

Here the division remained on the defensive, at times skirmishing with the enemy and being shelled by their battery, until the night of January 2, when I was placed in reserve between the Nashville and Lebanon pikes. Here I remained until 1 a. m. on the 4th, when, in obedience to orders from Lieutenant-General Polk, I moved to this place.

During these operations one section of the Eufaula Light Artillery was detached with General [A.] Buford. Capt. L. T. Hardy's company of cavalry (acting as my escort) was thrown out to connect my left with General [J. A.] Wharton, where he suffered severely.

Among the many incidents of this severe and protracted struggle, I would mention the following: Col. J. C. Burks, commanding Eleventh Texas Regiment, though mortally wounded, continued to lead his regiment until exhausted. Colonel Burks was a gallant soldier, and idolized by his command. In the words of his brigade commander, "A better friend, a warmer heart, a more gallant leader than he was never drew the breath of life." Sergt. A. Sims, flag-bearer of the Tenth Texas (Colonel [M. F.] Locke), seeing in one of the charges a Federal flag-bearer with his flag waving his regiment forward, sprang forward and seized the Federal flag, when both fell dead waving their banners with their last breath. The Federal flag was captured. Sergt. James T. McGee, the only man left of the color-guard, seized our colors, but for a moment, when another of our noblest and bravest men fell to rise no more. Private Manning, of Company H, then raised the flag and bore it aloft the remainder of the day. Private James W. Clark, of Company G, carried the flag of the Fifteenth Texas Regiment in the first charge, during which he was killed. The colors were then taken by Lieut. L. De Board, of Company F, who bore them the remainder of the engagement. Private Clark [D.] Jenkins, of Company D, First Arkansas Rifles, seeing a Federal officer making great exertions to rally his command, detached himself from his company, and, taking deliberate aim, shot him from his horse. The saddle had the saddle-cloth of a general officer. In the first charge in the morning, Sergt. J. R. Perry, color-bearer of the Fourth Arkansas Battalion, had his arm paralyzed by a shot striking the staff, and the flag fell to the ground. Sergt. J. C. Davis, of Company A, immediately snatched the colors and bore them until reclaimed by Sergeant Perry. Color-bearer H. W. Hamblen, Second Regiment Arkansas Rifles, gallantly bore his flag until shot down. The colors were immediately seized by Corpl. J. W. Piles, of the color-guard, who bore them gallantly the remainder of the day. Color-bearer J. B. Bryant, of the Fourth Arkansas Regiment, was wounded. Lieutenant [John] Armstrong then took the colors and fell, mortally wounded. Lieutenant [G. D.] Goodner then took them, but was soon afterward wounded. Captain [John W.] Lavender bore the colors the remainder of the day.

In one of the charges of the **Thirtieth Arkansas Regiment** it had seven company commanders cut down and the color-bearer, yet the men never wavered. Later in the day a second color-bearer was wounded and the colors lost in a cedar brake, but whether found by the enemy or not is not known. The only field officer (Major [J. J.] Franklin) and several lieutenants also fell, and yet this regiment maintained its organization. Seven color-bearers fell in General McNair's brigade and three in General Ector's. Col. G. W. Gordon, Eleventh Tennessee Regiment, fell, dangerously wounded, while most gallantly leading his regiment. I was informed by prisoners that the Federal General [Joshua W.] Sill was killed by my division while endeavoring to rally his defeated troops. My division moved so rapidly, and was so constantly engaged, that the guns captured were never counted; I am satisfied that [there were] at

least twenty-three, besides caissons, forges, and other ordnance stores. The division passed, untouched, wagons, knapsacks, &c.

Brigadier-Generals Ector and McNair and Colonel Harper (commanding McNair's brigade in the latter part of the day) exhibited cool and dauntless courage, as well as skill, in the handling of their commands.

I cannot speak in too high terms of the regimental and company officers; all bore themselves gallantly and nobly.

To the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of my division I owe a debt of gratitude. I did not see a single straggler nor a single plunderer up to the attack on the enemy's position on the Nashville pike; every man seemed inspired.

To my staff on the field I am under many obligations for the efficient manner in which they performed their respective duties, viz: Maj. H. S. Bradford, assistant adjutant-general and chief of staff; Maj. G. A. Henry, jr., inspector-general; Maj. Batt. Barrow and Capt. F. S. De Wolf, assistant adjutants-general; Lieut. B. N. Mathes, assistant inspector-general; Lieut. H. S. Foote, jr., aide-de-camp; Mr. R. R. McClure, volunteer aide; Lieut. E. M. Ross, acting aide-de-camp; Capt. G. M. Mathes, chief of artillery.

Capt. J. D. Allison, ordnance officer, performed his duty well, not only supplying ammunition to my division, but to others.

Lieut. Col. W. E. Dyer, acting paymaster to Smith's corps in the field; Maj. M. Cheatham and Capt. C. W. Kennedy, assistant quartermasters, have my thanks for the efficient manner in which they performed duties assigned to them.

Maj. P. F. Glass, division commissary, and Maj. H. Brownson Smith, acting commissary of subsistence, rendered good service in their department in supplying the command in the field and the hospitals.

Division Surg. Gus. B. Thornton was untiring in his labors with the wounded. He is entitled to the thanks of the command.

On several occasions Lieut. D. C. Chamberlain, of my escort, carried my orders on the field to my satisfaction.

My two orderlies, William T. Brabson and William Forbes, bore themselves with great courage, and were useful to me in many ways. Mr. Armstrong, of Knoxville, behaved with great gallantry.

To Brigadier-General Liddell, commanding brigade in Cleburne's division, I am under many obligations. He came into action at my request at a critical moment, gallantly maintaining the fight until I could change my front and bring my troops into action. This was the only active support that I am aware of receiving until I was forced to abandon my purpose of establishing myself on the Nashville pike.

I feel grateful to Lieutenant-General Hardee for the consideration exhibited for my weary and exhausted command, as well as for the confidence (as exhibited by him in sharing our fortunes at one time in rear of the Federal army) reposed in them.

It is with pride and pleasure I record the gallant bearing of my division, but it is with a sad heart that I record the roll of the gallant dead and wounded.

Col. R. B. Vance, Twenty-ninth North Carolina, succeeded to the command of General Rains' brigade. Colonel Vance bore himself gallantly.

After the fall of General Rains, his staff on the field reported to me. Their bearing at all times when under my observation was very gallant. They are as follows: Capt. [Felix] R. [R.] Smith, inspector-general; Lieut. T. B. Thompson, aide-de-camp, and Capt. C. A. Nichols, volunteer aide-de-camp.

