

fields, through streams of water, and climbed hills, where it became necessary to call for a detail from the infantry to help us along.

On the 29th we took the direction of Murfreesborough, passed over a very rough and hilly road, and arrived after dark near the scene of the contemplated battle. The utmost caution and vigilance was ordered. We were hitched up and ready for action at daylight of the 30th.

On this day the Second Division was held in reserve. We followed the advance till late in the afternoon, when we were ordered to oblique to the right, to cover the right of General Davis' division. The enemy had posted a battery on the right of General Davis, in a handsome position, enfilading his whole line. General Kirk ordered me forward with a regiment of infantry as support, with instructions to silence, if possible, the rebel battery. Under cover of a cedar thicket, I was enabled to approach within about 700 yards of the enemy. The battery was silenced by six rounds from our pieces. They retreated, leaving a caisson disabled. An attempt was made to gain another position, but we followed them, engaging the infantry that came to their support, and kept up a brisk fire until dark. General Kirk then ordered us to cease firing.

My battery was the only detachment of General Johnson's division engaged in the action of Tuesday, the 30th of December. I here represented to General Kirk that my men were very weary, my horses almost famished; that my ammunition was short in the limber-chests of the pieces, and asked permission to withdraw long enough to prepare for hard work on the following day. Believing horses to be the main dependence of a light battery, and not knowing when I should have an opportunity to feed and water if brought into action, I asked time to prepare for the conflict of the morrow. General Kirk pointed out a spot about 100 yards in the rear of the position I then occupied, sheltered by a heavy growth of timber, and ordered me to bivouac there for the night. I reported to him that I could not place my guns "in battery" there, or defend myself if assaulted. He replied that I should be protected, and that ample notice should be given when I was expected to take a position in the line of battle.

After I had brought my guns into park, the right of the brigade was thrown across the muzzles in front. General Willich's brigade marched up and formed on the flank. I found myself within the angle formed by the junction of the two brigades, retiring about 50 yards, and on a low and narrow piece of ground. I have before stated that it was dark when I arrived at this point. We were not permitted to have lights. The ground in our rear had not been reconnoitered. I rode back some distance, but failed to find water for my horses. I did not consider it safe to push the investigation far outside of our lines that night. I waited until morning. At daylight a small stream was discovered about 100 rods in our rear. It was quiet all along our lines. I could not hear a picket shot, nor any indication that the enemy was in our vicinity. I had no orders to take position. My horses were already harnessed, to hitch on at a moment's warning. I was completely surrounded by veteran troops. I had a right to suppose that our front and flank were so picketed that I should have notice of the approach of the enemy. I ordered a half battery of my horses to go to water on a sharp trot, and return at the slightest indication of danger. The horses had barely reached the water when a fierce shout was heard at the front, and a terrible volley of musketry was poured in upon us. I called the cannoneers to their posts, had a half battery hitched in, put my guns in battery where they were, and in a moment was prepared, as best I could, to fight in that position. The infantry, our support, gave way

on the front and flank in disorder, almost with the first volley. I then opened on the enemy with canister, firing from 16 to 20 rounds, with good effect, as I have cause to know, for I passed over the ground in our front a few moments afterward a prisoner.

The assault of the enemy was fierce and overwhelming. After the first fire, in which I had 1 man killed, a number wounded, and 12 horses killed, the enemy charged with an impetuosity which carried everything before him. The battery was taken.

It would have been impossible for me to have saved my battery, even if I had commenced a retreat on the first alarm. The enemy was very near us before discovered, and the fight commenced without any of the preliminary skirmishing before a general engagement. To the best of my judgment, it was not more than five minutes from the firing of the first shot to the catastrophe when my battery was taken and myself a prisoner. In the mean time some of my horses returned, were hitched in, and killed. The rest were driven back by the fierce fire from the front. I deemed it my duty to stay with my guns so long as a single shot could be fired, or a chance exist of their being supported and retaken. I did not realize the helplessness of the case until I was surrounded and retreat impossible.

In the brief time we were engaged I had 3 men killed, 25 wounded, and 22 taken prisoners.

I wish here to compliment my men for their determined bravery; they obeyed orders implicitly, and stood by their guns to the last.

I would not be understood in this report as casting the slightest reflection on the discretion or vigilance of my brigade commander. I am not capable of criticising his orders, nor would I be permitted to do so had I the disposition. I had learned highly to respect General Kirk as a fine gentleman and accomplished soldier. I revered him for his heroic courage in the presence of an enemy. He was dangerously wounded in a desperate attempt to rally his broken regiments to support my battery, riding almost upon the bayonets of the enemy.

As I have been charged with grave errors on the occasion of the battle, I respectfully request that I may be ordered before a court of inquiry, that my conduct may be investigated.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. P. EDGARTON,

Captain Battery E, First Regiment Artillery, Ohio Vols.

Col. JAMES BARNETT,

Chief of Artillery.

No. 33.

Report of Lieut. Albert G. Ransom, Battery E, First Ohio Light Artillery.

IN CAMP NEAR MURFREESBOROUGH, TENN.,

January 7, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report the part taken by Battery E, First Regiment Ohio Artillery, in the movement of the Federal army on Murfreesborough and the battles before that town.

Leaving camp near Nashville, December 26, 1862, but marching in rear of two other divisions, the Second was not that day engaged. We

bivouacked south of Nolensville, and early on the morning of the 27th instant started on the road to Triune. Before we had proceeded more than 1 mile, heavy skirmishing was heard in front, and one section of our battery was ordered forward by General Kirk. Our place in the march being in rear of the Second Regiment, when the head of the column had reached the top of a ridge beyond which cavalry skirmishing was still going on, a masked battery of the enemy on the left and commanding the road opened on it. Our pieces were at once unlimbered, and, after firing twelve rounds, got no response from the enemy's guns. The infantry skirmishers had filed off the road to the left, and our entire battery now moved rapidly after them.

Leaving the pike, the skirmishers moved to the top of another ridge, and our battery, following, was at once placed in position there, from which point it opened fire from every gun, driving the rebels out of range. Here we were ordered to await the uplifting of a very heavy fog, and, when the infantry moved forward, again sought the pike, which we followed until the skirmishers reported the enemy again in sight and in line of battle. A fine position, on a hill overlooking Triune, and within the range of the rebel cavalry, in line of battle facing our left, was found here, and four pieces opened from this eminence, throwing shot and shell into and beyond the town, and into the rebels on right and left.

When we first came in sight of Triune, the road was filled with rebel cavalry, and one section, unlimbering in the road, made them its especial mark. The town was soon made untenable, and in an effort made by the rebel battery planted above the village to return our fire, it was driven off with one gun disabled. The enemy again retired before our fire, and the skirmishers, following up as fast as the nature of the ground would admit, threatened the capture of his guns, which he fired rapidly, and which we could not return, as he had cut down a bridge, obliging us to search a crossing more than one-half mile down the creek. When our battery again appeared, the enemy had drawn off, but we threw several shots in the direction of his retreat.

We were not again in action until the evening of December 30, when the Second Brigade was ordered to support the right of General Davis' division, threatened by rebel cavalry. They showed themselves in force, but, having secured a good position, a few shells threw their ranks into confusion and made them retire. The right of General Davis was at this time suffering from the shells of the enemy's battery, to which we turned our attention, and had the satisfaction of silencing the battery after a few rounds. Knowing our danger on the right, we planted two pieces on the road by which it was supposed the enemy would come, kept the horses harnessed all night, and took every precaution we thought necessary to guard against surprise.

At daylight on the morning of the 31st instant the pickets gave the alarm, and skirmishers were firing, but as yet could see no enemy. The horses were quickly hitched, except a few, perhaps one-half of which were on their return from water, and were brought up at once. Failing to distinguish the enemy, two shells were thrown in the direction of their fire, and, when they appeared, canister. Six rounds were poured into the moving mass with great effect, but, attacked in front and flank, we soon saw our horses shot down, the work evidently of sharpshooters, who moved in the advance and on the right and left, until the whole column being now upon us, we had not horses enough to save our guns.

The number of deaths among our men, and particularly the fact that two of them were bayoneted at their guns, will show conclusively the courage and tenacity which influenced them on the occasion. Com-

pletely overpowered, it became necessary to retire with a few horses--perhaps 30.

In conclusion, allow me to express my heartfelt regret at the loss of Captain Edgerton, whose manly voice rang out above the din of musketry, encouraging his men, and giving orders coolly and judiciously. He preferred to go a prisoner with his battery to leaving his much-cherished pieces. In mentioning the other officers and men, the name of Lieutenant Berwick comes foremost, who, an adopted citizen, rushed to arms at the first call, and, in acts as well as words, proved his unchangeable love of the freedom which enticed him from his bonnie hills. The sergeants and men behaved with noble devotion, as the death of three of the former will fully testify, while the alacrity shown by all to enter the service anywhere, so they could fight for their country, proves patriotism and courage.

Accompanying this report I append the names of those known to have been killed and wounded.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. G. RANSOM,
First Lieutenant, Commanding.

Capt. D. C. WAGNER,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Second Brigade.

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No. 34.

Report of Col. William H. Gibson, Forty-ninth Ohio Infantry, commanding First Brigade.

HDQRS. FIRST BRIGADE, SECOND DIVISION, RIGHT WING,
Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 5, 1863.

CAPTAIN: The capture of Brigadier-General Willich renders it my duty to report to Brigadier-General Johnson, commanding division, the participation of this command in the events of the last ten days. In accomplishing this task, I shall address myself to a concise narrative of occurrences, that "the truth of history may be vindicated," the memory of our heroic slain honored, and that justice may be done to the brave survivors, who, by their energy and stubborn courage, maintained a conflict for six days, and vanquished the great army of our foe.

Leaving camp, near Nashville, December 26, 1862, the first and second days' march was without incident, and took us through Nolensville to Triune, 20 miles.

The following day we reconnoitered the country 7 miles to our front, in the direction of Shelbyville, and developed the fact that the rebel forces had retreated the day and night previous in the direction of this place. In that reconnaissance we made 41 prisoners of war.

On the 29th we moved upon this place, reaching the Salem road, 4 miles distant, after dark, and slept upon our arms in rear of General Davis' division.

