

Company F. This soldier was too badly wounded to carry his gun. He asked to be allowed to carry the colors, and did so through the rest of the day. Three color-bearers had been shot down previously. In Sixth and Seventh Arkansas: Captain [J. W.] Martin, Lieutenant [J. A.] Reeves, and Captain [S. C.] Brown, ever foremost in leading their men; Captains [J. G.] Fletcher, [W. E.] Wilkerson, and [M. M.] Duffie (wounded); Sergeant-Major Eddins, Sergeant Bratton, Company H; Private Hulse, Company K; the color-bearer, whose name has not been furnished to me.

*Johnson's Brigade.*—In Twenty-fifth Tennessee: Capt. A. Green, Company G; Capt. G. H. Swope, Company H; First Lieut. D. S. Walker, Company D. In Forty-fourth Tennessee: Maj. H. C. Ewin and Capt. Samuel Stiles, Company A; Adj. R. G. Cross, Lieutenants [F. M.] Kelso, Company B; [J. W.] Dickins, Company C; [W. H.] Gibbs, Company F; A. P. Forester, Company K (wounded); Color-Sergt. M. J. Turner and Corpl. I. S. Berry, Company I (wounded); Corpl. John W. Gill, Company F (killed); Privates J. D. Stone, Company B; S. G. Heflin, Company C (killed); B. P. Hargroves, Company E (wounded); James D. Orenshaw, Company H (wounded), and J. M. Sellers, Company K. In Twenty-third Tennessee: Capt. N. R. Allen, Company E; Capt. W. H. Harder, Company G; Privates Henry C. Haynes, Company E, and Stephen M. Foster, Company C. In Seventeenth Tennessee: Adj. James [B.] Fitzpatrick.

I wish to call particular attention to the gallant conduct of Sergt. William N. Cameron, color-bearer of Twenty-fifth Tennessee Regiment. In the last fight he advanced in front of his regiment so far that when it fell back he was unable to follow, and was captured. He tore the colors from the staff, concealed them upon his person, and made his escape from Bowling Green, bringing with him the flag of the Twenty-fifth Tennessee Regiment.

In conclusion, I would state that I carried into the fight 6,045 men, out of which I lost 2,081 killed, wounded, and missing.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. R. CLEBURNE,  
*Major-General.*

Maj. T. B. ROY,  
*Chief of Staff, Hardee's Corps.*

No. 254.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Lucius E. Polk, C. S. Army, commanding First Brigade.*

HEADQUARTERS POLK'S BRIGADE,  
January 13, 1863.

SIR: In obedience to circular of January 10, I submit the following report of the operations of my brigade in the battle before Murfreesborough:

My brigade was arranged in the following order from left to right: Fifth Confederate, First Arkansas [Infantry], Second and Fifth Tennessee, and Thirteenth and Fifteenth Arkansas Regiments.

On the evening of December 30, 1862, I received orders from the division commander to move my brigade from its position (the extreme right of our line of battle) across Stone's River to the left of General Cheat-

ham's division. This having been accomplished by 9 o'clock at night, I remained in line of battle until nearly 7 o'clock on the morning of the 31st. At that time I again received orders from division commander to wheel my command to the right, keeping the right connected with General Cheatham's left. General Cheatham's division not moving at same moment, I found if I attempted to keep with his line I should become separated from the division, then advancing. General Wood, about this time, having been ordered to my right by Lieutenant-General Hardee, and General Cheatham having commenced to move up, I continued my move, gaining ground slightly to the left. About 7.30 o'clock, and before I had moved more than 700 yards, I received word from Colonel [B. J.] Hill that my right had commenced to engage the enemy in a grove of cedars near the old Franklin dirt road. I did not believe at first that the enemy could be so near us, having understood that we were supporting General McCown. Riding to the place, I was received by a volley from the enemy, resulting in the severe wounding of my orderly (Mike Connell). In a few moments my entire line advanced across the Franklin dirt road, entered this cedar brake, and engaged the enemy all along the line. In a very short time, by the aid of Captain [J. H.] Calvert's battery, we succeeded in driving the enemy out of the cedars in great confusion. Here Major Carlton, Captain Dixon, and Lieut. William H. Pearce, Fifteenth Arkansas Regiment, were wounded while gallantly leading their men.

Following them closely as we could, we encountered them again in a woods pasture immediately in our front, in direction of Wilkinson Cross-Roads pike. After a few moments fighting, we succeeded in breaking their lines, and again they fell back in much confusion. From this position, after having reformed my line, I advanced in a line parallel to Wilkinson pike, General Wood on my right and General Johnson on my left *en échelon*, with the exception of the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment (which was in advance) of his (Johnson's) brigade. Advancing through the pasture, the enemy were seen posted across an open field near one of their hospitals and only a few hundred yards of the pike. My brigade was obliged to move across this open field with the enemy's artillery and infantry playing upon them. This they did most gallantly, causing the enemy to fall back across the pike under heavy undergrowth of cedars. Getting possession at this place of four or five ordnance wagons, which were sent to the rear, I again moved on, but did not proceed far when the enemy's batteries, posted across a corn-field on the right of the pike, commenced playing fearfully upon my ranks. Here Captain [Charles P.] Moore, Second Tennessee, was killed, and many other officers of that regiment. (See Colonel [W. D.] Robison's report.\*)

The battery was so placed, by moving straight forward my line would have been enfiladed. To prevent this, my brigade was wheeled to the right. At this time, Captain Hotchkiss sending me word that he had three batteries that required supporting, I left two of my smallest regiments and moved the rest farther to the left, for the purpose of trying to move the enemy's batteries. The Fifth Confederate here first engaged the infantry supporting these batteries, and in a few moments (the First Arkansas arriving in position) their infantry gave way and their batteries changed their position, with the exception of four guns that fell into the hands of the Fifth Confederate and First Arkansas, and in eagerness of pursuit were passed over.