I send inclosed the reports of my subordinate commanders and a

list\* of killed, wounded, and missing, which please append to this report. I also send a topographical sketch of the battle, drawn from memory.

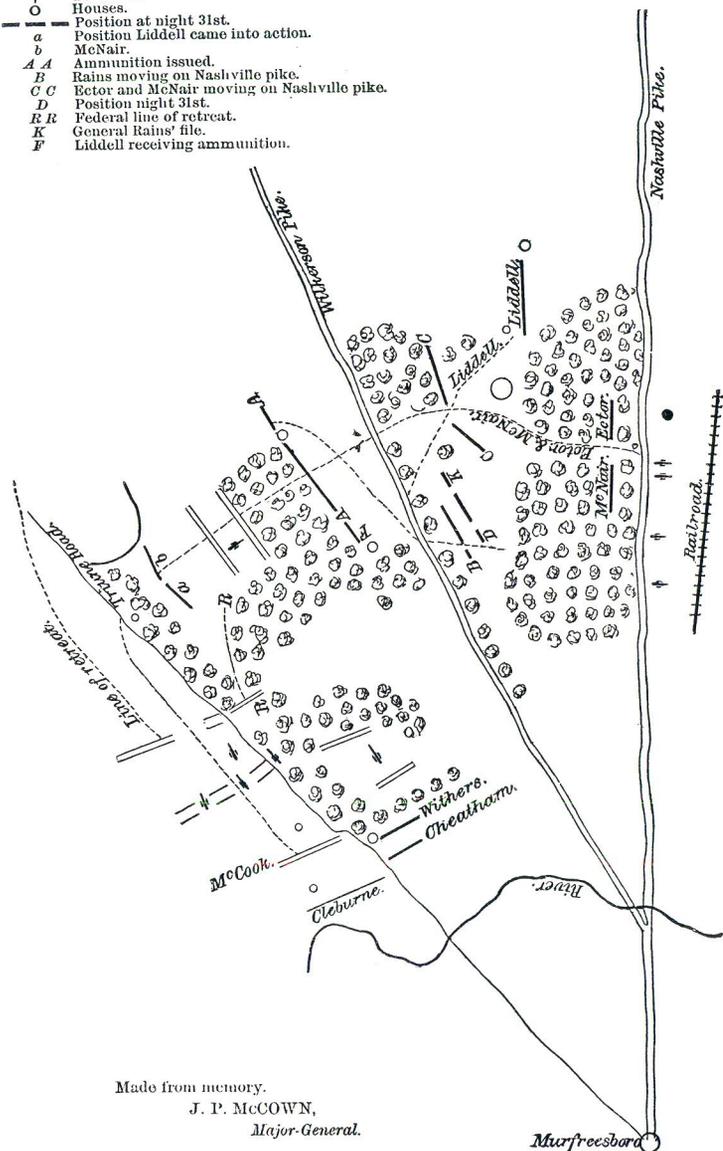
Yours, &c.,

J. P. McCOWN,

Major-General, Commanding.

Maj. T. B. ROY, Assistant Adjutant-General.

—	Confederates.
—	Federals.
—	Batteries.
o	Houses.
o	Position at night 31st.
a	Position Liddell came into action.
b	McNair.
A A	Ammunition issued.
B	Rains moving on Nashville pike.
C C	Bector and McNair moving on Nashville pike.
D	Position night 31st.
R R	Federal line of retreat.
K	General Rains' file.
F	Liddell receiving ammunition.



Made from memory.

J. P. McCOWN,

Major-General.

Murfreesboro

\* Embodied in No. 191, pp. 680, 681.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., June 28, 1863.

In General Bragg's report of the battle of Murfreesborough I find the following:

The failure of General McCown to execute during the night an order for a slight change in the line of his division, and which had to be done in the morning, caused some delay in the general and vigorous assault by Lieutenant-General Hardee, but about 7 o'clock the rattle of musketry and the roar of artillery announced the beginning of the conflict.

This passage conveys to the mind of the reader that I had failed to execute an order, thereby delaying the attack, and that the attack commenced at 7 o'clock. Neither proposition is sustained by the facts in the case. Upon reading General Bragg's report, I applied to him to correct this error, in a communication addressed to his chief of staff, in which I say:

I received an order on the night of the 30th from General Bragg to change the position of Rains' brigade. The change was made during the night. I also received an order from Lieutenant-General Hardee to change the position of McNair's brigade. General Cheatham was to point out the new position, which he did. The brigade was placed accurately upon the ground indicated by General Cheatham before I left for General Bragg's headquarters. As to the hour of attack, I have to say the attack commenced at 6 o'clock. This fact is sustained by the reports of my subordinates.

I forward inclosed a copy of this application, marked A, together with a copy of the reply thereto, marked B, in which reply General Bragg refuses me the justice to which I am entitled, and, by some strange misapprehension on his part, he bases that refusal on the ground that my application and the certificates therein inclosed sustain his report. This mistake is singular and palpable. He says in his report that I failed to execute an order, whereby the attack was delayed. This statement I deny in my application and sustain the denial by proof. In General Bragg's reply he assumes that this denial constitutes an admission of the fact. His report places the beginning of the conflict at 7 o'clock. My application places it at 6 [o'clock], and the evidence therewith offered proves my statement correct; yet General Bragg in his reply assumes that my application and certificates "fully" sustain his report in this respect, notwithstanding they differ an hour as to the time of the beginning of the attack. When the rules of logic are so far reversed as to make a positive denial an admission of a fact, and when the laws of nature are so far changed as to make 6 [o'clock] in the morning and 7 o'clock one and the same thing, then General Bragg's assumption that my application for a correction of his report sustains the report itself will be comprehensible, and not until then. His report and my application are the reverse of each other, both as to my failure to execute an order and as to the time of attack. General Bragg's reply says that on these points they agree.

General Bragg further says, in his reply, that the statement in his report which I asked him to correct was based on the following paragraph in General Hardee's report:

Major-General McCown having failed to get McNair's brigade on the line of battle Tuesday night, as directed by me, the brigade was moved into position next morning.

I would respectfully state that I am at a loss to understand how General Bragg could base a statement in his report of February 23, 1863, on a paragraph in the report of General Hardee, dated February 28, 1863, five days after General Bragg's report.