On the 30th we advanced upon this position, acting as a reserve to the right wing, and were not brought under fire that day. In the evening we took up a position on the extreme right of our army on the Franklin road. General Kirk's brigade was in front, with pickets thrown out to the margin of open fields. To his rear and near his right, in open woods, was Edgerton's battery in position, with a narrow cleared field in front. To the right of this battery, and on a line perpendicular to the

rear of General Kirk's right, were the reserves of the Thirty-ninth and Thirty-second Indiana, of this command, portions of each being on picket duty.

The direction of the Franklin road is due east and west at this point, and it was covered by General Kirk's right, his line of battle fronting east and in advance of a lane running north and south, 8 yards wide, and intersecting the road at right angles. In this angle is a field of open woods 330 yards square. South of this is an uninclosed space covered by a few trees and near 100 yards wide, through which the Franklin road is located. At the fence, to the right of Edgarton's battery, five companies of the Thirty-ninth Indiana were camped in line of battle, fronting south. To their right the Thirty-second Indiana occupied a like position. Inside of the wooded field and within 30 yards of the fence the Forty-ninth Ohio was formed in line of battle, fronting south, its left resting within 100 yards of the lane and its right within a like distance of the west inclosure. In its rear the Eighty-ninth Illinois was in double column, closed in mass, fronting south. Perpendicular to the rear of the right of the Forty-ninth was the Fifteenth Ohio, in line near the fence, fronting west, its left wing resting within 60 yards of the Forty-ninth. In the southwest corner of this wooded field Goodspeed's battery was parked in oblong square. North and west of this field and south and east of the uninclosed space were cleared fields. The picket line of General Kirk covered his front and flank, connecting with that of this brigade at a fence 600 yards south of the left of the reserve of the Thirty-ninth Indiana. The pickets of the Thirty-ninth were advanced 700 yards in front of the reserve in an open corn-field. The pickets of the Thirty-second joined those of the Thirty-ninth and covered our flank and rear. At 3 a. m. Colonel Jones was ordered to patrol the woods 600 yards in front of his pickets. No indications of the presence or purposes of the enemy were discerned.

Here I beg leave to call attention to the very concise and satisfactory report of Lieutenant-Colonel Jones, commanding Thirty-ninth Indiana, and also to the report of Lieutenant-Colonel Erdelmeyer, commanding Thirty-second Indiana. These dispositions had been made and these precautions adopted by General Willich.

At dawn of day orders were received to build fires and make coffee. In a few moments after I met General Willich, who remarked that he would be absent a few moments at the headquarters of General Johnson, and in case anything occurred in front of our pickets he directed me to rally the Thirty-ninth and Thirty-second to their support.

At 6.25, and soon after meeting the general, firing was heard on General Kirk's right. The brigade was instantly ordered to take arms, and Lieutenant Miles, of the staff, was dispatched for General Willich. He was found, and started for his command, but his horse was shot under him, and he was made a prisoner before giving an order.

The enemy advanced upon our position with four heavy lines of battle, with a strong reserve held in mass. All these were in full view before the lines of General Kirk gave way. His left extended a great distance beyond our extreme right, and was thrown forward, so that his lines were, to some extent, oblique to ours. To the right of our position, and near the Franklin road, he took position with an immense force of cavalry. In fact, the center of Hardee's corps attacked our right. His lines were advanced with great rapidity, and his force could not have been less than 35,000, besides cavalry.

Portions of Polk's and Smith's corps were engaged. The lines of General Kirk soon yielded to an assault which no troops in the world

could have withstood. The Thirty-second and Thirty-ninth moved promptly, but were embarrassed by the retiring forces, and their safety endangered by an assault in overwhelming numbers upon front and flanks. Lieutenant Belding moved back with four guns, but was so hotly pressed that he could not put them in position with safety. He had done nothing in his original position, because the lines falling back in our front were between his guns and the enemy's line. He and his men stood at their pieces until the enemy's lines were within 50 yards, when they fell back, leaving two guns on the field, owing to the killing of horses attached to one and the breaking of the pole of the other.

The Forty-ninth remained in its position until ordered to retire, and fought desperately at every rod. The Fifteenth Ohio, Colonel Wallace, delivered six rounds before falling back, while the Thirty-second and Thirty-ninth Indiana bravely contested the ground on the right. The courage and activity of these regiments kept the enemy in check until our artillery horses could be hitched, and the dead of the foe showed the telling effect of their fire. With cavalry on their right, infantry assailing them on the left, and heavy masses rushing to the assault in front, these regiments were directed to retire as the only escape from annihilation or capture.

Edgarton's battery, after being uncovered by the lines of General Kirk, opened fire, but before three rounds were delivered the enemy reached the guns and captured the pieces. Unchecked, the foe rushed on, and as his advance reached Goodspeed's battery, his second line reached Edgarton's battery, and that gallant officer being wounded and made prisoner, his men continued to defend themselves with their gun-swabs. The Fifteenth Ohio, Colonel Wallace, had got into position, and, under cover of its fire, the Forty-ninth Ohio and Eighty-ninth Illinois were directed to retire by the flank. The Thirty-second and Thirty-ninth were now retiring in good order.

At this juncture, learning nothing of General Willich, I felt it my duty to exert myself as far as possible to save the command. Goodspeed's battery, under command of Lieutenant Belding, was ordered to retire to a position beyond an open field, and Lieutenant-Colonel Drake was directed to place the Forty-ninth Ohio in position at the same point.

Here I had hoped to rally the whole brigade, but Lieutenant-Colonel Drake was killed, and Major Porter, of the Forty-ninth, was severely wounded. My horse was shot, and most of our field officers were disabled or dismounted by the enemy's fire. From my position, looking to our center, I could see our whole line fall back rapidly in some disorder, though a constant fire was kept up to the right.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jones was bravely rallying his men, and large numbers, separated from other regiments, were moving directly west, instead of to our center. Lieutenants Belding and Scovill, with one gun, moved to the center, while Lieutenant Day, in charge of three guns, moved back toward the Wilkinson road, with our extreme right. After retiring for nearly half a mile, and rallying and fighting at every available point, my second horse was killed, placing it again out of my power to communicate with our center.

Soon after, a line was rallied and formed, extending west to a small creek, and Lieutenant Belding's gun was got in position. Beyond the creek Lieutenant-Colonel Jones and myself rallied, under cover of a fence and cedar thicket. As the enemy's columns neared our irregular lines, they were met by a rapid and deadly fire, and Lieutenant Belding opened fire at the same time with terrible effect. The rebel columns were checked and fell back across the open ground. Here they opened

on us with artillery and again advanced their infantry, our line falling back.

After thus rallying and meeting the enemy several times, we arrived with our flank on the Wilkinson road, a short distance west of our ammunition train. Here we were charged by the enemy's cavalry and lost one gun, all of us being in the enemy's power. My sword was demanded, but just at that instant a detachment of our cavalry made a dash for our rescue, and in the confusion of the moment most of us fought our way out and escaped.

The division train was got under motion, and we moved rapidly and in considerable disorder to the Nashville road, closely pursued by the enemy's cavalry. Here the colors of the Thirty-ninth Indiana were captured. At this moment I learned that a considerable portion of this brigade had reached the center; that General Willich had been killed or captured, and that General Wallace was in command of the brigade. A complete panic prevailed. Teams, ambulances, horsemen, footmen, and *attachés* of the army, black and white, mounted on horses and mules, were rushing to the rear in the wildest confusion. I exerted myself to arrest this panic, and hastened down the road until I met Colonel Walker with his brigade, who promptly formed in line of battle and put his artillery in position. With this assurance the tide was quite checked, and, placing a strong guard of cavalry across the road, Colonel Walker moved his command to the front, compelling every able-bodied soldier to fall in. I hurried them back to the front, and thus hundreds, if not thousands, were compelled to return to their commands.

In the evening this brigade was reorganized, and, by order of General Johnson, took position on our extreme right, in rear of Colonel Carlin's brigade, of the First Division.

Though repulsed and sustaining severe loss in officers and men the day previous, January 1 found us 1,300 strong, and eager to participate in the dangers and struggles of the field.

I was directed to reconnoiter the woods to the right and rear of our position, which was accomplished under the observation of Major-Generals Rosecrans and McCook. Though within range of the enemy's battery, we reached the woods unobserved, and soon met his sharpshooters, and discovered that he was massing his infantry under cover of these woods, with the apparent design of attacking our extreme right. In withdrawing we were harassed by shot and shell from his batteries, but sustained no loss. We were soon directed to reoccupy the woods, and promptly took up our position with the Fifteenth Ohio and the Thirty-second Indiana and Eighty-ninth Illinois, in line of battle (their front covered by skirmishers), and the Thirty-ninth Indiana and Forty-ninth Ohio, under Lieutenant-Colonel Jones, as a reserve. The enemy's cavalry made a dash upon our position, but were gallantly repulsed by our skirmishers.

The movements of the enemy on the right having averted the serious attention of General Rosecrans, troops were promptly placed in position to our left, and our lines withdrawn to the margin of the woods, our flank covered by a strong force of cavalry. The prompt movements of our forces and the splendid maneuvering of the commander-in-chief defeated the designs of the enemy, and no further attack was made.

Leaving this position on the morning of the 2d, by order of General Johnson, we were placed in an important position, so as to sustain the right, center, or left, in case of a reverse to either.

In the evening a terrible assault was made upon our extreme left, and

our forces were repulsed. We were ordered to make a charge with the bayonet. The brigade moved out and deployed in splendid style. It moved with alacrity and perfect order, clearing the field and reaching the river, where we were ordered to halt. Our right flank was exposed to the enemy's infantry, concealed in the woods on our right, while he annoyed us with a battery across Stone's River.

General Palmer attempted to drive the foe from the woods, but, meeting with strong resistance, his aide appealed to me for re-enforcements, and the Thirty-second Indiana was detached for that service. They met and repulsed two regiments, driving them across the river at the point of the bayonet. Nothing could exceed the gallantry and enthusiasm that this heroic regiment exhibited in this emergency. Our brigade changed the fortunes of the hour, and, under cover of our lines, the enemy was driven back and three pieces of artillery captured. Though under arms night and day, and maneuvering, we were not again brought within range of the enemy's musketry.

I must mention the fortitude and good cheer with which the officers and men submitted to the hardships and exposure of four long days and nights, without adequate rations or shelter; they cheerfully subsisted partly on parched corn, and rested in drenching rains.