From this place I moved on with my brigade, the regiments left in

\*Not found.

The fifth position was in the field west of the enemy's concentrated artillery, where we fought them until we had exhausted our ammunition, losing in this engagement one of our bravest and most expert No 1 cannoners. The enemy turned a triple number of pieces upon us, and the missiles of death fell among us singing, whizzing, bursting, and crashing through the trees, as if Mount Vesuvius had at one instant poured all its pent-up furies into our midst. Our escape from beneath those powerful guns was fortunate, if not miraculous.

The sixth and last action was near that same intertwined and matted grove of cedars. Here also the contest was unequal. It was in this engagement that Lieutenant Fitzpatrick lost his left hand by a canister, and a cannoner's head was shot off, and a number of horses were killed, and one howitzer slightly damaged. Finding that we could not move the enemy from his strong position, and that smooth-bore guns could not cope with Parrott and rifled guns, we withdrew from the contest.

The battery lost 3 men killed, 1 officer and 4 men wounded, 10 horses killed and wounded, and 4 sets of harness. We drove the Abolitionists from three positions, and in turn were driven from a like number.

The officers on Wednesday, the 31st, passed through the battle-storm with cool and lofty courage, and the men stood firmly to their guns, and showed their devotion to their country's cause by overcoming and extinguishing fear.

Respectfully, yours,

THOMAS J. KEY,  
[Lieutenant] Commanding Helena Battery.

No. 256.

*Report of Brig. Gen. St. John R. Liddell, C. S. Army, commanding Second Brigade.*

HEADQUARTERS LIDDELL'S BRIGADE,  
Wartrace, Tenn., January 10, 1863.

MAJOR: On the evening of the 30th ultimo my command was placed, by order of Major-General Cleburne, on the extreme left of the division, on the prolongation of Major-General Cheatham's line, with orders to move, by continued change of direction, to the right, to conform to the movements of General Cheatham's command in advancing upon the enemy. The line of battle I judge to have been over  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length, and my movements had necessarily to be rapid to keep pace with the wheel of the line of battle, the pivot being on the right. This movement commenced a little after daylight, and after marching about 1 mile we came upon a brigade of Major-General McCown, which had just repulsed a regiment of the enemy. In a moment's conversation with General McCown, he wished me to take position in advance, as his men were somewhat exhausted by the fight. I proposed, instead, that he should move by the left flank and allow me to move up in line with his command, thus placing him on my left, which was readily consented to and done. We then moved forward in line, and almost immediately engaged the enemy. This, I suppose, was about 8.30 a. m. My battery was immediately placed in position on an eminence in rear of the line, and opened fire upon the enemy, who were posted behind a fence in front of us, about 75 yards distant, with another line 150 yards farther in their rear, in the

woods, from which position they had heavy batteries playing upon our line. After a contest lasting about half an hour, we repulsed the front line, driving it back upon the second, which also gave way upon our approach, after a short struggle. Here I lost sight of Brigadier-General Johnson's left, and continued to move straight forward against the enemy, with General McCown still on my left. We continued the pursuit, constantly skirmishing, until we reached a house, which was afterward found to be a hospital, where we re-engaged and drove back the enemy's second line of defense. My battery was here pushed forward within 60 yards of the hospital, and fired upon the retreating foe, now crossing the Wilkinson turnpike. My men continued the pursuit across the turnpike, when they were halted to wait for ammunition, to obtain which I dispatched Lieutenant [J. L.] Bostick, my aide-de-camp, to General McCown, who was near a house some 300 yards to the left of the hospital, with his command. Meanwhile my own ammunition arrived and supplied me.

In passing the hospital in advance, I was called upon by the Yankee officers to protect them, as there were a great many prisoners and wounded men in and around it and among the numerous tents in the inclosure. I left one man in charge of it, and told him to proclaim it as under my protection, and then passed on with my brigade. I refused taking any prisoners, as I did not wish to be delayed in my forward movement, or to lose the men necessary to guard them, but ordered prisoners reporting to me to remain there or move to the rear and proclaim themselves as my prisoners. I do not know what became of them afterward, though I think they were subsequently taken by General Johnson's brigade. It was at this point, in rear of the hospital, that the Federal General Sill was killed by the Second Arkansas Regiment [Infantry], while being engaged with the enemy at the hospital, Colonel Govan ordering his men to fire at officers on horses near the building. I forgot to mention that in the first engagement [Lieutenant-]Colonel [Thomas B.] Tanner, Twenty-second Indiana Regiment, was left wounded on the field and became a prisoner.