I deem it proper here to relate clearly the facts in the case. Near sundown on the evening of December 30, 1862, Lieutenant-General Hardee came to the left and assumed command, and requested General

Cheatham and myself to explain the location of our commands and the nature of the ground in our respective fronts. On the latter point General Cheatham and myself materially differed. General Hardee, as I understood, accepted General Cheatham's explanation of the ground, and ordered me to change the position of McNair's brigade. I told General Hardee that either he did not understand General Cheatham or I did not understand his order. I then requested General Hardee either to locate the brigade himself or to order General Cheatham to accurately point out the ground. General Cheatham was directed by General Hardee to comply with my request. I was thus particular because I felt satisfied that an attempt to locate the brigade as I understood General Hardee to direct, would bring on a night engagement, for which I would be held responsible. General Cheatham, by General Hardee's order, went with me and pointed out the position the brigade was to occupy, the right resting at a pile of rails near Mrs. Smith's house, on the Triune road. Inclosed you will find a copy of a note from General Cheatham, with accompanying map, marked C, in which he says:

I was directed by General Hardee to point out to you the position for General McNair's brigade, which I did just before dark on Tuesday evening, placing his right, resting on the Triune road, in a line with Colonel Loomis' brigade, which was in the front line of Polk's corps. You requested that General Hardee would indicate the position for McNair, which I agreed to do at General Hardee's request.

That McNair's brigade was placed as ordered I refer to the following evidence: General McNair's report, the inclosed copies of communications from Generals McNair and Ector and Captain [C. B.] Kilgore, marked, respectively, D, E, and F, and the map accompanying General Cheatham's communication, marked C. General McNair's report contains the following paragraph:

In obedience to orders received from division headquarters at — p. m. December 30, 1862, I formed my brigade in line of battle on the ground designated at the time.

The ground designated was that pointed out to me by General Cheatham. There seems to be a blank in McNair's report as to the hour at which he received this order. I find it so, at least, in the copy before me, the original having been forwarded; but his communication, marked D, fills up the deficiency in his report. In that communication, as you will observe, he says, in reply to an inquiry from me:

On the evening of December 30, about sundown, you ordered me to move my brigade about 200 yards in advance of the line of battle then occupied by me, and in advance of a strip of woods that extended immediately in front of my original line, which order was executed and a new line of battle formed a little after dark.

This statement of General McNair is supported by the letter of General Ector, marked E, and that of Captain Kilgore, marked F.

Now, by reference to the map furnished by General Cheatham, and which you will find with his letter, marked C, you will see McNair's original position—the thicket or woods in front thereof—and the new line for his occupation pointed out by General Cheatham by the direction of General Hardee, and then (in connection with this map), by reference to General McNair's report, together with his letter and the letters of Ector and Kilgore, you will see that I moved McNair forward precisely as ordered, and placed him on the ground designated by General Cheatham by the direction of General Hardee, and it will further appear from the papers referred to that this movement was made early on the night of December 30, 1862, and not delayed until next morning, as I am charged with doing.

As I fully executed the order to move both McNair and Rains, and as

those were the only orders I got to alter my position or otherwise change the location of my brigades during the afternoon and night of December 30, 1862, it follows positively that I did not fail to execute an order for a slight or any other change in the line of my division during the night previous to the battle of Murfreesborough. As I placed McNair's brigade on the ground pointed out to me by General Cheatham for that purpose by General Hardee's order, I am not responsible for any misapprehension of my superior in reference thereto. I believed (and so expressed myself at the time) that there was some misconception as to the nature of the ground, and naturally felt desirous of placing the responsibility of any mistake arising therefrom upon those whose duty it was to bear it.

If the attack was delayed, as alleged (which I deny), that delay does not rest on my shoulder. General Bragg, in the paper marked B, says, "The attack was ordered to be made at daylight (dawn), which was then 5 o'clock." This differs materially from the written order which I received from Lieutenant-General Hardee. That order is as follows:

HEADQUARTERS HARDEE'S CORPS, ARMY OF TENNESSEE,  
December 30, [1862]—10 p. m.

Major-General MCCOWN, *Commanding Division*:

GENERAL: Lieutenant-General Hardee directs that you hold your command in readiness to move upon the enemy at daylight. He will be present to superintend the movement. The general will see you and General Cleburne at 5.45 a. m. at the house on the left of Rains' position—Cleburne's headquarters.

Respectfully,

T. B. ROY,  
*Chief of Staff.*

In this you will see that I am not ordered to commence the attack at daylight (dawn), but to hold myself in readiness "to move upon the enemy at daylight." Now, this plainly is not an order to attack at 5 o'clock, for by it General Hardee directs me to meet him at General Cleburne's headquarters at 5.45 o'clock, which I did, and there received my final orders before commencing the movement upon the enemy. He could not have intended me to attack the enemy three-quarters of an hour before the time appointed by himself for giving me my final instructions for the conduct of that attack. Therefore, if General Bragg issued orders for the attack to commence at 5 o'clock, as he intimates in the paper marked B, General Hardee must have been unaware of them; and the first and only knowledge I have of them is contained in said paper, marked B, written to me long after the battle of Murfreesborough. I was with General Hardee near the hour of 5.45 a. m., as directed by his order, received from him my final instructions, and attacked the enemy about 6 o'clock. That I did so fully appears from the inclosed note of Capt. R. E. Foote, marked G, from the inclosed letters of Generals McNair and Ector, and from the official reports of my subordinates. These papers establish, beyond controversy, that I commenced the attack about 6 o'clock. The sun rose that morning in the latitude of Murfreesborough at from 7.04 to 7.10 o'clock, which brought daylight about 6 o'clock, thus making unvarying nature a witness to the fact that I moved to the attack at the appointed time and without delay.

But, admitting the absurdity that nature on the morning of December 31, 1862, was untrue to herself, and brought daylight at 5 o'clock, you will see that it was impossible for me to commence the attack at that hour, or any sooner than I did, for, by direction of General Hardee, under whose immediate command I was acting, I had to meet him only a few minutes before 6 o'clock to get my final orders for commencing and carrying on the conflict. When I commenced the attack it was

just light enough to see from the center to the right and left of each of my brigades.

The announcement that daylight was at 5 o'clock (over two hours before sunrise) in the latitude of Murfreesborough on December 31, 1862, is something not only new to me, but also to the scientific world and the observing farmer. "Daylight (dawn)," the phrase used by General Bragg in the paper marked B, is ambiguous, but simple daylight, the term used in the orders given me preparatory to the battle, is plain, and easily understood.

In addition to the foregoing evidence, Lieutenant-General Polk, in his report of the battle of Murfreesborough, says:

At the appointed time the battle opened, evidently to the surprise of the opposing army. Major-General McCown, acting under the orders of Lieutenant-General Hardee, was upon them before they were prepared to receive him. He captured several batteries and one brigadier-general, wounding another, and drove three brigades—those composing the division of Brigadier-General Johnson—in confusion before him.

