st Dec 1862 & the 1st & 2nd Jan 1863, For partial reports of the part the battery took in this fight, I refer to the official report of Maj Genl Rosecrans -

Col James Barnett chief of artillery
says page 15,
Genl Phil Sheridan commanding
the brigade says - pages 289 to 292 & 307,
The loss to the battery in this fight
is officially reported as follows,
Killed 6, Wounded 17
Prisoners 3 Total 26
2 Forges 2 Guns & 10 Horses Captured
17 Horses Killed,
1160 Pounds of Ammunition Expended,
For four days the army of the
Cumberland had fought against over-
whelming numbers, on unknown ground
amid the rain & mud of a Southern Winter,
The 4th battery torn & shattered by the

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11 Battery [illegible]

Following is a list of the Killed & Wounded

Sergeant Jno Young } Killed
Corporal Wm A Stoddard }

Privates

James E Dale }
Wm Mundell } Killed
James Hill }
Edmond Nugent }
Edmond Smith }

Wounded

Sergeant Wm H Abbott
Corporal Edgar J Abbott

Privates

C O Lorr
James Small
Robert Hainer
William Perdoil
Andrew T Mitchell
William Abbott
Elias Price
Jesse Bailey
John Disard
Simon Ashton
James Harrold
Chas Leonard
Edmund J [illegible] Edmond Gilbert
Edwin [illegible]

Eighteen [illegible] prisoners

loss of Men guns & horses Went into Camps
with the brigade to the South of Murfreesboro
to recuperate its strength & vigor.

Jan 29th 1863, two Sections of the
battery were sent to Nashville & returned
February 21st with 2 - 12 pound Smooth
bore guns Stores & Harness.

The army remained in the Vicinity
of Murfreesboro Tenn, until June 24th
when orders were received to break Camps
& prepare 9 days rations.

Under the Command of Genl Rosecrans
an advance was now made which cul-
minated in the terrible battle of Chickamauga.

On the 25th of June the battery reached
Hoovers Gap & went into Camps under

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fire of the rebel batteries.

The 26th the battery lay in position
on the brow of a hill Commanding the
rebels, Towards night a forward
movement was made, when the Enemy
fled towards Manchester Tullahoma
Decherd & Cowan Station on the line
of the Nashville & Chattanooga R.R.

The author of the "Annals of the
Army of the Cumberland" says The
crossing of the Tennessee river by our
army was a remarkable feat.

Four days were consumed in the
passage of the Army at the various places of
crossing. To effect this crossing of the
lower part of our army Genl Rosecrans

ordered one pontoon bridge to be
laid down at Caperton's ferry, 3 miles
from Stevenson, 1250 feet in length,
and another pontoon bridge at
Bridgeport 12 miles up the river
Twenty Seven Hundred feet.

The 4th Batty being in Thomas
Corps crossed the Tennessee river at
Bridgeport by Pontoon, marched south
over Spurs of Mountains and through
deep wooded gulches to the Lookout
Valley, followed that narrow & meander-
ing channel to another depression
crossed through at Cooper's & Steven's
Gaps after toilsome Marches over the
[illegible] Mountain roads and

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took position at the mouth of those
gaps in Bragg's rear, who occupied
Chattanooga 26 miles to the south.

McCook's Corps was 17 miles further
south, & Crittenden's Corps on the north
of Lookout Mountain & forcing his
way to Chattanooga.

The rebel Commander now became
fully aware of Rosecrans intention to cut
off his supplies, & accordingly on the 9th
of Sept Bragg Evacuated Chattanooga
going south mainly by the Rome road.

Friday the 11th Sept the battery
was in line of battle before daylight
with Negley's Division.

Lieut Nichols of Stanton's Staff

by a sharpsho while
ng the line, 3 our
forced back the rebels
went into action the brow
tertaining the Eno with
result, Henning
ne horse shot omas
ptured, 11 P.W.E
one half mile lay in
all day the 1. with
our front nig the
On the 18th moved
p about dus Marched
The air was cr & damp,
cheered on day by
warmth of occasional

fires of burning ails, Saturday
the 19th of Sept a break of day the
Division fell into lie of battle weary
& hungry, at 8 am the soldiers were
permitted to refresh themselves
with coffee & hardack, at 10 am
while moving in a right oblique
through a dense frest of Saplings,
the rebel Infantry arose as if by
magic, & poured a fire that
threatened to annihilate us.
Instantly the guns were unlimbered
& shot & shell & Spherical case went
crashing through the rebel ranks,
but Division after Division poured
their fire upon online until we were

