

Solomon Palmer Diary

During the battle our Regt. was attached to Jackson's Brigade, Wither's Div. Bragg's Corps and the Whole Army was Commanded by Gen'l Albert S Johnson. This was my first fight, and although I was very anxious to get into it, yet after it was over I sincerely hope it might be my last. Our Regt. had to bring up the rear in the retreat from Shiloh back to Corinth. Soon after the battle I take Sick and have to be sent to the rear. I Stay at Thomas Shearers Okolong [sic] and I shall ever be under many obligations for the kindness of himself and family. May the choicest blessings of Heaven rest upon them. From there I got furlough and came home arriving there 11th of June. I remained at home for the recovery of my health till the 25th of Aug when I again joined the Army again at Smith Crop Roads on its way into Ky. Even at this time I was not very well recovered from my Severe Sickness in Miss. which came very near killing, and was consequently but illy [sic] able to take the long laborious trip into Ky. for which the army was preparing. Yet I did it. Marching Several hundred miles never leaving my Co. and never getting into an ambulance. Near Lewisburg my Co. was delayed and Skirmish with the enemy but no one got hurt. After a tiresome, and for ought we could See, unprofitable Campaign, we arrived back at Knoxville Tenn the last of Oct. We had no tents and had lost a great portion of our clothing, and during a Snow Storm & Suffered probably as much as I ever did for the Same length of time. I had to cut with a dull ax my own wood and [four illegible words] to keep from freezing

Am in the neighborhood of Lebanon, and after Staying there a week we were ordered to our place in line of Battle in front of Murfreesboro preparatory to a general engagement. The battle opened on the cold morning of the 31st of Dec and raged all day. Lets, [sic] Skinner and Beavers were both mortally wounded here. The Cop of the Co was Severe. Some 20 or 30 wounded, Several mortally, but none I believe killed dead on the field. Capt Skinner having resigned in Mip [sic] I was Capt. when I joined the Army at Smith's X Roads and consequently was in command both in Ky. and during the battle of Murfreesboro. Gen'l Bragg was in command both now and through Ky. We were in Wither's Div. and Deas' Brigade and Polk's Corps.

We remain at Murfreesboro two or three days and have a Severe fight with the enemy on the night of our retreat. From here we go to Shelbyville where we remain the rest of the winter. On 20th of Jan. I get application to go to rear approved for my health was extremely bad. I go to Huntsville and from there I get Short leave of absence to go home. After near a months absence I return to my command, but my health is but little if any improved. I remain with the command till the last of April. Till I am Sent to Hospital

by the Surgeon. Go to Atlanta, from there I get leave of absence to go home. About the 1st of June I again join the command Still at Shelbyville. My health fully restored

I stay at Shelbyville till the 1st of July when we retreat to Chattanooga. 4th Vicksburg fell. We remain in in [sic] the neighborhood of Chattanooga till about the 1st of Sept. when we begin to maneuver preparatory to a general engagement which took place in Chickamauga Creek Ga. Between Fayetteville [sic] & Chattanooga on 20th of Sept. My Co. went into the fight with 44 guns but 7 were killed dead on the field and about 18 or 20 wounded. This was probably the Severest fight of the war particularly in the western Army. We drove the enemy from the field and made him take refuge behind his works at Chattanooga. We next take position on Missionary Ridge in front of Chattanooga Ga. On Missionary Ridge we have a very hard time both on account of heavy picket duty and Scarcity of rations. I was now Major of the Regt. having been passed by the Board of Examinations over the heads of Several Senior Captains who waved their right in my favor. I took rank as Major from 25th of Sept. We remain on the Ridge till Nov. 25th when we have a general engagement with the enemy and are driven from our position and have to retreat. The defeat must have been caused by the bad management of our officers. Our loss was heavy both in Artillery & prisoners. We have a cold disagreeable march getting to Dalton where we go into winter quarters. We build winter quarters of pine poles and make ourselves comfortable and begin the reorganization of the Army under Gen. Joe E. Johnson.

Guard duty is Severe under Gen. Johnson the baggage trains are very much reduced and the morale of the Army is very much battered. Several men of our Regt. are Shot for desertion. In Feb. I get leave of Absence and go home for 25 days J. P. Cowdur goes with me. The Army remains quiet at Dalton till about the first of May. Gen Johnson in Command of the Army Gen Hood of our Corps Gen Hindman of Div and Gen Deas' of Brigade [illegible] Cavl. S K McSpadden of Regt. About the 1st of May we have unmistakable evidence that Gen'l Sherman is preparing for an advance. He flanks our position and we have to fall back to Redueea [sic] where we form and Skirmish heavily with the enemy. Col McSpadden is captured and Several officers and men killed and captured from the Regt. we again have a partial engagement with the enemy at New Hope church where we have 13 men wounded. This was 25th of May. on 27th Gen Cleyburn [sic] worsted the enemy very much in an engagement. 27th of June they attack our works on the [illegible] saw line but are repulsed with heavy loss to them but little to us. on the 20th of June I was in as Severe a Shelling as I ever was in during the war. 1st of July we fall back across the Chathanoogie [sic]. We rest a few days but the enemy still pursues. On the 18th of July we learn that Gen Johnson is relieved from command and Gen Hood appointed in his place. Although the army had [illegible] retreating yet its morale was good and in all the engagements we had we had been Successful for we had acted on the defensive and had killed two and three of the enemy

where they have killed or wounded but one of ours. The Army had the utmost confidence in Johnson and his being relived had a most demoralizing effect upon the Army more So than the worst kind of a defeat in Battle. It was believed that Hood's policy would be to fight and he soon Showed that it was. on the 20th our Corps attacked the enemy in his works and was repulsed. On the 22nd our Corps attacked and was repulsed with terrible loss. On the 28th our Div. again attacked and was repulsed. In these two engagements the loss of my Regt. for at this time I was in command of the Regt., was not much less than 150 killed and wounded. Several very gallant officers fell. And I was Struck over but was able to remain on the field. On 28th all the color guard was wither killed or wounded. And a private bearing them was killed Several [illegible] inside of the enemy's works. The enemy paid him a tribute of respect by buring [sic] him on the Spot where he lay with the colors in his hand and placing the following Inscription over his head.

Here lies a rebel color bearer who planted his colors here. A month afterwards we got possession of the ground and took him up and tried to identify him, but decomposition had so far taken place that it was impossible. He is one of many gallant ones whose bones lie bleaching & Sad relics of the Sad and disastrous war. Requiescet in peace