This Federal division was, according to their own accounts, placed to resist just such a movement, and was 6,000 strong. My division numbered about 4,000. This is sufficient evidence of itself, I should think, to show that the attack was well timed, especially when we consider that the enemy was posted in woods, and that my division passed to the attack across open fields, and was flanked by Davis' Federal division.

From the foregoing facts two things clearly appear: First, that I did not fail to execute an order for a change in the line of my division during the night previous to the battle of Murfreesborough, and, second, that I did not thereby, or from any other cause, delay the assault on that day. It follows, then, that the paragraph in General Bragg's report, which charges me with such failure and delay, is erroneous, and manifestly unjust to me.

I have applied to General Bragg, as hereinbefore stated, asking him to correct that error. Instead of so doing, he does me double injustice, by assuming in his reply that I admit the charges. His report will become a part of history, as it now stands, if left uncorrected and uncontradicted; therefore, my honor as a man (which I prize above everything), and my reputation as a soldier (which is only less dear to me than my honor and the welfare of my country), both impel me to ask a court of inquiry, to fully investigate and pronounce upon the justice or injustice of these charges.

Yours, &c.,

J. P. McCOWN,

*Major-General, Provisional Army, Confederate States.*

General S. COOPER,

*Adjutant and Inspector General, C. S. Army.*

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT No. 2,  
*Chattanooga, Tenn., July 24, 1863.*

General S. COOPER,

*Adjutant and Inspector General, Richmond, Va.:*

SIR: The inclosed application of Major-General McCown is forwarded with the hope that the request will be granted as soon as practicable. The whole matter had better be put on record and then neither party will have cause to complain. The only point made by General McCown which requires notice is that of the respective dates of my report and General Hardee's. Before making that part of my report, I called on

General Hardee for the facts and received them from him in writing, together with the correspondence with General McCown, in which the delay was acknowledged and his reasons, unsatisfactory to me, were given.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

BRAXTON BRAGG,

*General, C. S. Army.*

[Inclosure A.]

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., *May 17, 1863.*

Brig. Gen. W. W. MACKALL:

General Bragg, in his report of the battle of Murfreesborough, says:

The failure of General McCown to execute during the night an order for a slight change in the line of his division, and which had to be done the next morning, caused some delay in the general and vigorous assault by Lieutenant-General Hardee; but about 7 o'clock the rattle of musketry and roar of artillery announced the beginning of the conflict.

This does me injustice. I received an order on the night of the 30th from General Bragg to change the position of Rains' brigade. The change was made during the night. I also received an order from Lieutenant-General Hardee to change the position of McNair's brigade. General Cheatham was to point out the new position, which he did. The brigade was placed accurately upon the ground indicated by General Cheatham before I left for General Bragg's headquarters. As to the hour of attack, I have to say the attack commenced at about 6 o'clock. This fact is sustained by the reports of my subordinates.

I respectfully request the general commanding to correct the error in his report. I should be pleased to be informed of the action of the general commanding in the premises.

Yours, &c.,

J. P. McCOWN,

*Major-General.*

N. B.—I send papers marked A, B, C.

[Inclosure B.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF TENNESSEE,  
*Shelbyville, Tenn., June 5, 1863.*

Major-General McCOWN, *Chattanooga, Tenn.:*

SIR: The general commanding directs me to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 17th ultimo, and in reply to say that the paragraph in his report of the battle of Murfreesborough which you regard as injurious to yourself is fully sustained by your admission and by the certificate you inclose. The paragraph was based on that of General Hardee, which says:

Major-General McCown having failed to get McNair's brigade on the line of battle Tuesday night, as directed by me, the brigade was moved into position early the next morning.

The attack was ordered to be made at daylight (dawn), which was then 5 o'clock. When the action became distinct with artillery and volleys of musketry it was 7 o'clock, as marked by the watch of the commanding general. He had been more than two hours on the field, and felt and exhibited surprise and anxiety at the delay. The order to you admitted of no conditions, and the general commanding cannot understand your right to suspend an important movement ordered by your superior commanders because you supposed it might be seen by the enemy or might cause an engagement. That was a question for your

nance stores, also a great quantity of small-arms and camp equipage; all of which, I presume, was collected by the proper persons.

For the action of Captain Humphreys' battery I beg leave to refer you to his own report, as he was detached from the brigade during the day, and consequently did not come under my observation; but I feel assured that the gallant Captain Humphreys and his company were not found wanting on this occasion.

I most respectfully ask leave to call your attention to the officers composing my staff: Capts. R. E. Foote (assistant adjutant general) and W. C. Carrington (aide de-camp), always at their posts, rendered me valuable assistance during the day.

Mr. James Stone, my volunteer aide, has placed me under lasting obligations for his active assistance.

To Major [S. H.] Mulherrin, acting commissary of subsistence, much credit is due for his continual attention to his department, which administered so much to the comfort of the men.

Maj. W. H. Eltsner, assistant quartermaster, was at his post as usual, keeping the train in proper order.

My little orderly (volunteer King) and his white pony were present, doing all that he could to complete the victory.

Though contrary to my usual custom, I beg leave to call your attention to the field officers of my brigade. It has been my fortune to be present at many a hard-fought battle, but never have I witnessed such deeds of moral courage and gallant daring as were displayed by the field and company officers of the line during the entire day. I forbear to mention names, for each seemed to vie with the other in deeds of gallantry, but one I must mention. That one is Maj. L. M. Ramsaur, First Arkansas Mounted Rifles. He was severely wounded in the last charge made upon the enemy's stronghold. To him much is due for the gallant charges of the day.

To officers and men I am indebted for the success of my command. Our country and the glorious cause we are engaged in can never suffer while defended by such gallant spirits.

To the friends of the dead it is enough for them to know that they baptized their country with their blood and gave their bodies a willing sacrifice upon the altar of liberty. Their gallant spirits have taken their flight to that land where the clash of arms and the shock of battle are unknown.

I am, major, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. MCNAIR,

*Brigadier-General, Comdg. Third Brigade, McCown's Division.*

Maj. H. S. BRADFORD,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 295.

*Reports of Col. Robert W. Harper, First Arkansas Mounted Rifles, commanding regiment and Third Brigade.*

JANUARY 10, 1863.