The brigade being now supplied with ammunition, after having crossed the Wilkinson turnpike, was rapidly pushed forward through the woods a quarter of a mile or more, and coming up with the enemy on the edge of a field, which opened in view of a church, in some open woods on Overall's Creek, some 500 yards distant on our left, and engaged him, driving him in confusion over the crest of a hill beyond. Finding myself alone at this point, with no support on my right or left, I halted my command in the woods near the fence, and threw forward a line of skirmishers to reconnoiter and develop the enemy, not then visible from our position. Lieuts. J. M. Dulin and [J. L.] Bostick, of my staff, who had gone forward with the skirmishers, immediately returned and reported the enemy in line of battle in the valley of Overall's Creek, some 400 or 500 yards distant from the crest of the hill. I at once ordered forward my battery to the crest of the hill, and directed it to fire upon him, as I was in good supporting distance with the brigade. This was done with decided effect, resulting in turning the enemy back and driving him from view behind the railroad embankment. The turnpike road at this time was filled with trains of wagons moving in the direction of Nashville, which the Texas cavalry charged, and I ordered the battery to fire upon that part of the train to the right of the cavalry, which caused the train to break in confusion and seek shelter behind the embankment of the railroad. While this change of route by the enemy was taking place, I continued firing as long as any of the train and enemy appeared in view.

with the battery to my command in the woods and moved back until I got in sight of Brigadier-General Johnson's by this time had come up from the Wilkinson road. General McCown passed by me, saying he would move to the right, which I suppose he did, as I saw no more firing on the extreme left, which, in effect, had been the hospital near the Wilkinson turnpike, on my left after that time. I may here state that my men, in wheeling with the line of battle, to pass off at once toward the left, and I was, consequently, often cut off by the right flank to regain my place in the line.

General Johnson's left, I moved forward, and almost engaged the enemy, whose right laid across a neck of land behind a fence in front of my right. After a very short interval of some twenty minutes, we repulsed him on our left, on which we concentrated the fire of the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Arkansas Regiments, soon breaking, after a sharp fight at that point also. It was here that Lieutenant-Colonel [John] Breckinridge, of the Fifth Arkansas Regiment, took the colors of his regiment and bore them to the front, encouraging his men to the front. A Union flag, the national colors of the United States, was captured by the Fifth Arkansas Regiment. The brigade still continued to fight, constantly firing upon the broken ranks of the enemy, and at a point about opposite a white building on a hill on the left I moved my battery forward, and rode to this building with a view to get in position to open on the enemy's right.

For the battery to come up, I captured an ambulance belonging to Colonel [William L.] Stoughton, Eleventh Arkansas Volunteers, and Major [B. F.] Doughty, [Eleventh Arkansas] Volunteers, which officers, I suppose, had been wounded and taken to the hospital. Here, again, the officers of the hospital asked me to go and I gave them my name and took the building under my command while this was occurring, which was in an incredibly short time. I discovered our lines breaking rapidly to the rear, and I immediately moved forward, but little firing going on at the time. I immediately moved forward, to head off the stragglers and check the retreat, and it was the cause of this sudden movement. On halting the stragglers, I found that they were General Johnson's men passing in rear of my line, and were retreating toward the left. I directed them toward the right to their right, riding rapidly in that direction myself, I met with General Johnson in search of his men, who told me that my brigade was cut off at the neck of woods; and upon going in the direction of the right I found it in line, the colors in place, with the men rallied on the left in confusion of the retreat, while I was at the Yankee left, General Johnson's men had gotten between me and the enemy, having fallen back on my position, causing me to mistakingly own. My brigade fell back to the original position and advanced in this last attack, after joining General Johnson's left, moving to the right from the direction of Overall's Creek, and ending the day.

As to the cause of this retrograde movement, Colonel Govan, of the Eleventh Arkansas, stated that the line on his right gave way, and that, without support on his right, he ordered, during my absence at the hospital, a retreat, although there was but

little firing going on at the time. An additional reason with him for doing so was that his ammunition was nearly exhausted.

We were now directed to remain in position and await further orders. We bivouacked that night in the woods where we were, and on the following morning I found that the enemy's skirmishers had retaken the hospital and the hill from which I had fired upon his train on the day previous. I moved into position in front of the hill, and my skirmishers immediately drove the enemy from it. The battery was pushed forward to its crest a second time, and fired upon his retreating cavalry and infantry, driving them back to the turnpike in great confusion.

From this time until the night of the 2d instant but little was done, except occasional skirmishing, when I was ordered back about 10 p. m., with the other brigades of the division, to the right bank of the river, in support of Major-General Breckinridge's line.

During the engagement I captured two pieces of artillery, one Parrott gun and one 6-pounder brass rifle piece, for both of which I obtained an ample supply of ammunition. In the final attack another battery was also captured, but, in the unaccountable retrograde movement before mentioned, was left on the field. Although my position was on the extreme left of our lines, I discovered no enemy attempting to flank me. Their ambulances were passing and repassing at all times during the day on the turnpike, while I was in position to see them from the hill near Overall Church, and at night the roar of wagons passing on the turnpike was incessant. Each night the enemy's artillery played on our lines in the woods, and at the same time firing was going on between the skirmishers.

The battery under command of Lieutenant [H.] Shannon was of infinite service to me throughout the action, the men behaving with the greatest bravery, having the battery always ready, and, oftentimes, at the right place at the right time without receiving or awaiting orders, for which I am indebted to the good judgment and coolness of Lieutenant Shannon, commanding battery.

Colonel Kelly, of the Eighth Arkansas, was slightly wounded in the arm; Colonel Smith, of the Sixth Arkansas, was wounded in the leg; Lieutenant-Colonel [F. J.] Cameron, of the same, was shot through the fore part of the body. Of my staff, W. R. Liddell, volunteer aide, was shot in the thigh; Lieut. W. R. Young, brigade ordnance officer, was shot in the shoulder; Surg. W. R. Kibler was shot through the body while sitting on his horse by my side in front of the brigade.