On visiting the field over which we retired on the 31st, abundant evidence was presented of the desperate struggle. Our men rallied whenever summoned, and delivered their fire with deadly effect. Though the enemy's wounded and many of his dead had been removed, it is safe to affirm that his killed exceeded ours as three to two, and that vast numbers were wounded. It was before our fire that General Rains, of the rebel army, was killed, and a vast number of subordinate officers and men killed and wounded. Every rod of ground over which we retired was marked by the blood of the foe, and our men reached the center with empty cartridge-boxes.

Our loss was terrible, but unavoidable, and is, to a great extent, compensated by the result ultimately obtained. We went into action with 2,458 men and 113 commissioned officers. In killed, we lost 96, including 4 officers; in wounded, we lost 365, including 14 officers, and our missing reach 682, including 6 officers. Many of our missing escaped, and are safe in the rear, but it is probable that 400 were made prisoners.

Lieutenant-Colonel Drake, Forty-ninth Ohio, fell at the post of duty, bravely cheering his men. By his death the State has lost a valued citizen, his community an ornament, his family a noble husband and kind father, and the army a most gallant and faithful soldier.

Captain Keller, of the same regiment, fell as heroes love to fall. A true patriot and accomplished soldier, he carried with him into camp and field all the graces of Christianity.

Captain Willett, of the Eighty-ninth Illinois, fell while bravely leading his command, and such were his accomplishments as a gentleman and soldier that it will be difficult to fill his place.

Throughout these trying days and nights officers and men did their duty nobly, with a few exceptions—a few officers failed to earn the confidence of their men, and some privates sought safety in flight.

The Fifteenth Ohio evinced the greatest courage, and many of its officers deserve special mention. Colonel Wallace, always prudent, energetic, and brave, fully sustained his high reputation as a soldier, and won the admiration of all who witnessed his conduct. Lieutenant-Colonel Askew fell, early on the 31st, while heroically cheering his men.

Captain Dawson was especially distinguished for thrilling heroism and persistent courage. This officer, conspicuous in so many battles, and so well qualified, merits, and should receive, honorable promotion.

Adjutant Dubois, of the same regiment, deserves special mention for gallantry and good conduct.

The Forty-ninth Ohio sustained its high reputation, and, though it lost 10 officers, it faced the foe at every point. Captain Gray, as ranking officer, had charge of a portion of the regiment on the 31st, and proved himself brave, prudent, and competent for any command. Adjutant Norton was especially heroic, and excited general admiration by his inflexible courage and great activity. Both of these officers merit, and I hope will receive, promotion. Captains McCormack and Tyler were ever active, brave, and self-possessed in the midst of dangers, and showed themselves worthy and competent to command.

The splendid conduct of the Thirty-second Indiana fully sustained its claims to confidence. Every officer and man did his duty heroically. Lieutenant-Colonel Erdelmeyer, commanding, and Major Glass and Captain Mank were especially conspicuous throughout the long struggle.

Lieutenant-Colonel Hotchkiss, commanding Eighty-ninth Illinois Volunteers, deserves the highest praise for his coolness and skill in action. He drew off his men in good order, fighting as he withdrew, and showed himself worthy of any command. This gallant officer has given to the service one of its best regiments, and has justly earned promotion. Major Hall and Captain Whiting, brave and valuable officers, I regret to say, were made prisoners. All the officers and men of this regiment did their duty promptly, and earned the confidence of their companions in arms. Captain Williams, commanding during the illness of Lieutenant-Colonel Hotchkiss, is an efficient and competent officer.

The Thirty-ninth Indiana, Lieutenant-Colonel Jones commanding, fought with desperation and terrible effect. Its list of casualties shows that where it moved the battle raged most fierce. Men could not have evinced greater courage and heroism. Captains McClelland, Cody, McCoy, Graham, and Captain Herring, acting major, merit the highest praise for their activity and energy. Lieutenant-Colonel Jones discharged his duties in the most gallant manner; ever active and brave, he rallied his men at every point, and yielded only before overwhelming numbers. He met the foe in hand-to-hand conflict, and owes his escape to the skillful use of his side-arms. I beg leave to urge the name of this most meritorious officer upon the Executive of his State for promotion.

I cannot too highly commend the good conduct of Lieutenants Belding, Scovill, and Day, of Battery A, First Ohio Artillery, and the men under their command. The loss of three guns was from no fault of any one. Lieutenant Belding did splendid execution upon the enemy's column, and proved himself worthy of a command. I cannot too strongly urge his promotion upon the Executive of Ohio.

Surgeons Kunkler, Park, Tuttle, Kelly, and Pitman, as well as Dr. Corey, hospital steward of the Forty-ninth Ohio, remained on the field and labored for days and nights, unaided, in caring for our wounded. For thus faithfully performing their duty, at the risk of maltreatment, and possibly captivity, they have secured the confidence and respect of this command.

On the evening of the 31st, Captain Schmitt, Lieutenants Green, Miles, and McGrath, of General Willich's staff, reported to me for duty, and in all the subsequent operations of the command these gallant officers

were vigilant and prompt in every duty, and to them I am under special obligations for suggestions on the field. Though not acting under my personal observation on the 31st, they were in the thickest of the fight, and officers of experience speak of their conduct as being most intelligent and heroic in rallying our forces. James Purdy, mounted orderly, merits especial praise for his activity and courage throughout the week of battles.

I must express the deep regret of officers and men at the capture of Brigadier-General Willich; having the confidence of the brigade, and being a soldier of education and experience, his removal from the command at this juncture is a public misfortune.

To Brigadier-General Johnson we are under obligations for constant vigilance, unremitting energy, and his many acts of kindness and expressions of confidence toward this command.

In the name of the brigade, I am allowed to thank Major-General McCook and the general-in-chief for their flattering attentions on the field, and for their repeated exhibitions of confidence in our efficiency, prudence, and courage.

I am, most respectfully,

W. H. GIBSON,
Colonel, Commanding First Brigade.

Capt. J. R. BARTLETT,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 35.

Report of Lieut. Col. Charles T. Hotchkiss, Eighty-ninth Illinois Infantry.

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTY-NINTH ILLINOIS INFANTRY,
FIRST BRIGADE, SECOND DIVISION, RIGHT WING,
In Camp near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 7, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by this regiment in the series of engagements between the Federal and rebel forces near Murfreesborough, Tenn., and upon the approaches thereto, commencing on December 26, 1862, and ending on January 4, 1863, when the latter, under General Bragg, were defeated by the army of General Rosecrans and forced to evacuate all their positions in and about Murfreesborough.

This regiment left camp, in front of Nashville, with my brigade on the morning of December 26, taking the Nolensville pike and moving slowly with the column (as the enemy had to be driven by the advance) through Nolensville, Triune, and along the Murfreesborough and Franklin road, arriving, on the night of the 30th, at a point about 3½ miles due west from Murfreesborough, where, just after dark, the brigade was put in position on the extreme right of our right wing, about 200 yards in rear of and at right angles with Kirk's brigade.

My regiment was formed in double column at half distance in rear of the Forty-ninth Ohio, which was formed in line, fronting south. The Fifteenth Ohio formed in line, fronting west, on my right flank, with Battery A, First Ohio Artillery, near the right flank of the Forty-ninth Ohio and the left flank of the Fifteenth Ohio, the Thirty-second and Thirty-ninth Indiana Regiments being on picket covering the front of

3 p. m., after which it was not again engaged with the enemy, exerting himself, to the best of his ability, to form, rally, and cheer his men, and that, when the regiment reached the position last named, he left, for the first time, to have his wound examined and dressed.

2d. That on the several succeeding days of that week the said regiment was not actually engaged with the enemy, except slightly on the Friday afternoon; that during that period Colonel Wallace, having been relieved by Colonel Gibson from the command of the brigade, had taken command of the regiment, and the necessity for Major McClenahan's presence and services was not so great; that, accordingly, he was not continually present with the regiment after the 31st of December, 1862, until January 3, 1863, nor on duty with it, but went on duty on the date last mentioned, on the order of his brigade commander; and subsequently, upon a medical certificate and by order of the medical director, went to Nashville for treatment, and obtained leave of absence for twenty days on account of his wound.

Upon these facts the court is of the following opinion:

That there was nothing in the conduct of Major McClenahan, on the occasions referred to, that can be construed to support any charge of cowardice, disobedience of orders, or other misbehavior in the face of the enemy, but that he is censurable for not assuming the formal command of the regiment during the actual engagement on the 31st of December, 1862.

II. The finding of the court is approved.

By command of Major-General Rosecrans:

C. GODDARD,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 39.

Report of Col. Joseph B. Dodge, Thirtieth Indiana Infantry, commanding Second Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND BRIGADE, SECOND DIVISION,
In Camp near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 8, 1863.

SIR: In compliance with your order of the 7th instant I have the honor to respectfully submit the following report of the operations of this command since the 26th of December last up to the evening of the 31st ultimo:

On the morning of December 26, last, this brigade left camp, near Nashville, under command of Brig. Gen. E. N. Kirk, and marched out on the Nolensville pike about 12 miles, where we encamped during the night. Although there was heavy skirmishing in our front and on each flank, we were in nowise engaged with the enemy during that day, as there was a heavy force of Federal troops in front of this brigade and between it and the enemy.

On the morning of the 27th we were ordered to resume the march, and on that day the brigade was in advance of our whole forces, with the exception of the cavalry, which was thrown out as skirmishers in advance.

About 1 mile from where we had bivouacked for the night the enemy made his appearance in considerable force, composed of cavalry and supported by artillery, all of which opened upon us, and he showed a disposition to contest the ground over which we wished to pass. The

Thirty-fourth Regiment Illinois Volunteers and the Twenty-ninth Indiana were promptly deployed as skirmishers, each regiment retaining a good reserve, and thrown forward, with instructions to push on as rapidly as possible, which order was obeyed with alacrity and skill, and the other regiments of the brigade moved forward in line of battle, the Thirtieth Indiana supporting Edgerton's battery.

Owing to a dense fog, which enveloped everything, so that we could not distinguish the troops of the enemy from our own, it was deemed prudent to halt until the fog partially disappeared, when we again moved forward, with continued skirmishing on our front, until we gained an elevated position overlooking the village of Triune. Here the enemy were in plain view, drawn up in line of battle, the center of their line being in the village. Edgerton's battery opened upon them immediately with splendid effect, soon throwing them into disorder, and disabling at least one piece of their artillery, as I have good reason to believe. While in this position a very heavy rain commenced, accompanied with fog, rendering an advance immediately hazardous.