SIR: Brig. Gen. E. McNair being compelled to leave the field on account of severe indisposition, the command devolved upon me, and, as soon as our cartridge-boxes were replenished, I moved forward in conjunction with Brigadier-General Ector, commanding Texas Brigade. I was ordered to swing around my left, making the right a pivot, which

changed my front from a north to a northeasterly direction. This change of front threw the left of the division nearer to the enemy's line, which appeared afterward to run east and west, and, approaching a dense thicket of cedars, I ordered skirmishers to be thrown rapidly forward, to prevent anything like an ambuscade to our already jaded troops. Almost simultaneously that my skirmishers entered the thicket, Ector's brigade, on our left, became warmly engaged, and I received a message from him by Major [F. M.] Spencer, urging me to press forward as rapidly as possible. No time was now to be lost, as the enemy had evidently made this their last stand-point, and had opened upon us with artillery and musketry. Almost simultaneously with General Ector's request, I received an order from the major-general commanding to charge the batteries. The order was immediately repeated to the command, and, flushed with success and buoyant with hope, they rushed forward to accomplish more brilliant results. The growth through which the right was compelled to pass rendered it impossible to keep an unbroken line, but still they pushed forward. But the position proved too strong for the two gallant little brigades, the enemy having some five batteries in position, strongly supported by three long lines of infantry, and after one of the most brilliant charges that history records they were overwhelmed and compelled to fall back, not, however, until they had succeeded in driving a large portion of the infantry from their position and compelling the gunners of at least one battery to retire. I should have mentioned, however, when the firing became heaviest, and I found that one or more batteries on our extreme right were severely enfilading us, that I sent Captain [Mr. James] Stone, of General McNair's staff, and urged Major-General Cleburne or Brigadier-General Polk to move up rapidly on our right, so as to cover the enemy's front and remove the galling fire from our flank. This movement, however, was not made in time to assist us, and after ten or twelve minutes of the severest fighting it has ever been my lot to witness we were compelled to fall back with very heavy loss. After rallying and reforming the brigade, they were allowed to rest under the crest of a hill some 500 or 600 yards from the scene of the late fighting, having been under a continuous fire for nearly seven hours, and having driven the enemy with impetuosity for  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 miles.

The loss, which had been heavy in the three previous charges of the morning, was still greater at this point, our ranks being almost decimated before our troops could be forced to retire. Here fell, badly wounded, Maj. L. M. Ramsaur, commanding First Arkansas Rifles, while gallantly leading his regiment to the desperate charge. Major [James J.] Franklin, commanding *Thirtieth Arkansas Volunteers*, while cheering his soldiers to new deeds of daring, was severely wounded and fell into the hands of the enemy.

We were permitted to rest here for three-quarters of an hour, when I was ordered to move by the right flank, and took position, in obedience to instructions, in a cedar brake, where the brigade remained in line of battle, without any noticeable casualties, until we were withdrawn.

I cannot close without paying a tribute to the field officers and officers of the line, and the gallant spirits who compose their commands. Each seemed to vie with the other in deeds of daring, and where all exerted themselves so strenuously it is impossible to discriminate. The color-bearers along the whole line more than once elicited my admiration by the steadiness with which the Bonnie Blue Flag was constantly borne in the front line.

Capt. R. E. Foote, assistant adjutant-general, Third Brigade, has

placed me under many obligations for the promptitude with which he delivered all orders, regardless of danger; and James Stone, volunteer aide to Brigadier-General McNair, who was ever with me, several times bearing his orders through the heaviest of the fight, is entitled to the thanks of the commander and his country.

I have the honor to be, major, your very obedient servant,

R. W. HARPER,

*Colonel, Comdg. Third Brigade, McCown's Division.*

Maj. H. S. BRADFORD,

*Assistant Adjutant-General, McCown's Division.*

—  
JANUARY 10, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the regiment under my command in the battle before Murfreesborough on December 31, 1862:

In obedience to the order received from the brigadier-general commanding, the regiment moved up 150 yards from the rear, where it had bivouacked for the night, and took its position on the right of the brigade, then in line. A few minutes before 6 a. m. we were ordered forward, and moved on a line parallel with the road leading by Cowan's house. About 6 o'clock our pickets became engaged, and soon after the firing opened along the whole line of the regiment. On account of a field fence my two right companies were formed in the rear, and at this point we were severely enfiladed by the enemy's sharpshooters, some 200 [yards] distant on our right. The order to charge was then given, and with impetuosity our men scaled the fence on our front, driving the enemy before them until we reached his encampment, which gave ample evidence of his want of preparation for a fight. Encamped as he was in a thick cedar brake, it would seem our progress must be impeded; but nothing could withstand the fury of the onset. The enemy's lines were broken, and the rout, so far as my observation reached, became general.

Turning to the right in the direction of the pursued, we moved constantly at a double-quick over field and brake, the dead and dying of the enemy but too plainly marking the track of the fleeing Abolitionists. It was at this point that young Clark D. Jenkins, a private of Company D, shot down a general officer, who was endeavoring to rally his scattered columns, supposed to be Major-General Sill, as his body was found soon afterward in a hospital near by. We had now driven the enemy about 1½ miles, when, finding a line of Federal infantry endeavoring to gain our rear, we halted and formed our line with the intention of cutting through his ranks to our main army, but the opportune arrival of Liddell's brigade on our right relieved us. After a few moments' delay I was ordered to move forward, my right resting on the left of Liddell's brigade. We continued to move to the front, when, Liddell becoming warmly engaged with a heavy force, who had concealed themselves behind a fence, I was ordered to file right, move by the flank some 150 paces, then by the left flank, and then received the order to charge. Forward rushed our gallant men, with the wild yell of an infuriated soldiery, and for a few seconds the result seemed doubtful. The enemy, almost securely posted, stubbornly held their ground, and it seemed as if once during the war our lines would clash in close combat. But again the intrepidity of our troops prevailed, and, when distant only 50 or 75 yards, his lines gave way, and were soon thrown into utter confusion and terribly cut to pieces by our fire as they retreated

across an open field some 700 or 800 [yards] wide. "Forward," again was the order, and forward moved our unwavering lines, and in the face of heavy volleys that were poured in upon us from the opposite fence, and the raking fire of grape and canister from two sections of a battery posted in the field, we charged and took two pieces of artillery. It was here that Capt. W. P. Campbell, acting major, was severely wounded in the leg, while gallantly urging his wing to the charge, and was compelled to leave the field. Here we were halted for a new supply of ammunition, having exhausted all but 3 or 4 rounds out of 40 to the man, which is the best evidence of the severity of the contest.

It was now 9.15 a. m. We had charged and driven the enemy with impetuosity for three and a quarter hours over not less than 3½ miles of ground, captured and killed many field officers and officers of the line, and privates without number, taken several pieces of artillery, while vast amounts of camp equipage and small-arms, &c., were left in our rear, which our patriotic soldiery passed by unheeded.