The officers of my personal staff—Adjutant-General [G. A.] Williams, Lieutenant Bostick, aide-de-camp, and Lieutenant Dulin, brigade inspector—not only behaved with the most undaunted bravery, but assisted me voluntarily, and with the utmost alacrity, in pushing forward the brigade, in placing the battery in positions, and in the deployment of skirmishers in the very face of the enemy, and in the heaviest fire whenever required, oftentimes using their own judgment without waiting for orders, for the good of the service and the success of the day.

My brave bugler, Jake Schlosser, was wounded near me and taken from the field.

Many instances of personal bravery I might mention were it not extending this report to too great a length. The evidence of the undaunted courage of the brigade is attested by the fact that nearly one-third of the whole were killed and wounded—5 officers and 81 men were killed, and 503 men were wounded and 18 missing, making a total of 589 *hors de combat*, besides the missing, out of a grand total of 1,709, including the artillery. The brigade now numbers 1,108.

There were some instances of cowardice stated in the reports of the colonels, which are herewith inclosed.

We lament our brave dead; we feel for our wounded brothers, while we honor them. The heartfelt thanks of those of us who have escaped, unhurt, through the storm of death are due to a kind Providence, to whom we pray for safety and success in all the coming contests for our country's cause.

Respectfully submitted.

ST. JOHN R. LIDDELL,  
*Brigadier-General.*

Col. W. W. KIRKLAND,  
*Adjt. Gen. and Chief of Staff, Cleburne's Div., Hardee's Corps.*

No. 257.

*Reports of Col. Daniel C. Govan, Second Arkansas Infantry.*

WARTRACE, TENN., *January 10, 1863.*

CAPTAIN: I have the honor herewith to make the following report of the part taken by the Second Arkansas Regiment in the late battles before Murfreesborough:

On the night of December 30, [1862,] the Second Arkansas Regiment was moved with the rest of the brigade to a position on the extreme left.

Early on the morning of the 31st, immediately after daylight, we were advanced at a rapid pace on the enemy. Occupying, as our brigade did, the extreme left of General Cleburne's division, and moving in a circular direction, the right of the division being the point, we advanced in this direction nearly a mile, when, pressing through an open field, exposed to severe cannonade, we encountered the enemy, who were posted behind a fence and in the woods immediately in front. After a severe engagement of half an hour, the enemy were driven from their position and pursued rapidly through the woods, when a running fight took place for some distance. My regiment suffered heavily in this first fight. It was here that the gallant young Lieutenants Collier and Clegg, of Company H, fell, I fear mortally wounded, while nobly doing their duty. The enemy were closely followed through the woods, when we encountered a second line of the enemy, posted behind a fence and in the woods near a house used by the enemy as a hospital. The Second Arkansas Regiment, being on the extreme right of the brigade, engaged the enemy near this building. The right of the regiment rested within 15 or 20 steps of this building, and were exposed to a heavy fire from the enemy in our front, and also from a portion of the enemy who had taken refuge in and behind the buildings adjacent to this hospital. It was near this point that General Sill, of the Federal Army, was killed. After a severe engagement the enemy were driven from this second strong position. The hospital, together with many prisoners who had taken refuge there, were taken possession of by General Liddell, and a guard of two men detailed from my regiment to guard the prisoners. No other brigade or regiment was at this time in sight of the hospital. Our brigade, after moving forward a short distance, was halted for the purpose of replenishing our exhausted supply of ammunition, and were then moved forward in the direction of the enemy, whom we engaged in a neck of woods on the edge of a field. A second line of the enemy

showed itself on the opposite side of the field, and advanced some 100 yards into the open field opposite my regiment, but were driven back by one well-directed fire. The enemy having fled immediately in my front, and finding him still making a stubborn resistance to my left, I moved my regiment by the left flank, and then forward on the enemy in the neck of woods. A very closely contested fight here took place, the enemy holding their position until the Second Arkansas Regiment approached within 25 steps of their line, when it gave way in confusion and fled across the field, exposed to a murderous fire from my regiment, which told with effect, as their dead were thick on the ground. It was at this point that the color-bearer was shot down by one of my men, and the colors were lost in the confusion of the fight.

Our brigade then moved forward, and was halted some 50 yards in the open field from the edge of a cedar ridge, being unable to advance, as General Johnson's brigade, which had moved forward on our right, had, after halting, moved by the left flank, which placed a portion of his brigade immediately in our front. At this point (General Liddell having gone to reconnoiter and select a place for a battery) the commanders of the different regiments reported to me that their supply of ammunition was nearly exhausted. I immediately sent an officer (Lieutenant Dulin) in search of the ammunition, and, while awaiting its arrival, General Johnson's brigade, immediately on my right and front, gave way and fell back in confusion. I was at first at a loss what course to pursue. Our success had been all that we wished, and we had not met with a single repulse, but when I reflected, first, that the ammunition of the brigade was nearly, if not quite, exhausted; that the brigade on our right and front had given way; that we had no support either on our rear or left; that our position was an exposed one, being in an open field, while the enemy were concealed under cover of the thick cedars on the opposite ridge, I concluded the only alternative left was to order the brigade to retreat, which I did—not, however, until the brigade on my right had passed me some 100 yards or more. Be it said, to the credit of the whole brigade, that all stood firm, and neither officers nor men showed any disposition to retire until I gave the command to retreat. The brigade retired some 300 yards, and was immediately halted and reformed. The enemy showed no disposition to follow us.