The fog disappeared again in the course of about an hour, when we again advanced; but, owing to the ground being very much softened by the rain, the men's clothes were so saturated with water that it was impossible to do so at the rate of speed desired. The enemy had destroyed a bridge across a stream that runs through the edge of the town, thus compelling the artillery to make a detour of nearly a mile to a ford, and by this means gained time to collect his scattered forces and withdraw. On that night we bivouacked about 1 mile south of Triune.

During that day this brigade lost none in killed or wounded, but inflicted considerable loss upon the enemy. The officers and men engaged showed themselves to be cool, skillful, and courageous, and behaved splendidly.

We staid at the above-mentioned place all of the 28th, and on the morning of the 29th took up our march for Murfreesborough. During this day nothing of importance occurred. We bivouacked that night in an open field, without fires, and in a cold, drenching rain.

On the morning of the 30th we were ordered out to take position, preparatory to an expected attack upon the enemy. Heavy skirmishing and fighting was going on in front of us during the whole day, in which we took no active part until about 3 p. m., at about which time we arrived at the extreme right of the line of our army.

At that time the enemy had a battery of artillery stationed directly in front of this brigade, which was pouring a destructive fire into some troops on our left, belonging to Brig. Gen. J. C. Davis' division. General Kirk immediately ordered Captain Edgerton's battery to open upon it, which order was complied with, with great execution, dismounting one of the enemy's pieces, and killing quite a number of men in a very few moments, and driving him from his position.

There was no more firing, either from artillery or infantry, that evening or night. The brigade was formed in line of battle, the Thirty-fourth Illinois, Maj. A. P. Dysart commanding, on the extreme right; the Twenty-ninth Indiana, Lieutenant-Colonel Dunn commanding, next on the left; the Thirtieth Indiana, Col. J. B. Dodge, next, and the Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania, Lieutenant-Colonel Housum commanding, on the left; Edgerton's battery (E, First Ohio Artillery) in the rear and to the left of the Thirty-fourth Illinois, in a cedar grove, with a rather dense thicket immediately in front of the three left regiments. A strong

picket line was thrown out from 150 to 200 yards in front, with a corn-field in front of their (the picket) line. Every precaution that was possible was taken to prevent surprise, and to give seasonable warning of the approach of the enemy.

The brigade was up and under arms for nearly or quite an hour before daylight. Just after daylight a part of the horses of the battery were unhitched from the caissons and taken to water, which was close by. Just at this moment the enemy made his appearance on our front and right in immense force, and formed in close columns, with a front equal to the length of a battalion in line and ten or twelve ranks in depth. General Kirk immediately ordered the Thirty-fourth Illinois to advance to near where the picket was stationed, in order to check, at least, the advance of the enemy, and save the battery, if possible, which movement was promptly executed under an awful fire, which almost annihilated the picket line or line of skirmishers, which it really was, and killed or wounded a large number in the line, some 150 or 200 yards in the rear. The battery under command of Captain Edgerton immediately opened with canister upon the enemy, and only had time to fire eight rounds before the battery was taken. Nearly or quite one-half of the horses were killed or wounded, so as to be unmanageable, by the first fire from the enemy, and it was impossible to remove it from the ground.

Captain Edgerton and his officers and men fought nobly, as the number of killed and wounded will testify, and did everything possible to maintain their ground against an overpowering force. The captain was taken prisoner while assisting to work his guns, and Lieutenant Berwick was bayoneted and taken prisoner while assisting him. General Kirk was seriously wounded at almost the first fire, and I then succeeded to the command of the brigade.

The fire the enemy received from us, although well directed, and as effective as a fire from two ranks generally is, produced no visible effect upon him as he moved his heavy column forward upon a double-quick. General Rains, who commanded a part of their column, fell dead or mortally wounded at this point.

The enemy then moved to the left oblique, or nearly, by his left flank, until his center was opposite our extreme right, when he moved forward again, changing direction to his right as he did so, so as to bring his whole force upon our most exposed point. We held our ground until our ranks were not more than 20 yards from the enemy, when I was forced to retire, having no support and seeing that it was a needless waste of life to contend in that position with at least twenty times the number of men I then had left, which was done in the best order possible, across a corn-field in the rear and to the left of our first position, to a field one side of which was on rising ground and overlooking the ground over which the enemy must advance to attack.

I here formed the Thirtieth Indiana, at that time under command of Lieut. Col. O. D. Hurd, of that regiment, and the Seventy-ninth Illinois, Col. S. P. Read commanding, that had just reported to me (it having been detailed to guard a train the day before, and had just arrived upon the field), behind a fence on the rise of ground before spoken of. Before the Seventy-ninth Illinois reached the fence, and while it was at least 200 yards distant from it, the enemy made his appearance and instantly poured a terrible fire into their ranks. Although a new regiment, they advanced with a firmness that would have done credit to veterans, and, after reaching the fence, poured a terribly destructive fire into the enemy

Here, assisted by Captain Simonson's (Fifth Indiana) battery, this brigade, unsupported, except by the Third Brigade, which was on our left, and almost alone, succeeded in checking the enemy, bringing his columns to a halt, and requiring the utmost exertions of his officers to keep his men from fleeing in disorder from the field, during all of which time a tremendous fire was kept up. The enemy finally succeeded in throwing his left wing forward across the fence, thus outflanking this brigade and dislodging us from that position; but the number of dead left by him on that ground for five days afterward shows conclusively that it was by far the dearest position to him that he gained that day.

Colonel Read, of the Seventy-ninth Illinois, was killed instantly while bravely urging his men on. In his death the service has lost a fine officer, a brave soldier, and a true man. Adjutant Stribley, of the Thirtieth Indiana, was also killed here. The service contained no braver or cooler officer than he. The Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania, Lieutenant-Colonel Housum commanding, at the time of the occurrences above mentioned was some 600 yards on the left of the troops under my immediate command, acting with a brigade in General Davis' division. While hotly engaged with the enemy, Colonel Housum was wounded severely, from which he died shortly afterward. He was a cool, clear-headed, courageous officer and gentleman.

After being driven from the fence, I retired my command to a piece of woods in the rear of my former position, the enemy closely following up with infantry on our rear and cavalry on our left flank. I halted my command twice, and formed a line and undertook to hold him in check, but it was impossible to do but little, owing to our weakened condition and the absence of all support.

I finally fell back to near the Murfreesborough and Nashville turnpike, and made up my mind that the enemy must be stopped there. I had at that time the Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania, Captain Rose commanding, Twenty-ninth Indiana, Major Collins commanding, and about 100 men belonging to the Thirtieth Indiana, Thirty-fourth Illinois, and Seventy-ninth Illinois; in all, about, at that time, 500 men. By command of Brigadier-General Johnson, I formed my little force on the right of Captain Simonson's battery, which was in action with one of the enemy's batteries, which was soon silenced, immediately after which it (Captain Simonson's battery) was placed in another position.

I wish to be pardoned for testifying here to the skill, efficiency, and courage displayed by Captain Simonson and his officers and men during that day. I then moved my command some 150 yards to the right of where it had been while supporting the battery, into a piece of woods, and took a good position for defense.

Some troops belonging to some other division moved in on my left just at that moment, and a moment after the remains of the column that made the first attack in the morning made its appearance, coming up on a double-quick. I immediately gave the command forward, and my command met them, poured in a deadly volley, and rushed forward. Their advance was stopped, their line wavered, and in a moment was in full retreat, and thus the brigade that received the first attack from this column in the morning had the satisfaction of giving it the first repulse it received during the day. I followed them but a short distance, when I got a regiment to relieve the command I had left, as they were entirely out of ammunition, and, by order of General Johnson, I took them back and formed along the railroad, and got a supply.

I was then ordered back to the bank of the river, where I awaited

further orders. While there, an officer rode up and informed me that the enemy's cavalry was attempting to cross the river some distance below, near a hospital, and that it was important that we should have a force there. There was no superior officer near, and I took the responsibility of at once moving to the point designated and forming in line. The enemy, seeing us approach, promptly fell back, but not until he had taken quite a number of prisoners, as I understand.

I then returned to the turnpike, and at dark bivouacked in the woods near by, where we spent the night.

On the morning of the 1st instant I placed my command in line, under your directions, and we immediately threw up a line of breastworks, behind which we bivouacked until the evening of the 3d instant, without any movement of importance on our part, with the exception that on the 2d instant, at about 9 p. m., I was ordered to take four companies from my command and a like number from the Third Brigade of this division, and to advance to our front until I reached the Franklin turnpike or found the enemy in force.

It was a very dark night, and I took my little command according to your orders, deployed the whole as skirmishers, and started. I first crossed an open field or fields nearly to the woods in our front, where I could distinctly hear the enemy chopping and moving either artillery or heavy wagons. When we got about 20 yards from the edge of the woods, I distinctly heard officers giving commands to their men, and, fearful that I was going into a trap, I ordered my men to fire, which was promptly obeyed, and my suspicions confirmed, as the enemy returned a withering volley in reply. Found at least ten times the number I had with me. Having ascertained that the enemy were in heavy force near our lines, thereby accomplishing the purpose for which I was sent out, I ordered my men to retire, which they did in good order, losing but 4 wounded; none killed.

The officers and men under my command, during this terrible battle, behaved with great coolness and courage under the most trying circumstances.

I cannot help but bring to the notice of the commanding general the gallant conduct of Capt. T. E. Rose, of the Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania Regiment, who took command of his regiment after Lieutenant-Colonel Housum was wounded, and who, by his skill, perseverance, and energy, kept his regiment well together, and, by his example, urged on his men to attack the enemy when all around was disorder and confusion.

Major Collins, of the Twenty-ninth Indiana, took command of that regiment about 9 a. m. on the 31st, after Lieutenant-Colonel Dunn had, by some means, become separated from his command, and fought nobly.

Major Buckner, of the Seventy-ninth Illinois, took command of that regiment after the death of Colonel Read, and gallantly rallied his men, and showed himself worthy of a higher position than he now holds.

Maj. A. P. Dysart, commanding the Thirty-fourth Illinois, distinguished himself in his efforts to arrest the enemy's progress, and his regiment stood by him until it was utterly impossible for the same number of men, without support, to do so longer.