A few moments served to replenish our ammunition, and we again moved forward 1 mile or more, when skirmishers were ordered to be thrown forward to a cedar brake from which we had been fired upon. Up to this time we had been advancing nearly due north, but, having made a half-wheel to the right, were moved nearly northeast. Here the extreme left of our division, being nearest the enemy's line, became first engaged; the order was given to charge the batteries strongly posted on an eminence beyond. Another thrill of excitement ran along the line, and another yell of stern defiance pealed forth as they moved rapidly to the new scene of slaughter. The enemy being strongly posted, his flank batteries *en échelon*, supported by three lines of infantry, the regiment after a most brilliant effort was compelled to fall back after being nearly decimated. Here fell, most severely wounded, and, I fear, mortally, Maj. L. M. Ramsaur, acting lieutenant-colonel. He was gallantly leading the regiment in the charge, and had well nigh succeeded in driving the enemy from one of his batteries. We had now been under heavy fire almost continuously six and three-quarters hours; had driven the enemy from his extreme left to his center, and our jaded troops were reformed and allowed to rest under the crest of a hill for an hour or so, when we were again moved by the right flank half a mile and took position in a cedar brake, where we remained, in line, without any serious casualties until we were withdrawn.

My loss, in addition to the two field officers already named, is severe; but I am happy to add that the wounds are, for the most part, slight and not likely to render them unfit for active duty hereafter. The whole loss in killed, wounded, and missing is 96, as already furnished in my official report, which I ask may be taken as a part of this.

Where all exerted themselves and gave such evidences of individual heroism, it is impossible for a commander to discriminate. I must, however, [mention] Color-bearer Cotten, who always moved with unflinching step in the front rank.

Our surgeons are also entitled to be mentioned for the promptness with which our wounded were cared for; and I conclude by saying that, whatever fate betides the First Arkansas Rifles in future, their actions on this day have shed imperishable glory on them and their cause.

I have the honor to be, sir, your very obedient servant,

R. W. HARPER,

*Colonel, Commanding First Arkansas Rifles.*

Capt. R. E. FOOTE,

*Asst. Adj. Gen., Third Brigade, McCown's Division.*

General Liddell, who was then advancing. The whole line moved forward, gently swinging to the right. We were engaged in a sharp running skirmish fight over the space of a fourth of a mile, but at length halted to give the troops rest, sheltered by a rail fence. General Liddell's brigade (Arkansas), on our right, and at this time 100 yards in our rear, were attacked by a large force directly in its front and behind a double row of fences. We were ordered to charge the enemy thus on our right and front, which we did with promptness, driving him from the field again, his right in great disorder. We moved forward across a field and then a wood, and were halted near a fence. The enemy was in some force on our right and front, but, giving him a scattering fire, he fled, and we crossed a field, and finally halted to wait until the ammunition could be brought up, the troops having already expended their 40 rounds. After supplying the troops with the requisite number of rounds of ammunition, we again advanced, and, uniting with General Ector's Texas brigade, on our left, continued to advance, swinging our left around so as to make an angle of 40° with our lines in the last engagement, and make an angle of nearly 60° with our first line in the morning. It was evident that we had turned the enemy's right flank so far that our advance would now bring us in contact with his center. It could plainly be seen that the center of our army had gained but little ground during the day. It was still more evident that our extreme right had participated but little in the battle. The left had driven the enemy 5 miles, and changed the front of both armies. We moved forward through a wood which, at first, was clear of undergrowth, then a dense thicket of cedar trees and undergrowth, having to encounter now and then a rail fence. Soon the enemy's artillery opened upon us a terrific fire of shell. Our orders were to take the battery. Owing to the obstacles we had to encounter, the lines were necessarily broken, but our advance was steady until we arrived in full view of the enemy's guns. At this juncture, a battery on our left, one to our front, one to the right of front, and one on the right, poured upon us a most murderous fire of grape and canister shot. The farthest could not have been more than 400 yards distant; the nearest not more than 100 yards. This last was supported by either three or four columns of infantry, which gave way as we advanced, although in rear of their artillery; but it was impossible to maintain our position under the cross-fire of artillery. To advance and take the battery in front would have placed us in a position to be raked without any means of defense, and being unsupported on our right. Our ranks had been thinned during the day, and the troops were fatigued and worn out. We were then compelled to relinquish our attempt, and fall back to the woods in our rear.

No one who knows the nature of the ground and the great odds against which they had to contend, can reproach the gallant troops for giving way at this period. They had won the day, if, indeed, the day was ours. Too much praise cannot be given them for their conduct. Their retreat was their misfortune, and not their fault.

We took little or no part in the battle after this, and I deem it unnecessary to continue a report further.

To the notice of my superior officers I commend the gallant soldiers whom I have the honor to command, having no individuals to commend above others. The gallant men who have won laurels wherever and whenever they have been called to battle do not expect me to notice particular individuals among them. Were I to mention one for gallant conduct, I should have to mention all.

My color-bearer (John B. Bryant) was wounded in the first engage-

ment, and Lieut. John Armstrong, Company D, bore the colors through the other engagements, but fell, mortally wounded, in the last. Lieutenant [G. D.] Goodner then took the colors, and soon after was himself wounded. Captain [John W.] Lavender bore the colors during the remainder of the day. I mention these names, not wishing to commend them above others, but to show how determined officers and men seemed to maintain the honor and integrity of their regiment.

To my field officers, Lieutenant-Colonel [James H.] May and Major [J. B.] McCulloch, I am indebted for their efficient aid.

To my only staff officer present (Sergeant-Major Johnson) I am indebted for the promptness and dispatch with which every order was executed.

I cannot give the names of all whose gallantry deserves notice. The captains and other officers of the line seemed to vie with one another in courage and gallantry. The men seemed to imbibe the spirit of their officers.

I am, captain, your obedient servant,

H. G. BUNN,

*Colonel, Commanding Fourth Arkansas Regiment.*

Capt. R. E. FOOTE,

*Asst. Adjt. Gen., Third Brigade, McCown's Division.*

No. 298.

*Report of Capt. William A. Cotter, Thirtieth Arkansas Infantry.*

CAMP NEAR SHELBYVILLE, TENN.,

*January 10, 1863.*

SIR: In obedience to General Orders, No. 7, I have the honor to make the following report as being the part taken by this regiment in the engagement before Murfreesborough on December 31, 1862:

We were ordered into line about 6 o'clock on the morning of the 31st ultimo. Our strength was found to be 9 captains, 17 lieutenants, and 240 privates. As soon as the brigade was formed we were ordered to move forward in the direction of where the enemy's battery had been actively operating the afternoon before. After moving forward about 400 yards at quick time, we came up in full view of the enemy's line, and directly in front of one of their batteries. Here occasional firing along our [line] commenced and continued until we moved 50 yards farther, becoming more general as we advanced. This brought us within 100 yards of the battery, when the command "charge" was given, which command was enthusiastically responded to by the entire regiment, every one moving at a double-quick until our hands were upon the captured guns. These we reached in advance of the brigade, inasmuch as we had the advantage in ground. The battery taken, we were now able to do most effective service, as the enemy were driven from the thicket on our right. We had an open fire upon them at close range; but while we were thus employed the enemy did not neglect to retaliate, for here we had the commanders of seven companies cut down (3 killed and 4 wounded), besides several lieutenants, the color-bearer, and many gallant privates. After pursuing the enemy for several hundred yards, the men being very much scattered, a halt was ordered and the brigade reformed.