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forced to abandon the battery for
want of support & fall back to the
next line, Here the Infantry the
1st & 21st Wisconsin rallied & drove
the enemy back through our guns &
half a mile beyond. The 4th following
up this Victorious charge found its
guns safe, but 12 of its finest horses
dead, To reform & remount was
the work of a moment, & soon the
battery was again in line of battle
which position it retained throughout
the day, At night by command of
Genl Starkweather to, "Take that
battery to the rear", it was moved
to a place of safety, but made its

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Escape under the fire of the rebel
batteries, they having overheard the
order, The night was passed
on the battlefield, & Sunday morning
Sept 20th Calm & beautiful, found
the battery behind a breastwork
of logs thrown up in haste by our men,
The Command was given to hold
the position at all hazards, Thomas
Corps being the Key to the whole army.
The quiet of the peaceful day of
rest was broken by the whiz of the
Sharpshooters bullet, who, located in
some distant tree picked off the
men at the guns. Suddenly the fire
opens along the line, the terrible

roar of artillery, the shrill note of thousands of leaden messengers of death, the shrieks of the wounded, the commands of the officers fill the air, the thud of a shell as it strikes a limber full of ammunition followed by the sudden explosion of the contents of the chest carry consternation into our ranks, Forwards might the ammunition is expended & brave George Goodhue & Matt Huff, are taken prisoners while returning to the battery with a new supply.

"McCooks & Crittendens Corps had been nobly fighting all the morning" but about 1 PM by the misconception

of an order, one of our divisions was moved in the wrong direction, and a gap was left open in our battle front at the point of junction between Thomas & McCook, This the Enemy quickly perceived, They advanced rapidly & heavily and poured their columns in at the gap, taking both McCook & Thomas on the flank, Crushing Crittendens Corps & completely changing the order of battle,

By this movement 7 brigades were completely cut off from Thomas and the main army & forced back to Chattanooga, But brave Genl Thomas held his own, and Gallant

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Phil Sheridan succeeded by a quick
movement in getting to his support,
& there these two noble Commanders
reinforced by Gen Granger with 3
fresh brigades sustained their position
till night ended the conflict, when
the army fell back 3 miles to Rossville,
From thence to Chattanooga a distance
of 6 miles which they entered on the
Evening of the 21st in order, with
all their material,

The loss to the battery in this Engage-
ment was 1 Man killed, 11 Wounded
Lieut Flansburg & 3 Men captured
12 Horses Killed,

The battery remained in Chattanooga

the following Winter. Taking part in the
defence of the City, while hemmed
in by the enemy & with supplies
diminished
1/4 to Quarter rations, and supporting
the Reserve in the attack on Lookout
Mountain & Mission Ridge, & the
final Expulsion of Bragg's army
from Northern Georgia,

In the Spring of 1864 the
battery was detailed to occupy
Fort "Mahalotzsky" in Chattanooga,
And the Summer was spent with
occasional details to guard the
River boats against the attacks of
Guerillas, who continually threatened
the destruction of the line of supplies

ermans Army in the
ce on Atlanta,
ay Sept 3rd the long expected
or relief came,
ts of joy filled the air when
illits called the battery into
l read the order relieving
ery after 3 years active service,
pany of recruits under Lieut
hnson had arrived from
polis to take our places,
the next day the Command
der way with the 44th Indga
t for Indianapolis to be mustered
With what joyous welcome
received to our homes

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let these fathers & Mothers now before me speak, let these comrades in arms recall.

And now 16 years have come and gone since our return, and the fathers that were are passing away,

the heads that were young are growing gray, Children are growing up arounds us & listen to our stories of the war, and all these dreadful years of toil & suffering are as a dream in the night,

But you my brothers in arms some of whom are reminded at times of the bullets wound,

Can you tell us why,
You went forth to fight perhaps to die,
Was it from the love of fame
You went forth to earn a name,
Was it from the love of duty
All Mankind over their country,
Or, was there an Almighty power
Said we, young & old, out to war,
Ah, the curse of Slavery layon our land
And blood alone could make amend,
The cries & groans of Africs sons
Went up to God in prayer & song
And could you sit, sit idly by
And hear the slave in bondage sigh
For freedom & a right to be
With all mankind on equality,

No, No, Gods time had fully come
To take the black man from his bonds,
And you & I & thousands more
Stood ready at the open door
When Sumters flag was fired on,
And Southern blood was staining more
For Northern gore & Midnite blood,
To give our lives for freedoms good,
Let then these wounds & Scars recall
The weary march, the years of toil,
The nights of suffering, days of pain,
That FREEDOM might forever reign
From North to South, from East to West
O'er all this land which God has blest,
And may He in His Providence
Bless one & all with times of Peace.

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