Lieutenant-Colonel Hurd, commanding, and Major Fitzsimmons (who was taken by the enemy), of the Thirtieth Indiana, showed that they were worthy of the positions they occupy. Both needlessly, almost, exposed themselves, and were untiring in their efforts to stop the progress of what seemed a victorious enemy.

I can but express my heartfelt thanks to my staff for their conduct on the field—firm, cool, energetic, and fearless, their assistance was invaluable. Capt. D. C. Wagner, acting assistant adjutant-general; Capt. E. P. Edsall, acting assistant inspector-general; Lieut. I. C. McElfatrick, topographical engineer, and Lieutenants Baldwin and Walker, aides, were untiring in their efforts to rally the troops, and to their exertions the whole right wing of the army is, in my opinion, indebted.

Dr. George W. Hewitt, acting brigade surgeon, was untiring in his exertions in behalf of the wounded, and was captured while at his post by the enemy, as was also Dr. Hostetter, of the Thirty-fourth Illinois, Dr. Keen, of the Twenty-ninth Indiana, and Dr. McAllister, of the Seventy-ninth Illinois, were all taken where a surgeon should be in time of action, attending to the duties of their profession. While in the enemy's lines they were engaged night and day in taking care of our wounded. They have been released since, and their horses retained by the enemy, in pursuance, as they report, of order of General Wharton. Surgeon Downey, of the Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania, was fortunately spared, and staid with the brigade. He was of invaluable service to those who were so unfortunate as to require the attention of a surgeon.

The medical department of this brigade was in splendid condition, thanks to Dr. Hewitt and division medical director, Dr. Marks, and, notwithstanding our loss in surgeons, the wounded were well cared for.

Chaplain Bradshaw, Seventy-ninth Illinois, and Chaplain Decker, of the Thirty-fourth Illinois, exposed themselves in the most fearless manner in taking care of the wounded, taking them off the field, &c., and proved themselves to be well worthy, at least, of the positions they occupy.

This brigade met with a serious loss, in the person of General Kirk, early in the engagement. He fell at the head of his brigade, trying manfully to resist and repel the overwhelming force thrown against it.

Accompanying, please find a summary of killed, wounded, and missing of this command. The missing are, a large majority of them, I fear, wounded and in the hands of the enemy; also, please find reports of regimental commanders of this brigade and complete list, by name, of casualties.

Respectfully submitted.

J. B. DODGE,

Colonel Thirtieth Indiana, Commanding Second Brigade.

Captain BARTLETT,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

P. S.—Excuse me for calling the attention of the general commanding to a gallant charge made by the Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania, while they were separated from this brigade, and were acting in concert with a brigade in Brig. Gen. J. C. Davis' division. A battery in possession of the enemy made its appearance directly in their front and opened upon them. Lieutenant-Colonel Housum immediately ordered a charge upon it, which was obeyed instantly by his command. The cannoneers were either killed or wounded, the horses disabled, so they could not move back. The Seventy-seventh had possession of *Captain Edgerton's battery*, which the enemy had brought along with them, for a few moments, but before they could do anything more than compel the enemy to spike the guns, a heavy force of infantry made its appearance in their front and flank, and they were compelled to retire, during which movement Lieutenant-Colonel Housum was mortally wounded.

General summary of killed, wounded, and missing in the Second Brigade, Second Division (Right Wing), in the battle before Murfreesborough, Tenn., on December 31, 1862.

Command.	Taken into action.			Field officers.			Company officers.			Enlisted men.			Total loss.		
	Field and staff officers.	Company cers.	Enlisted men.	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.	Commissioned officers.	Enlisted men.	Aggregate.
29th Indiana	6	18	313	.....	.....	1	1	12	.....	14	66	51	4	131	135
30th Indiana	4	21	463	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	30	108	70	.....	208	213
34th Illinois	5	19	330	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19	98	72	6	189	195
79th Illinois	5	16	416	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	23	68	121	212	219
77th Pennsylvania	3	16	288	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	4	28	4	60	64
Edgarton's battery .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	23	90	1,810	2	.....	2	4	10	8	90	368	342	26	800	*826

Very respectfully submitted.

J. B. DODGE,
Colonel Thirtieth Regiment Indiana Volunteers, Commanding Second Brigade.

Owing to the absence of the officers and men of Battery E, First Ohio Volunteer Artillery, I am unable to procure a report of casualties, &c., as required by your order.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. C. WAGNER,
Captain, and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 40.

Report of Maj. Alexander P. Dysart, Thirty-fourth Illinois Infantry.

HEADQUARTERS THIRTY-FOURTH ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERS,
Camp near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 7, 1863.

SIR: In compliance with circular, dated January 7, 1863, from Headquarters Second Division, requiring a minute statement of regimental commanders of the operations and casualties of their respective regiments from the time of leaving camp, near Nashville, Tenn., up to the expiration of the battle at Murfreesborough, I have the honor to submit the following report:

On Friday, December 26, 1862, this regiment, under command of Lieut. Col. H. W. Bristol, left camp, near Nashville, Tenn., and marched that day to one-half mile south of Nolensville, where we encamped for the night.

Next day, December 27, 1862, the Second Brigade being in advance, the Thirty-fourth Illinois was in advance of the brigade. After advancing nearly three-quarters of a mile, General Kirk ordered Colonel Bristol to throw forward four companies of his regiment on the left of the pike as skirmishers. Companies A, F, G, and B were detailed for that purpose, and placed under command of myself and Captain Van Tassel. We moved forward, the remaining companies of the regiment marching immediately in the rear of the skirmish line, as a support, the skirmish

* But see revised statement, p. 208.

line advancing, driving the enemy through Triune, and halting about 1 mile south of that place near dark. The distance skirmished over that day was nearly 5 miles. Although exposed to the enemy's fire from their artillery and musketry nearly all day, we had no one killed, wounded, or missing. We went into camp that night a short distance to the rear of where we had advanced with our skirmish line, and remained in camp at that place the next day (being Sunday) without performing any duties only those required on that day.

On the morning of December 29, 1862, we were ordered back toward Nashville $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and turned off the pike on a dirt road to the right, leading in the direction of Murfreesborough, and, after marching 6 miles, went into camp between 10 and 11 o'clock that night. The Thirty-fourth Illinois was rear guard for the brigade teams that day.

On the morning of the 30th, about 10 a. m., we moved forward in the direction of Murfreesborough 3 miles, when we were ordered to the right. The Thirty-fourth Illinois was ordered to support Captain Edgarton's battery, which was moved to the extreme right of our lines, and opened fire on a rebel battery that was firing into the right flank of Davis' division. General Kirk ordered two companies of this regiment to be thrown out as skirmishers (A and B), under the command of Captain Van Tassel, extending the line across an open field to a piece of woods, about 100 rods farther to the right than our troops occupied. Captain Edgarton's battery soon silenced the rebel battery, and it was now near dark.

Colonel Bristol, being unwell, was compelled to leave the regiment, and the command then fell upon myself. I received orders that I was to picket immediately in my front, and that General Willich would join his pickets on the right. This was done shortly after dark. I was then ordered to encamp the remainder of my regiment in the rear of the left of my picket line, and within 30 rods of the same. Everything was quiet through the night.

Just before daylight I had my regiment under arms, and moved it forward some 4 rods in advance of where I was encamped, so that I could more conveniently deploy into line, as I had my regiment in double column. A few minutes after daylight one of my lookouts reported to me that the enemy was moving down on us with an overwhelming force. I immediately sent word to General Kirk, and rode immediately myself to find General Willich, who was encamped in my rear not more than 30 rods. I failed to find the general; they told me he had gone to see General Johnson. I informed some of the officers of his brigade that the enemy was advancing. I hurried back to my regiment, and I then received an order to advance my regiment and try to hold the enemy in check, which was done.

After advancing out in the open field about 15 rods, the enemy opened upon us, my men returning the fire. They were now exposed to the fire of nearly five times their number, as I only had 354 men, including the officers. Ten or twelve of my men were killed, and some 60 odd wounded, before I received an order to fall back in support of the battery. I gave the order for them to fall back. Not one of my men or officers left their post before I gave them the order. When we returned to the battery everything was confusion; the First Brigade was not in position; were engaged, many of them, cooking their breakfast. I endeavored to hold the battery with what few men I had, but it was of no use; the enemy were fast surrounding us, and the only alternative was to retreat or be taken prisoners. I gave the order for them to retreat, and would, I think, have been able to keep them together, but

they got mixed up with the First Brigade, and were carried too far to the left, where many of them were taken prisoners.

I rallied some 50 of my men, and made a stand behind a rail fence, about three-quarters of a mile from where I formed my first line, and opened a destructive fire on a regiment of cavalry that was bearing down upon us, but, finding it impossible to hold that position, I had to fall back to near the pike, when I was ordered to assist our train with what few men I had left.

January 1, what was left of my regiment was put in with the Thirtieth Indiana, and took part with that regiment, under the command of Captain Hostetter, Company I, Thirty-fourth Illinois Volunteers, I being sick and unfit for duty. They were engaged in skirmishing from behind breastworks that were erected.

January 2, they were engaged the same as on the 1st, and on the 3d the same routine of duty. The Thirty-fourth Illinois lost no one killed or wounded after the battle of December 31, 1862.

I need not particularize the services of any officers under my command, for both officers and men did their duty nobly; although being compelled to retreat, they stood firm till we were overwhelmed by superior numbers.

I attach a list of killed, wounded, and missing.* Many of the missing, I have no doubt, are wounded and in the hands of the enemy.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ALEXANDER P. DYSART,

Major, Commanding Thirty-fourth Illinois Volunteers.

Capt. D. C. WAGNER,

Asst. Adjt. Gen., Second Brigade, Second Division.

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No. 41.

Report of Maj. Allen Buckner, Seventy-ninth Illinois Infantry.

HDQRS. SEVENTY-NINTH REGIMENT ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERS,
In the Field, near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 7, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report to you that the Seventy-ninth Regiment Illinois Volunteers left camp, near Nashville, on December 26, under command of Col. S. P. Read, for Murfreesborough, via Nolensville, but was not in action until Wednesday, December 31.

This regiment was detailed on the morning of the 30th as rear guard of the division train, and at night encamped on the right and to the rear of the brigade, as ordered, throwing out a strong line of skirmishers to the front and right.

