

From the 6th Ohio Battery.

(published January 22nd, 1863 in the Summit County Beacon)

Camp on Battlefield before Murfreesboro, Tenn., Jan. 6th, 1863

S.A. LANE, Esq: Permit me to give to the friends of the 6th Ohio Battery, through your columns, the part played by us in the recent battles. The army took up the line of march from Nashville, Dec. 26th, 1862, at 8 A.M. with nothing but rations. The enemy as usual had a very strong guard which we drove back without much trouble. We camped at Lavergne on the night of the 26th. On the 27th, the enemy fired upon us with a battery, doing us no damage except wounding Capt. Neeper of the 64th Regt. O.V. A few rounds from Lt. Ayres' section put them to running and we again advanced, camping upon Stewart's Creek. Stopping until the 29th, at this point it was generally understood the butternuts would, as they say give us a twist, but nothing but a little skirmishing occurred. On the 29th we again advanced, arriving at Stone River about 5 P.M. Here we came to a standstill; several prisoners were taken and the niggers said there were 40,000 rebels over the river, and we would catch it next day. The prisoners said they were enough for us, and only wanted us to cross the river. A consultation of Gens. now took place, resulting in the ordering of Col. Harker's Brigade and the 6th Ohio Battery at once to cross the river, which was accomplished under a heavy infantry fire.

The 64th and 65th Ohio regts., 51st Indiana regt., and 13th Mich. regt. lost several men killed and wounded. We advanced 500 yards up a gentle slope to the crest, and then discovered a whole Division of the enemy waiting for us to get within gun range. We heard the rebel officers urge their men to hold their fire until we should get within 50 yards. We found we were in a trap and we must get out, and how to do so was a query; but our little Harker proved himself equal to the emergency --- skirmishers were thrown forward the same as if we were advancing, but we immediately retired across the river in safety. This expedition cost us 2 killed and 4 wounded.

At 10 A.M. Dec. 30th, the Battery was put in position on the left bank of the river, and engaged a rebel 4 gun battery which occupied a strong and commanding position, and silenced their guns after an engagement of 15 minutes, firing 74 rounds of shell and solid shot, sustaining no loss excepting one sponge bucket in Lt. Baldwin's section, which was struck with a 6 lb. solid shot. The enemy fired rapid and close, and many had very narrow escapes. When an enemy is firing directly in the front with solid shot, you can see the shot coming and almost every time they can be dodged. It was owing to that fact that none were hurt in the engagement. By 8 P.M. Gen. Rosecrans had formed his plans for the battle. Our brigade was to re-cross the river early the next morning. Some of the army not having got their positions, the attack was delayed. By 8 A.M. our battery was in position to cross the ford and in plain sight of the enemy. They had 8 brass guns to keep us in check. At this time, heavy musketry was heard on our right lines and in our rear; then the artillery opened. A few minutes Gen. Rosecrans rode up and ordered Col. Harker and our battery over to support the right, and said the enemy were driving us back. We at once changed position, receiving a parting salute from the enemy's guns across the river, which killed 2 and wounded 6 or 7 of the 65th Regt. O.V. We arrived upon the right lines about 10 A.M. and found that Gen. Johnson's Division was completely cut up. Gen. Sill killed; Gen. Willich wounded and prisoner; Cotter's old battery, excepting two guns, captured and 3 other batteries. The portion of Gen. Johnson's Division not killed or taken prisoner straggled to the rear, creating a panic.

At 10:30 we engaged two 4-gun batteries of the enemy which was supported by 2 brigades of infantry at a range of 250 yards. We poured in a heavy and destructive enfilading fire of canister upon the infantry, dozens of them dropping at every discharge; at the same time silencing the batteries. Our left flank having been turned, which was done by a whole division of the enemy, the Battery was retired 500 yards and again opened upon the enemy who was advancing in force. While Lt. Baldwin was limbering his section, a solid shot struck a lead-horse, driven by George Chitty, on the head, killing it instantly, covering Chitty with blood, but doing him no injury; and while limbering his second piece, a horse driven by Willard Correy was shot, at the same time hitting his right arm, cutting it off near the elbow. He is cheerful and doing well. The balance of the battery about this time ceased firing and retired without injury. This ground when recovered, was found covered with the enemy's dead, and pieces of artillery carriages, horses, &c., which shows the accuracy of our fire. From the position we had retired to, the battery only fired 12 rounds, the enemy charging at double quick and we were again compelled to retire, and to leave 2 pieces on the ground, 1 of Lt. Ayres' section and 1 from 1st Sergt. G. W. Smetts' section; 9 horses having been killed and wounded belonging to those pieces. One of the guns was spiked by Corporal N. Pool and David Evans, who were the last to leave the piece, the enemy being at this time within 20 yards of the guns. We sustained at this point the following losses: Private Sam'l M. Scott killed; Sergeant Geo. W. Howard mortally wounded (since died); Private J. Cackler slightly wounded in right hand. At this time Col. Shoemaker charged the enemy with the 13th Michigan Regt., driving them from the field and recovering the guns. This ended the engagements on the right. At 10 P.M. we occupied our old position on the left.

From the 6th Ohio Battery.

CAMP BATTLEFIELD BEFORE MURFREESBORO,
MORO, TENN., JAN. 6th, 1863.