My regiment, both officers and men, behaved with distinguished gallantry, with the exception of a few men, whose names I herewith forward.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey I here make my acknowledgments, and bear willing testimony to his gallantry and bravery during the fight, rendering me great service in the management of the regiment, and setting an example of gallantry worthy of emulation. I deem any mention of the services of any particular officer of the regiment almost invidious, but cannot refrain from calling the attention of the brigadier general commanding this brigade to the particularly distinguished and gallant conduct of Captain [J. K.] Phillips, commanding Company F; of Lieutenant [C. S.] Emerson, commanding Company A; Lieutenant [M. D.] Brown, commanding Company K, and Second Lieutenant [R. E.] Smith, of Company G. They were foremost in the fight, and by word and action encouraged their men to emulate their example.

It is rather a singular circumstance that the Second Arkansas Regiment should again in this fight have engaged the Twenty-second Indiana Regiment, capturing the lieutenant-colonel, the same regiment which it encountered at Perryville, committing such slaughter in its ranks.

we had to march by the right flank about half a mile, then by the left flank in line of battle, in order that the right of the brigade might cover the mouth of the lane before entering the field, unless, however, the colonel will deny we approached the hospital by this route, which no man on earth need to deny. Did you, sir, make such a movement as that? No, sir; you pushed your brigade upon the enemy in a run, as straight forward as the nature of the case would admit, without any perceptible change of speed or direction until your ammunition became exhausted. You know that if any change of direction had been made up to this time it was to the right, as you know that General Hardee came to our lines early in the morning, and ordered a general change of direction to the right, which was made by your brigade so far as to lap one or more of the regiments of General Johnson's brigade. This, however, was corrected before any general engagement took place. The brigade rested at the pike about three-quarters of an hour, when General Johnson's brigade moved up and formed on our right. I do not say the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment had not arrived up to this time to the position referred to in Colonel Floyd's report.

With reference to the capture of the Federal hospital, I should dislike for it to amount to a question of veracity; but it seems strange to me that the hospital had been surrendered by the violent waving of a white flag, as Colonel Floyd states, a half hour before we arrived, and then our men were falling right and left from a fire coming from and about the hospital, and that we should drive a heavy column of the enemy through and from the field and yard, which he had passed half an hour before, and yet we were half an hour behind, according to Colonel Floyd's report. I would further add, that line repulsed from behind the fence, south of the hospital, which was in a position to enfilade General Johnson's brigade, was certainly much nearer the hospital than Colonel Floyd, as Colonel Keeble was on his left, and between the Seventeenth Tennessee and Second Arkansas Regiments. Colonel Keeble states that we were going to his left, which would certainly throw Colonel Floyd considerably to our right; also shows that we repulsed the enfilading line; at the same time proves that we preceded him to the hospital, or that he ran over and left a heavy column of the enemy at the fence, all of whom were mad men, well armed and unhurt, or that he passed considerably to the right of the hospital and left this line in his rear—which he did not do, for in his report he states he ordered the "forward" when his enfilading line gave way, and I know, and a just God at his bar will prove to Colonel Floyd and his officers that we were not half an hour or fifteen minutes getting to that hospital from the time we entered the skirt of wood. I further add, that after we halted some time at the hospital, behind the fence running west from the hospital, General Liddell ordered his men out of the yard, where the Federals were about 250 in number, into line, looking for a charge of the enemy's cavalry from our left, and, on entering the yard a short time after halting, three Confederate prisoners, who said they were captured the day previous, reported to me.

I hope no honor due the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment will ever be seized by the Second Arkansas Regiment. We have confidently looked upon them as worthy and brave fellow-soldiers (which they deserve to be called) in the day of battle, and if they captured the Federal hospital referred to, or passed it half an hour before we did, that everything that is glorious be inscribed upon their banner, for they are insensible of danger and fearless of numbers, and noted for speed as well as cool courage, to have advanced their colors and general guides,

formed a correct line, and obtained a supply of ammunition from the enemy's own wagons between the lines of his proud legions, and no support nearer than twenty minutes' run; but Colonel Floyd would do well to obtain more proof before asserting that no Confederate troops had reached the hospital before his regiment, for there was a sufficient force there when we approached it to have annihilated any three companies; but if he did capture the hospital, may the future establish the fact or prove otherwise, and satisfy him, as well as the just tribunal into whose hands this may fall, that I am his friend and fellow-soldier.

R. F. HARVEY,

*Lieutenant-Colonel, Comdg. Second Arkansas Regiment.*

General LIDDELL.

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS LIDDELL'S BRIGADE,

March 25, 1863.

Respectfully forwarded.

It is possible that there is a mistake as to the identity of the Yankee hospital. The one taken by the Second Arkansas Regiment was called the Griscom house. If, however, the Jenkins hospital and the Griscom house are one and the same, and General Johnson claims its capture by the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment, then I do not understand why the enemy was left still in possession of it, with a long line of battle stretching westward, with which my brigade had to contend, and finally drive away with musketry and cannon shot. In this affair I certainly must attach some credit to the evidences of my own senses, that, too, corroborated by my field and regimental officers; but if these prove unavailing, I have nothing more to say. I see that General J[ohnson] refers the subject to the Secretary of War in his indorsement on Lieutenant-Colonel Floyd's report. I shall be satisfied to let our claim rest with the division commander, who, it is presumed, is familiar with all the facts and persons interested, and if it should be in the way of General J[ohnson]'s glory, I am willing to let it go without further contention, however well assured I am, nevertheless, of what is due my brigade.

ST. JOHN R. LIDDELL,

*Brigadier-General.*

No. 259.