On the morning of the 31st the men were under arms at daylight, about which time the brigade was attacked in front by such a heavy force that it began to fall back. Colonel Read requested that I should go forward and learn of Colonel Dodge, who was then in command of the brigade, General Kirk having been wounded, what he should do. I did so, and told him that the Seventy-ninth was ready and waiting to do anything it could. He directed me to tell Colonel Read to hurry the regiment forward as soon as possible, which was done, he bravely leading his men on to the field amid a destructive fire from the enemy. The regiment marched up on the double-quick until it arrived on the right of the Thirtieth Indiana, becoming the right of the brigade, and

* Embodied in revised statement, p. 208.

commenced pouring a deadly fire into the ranks of the enemy. It was not long before I heard some one say that Colonel Read had fallen. I went immediately to where he was lying, and found that he had been shot directly in the forehead, thus falling at his post and facing the enemy.

My attention was at once called, by one of the officers, to the fact that the enemy was flanking us on our right. I directed the men to fire right-oblique, but could not check them. They rushed forward, opening on us a deadly cross-fire. I saw that in a few moments we would be surrounded, and consequently ordered a retreat, which was made across an open field to the woods, a distance of some 300 yards, exposed all the time to a destructive fire of artillery and musketry, killing and wounding a great many of our men.

At the woods I tried to rally the men, but we were so closely pursued by overwhelming numbers that it was impossible. The regiment became very much scattered, although the officers did all they could to keep them together. Many of them joined other regiments and fought during the day. I was able to keep enough men together in the brigade to form a nucleus around which to rally.

A few of our men acted cowardly, but the regiment, as such, fought as bravely as men could. As to the officers, I must say, to my personal knowledge, that Captains Van Deren, Young, Low, Martin, Lacy, and Pinnell, and also Lieutenants Mitchell, Williams, Patten, Albin, Jacobs, Braddock, and Bigelow, stood to the work, and have gained a name as brave officers. I must speak of Adjutant Lamb, as doing his duty as none but a faithful officer could. Likewise, Assistant Surgeons McAlister and Wheeler, who staid with the wounded and dying, although they were compelled thereby to fall into the hands of the enemy for a time; they have done their part to the utmost, to both officers and men. Last, but not least, the chaplain, C. S. Bradshaw, was with us all day, assisting to carry off the wounded. He conducted himself in such a manner as to command the love and esteem of both officers and men. Sergeant-Major Harding did his part with true courage. Sergeants Boyle, of Company C, and Harding, of Company D, also deserve a great deal of credit for the manner in which they rallied their men, their commanders having been wounded early in the action.

For numbers and names of killed, wounded, and missing, I refer you to report already made.*

Respectfully submitted.

ALLEN BUCKNER,

Major, Commanding Seventy-ninth Illinois Volunteers.

Capt. D. C. WAGNER,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

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No. 42.

Report of Maj. Joseph P. Collins, Twenty-ninth Indiana Infantry.

CAMP NEAR MURFREESBOROUGH, TENN.,

January 7, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report the part taken by the Twenty-ninth Regiment Indiana Volunteers in the advance on Murfreesborough from Nashville, and the battles before that place.

On the morning of December 26 last, we struck tents, sending the

* Embodied in revised statement, p. 208.

train back to Nashville, and left camp, following, in the order of march, the Thirtieth Indiana and Thirty-fourth Illinois. The divisions of Generals Davis and Sheridan preceded the Second, and in the skirmishing with the enemy on the road and near Nolensville we had not an opportunity to take a part.

On the 27th, the Second Division and Second Brigade were the advance forces, and in regular order the Twenty-ninth Regiment Indiana Volunteers followed the Thirty-fourth Illinois. We had not marched over 1 mile when sharp skirmishing was heard ahead, between our cavalry and that of the enemy. Pushing rapidly forward to the summit of a ridge, beyond which the skirmish was going on, we became exposed to the fire of a masked battery of the enemy, which opened on the head of the column, with shot and shell.

Advantage was taken by Generals Johnson and Kirk of a cedar thicket, covering this ridge, to move the Thirty-fourth Illinois and Twenty-ninth Indiana to the left of the road and toward the enemy. Orders were immediately given by General Kirk to Colonels Bristol and Dunn to throw out skirmishers to cover their regiments, the Thirty-fourth Illinois and Twenty-ninth Indiana, which were drawn up in line of battle in front of the thicket, but in an open field.

The skirmishers, being ordered forward, moved over the ground just wrested from the enemy by our cavalry, until they reached the top of another ridge, divided by a narrow valley from the rebel battery. Here we were ordered to halt, to await the issue of an artillery duel between it and Captain Edgarton's battery (E, First Ohio Artillery), attached to the Second Brigade, as well as the lifting of a dense fog, which rendered a hasty movement to the front extremely perilous.

When objects at a distance could be distinctly seen, and the rebel battery silenced, we were again ordered forward, without seeing the enemy, until we had reached a hill overlooking the town of Triune. Large bodies of rebel cavalry were posted in the town and in our front, on the left of the road, about three-quarters of a mile distant. Our artillery was again brought into action, leaving us the privilege of witnessing the hurried retreat of both bodies of the rebels.

When we next advanced they moved their cannon toward us and plied the advancing regiments with shot, shell, and grape-shot. Supporting their artillery we discovered a large force of dismounted cavalry, posted on a hill covered with timber, whose leaden compliments attracted our attention. The skirmishers were ordered forward on double-quick, but the torrent of rain which poured down on us had made their clothing and the plowed field so heavy that the efforts of the men at double-quick were painful and almost futile. They pushed on, however, as rapidly as possible, and by a well-directed fire drove the rebels from the woods, and prevented them again forming within rifle range.

The rebel artillery retreated toward Triune, taking advantage of every rise of ground to check our advance, until the skirmishers of the Twenty-ninth Indiana had almost secured a position in the woods to the rebel right, from which the capture of the rebel guns was perfectly feasible, when the bugle again sounded a halt, and the rebels moved off rapidly. Forward once more, and the line of skirmishers had reached the top of another ridge and halted, leaving the reserve at its base, when we were surprised by the sudden appearance of a regiment of rebel cavalry on our left, within 20 yards, and moving leisurely to the front. I ordered the reserve to wheel to the left and fire, which was heard by the rebels, who instantly quickened their pace to a gallop, but were unable to pass in time to save their entire column. Several were seen to reel in their sad-

dles, and all changed direction by the left flank, making for the woods. Immediately afterward a squad appeared, made a demonstration on the deployed line (Company A, Twenty-ninth Indiana), but failed to intimidate the men or force the line. With a shout, the skirmishers rushed forward, poured in a galling fire, unhorsed 4 or 5, took 1 prisoner, badly wounded, while Company F, Twenty-ninth Indiana, on reserve at the same time, forced another to surrender without a wound.

This cavalry force was the First Confederate Regulars, and I only regret that the fear that this might be Colonel Stokes' cavalry, which had all day supported our left, but of whose personal appearance I was ignorant, rendered their loss so slight. We advanced half a mile farther, when we bivouacked for the night.

After we had reached our final halting place, the Federal (Stokes') cavalry emerged from the woods on our left, but at sufficient distance to leave a gap, through which the rebels escaped.

Until December 30 we were not again engaged in any movement or preparation for the attack on Murfreesborough. On this day we moved in reserve to the column of General Davis until 3 p. m., when the Second Brigade, Second Division, was ordered to the right of General Davis' division, which was threatened by rebel cavalry. The Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania and Thirty-eighth [Thirtieth] Indiana were thrown forward as skirmishers, to the first of which the Twenty-ninth acted as reserve. We moved forward until we reached the reserve of General Davis' right, where the rebel cavalry was distinctly visible in line of battle, but not within range. Captain Edgarton's battery having taken position, soon put them to flight. While in line at this point we were exposed to the fire of the rebel battery supporting their skirmishers, but it was immediately silenced by ours.

About dusk a line of battle was determined upon, and, by order, the Twenty-ninth Indiana took position on the left of the Thirty-fourth, which supported the battery on a lane leading to Murfreesborough and behind a dense thicket of cedars. Steps were at once taken to guard against surprise. A large company (B) of our regiment was sent out as pickets, with instructions to act as skirmishers should the enemy appear, our line connecting that of the Thirty-fourth Illinois on the right and the Thirtieth Indiana on our left, both of which lines were established sufficiently in advance to command a wide range of vision, and enable the regiments to form in time to meet any attack. The night passed without alarm on our line until about 3 a. m., when a shot fired on the picket line, to our right, brought every man to his place in the ranks.

About daylight we were again alarmed by general firing on the picket line, and immediately afterward by shouting in front, but to our right. The men instantly grasped their loaded guns, while I, by Lieutenant-Colonel Dunn's order, rode to the front, along the lane, to ascertain the cause of the firing, and, the force coming down on us emerging from behind the thicket, I saw a heavy column moving rapidly down on the Thirty-fourth Illinois, firing as they advanced, and opposed bravely and vigorously by the pickets and skirmishers. Riding farther down the lane, to obtain a view of the open country beyond the thicket, I saw a column of like proportions moving down on the Twenty-ninth Indiana. I galloped back to the regiment with this information, and found that Lieutenant-Colonel Dunn, anticipating, had thrown forward another large company (C) to support the pickets and skirmish among the cedars. This company, ably and gallantly led by Lieut. S. O. Gregory, pushed forward through the entangled mass until within a few yards of the

rebels, and only fell back when overpowered, leaving some of his men killed and wounded. Situated as our regiment was, we dare not fire lest we kill our own men, whom we could not see, from which circumstance we were obliged to receive the storm of bullets without a response; and the resistance of our skirmishers under Lieutenants Gregory, Hess, and Macomber was so obstinate that the rebel column had advanced within 20 yards of our line before they received a shot from us.

Our first fire, delivered lying down, partially checked the advance, and enabled the men to load and fire four or five times; but while engaged in front, the column which pressed on the Thirty-fourth Illinois and the battery had moved so far forward as to uncover our line, giving them the opportunity to deliver a raking fire upon us. The troops on our right had fallen back, and Lieutenant-Colonel Dunn considered that the peril of his situation demanded a retreat. We fell back about 80 rods, and formed behind a corn-field fence, every man loading and firing in retreat, through which field the rebels were pushing vigorously; but as no other troops appeared ready to sustain the shock, the regiment was moved some rods farther to a piece of woods, where we took our position in line of battle.