About this time the enemy were seen advancing to our right upon one

ries, and making some little demonstration, as if they had  
arguing it. We were immediately moved by the right flank ar  
to protect the battery, and then by the left flank in the  
the enemy, who lay concealed in the corners of a cross-fence.  
was the opportunity offered us for doing valuable service.  
de moved by the front, we were forced to cross the fence to  
which the enemy lay watching our right wing. Here we  
at a distance not exceeding 40 yards before they discovered  
ed the fence. Now was heard the second command, "Charge  
," which command was as readily responded to as the first,  
as successful in execution. We were called to a halt, and  
in regular line moved forward several hundred yards farther,  
r halt was ordered, for the purpose of recruiting our supply  
on. We were engaged at this when General McNair was  
re from the field, to the deep regret of us all. This being  
we moved on near a mile in the direction the enemy had  
en it was discovered that they had rallied and stood in line  
rear of a most powerful battery, which was planted upon a  
ling the country for some distance on three sides, and which  
ported by two small batteries, holding a cross-fire upon any  
he front. When we arrived within 500 yards of this battery,  
mand to "charge that battery" was given. This, too, was  
with a joyous shout and a rapid onward. All were fatigued,  
willing, all were sanguine. But here we were disappointed,  
re that we met with our first repulse. But it was unavail-  
part of our brigade, for by the time we had advanced to  
rds of the center battery the enemy began to pour in grape  
rderous rate that it appeared little less than suicide to ad-  
r. Still, some few, nothing daunted, determined to go on,  
go to within 100 yards of the enemy's stronghold. Among  
our gallant flag-bearer, whose hand was shot off and he  
ed to abandon his colors. It was under that battery that  
some of our noblest spirits—first of all our gallant major,  
n. Knowing a second attempt upon this stronghold of the  
altogether impracticable, we fell back near 1,200 yards,  
died our scattered men and moved forward again about 800  
e we were ordered to remain until nightfall.

ed the enemy during the day about 4 miles; the country  
ve passed generally open and slightly undulating.

WM. A. COTTER,

*Commanding Thirtieth Arkansas.*

E. FOOTE,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 299.

*Report of Maj. J. A. Ross, Fourth Arkansas Battalion.*

NEAR SHELBYVILLE, TENN., *January 10, 1863.*

honor, through you, to make to the brigadier-general com-  
nd Brigade the following report of the part taken by the

Fourth Arkansas Battalion in the battle of Murfreesborough, Tenn.,  
fought on December 31, 1862:

Just at daybreak the battalion, in line of battle with the other regi-  
ments forming the brigade, moved upon the enemy.

After marching across the field for some half mile to the fence, a brisk  
fire opened between the skirmishers in the cedar brake immediately in  
our front.

At this time, observing a disposition among the men to fire at long  
range, I ordered them to hold their fire. The command moved briskly  
forward through the brush until within 100 yards of the enemy's line  
of battle, when a most destructive fire was poured into the enemy's  
ranks. After a short resistance, the enemy fled, leaving his dead and  
wounded and several pieces of artillery upon the field. I pushed for-  
ward the battalion in pursuit of the retreating foe, crossing a field and  
several fences. After crossing the last fence, our line of battle became  
disordered in getting through a very dense cedar thicket which inter-  
vened. Upon emerging from the thicket, I could only see a portion of  
the left wing of the battalion. With this I continued to push forward  
in the original direction of the line of battle, and, uniting with the Second  
Brigade, under command of Brigadier-General Ector, pursued the flee-  
ing enemy for the distance of some 4 miles, until recalled by Capt. R.  
E. Foote. Upon returning to the brigade, I learned that the right  
wing of the battalion, under command of Lieutenants [E. D.] McLaugh-  
lin and [J. S.] Dougan, had assisted in a second brilliant and successful  
charge.

At this point the battalion was furnished with a fresh supply of ammu-  
nition, and again moved forward upon the enemy. The line swept for-  
ward through the forest for the distance of a mile, when it reached the  
foot of a ridge extending to the right and left as far as I could see, the  
side of which was covered with a dense undergrowth, in places almost  
impenetrable. Here the fires of three heavy batteries were opened upon  
us. Nothing daunted, the line moved steadily forward, halting and  
reforming twice in the midst of a shower of bursting shells, grape, and  
canister. When within 50 yards of the brow of the hill the command was  
given to charge. It was most gallantly executed. The men, with an in-  
furiated yell, rushed to the top of the hill. A short, sharp contest ensued,  
when the enemy's line of infantry began to give way; but the enemy's  
batteries, being entirely protected by the nature of their position, con-  
tinued to pour showers of grape and canister into our already more than  
decimated ranks. It was impossible for men to withstand such a fire  
from an unseen foe, and reluctantly the battalion with the rest of the  
brigade retired.

This was the last action in which the battalion was engaged. After  
falling back some distance, the battalion reformed, moved farther to the  
right, and lay upon the battle-field during the night.

It is with pride that I call attention to the fact that the men of my  
battalion took as deliberate aim as if engaged in target practice, each  
shot telling with fearful effect, as will be seen by an examination of the  
ground occupied by the battalion during the engagement. Never be-  
fore have I seen such a reckless disregard of life exhibited. Where all  
fought so well comparison would be odious.

In the first charge the flag-staff was shot in two and the right arm of  
Color-Sergt. Joseph R. Perry so paralyzed that the flag fell from his hand.  
Sergt. J. C. Davis, of Company A, immediately snatched up the colors and  
bore them gallantly forward until Sergeant Perry recovered from  
the shock and resumed his position.

Seventeenth Battalion Sharpshooters:

Private John H. Rutherford,\* Co. A. | Private Walter S. White, Co. B.

Waters' battery:

Private John Hutchison.

Ketchum's battery:

Capt. James Garrity. | First Lieut. M. A. Hassell.  
First Lieut. Philip Bond.

Arkansas.