S. A. LANE, Esq.:—Permit me to give to the friends of the 6th Ohio Battery, through your columns the part played by us in the recent battles. The army took up the line of march from Nashville, Dec. 26th, 1862, at 8 A. M. with nothing but rations. The enemy, as usual had a very strong guard which we drove back without much trouble. We camped at Lawrence on the night of the 26th. On the 27th the enemy fired upon us with a Battery, doing us no damage, except wounding Capt. Neepers of the 64th regt., O. V. A few rounds from Lt. Ayres' section put them to running, and we again advanced, camping upon Stewart's Creek. Stopping until the 29th, at this point it was generally understood the batters would as they say, give us a twist, but nothing but a little skirmishing occurred. On the 28th we again advanced arriving at Stone River about 5 P. M. Here we came to a standstill; several prisoners were taken and the pickets said there were 10,000 rebels over the river, and we would catch it next day. The prisoners said they were enough for us, and only wanted us to cross the river. A consultation of Gen's. now took place and resulted in the ordering of Col. Harker's Brigade and the 6th Ohio Battery, at one to cross the river, which was accomplished under a heavy infantry fire.

The 64th and 65th Ohio regt., 51st Indiana regt., and 13th Mich. regt., all lost several men killed and wounded. We advanced 600 yards up a gentle slope to the crest, and then discovered a whole Division of the enemy waiting for us to get within gun range. We heard the rebel officers urge their men to hold their fire until we should get within 50 yards. We found we were in a trap and we must get out, and how to do so was a query; but our little Harker proved himself equal to the emergency.—Skirmishers were thrown forward the same as if we were advancing, and we immediately retired across the river in safety. This expedition cost us 2 killed and 4 wounded.

At 10 A. M. Dec. 30th, the Battery was put in position on the left bank of the river, and engaged a rebel 4 gun battery which occupied a strong and commanding position, and silenced their guns after an engagement of 15 minutes, firing 4 rounds of shell and solid shot, sustaining no loss excepting one sponge bucket in Lt. Baldwin's section, which was struck with a 6lb solid shot. The enemy fired rapid and close, and many had very narrow escapes. When an enemy is firing directly in the front with solid shot, you can see the shot coming and almost every time they can be dodged. It was owing to that fact that none were hurt in the engagement. By 8 P. M., Gen. Rosecrans had formed his plans for the battle. Our Brigade was to recross the river early next morning.—Some of the army not having got their positions, the attack was delayed. By 8 A. M., our Battery was in position to cross the ford and in plain sight of the enemy. They had 8 brass guns to keep us in check. At this time,

two guns, captured and three other batteries.—A portion of Gen. J's division not killed, or taken prisoners, straggled to the rear, creating a panic. At 10:30 we engaged two 4 gun batteries of the enemy which was supported by 2 Brigades of Infantry at a range of 250 yards. We poured in a heavy and destructive enfilading fire of canister upon the Infantry, dozens of them dropping at every discharge; at the same time silencing the Batteries.

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At 8 A. M., Jan. 1st, Gen. Rosecrans ordered 7 batteries into position on our front lines, and said "put your best battery here," designating the spot. Said he "put the 6th Ohio there; that is the battery." We got into position and did not have to wait long. The rebels charged, with a yell, and the battery opened with case-shot and canister, driving them back in great confusion. Our battery fired 56 rounds; the explosions were terrific. That ended the fight of the 1st.

On the 2d the enemy advanced five 4 gun batteries and opened upon our positions at 8 A. M., at a range of 1500 yards, with shell and solid shot. We were supported on the right by the 8th Indiana battery and Capt. Standart's

his horse was also wounded, Lt. Baldwin's horse was shot from under him, doing him no damage, excepting the shot tearing his pants; Sergt. Miller, severely wounded in right arm; Sergeant J. Horsh, severely wounded in left arm; private E. H. Baird wounded severely in right leg; private R. Caldwell wounded severely in right arm; 4 battery horses killed and 3 wounded.

At 2 P. M. the enemy advanced a heavy column on our left lines supported by artillery.—Our battery took a strong position, and opened upon the enemy's battery at a range of 500 yards with good effect, the men running and leaving their guns, 6 of which were captured; 3 belonging to the famous Washington N-O. battery. In this engagement, Gen. Rosecrans was everywhere and superintended the grand charge which broke and drove the enemy back. That night the enemy evacuated Murfreesboro, and we now hold the town.

Harker's Brigade went into the fight 2000 strong, and it now numbers 1180. Every regiment in it suffered severely. It is composed of the 64th and 65th Ohio, 51st and 73d Indiana, and 13th Michigan, and 6th Ohio Battery. In the Brigade report the officers and men of the battery were highly complimented for their promptness and coolness. Gen. Rosecrans addressed the Brigade and said, "you have saved the army, and it shall be remembered." May it be so. Allow me to give you the names of some of the company that greatly distinguished themselves. Sergeants Howard, Hartman, Hersh, Miller and Casey, and corporals N. Pool, Irwin, Collier, and acting gunner S. O. Kembeck; privates Robert W. Stough, and Evans.—The whole company, with but few exceptions, deserve great credit for their gallantry, especially Corporal E. H. Neal for the manner in which he supplied the battery with ammunition, and for keeping the caissons well covered. We regretted that the noble 104th was not here to help us; also the famous war horse, "Lyon" and his gallant rider. We heard it had come up and captured a rebel battery in our rear.

It is understood that Johnson's Division was surprised; if so, the guilty party should receive prompt attention, no matter where the blame may fall, even if it should rest upon a Major General. If it had not been for this surprise, our success would have been complete.

Truly yours:

DAN.

From the 104th.

HEADQUARTERS, 104th Regt., O. V. I.
CAMP NEAR FRANKFORT, Ky.,
Jan., 8th 1863.

EDS. BRADON:—As I agreed to keep you posted as to the whereabouts of the 104th I am