The Thirtieth Indiana now made its appearance from a corn-field in front and to our left, and, moving still farther to the left, took position behind a fence facing the advancing enemy, who had not yet emerged from the woods at that point. To gain a position beside the Thirtieth Indiana, Lieutenant-Colonel Dunn moved by the flank, under cover of the woods, until directly in its rear, but 40 rods distant, when a section of Simonson's battery came up and unlimbered directly in our front.

The rebel infantry now poured into and through the corn-field, meeting with obstinate resistance from the Thirtieth Indiana and Seventy-ninth Illinois, and the artillery, which the Twenty-ninth now supported. Here we lost Capt. Frank Stebbins, Company G, who was struck by a 12-pound ball in the thigh, causing his death very soon. He had bravely led his men, and by his own conduct inspired them with courage and daring.

Up to this time we had the discreet and tried leadership of Lieutenant-Colonel Dunn, and the valuable assistance of Captain Jenkins, acting field officer; but the former got separated and cut off from the regiment, and the latter, going a short distance to the rear for ambulances to carry off our wounded, of whom we had a great number, was also cut off from us. We did not see Lieutenant-Colonel Dunn again, nor Captain Jenkins until the afternoon; but both, we heard, were busy rallying the runaways and stragglers at the pike and railroad, until the former was taken prisoner, and the latter had turned over his men to their respective regiments.

The artillery limbered up, moved to the rear, passing General Davis' division hospital, which we followed until we reached the wood near the hospital, where we found the Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania, under Captain Rose, in line of battle. I at once formed the Twenty-ninth on its right to await the rebel onset. All seemed pushing to the rear, and, finding our shattered forces unsupported, we again moved in perfect order still farther toward the pike, and again formed our line, having the Ninety-third Ohio on the right, and, I believe, a Kentucky regiment on the left. The artillery did not halt here, and before any enemy appeared in front we found our small force flanked on the right by rebel infantry and cavalry, and on the left by an unknown force.

Again we moved leisurely back to a point designated by General Johnson as one suitable to make a stand. This was on the elevated ground west of the pike, on the east side of which we saw a large force

of Federal troops congregated. Colonel Dodge, Thirtieth Indiana, now commanding our brigade, placed us in position in a thicket, our left resting on the section of artillery planted on the most elevated point, and supported on the right by the Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania, its right resting on the woods.

Sharp cannonading ensued; but a few minutes' hot work satisfied our artillerists that they could not contend with two batteries and hold their position. They retired to the pike. Colonel Dodge now directed us along the woods to the road, where we again formed our line. The yells of the rebels coming through the cedar woods became plainer and plainer. The balls rained among us. When within range and in sight, the order to advance was given by Colonel Dodge. With a yell, the line rushed forward, determined to stop the sweeping tide or die. This very unexpected attack on the victorious column entirely changed the aspect of affairs. For the first time that day it was checked. It tried to withstand the withering fire, but soon gave way; at first slowly, but, as our line rushed on, the retreat became a rout. We still pushed on rapidly, few in numbers, but determined, with orders not to waste ammunition, and followed the running horde until every cartridge was expended, when Colonel Dodge, after great exertions, got other troops to take our places. We fell back to the railroad for ammunition, when intelligence was brought that our rear, in the vicinity of the hospitals and train, was threatened by cavalry.

To repel this attack we were marched to a point near the hospitals, where we stood in line half an hour; but no enemy appearing, we again moved to the railroad. After this our force changed its position, as the heavy fire indicated a bloody contest, but we were not again under fire. At night we bivouacked on the pike.

Morning brought with it signs of a renewal of yesterday's fight, and we were placed in position on the edge of the cedar grove, nearest the enemy's line, where the men at once went to work securing their position with breastworks and abatis. The Twenty-ninth had no share in any of the ensuing contests, and was entirely occupied on picket duty, and standing to arms on every alarm to resist any attack on our line.

Volunteers were called for to drive the enemy's skirmishers into the woods and burn some log-houses, in which their sharpshooters found shelter and excellent positions to annoy us. Among the number were several of the Twenty-ninth Indiana, one of whom was killed.

Nothing further of importance occurred, unless I mention the fatigue duty performed by details from this regiment, which succeeded in finding and burying our dead and all our wounded, except those who fell into the enemy's hands.

I cannot close without paying a tribute of praise, well merited and proudly given, to the officers and men of my command, who, Spartan-like, rallied at every call around our glorious old flag, and who would not desert it when all around looked dark and hope had almost fled. Allow me to mention, with feelings of extreme gratification, the names of those who nobly did their duty:

First, Adjutant Coffin, who, exposed more than any other, carrying orders to different parts of the line, never once quailed before the storm. He is an excellent officer, fearless, prompt, and deserving of the highest praise.

Captains Stebbins, Jenkins, and McCaslin Moore. First Lieutenants Melendy, who, though wounded, would not leave until trampled by cavalry; N. P. Dunn, who stuck to the flag, severely wounded, until forced by his companions to retire to a hospital; A. Dunlap, J. E. Houghton, G. W. Maloon, T. J. Henderson, and Hess; also Second Lieuts. S.

O. Gregory, commanding Company C, and Hess, commanding Company B, directed the skirmishers; Irenus McGowan, C. P. Butler, William H. H. McDonald, John Cutler, Macomber, and O. C. Sabin.

While the storm raged without, Surgeon Keen and Rev. Mr. Shaw, chaplain, were busy dressing wounds and doing all they could to alleviate the sufferings of our wounded. Assistant Surgeon Griffith, hospital steward, and corps were elsewhere engaged, but all were busy with their duties. I would not pass over the names of the non-commissioned officers, who, with very few exceptions, were heroes in the fight, giving a noble example to the men, and assisting very materially in maintaining order and discipline; but this report is already too long, and I close.

Accompanying this is a list of casualties.*

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. P. COLLINS,

Major, Commanding Twenty-ninth Indiana Volunteers.

Capt. D. C. WAGNER,

A. A. A. G., 2d Brig., 2d Div., Right Wing, 14th Army Corps.

No. 43.

Report of Lieut. Col. Orrin D. Hurd, Thirtieth Indiana Infantry.

HEADQUARTERS THIRTIETH INDIANA VOLUNTEERS,
Camp near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 7, 1863.

SIR: In accordance with circular dated January 7, issued from Headquarters Second Division, requiring a minute statement from regimental commanders of the operations of their respective regiments, including casualties, I have the honor to report that on Friday, December 26, 1862, this regiment, under command of Col. J. B. Dodge, left camp, near Nashville, Tenn., marched half a mile south of Nolensville, where we encamped for the night.

Next morning, December 27, the Second Brigade being in advance, we left camp at sunrise, and moved in the same direction on the turnpike as day previous. After advancing 1½ miles we were ordered into line of battle to support Captain Edgerton's battery, in which manner we moved 3 or 4 miles, and until dark, when we were ordered out on out-post picket.

On the next day, December 28, after being relieved from picket, we remained in camp without any actual service.

On December 29, we moved back toward Nashville 2 miles and took a cross-road leading toward Murfreesborough, and, after moving 6 miles, encamped for the night.

On December 30, we moved toward Murfreesborough 3 miles, when we were ordered off to the right, and, after throwing forward two companies each from the right and left flanks as skirmishers, moved forward 1 mile in line of battle, and bivouacked for the night in a cedar thicket.

On the morning of December 31, the enemy moved upon us in force about daylight, driving in our pickets, making it necessary for us to fall back or move out by the flank to the right; the latter movement was made with the loss of 1 man, slightly, and 1 mortally, wounded, except upon the picket line, which, being doubled during the night by two additional companies, to insure vigilance and safety, suffered severely upon being driven in.

* Embodied in revised statement, p. 208.

The movement by the flank was a fortunate one for us, for had we remained any longer in that position we would have been cut to pieces or taken prisoners by the enemy, who were in great force on our front. After moving to the right and rear about half a mile, we formed a line of battle in a meadow behind a fence, where we were joined by the remnants of the four companies which were on picket the night before. After sending out two companies as skirmishers across a field to a fence directly in our front, we moved up to the same place, and the action commenced.

General Kirk having been wounded early in the morning, and Colonel Dodge, of this regiment, having taken command of the Second Brigade, the command of this regiment fell upon the undersigned.

After the regiment upon our left and we had sustained the enemy's fire for some time, the Seventy-ninth Illinois Volunteers advanced to our immediate right and supported us gallantly; but being outflanked by a superior force of the enemy, and exposed to a heavy cross-fire, they fell back, and we were obliged to do the same, having no support whatever, and having suffered heavy loss, as hereinafter stated. In retiring, the men became very much scattered, but were mostly collected again, and then we were ordered to the front, on the right of the Murfreesborough turnpike, 3 miles from the town.

January 1, after erecting breastworks we remained behind them, without any further active service, except skirmishing on picket line.

January 2, the same routine of duty as the day previous, except in the evening, when the left wing was sent out with parts of other regiments of this brigade as skirmishers to feel the position of the enemy; but after receiving a severe fire, and supposing the enemy to be in force, we returned their fire briskly for some time and then retired to the breastwork.

January 3, same routine of picket duty as the day previous. It is unnecessary for me to particularize the services of any officer or man, for both officers and men performed their duties well and gallantly.

I have also a statement of the killed, wounded, and missing to submit, as follows:

Killed	30
Wounded	108
Missing and prisoners	70
Number in battle:	
Commissioned officers	24
Enlisted men	463

All of which is respectfully submitted.

O. D. HURD,

Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Regiment.

Capt. D. C. WAGNER,

A. A. A. G., 2d Brig., 2d Div., Right Wing, 14th Army Corps.

No. 44.

Report of Capt. Thomas E. Rose, Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania Infantry.

HDQRS. SEVENTY-SEVENTH REGT. PENNSYLVANIA VOLS.,
In Camp near Murfreesborough, January 8, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of the Seventy-seventh Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, from the time of leaving

camp, near Mill Creek, Tenn., December 26, 1862, to January 3, 1863, viz:

We broke up our camp, near Mill Creek, December 26; sent our wagon train to Nashville, and took up our line of march in the direction of Shelbyville, on the Nolensville turnpike, and encamped in the evening a short distance beyond Nolensville.