*Report of Lieut. Col. John E. Murray, Fifth Arkansas Infantry.*

ESTILL SPRINGS, TENN.,

January 7, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report that on the morning of December 31, 1862, after having bivouacked the previous night on the right bank of Stone's River about 2 miles from the town of Murfreesborough, Tenn., my command, with the other regiments of Liddell's brigade, was moved forward, gradually changing direction to the right as we moved forward. At about the hour of 7.30 a. m. we came in sight of the enemy, strongly posted with artillery and infantry in the edge of a piece of woods about 200 yards in our front, who immediately opened a well-directed and most deadly fire upon our advancing line. My command halted and immediately commenced returning the fire, and for about twenty minutes the command remained in an open field, exposed to a most deadly fire of artillery and infantry. At the end of this time the

command to charge was given, and, as the men arose and started forward with a yell, the enemy gave way, falling back in good order to near the Nolensville pike, when a short stand was made, but, as our men showed no signs of wavering or halting for their fire, the enemy soon gave way again. Near this pike our first halt was made after the charge commenced, it having become necessary to obtain more ammunition. As soon as a supply of ammunition was obtained, we again moved forward, and soon came to a brigade of Confederate troops (McNair's, I think), which had just been repulsed by the enemy. Our men passed them, with a cheer, and soon came in sight of the enemy, who were again strongly posted behind fences and trees. Here the enemy made a most determined stand, fighting until our men got in 20 or 30 steps of them, but they could not withstand the impetuosity of our troops, and soon broke and fled in disorder. At this point I think our men fought three or four to one. We were almost flanked on both sides, and had an enemy equal, if not superior, to us in numbers immediately in our front. Every man of my command who was present fought here like a hero—first fighting on the right, then in front, and then on the left, and we actually whipped the enemy by detail.

It was at this point that Private J. K. Leslie, Company C, captured a stand of colors from the enemy, which I have the honor to forward with this report.

Shortly after this Brigadier-General Johnson's brigade relieved ours and passed to the front. We were by this time nearly out of ammunition, but still continued to follow Johnson's brigade, which was pursuing the fleeing and thoroughly demoralized enemy, when all at once, to our surprise, Johnson's brigade, which was about 100 yards in front of us, halted, and in a few moments gave way and fled in a disorderly and disgraceful manner, the men running through our ranks perfectly panic-stricken, and compelling us to fall back with them.

It is proper to state that not a single man that I could see in my command at this time fell back until the order had been given by Colonel Govan (who was then commanding the brigade) and been repeated by me. The enemy did not pursue us, and we soon halted, and, after changing positions several times, encamped for the night.

We remained within shelling distance of the enemy until the night of January 3, skirmishing with them every day without any decided result.

My total loss in the engagement of December 31, 1862, and in the skirmishes succeeding it, was: Killed, 12; wounded, 134, and missing, 1, making a total of 147.

Accompanying this I send a list\* of the names of the killed, wounded, and missing. I carried into the fight 336 men.

The men who distinguished themselves for gallantry above all others were: Capt. A. B. Washington, Company K; Privates J. K. Leslie and John Atkinson, Company C; C. Mattix, Company F, and B. W. Maret, Company I.

Captain Washington, though wounded in right leg, continued to fight and cheer on his men throughout the day.

Private Leslie captured a stand of colors with his own hand, and afterward, when wounded badly by a shell, refused to go to the rear until I had to order him to go.

Private Atkinson fought bravely until wounded, and continued to fight as long as the enemy remained in range of his gun.

\* Embodied in No. 191, p. 680.

Private Mattix was wounded in the left arm so badly that he could not use his gun. He then came to me, and said, "Colonel, I am too badly wounded to use my gun, but can carry the flag; may I do it?" I gave him the desired permission, and he carried it through the rest of the battle, keeping in front of the regiment. Three color-bearers had been shot previous to this.

Private Maret not only fought bravely himself, but compelled a private in his own company who wanted to run to fight by threatening to shoot him if he started to the rear.

In strong contrast to the conduct of these gallant men is that of the following-named individuals, who all left the field either before or after the fight commenced, without cause: Second Lieut. J. K. Pyburn, Company G; Privates R. Arnold and W. J. Dobson, Company A; Privates A. V. Rudder and E. W. Bott, Company B; Privates D. McNiel and W. A. Haywood, Company E; Private Joseph H. Leaprot, Company F, and Privates S. Woods, J. Woods, D. N. Quails, and W. H. Vann, Company I. With the exceptions above mentioned, all fought well.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN E. MURRAY,  
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.*

Capt. G. A. WILLIAMS,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 260.

*Report of Maj. William F. Douglass, Sixth Arkansas Infantry, commanding Sixth and Seventh Regiments.*

JANUARY 11, 1863.

SIR: In making a report of battles at Murfreesborough, Tenn., commencing December 30, 1862, as ordered, I labor under the necessity of making a very imperfect exhibit of the important part taken by those two combined regiments now under my command, since I was not in command during the first and second days of the engagement, and was, during a part of the 31st, absent from the field owing to a painful contusion on the right arm from the effects of a spent ball, but shall, from my own observation and information received from Captain [J. W.] Martin, now acting lieutenant-colonel, furnish the following:

As our previous movements were only preparatory, I need commence only with the morning of December 31, when McNair's brigade, moving off by their left flank, gave place for our forward movement into an open corn-field, through which we had moved about half way when a continuous line of the enemy was seen advancing from the woods beyond to gain the protection of a fence in our front, when, from the line of infantry and a rifled battery 200 yards immediately in front of my regiment, a most destructive fire was opened, and the action became general on the whole left. In the exposed position occupied by our men our loss just at this point was five times greater than during the rest of the day. About 20 rounds had been fired when the enemy gave way, our men rapidly following past two abandoned guns of the enemy's battery and scores of their dead across the field and into the woods beyond. I may mention here that the advance of McNair's brigade on our left and flanking the enemy was, perhaps, one cause of their giving way on their right, as they had a strong position, and our battery was rendered

our rear on level ground, killing and wounding while firing over them. After crossing the fence reaching the position occupied by the enemy's line was observed that that line of the enemy in front of the Arkansas Regiments had not given way, but was in position behind the fence. Our men were ordered to fire and deliver an enfilading fire that soon routed the enemy. It was maintained by the whole brigade across the front to the vicinity of a cotton-field and Yankee army again made an attempt at a stand, but were repulsed. The right of our regiment passing near the hospital and into the woods beyond, where we were halted to get a fresh supply of ammunition, the firing still continued on our right. We were soon ordered forward, the enemy on the borders of an old field, across which General Johnson's brigade coming up to relieve us to halt and reform our disordered lines. As soon as we moved forward as a reserve to General Johnson, in the edge of a cedar thicket, warmly contesting

Our men, gaining a ridge about 100 yards in rear and in sight of the enemy, raised a shout and started to attack, when the Yankees faced to the right-about and in a thicket, General Johnson's brigade pursuing them in a thicket, where they (Johnson's brigade) had a strong position of rocks and the nature of the ground, while our line was in rear in an exposed position behind the fence on the left, though the firing did not seem heavy in our rear, as the enemy's batteries had been abandoned and was in the rear. General Johnson's brigade gave way, the movement was to the right, and, I think, occasioned by the retreat of the enemy farther to the right. After General Johnson's brigade was in the rear, and it was found that we were entirely unsupported, Colonel Govan gave the order to fall back (Colored Regiment) at this point and the command devolved upon the Sixth Arkansas to a stronger position across the open fields in the rear, where we reformed our line and awaited the enemy that was never made, and closed the fighting on

movements on the succeeding days were only to drive the enemy, and, if possible, draw him from his strongly held position without resulting in any actual engagement, it is needless to say in my report, though I may state that on the third day of the battle, when we were in the rear, we were driven by fire from batteries in the same thicket from which we had been repulsed, and that Lieutenant-Colonel Camery was wounded by a ball shot from a Yankee hospital, and was then flying.

In the latter part of the action our men exhibited the most enthusiastic action from any charge, no matter how desperate, well knowing the reputation they had won at such cost on other fields. In my report of the Sixth Arkansas Regiment I need only refer to their gallant conduct and wounded to show how gallantly they had acted. The Seventh Arkansas Regiment was not behind the Sixth, except those men reported by their captains as being killed; those remaining were as true as steel.

In making this imperfect report I have been greatly assisted by Captain Martin for that part of the engagement when I was not on the field. Of the gallantry of individual officers and men I would beg leave to defer special mention until the return of Colonel Smith, whose wound will detain him some weeks from the command.

W F. DOUGLASS,  
Major, Commanding.

Captain [G. A.] WILLIAMS,  
[Assistant Adjutant-General.]

No. 261.

*Report of Col. John H. Kelly, Eighth Arkansas Infantry.*

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., January 7, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report as to the action of my regiment in the late battles at Murfreesborough:

Early on the morning of December 31, [1862,] I received orders from the brigadier-general commanding to advance with my regiment and to conform to the movements of the regiments on my right, which was done by gradually wheeling to the right. A short time after advancing I was ordered to throw forward skirmishers to cover my front. Very soon after the deployment had been made, a brisk fire began, and skirmishers soon succeeded in driving back those of the enemy; the lines of battle confronted, and the contest began. My regiment was posted in an open field; the enemy was strongly posted behind a fence. After a continued and obstinate resistance, the order to charge was given (I should have mentioned that at this juncture Brigadier-General Rains' brigade came up on my left), which was obeyed with promptness and alacrity. The enemy fled in confusion; we pursued rapidly for several hundred yards, when he rallied to make another stand, but the impetuosity with which we followed him up soon hurled him again to the rear. As the second charge was ordered from this point, he was rapidly pursued for over half a mile, when it became necessary for us to halt, in order to refill our empty cartridge-boxes. This was soon accomplished, and again we moved forward. After proceeding several hundred yards, we marched by the left flank for about one-quarter of a mile, and then forward to a position several hundred yards in advance in an open field; from this point we withdrew to a position in the wood, a little to the rear. The next position taken placed the left of my regiment on a large field, the remaining portion being in the wood. The lines of battle soon met again. The fire at this point was very heavy. The enemy outflanked my left, but the timely arrival of Swett's battery dispensed all apprehension of danger from that quarter. Another charge was made, and the enemy was falling back rapidly under heavy fire. At this juncture I was wounded and retired from the field. I think it was about 1.30 p. m. The action of the regiment after this will be reported by Lieutenant-Colonel [George F.] Baucum, to whom I turned over the command.

Lieutenant [S. B.] Cole, Company I, Lieut. Calvin East, Company H, and Lieut. T. H. Beard, Company F, fell while gallantly cheering and leading their men to victory. Adjut. H. J. McCurdy was also killed; faithful to the last. He was always at his post; no shock could discompose him. The coolness, bravery, and good judgment of this gal-

\* Embodied in No. 191, p. 680.

lant boy is highly commendable. The gallant conduct of the noble dead was conspicuous to the whole regiment.