First Regiment of Infantry:

Lieut. Col. D. McGregor.*	Private G. Bogy, Co. D.
Adj't. S. N. Greenwood.	Private W. W. Chaney, Co. E.
Capt. O. F. Parrish, Co. D.	Private H. J. Bullion, Co. F.
Lieut. J. E. Letson, Co. D.	Private A. P. Greou,* Co. G.
Capt. W. H. Scales, Co. C.	Private J. Beeson, Co. H.
Corpl. G. M. McKenzie,* Co. A.	Private J. H. Curd,* Co. I.
Private J. S. T. Hemphill, Co. B.	Private O. C. Choat,* Co. K.
Private G. W. Sallee,* Co. C.	

Second Regiment of Arkansas Mounted Rifles:

Corpl. James W. Piles, Co. A.	Private William Tih,* Co. F.
Private Tilman Peavy,* Co. B.	Serg't. Jesse Shepard, Co. G.
Private J. H. Eagle,* Co. C.	Private M. M. McGee, Co. H.
Private E. A. Ballew, Co. D.	Serg't. H. M. Graves, Co. I.
Private W. A. Thompson,* Co. E.	Serg't. F. C. Jett, Co. K.

Fourth Regiment of Infantry:

Serg't. S. H. Smith, Co. A.	Private J. M. Vinson,* Co. G.
Private James M. Pate,* Co. C.	Serg't. S. T. Ward,* Co. H.
Private Daniel Hudson, Co. D.	Private Simpson Jackson, Co. I.
Private Thomas Caldwell, Co. E.	Private T. P. Williams, Co. K.
Serg't. J. F. Garrett,* Co. F.	

First Regiment of Mounted Rifles:

Private Patrick Callanan, Co. A.	Private W. W. Coc, Co. F.
Private W. T. Blakemore, Co. B.	First Serg't. W. S. Colburn, Co. G.
Private James Pearson, Co. C.	Corpl. Thomas Thomson, Co. H.
Corpl. C. D. Jenkins, Co. D.	Corpl. Isaac L. Caston, Co. I.
Private T. J. Underwood, Co. E.	Private G. B. House,* Co. K.

Twenty-fifth Regiment of Infantry:

Private J. Alphin, Co. A.	Private John A. Wright, Co. F.
Corpl. J. S. Ferguson, Co. B.	Private J. S. Gardner, Co. G.
Private W. G. Evans, Co. C.	Private J. W. McNabb, Co. H.
Private M. N. Jones, Co. D.	Corpl. A. M. Ragsdale, Co. I.
Private S. H. McBride, Co. E.	Corpl. H. D. Holdaway, Co. K.

Fourth Battalion of Infantry:

Private James Vines,* Co. A.	Private George W. Ayler, Co. C.
Corpl. L. Heggie,* Co. B.	Private C. G. Warren, Co. E.

Humphreys' artillery company:

Private John Campbell.

Georgia.

Fifth Regiment of Infantry:

Private Newton Rice,* Co. A.	Corpl. B. D. Bedell, Co. H.
Corpl. Michael McNamara,* Co. C.	Private George W. Horsley,* Co. K.
Private Thomas J. Brantley,* Co. E.	Companies D and G declined to select.
Serg't. Samuel P. Kiddoo,* Co. F.	

\* Killed in action.

Third Battalion of Infantry:

Private A. S. Kimrey,* Co. B.	Private Michael Kinney, Co. F.
Private W. D. Clark,* Co. C.	Private Thomas Nolan, Co. G.
Private Mathew Hall, Co. D.	Private G. W. Sanders, Co. H.
Private John Capps, Co. E.	

Ninth Battalion of Infantry:

Private Obey McCurry, Co. A.	Corpl. William M. Gaines, Co. D.
Private W. J. Wood, Co. B.	Private C. M. R. Palmer, Co. E.
Private N. W. Rice, Co. C.	

Kentucky.

Second Regiment of Infantry:

Color-Corpl. W. H. Robinson, Co. A.	Serg't. W. O. Coppage, Co. F.
Private R. H. Graves, Co. B.	Serg't. D. E. Turney, Co. G.
Private Thomas Clark, Co. C.	Corpl. E. S. Wright, Co. H.
Serg't. C. A. Haskell, Co. D.	Serg't. John H. Crane, Co. I.
Serg't. F. M. Chambers, Co. E.	Serg't. James A. Pearce, Co. K.

Fourth Regiment of Infantry:

Corpl. G. W. Rogers, Co. A.	Private Joseph Nichols, Co. F.
Serg't. E. L. Johnson, Co. B.	Private H. D. Wallace, Co. G.
Private John McGuire, Company C.	Serg't. A. M. Hathaway, Co. K.
Color-Corpl. R. H. Lindsey, Co. D.	Companies H and I declined selecting
Serg't. J. S. Whittington, Co. E.	

Sixth Regiment of Infantry:

First Serg't. J. B. Lewis, Co. C.	Second Serg't. William Harned, Co. H.
Corpl. E. S. Jones, Co. D.	Private J. O. Cushenberry, Co. I.
Private Thomas W. Payne, Co. E.	Companies A and B declined selecting.
Private James T. Prather, Co. G.	

Ninth Regiment of Infantry:

Capt. Joseph Desha, Co. I.	Private Nathan Board, Co. G.
Capt. James T. Morehead, Co. G.	Serg't. William K. Kinman, Co. H.
Private J. G. Wakefield, Co. A.	Serg't. Drakeford Gray, Co. I.
Private Jacob Blackshear, Co. B.	Private H. B. Roberts, Co. K.
Private J. L. Collins, Co. C.	Company B declined to select.

Louisiana.

Thirteenth Regiment of Infantry:

Color-Serg't. Roger Tammure.	Private J. M. Harris, Co. E.
Serg't. Maj. John Farrel.	Private Michael McAuliffe, Co. F.
Private Daniel Dunn, Co. A.	Private James Kinsley, Co. G.
Private George K. Higgins, Co. B.	Private M. Branigan, Co. H.
Private Lewis Brown, Co. C.	Serg't. Patrick Johnson, Co. I.
Corpl. F. Druvot, Co. D.	Private Francis Mackin, Co. K.

Twentieth Regiment of Infantry:

Private Frank Moubahan, Co. A.	Private Justus Heisser, Co. F.
Corpl. Charles Snoider, Co. B.	Private Michael Sullivan, Co. G.
Corpl. John Bellejean, Co. C.	Private Michael Carey, Co. H.
Private Walter Haynes, Co. D.	Private John Gorman, Co. I.
First Serg't. P. Mooney, Co. E.	First Serg't. G. G. Smith, Co. K.

Austin's battalion of sharpshooters:

Private J. A. Stovall,* Co. A.	Private Andrew Develbiss, Co. B.
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Fifth Company Washington Artillery:

Private John W. Anthony

\* Killed in action.