December 27, we continued our march in the same direction and on the same road. At 8 a. m. we encountered the enemy within 2 miles of Triune. We were immediately placed in position with the balance of our brigade on the left of the road. Our front line was composed of the Twenty-ninth Indiana Volunteers on the left, the Thirty-fourth Illinois Volunteers on the right, and the Thirtieth Indiana Volunteers in the center. Our regiment and the Seventy-ninth Regiment Illinois Volunteers were held in reserve, but advanced with the brigade, our regiment covering the Twenty-ninth Indiana Volunteers. Skirmishers were thrown forward by each of the three first-named regiments, as also were two companies of the Seventy-seventh Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, which occupied the extreme left of the line. In this manner we advanced toward Triune, driving the enemy from his position, and took possession of the town, the enemy retreating toward Shelbyville. We encamped about 1 mile beyond Triune, near the turnpike.

December 28, we remained in camp, where we stopped the evening before.

December 29, we retraced our march on the same road for 2 miles, and turned off on a dirt road running in an easterly course into the Salem turnpike, at the junction of which two roads we, silently and without fires, encamped for the night.

December 30, we marched toward Murfreesborough, on the Salem turnpike, for about 3 miles, when we were thrown into column, by division, into the woods on the right of the road, with the balance of our brigade and division. At this time heavy skirmishing was going on on our left and in front. We advanced for a short distance, when our regiment and the Thirtieth Regiment Indiana Volunteers were ordered to change front to the right, deploy column, and throw out skirmishers. We then advanced, moving toward the right of the general line of battle for about a quarter of a mile. We then changed front to the left, and occupied a dense cedar grove. The position of our regiment was now on the right of the Twenty-second Regiment Indiana Volunteers, of General Davis' division. It was here that we received a heavy fire from a rebel battery that was stationed to the right and in front of us in an open field by the edge of a woods, at a distance of 500 yards. After a sharp skirmish it was silenced, when we threw out our pickets and remained for the night. Our position was now on the left of our brigade and on the right of Davis' division.

December 31, we were under arms at 4 a. m., and at daylight we discovered the enemy in large force within 60 yards of our pickets, who immediately commenced firing, when the enemy advanced to a furious attack. As the pickets retired, our regiment advanced to meet the enemy, and resisted their attack with desperate valor, repulsing the forces immediately in front, with great slaughter, and compelling them to retire across the brook, where we first found them posted, into a cornfield beyond. This was the first attack that was made on our lines; but almost at the same time the enemy's columns on our left, which were directed on those regiments on our right, pressed furiously onward, bearing down everything before them. Those regiments on our right fell back after a short but desperate resistance, as was shown by

the great mortality on both sides. Soon after this, the regiment on our left changed position to our rear, leaving our regiment completely isolated and battling against great odds, with the danger of being surrounded. We were ordered to retire for about 150 yards, and then march to the right, in order, if possible, to reattach ourselves to the balance of our brigade, which had been driven from its first position. While doing this we fell in with a portion of General Davis' division, and were advised that we had better co-operate with that division for the present, as our brigade had by this time retired so far that it would consume much valuable time in finding it that could be used at this particular juncture to great advantage by re-enforcing one of his (Davis') brigades. We posted ourselves on the right of Davis' division, in front of which was a rebel battery, at a distance of about 400 yards. A little to the right and in front of this was Edgerton's battery, which had been previously captured by the rebels in the onset, and was still in their possession.

It was here that our regiment charged alone, recapturing Edgerton's battery, and up to the guns of the rebel battery, through a hurricane of grape and canister, until we were confronted by several thousand of the rebel infantry, when, as we were unsupported, we were obliged to retire to the line from which we started on the charge, leaving our much-loved battery in the hands of the rebels, as we had no means of moving it off. Yet we were repaid for this desperate charge as much as for any we made during the day in damaging the enemy and holding him in check.

We retired in good order, and halted and formed in our previous position, on the right of Davis' division. Here Colonel Housum fell. The battle was here hotly contested for some time, when our forces began to give way, fiercely pursued by the enemy, who came near taking a battery of ours at this place.

As soon as the battery was safely off, we retired to the fence, on the opposite side of the field, where we stood alone for some time contending with the rebels, until they commenced scaling the fence on our right and left, when we retired to the woods, and again made a stand. We thus continued for some time, taking advantage of everything that came in our way, moving slowly, and our line never broke once throughout the day; but we fought every time we could find a line to rest on, or wherever we could gain a position in which we could for a minute successfully make a stand.

When we came near the Nashville and Murfreesborough turnpike we fell in with a portion of the Twenty-ninth Indiana Volunteers, under the gallant Major Collins; also a portion of the Thirtieth Indiana Volunteers. These, with our regiment, were now joined together as the remnant of the old Fifth Brigade, under Colonel Dodge, as brigade commander. We were posted on the edge of the woods by General Johnson, on the right of General Van Cleve's division, which had just come up. The rebels were now coming on with tenfold more impetuosity, and our men were ordered to lie down quietly behind a fence, which partly protected us. We waited here until the rebels were within a short distance, when we up and delivered our fire with such great effect that the rebels began to give way.

We now pitched into them with whoop and yell, all the time delivering a most destructive fire, and soon the whole rebel column was in full retreat. We drove them half a mile, when our ammunition gave out and we were relieved, when we retired to the railroad to obtain a fresh supply. This was the first check of importance that the rebels received,

as it saved our ammunition train and secured for our forces an important position. From the break of day until 12 m. our regiment was under constant fire, and terribly our ranks were thinned. At night our regiment went on picket.

January 1, 1863, we remained under arms on the crest of the hill, where we ended our final charge on the 31st ultimo.

At 4 p. m. we received a heavy fire from a rebel battery, which was soon silenced.

January 2, remained in the same position as on the 1st. A heavy battle was fought on our left, in which we took no part. In the evening we went on picket. A heavy skirmish took place immediately in front of our line.

January 3, still remained under arms in our old position. At night, in the midst of the rain, the last final struggle was made, in which we took no part.

During this great battle our little regiment did no discredit to the old Keystone State. Officers and men stood up and did their duty nobly. Among those noted for conspicuous valor I must mention Adj. S. T. Davis, who rendered me invaluable assistance throughout the battle; also Capt. F. S. Pyfer, Company K; Capt. William A. Robinson, Company E; Capt. A. Phillips, Company G, and Capt. J. J. Lawson, Company C, all of whom cheered and encouraged their men throughout the battle with a coolness which belongs to none but veteran officers. That our line never broke shows that our men fought like veterans.

We went into action with 288 men. We lost, in killed, 5, including Lieutenant-Colonel Housum; in wounded, 29, including 1 commissioned officer; missing, 29, including 2 commissioned officers. Total, 63. Of those missing the greater part are either killed or taken prisoners.

I must not forget to mention the valuable services and noble conduct of Dr. Downey, the assistant surgeon of our regiment. He remained with us throughout the battle, and displayed the most indomitable energy and courage in attending to our wounded, and in superintending the whole medical department, which came within his sphere.

I regret to say that, notwithstanding the great valor displayed by our regiment as a body, there were some miserable cowards who skulked away during the excitement of the battle, and left their comrades to perform their duty. I have carefully obtained their names and rank, however, and shall forward them without delay.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, your obedient servant,
TOM. ELLWOOD ROSE,

Captain, Comdg. Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers.

Capt. D. C. WAGNER,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Second Brigade.

No. 45.

Report of Col. Philemon P. Baldwin, Sixth Indiana Infantry, commanding Third Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD BRIG., SECOND DIV., RIGHT WING,
In Camp near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 8, 1863.

I have the honor to submit a report of the operations of this brigade from the time of its leaving camp, December 26, until Saturday, January 3.

This brigade moved with the division, and on the 27th was engaged

in the skirmishing about Triune. I deployed the First Ohio and the Sixth Indiana on the right of the road, these regiments being supported by the Ninety-third Ohio and Louisville Legion, the battery taking post on the road, and later in the day being posted near the right of my line. We drove the enemy and bivouacked beyond Triune.

This brigade remained at Triune to cover the extreme right, in obedience to your order, and rejoined the division, on the 30th, in the woods to the right of Wilkinson's pike, about 3 miles from Murfreesborough.

At 2 o'clock this brigade moved off 2 miles to the right, to support a cavalry reconnaissance, Colonel Anderson's regiment being sent forward to support the cavalry, while the remainder of the brigade was held in reserve at a point on the Salem pike.

The brigade returned to the woods, near the headquarters of the division, after dark, and bivouacked there.

At daybreak next morning I was informed by stragglers, who were running across the open field in my front, of the attack on Generals Willieh's and Kirk's brigades.

I immediately ordered the brigade under arms, and proceeded to form line of battle in the edge of timber facing the large open fields over which I knew the enemy must come to attack me.

I deployed the Louisville Legion on the right, and was proceeding to post the First Ohio in the center, and the Sixth Indiana on the left, holding the Ninety-third Ohio in reserve, to protect either flank, when you ordered me to move the First Ohio across the open field and post it at the fence. The Sixth Indiana was moved forward and posted in the edge of a skirt of timber to the left of the First Ohio, the Thirtieth Indiana and Seventy-ninth Illinois being posted on the right; a section of the Fifth Indiana Battery was posted between the First Ohio and Sixth Indiana. The Louisville Legion moved to within supporting distance of the First Ohio, and the Ninety-third Ohio held in reserve in the woods near the edge of the field.

These dispositions were scarcely made when the enemy, in immense masses, appeared in my front at short range, their left extending far beyond the extreme right of my line. My infantry and artillery poured a destructive fire into their dense masses, checking them in front, but their left continued to advance against my right. Here four pieces that Captain Simonson had posted near the woods, in rear of my first line, poured in a terrible fire; but the enemy came in such overwhelming numbers that, after half an hour's stubborn resistance, my line was compelled to retire, not, however, until the enemy had flanked my right and were pouring in an enfilading fire. Had my line stood a moment longer it would have been entirely surrounded and captured. Falling back to the edge of the woods, I endeavored to make a stand. I moved the Ninety-third Ohio up to the left of the Louisville Legion, but my line was again forced back, almost before I had got the Ninety-third in position. Ordering Colonel Anderson to retire in good order, I succeeded, after making several short stands in the woods, in forming the brigade near the railroad. Under your orders I took position on the right of the Nashville pike, together with the rest of the division, and held it during the succeeding skirmishes, throwing up a breastwork of logs, rails, &c.

Nothing occurred here but unimportant skirmishing, sometimes quite warm, but always resulting in our driving the enemy. A house about 300 yards from our line was held by the enemy's skirmishers, who annoyed us exceedingly by their fire. It was captured and burned by two companies of the Louisville Legion, after a severe fight.