I have the honor to call attention to the gallant conduct of First Lieutenant [W. M.] Bass, Company E, who was wounded in the first fight while bravely cheering his men. Captain [W. H.] Lankford, Company A, and Second Lieutenant [B. A.] Terrett, Company E, also deserve special mention for gallantry on the field.

In the first charge my regiment captured two stand of colors. These were handed to me by Private James Riddle, Company C, and Corpl. N. A. Horn, Company E, but, owing to the rapidity of the pursuit, I found it impossible to carry these along, and they were left on the field. Another stand was also captured, but was left in the same manner as the others.

A full list of killed and wounded will be furnished by Lieutenant-Colonel Baucum.

The regiment during the whole engagement was always prompt to move at the command.

Very respectfully,

JNO. H. KELLY,  
*Colonel Eighth Arkansas Regiment.*

Capt. G. A. WILLIAMS,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General, Liddell's Brigade.*

No. 262.

*Report of Lieut. Col. George F. Baucum, Eighth Arkansas Infantry.*

WARTRACE, TENN., January 12, 1863.

SIR: In the late battle of Murfreesborough, on December 31, 1862, where our brigade engaged the enemy, after leaving our camp on Stone's River in the morning, we were ordered forward, and in a short time we engaged the enemy first in a corn-field, where the firing became general along the line of our whole brigade, at which place our regiment suffered severely in killed and wounded. The firing was kept up for some ten or fifteen minutes in that exposed position, at which time McNair's brigade moved up on our left and on the enemy's right and opened fire, at which time the enemy's right gave way. Then we were ordered forward, and, after crossing the fence in front of our regiment and the Sixth Arkansas, we saw that the enemy in front of the Fifth and Second Arkansas was still contesting the ground. At this time the order was given to about-face, and we gave them an enfilade fire, and they soon fell back. We then forwarded to where they had been compelled to abandon two pieces of their artillery.

At this engagement I had my horse shot, and halted for a few moments and ordered the infirmiry corps to carry our wounded to the hospital immediately in the rear. As I moved forward in the edge of the woods I saw Captain Williams, and asked how far the regiment was. His answer, as well as I remember, was, that it was some distance in the woods and that we were driving them like dogs. I moved on at double-quick through the woods, when I came to a cotton-patch and saw General Liddell, and he asked me what I was doing so far behind. I answered him that I had lost my horse and was very near broke down. He told me to catch up with my command. I went across the cotton-patch, passing a gin-house, and came to a cross fence, where the brigade was halted. There was some little firing with small-arms. Then Swett's battery opened on the enemy in the edge of the woods, and we were then ordered forward across a corn-field and into the woods a few hundred yards, and

were halted and received a new supply of ammunition. The firing still kept up on our right. After receiving our ammunition, we were ordered forward to an old field, and were moved some distance into the field and halted. Our battery went forward in the field and opened fire. Our skirmishers were moved forward and engaged. The brigade was ordered back to the woods. We then moved by the right flank for several hundred yards, and were then ordered forward, where we engaged the enemy in a neck of woods, where the ground was warmly contested for some time, at which time General Johnson's brigade came up and we were ordered to charge. The enemy was repulsed, we occupying the ground. The order was then given to cease firing. Johnson's brigade moved forward to the edge of a cedar thicket under cover of a cliff of rocks. We moved forward to a fence to the support of Johnson's brigade. As soon as we reached the fence the right of the front line gave way and the brigade in our front came to the rear in double-quick, passing through our lines. I tried to halt the men in front of my regiment, but they all passed through. After all had passed, Colonel Govan gave the order to fall back; we fell back to the woods under fire from the enemy.

This, I believe, is about as correct account as I can give, which I respectfully submit.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. F. BAUCUM,  
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Comdg. Eighth Regiment Arkansas Vols.*  
Capt. G. A. WILLIAMS,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 263.

*Reports of Lieut. H. Shannon, Warren Light Artillery.*

ARTILLERY ENCAMPMENT, LIDDELL'S BRIGADE,  
Wartrace, Tenn., January 11, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the battery under my command, attached to Liddell's brigade, moved with the brigade at daylight on the morning of December 31, 1862, against the right wing of the enemy in front of Murfreesborough. After advancing about 1 mile, crossing a lane, and passing through a narrow strip of timber, I posted the battery on an eminence in an open field to the right of the brigade, and within 600 yards of one of the enemy's batteries, in front of Brigadier-General Johnson's brigade, and opened with a well-directed fire of round shot and shrapnel, causing the enemy to retire. Our loss was one horse killed.

I then moved the battery rapidly to the front and left, and took position 100 yards in rear of the brigade, in front of and within 600 yards of one of the enemy's rifle batteries, firing about 20 rounds to the piece with good effect, when the brigade gallantly charged and captured the battery, consisting of one rifle brass 6-pounder (4-inch caliber and 10-pound shot) and one 10-pounder Parrott steel gun (2.9-inch caliber). From some unknown cause a shrapnel shot lodged about half way down one of the howitzers, thus temporarily disabling the piece, which was at once ordered a short distance to the rear. The limber being brought forward, I substituted the brass rifle piece just captured for the disabled howitzer, getting a good supply of ammunition from the enemy's chests. Our loss at this position was, Corpl. Martin Green, killed by a rifle shell; Sergt. John McMullen, severely wounded in the chest by a minie ball; Artificer Charles McDermit, severely wounded in the arm and chest by a minie ball; Private Peter Hogan, severely wounded in the foot by a