

## Account of Perryville to Chickamauga

PERRYVILLE, KY.

We reached Perryville Oct. 6th, Liddell's Brigade and the battery in front. General Polk was in command at Perryville, because of Gen'l [sic] Bragg being called to Frankfort on the [crossed out] business of a public character, yet he returned before the fight was over.

The battle was opened on the morning of Oct. 8th 1862. Gen'l [sic] Polk states in his report, "about 10 O'clock, Liddell (our Brigade) was hotly engaged and it became evident that the enemy was disposed to press upon our right", "I directed Gen'l [sic] Buckner to retire Liddell's Brigade, and let it fall back upon our general line, and ordered Gen'l [sic] Cheatham to move the whole of his command from the left to the right of our line. These orders were promptly executed, and Cheatham's command was held in column of Brigades". At this place, about 1 O'clock, Liddell had held the enemy in check for about 2 hours. During the time, a large body of cavalry made a dash, but was scattered to the rear at a double-quick, the Battery firing canister, which is never used except at very close quarters.

At another place in Gen'l [sic] Polk's report, he says, "as the enemy was yielding towards the close of the day, the Brigade of Brigadier Gen'l [sic] Liddell, approached from my left and rear, and halted on the crest of a hill to determine a point to which to offer its support". "It was directed to the place where it was most wanted, and moved upon it with deafening cheers". "Here, owing to the fading twilight, it was for a few moments difficult to determine whether the firing on our front was from our men or the enemy's troops". "This difficulty however, was speedily removed; it was the enemy, and in obedience [sic] to orders, that veteran brigade under its gallant commander, closed the operations of the day in that part of the field in a [see footnote 1] succession of the most deadly volley I have witnessed". [footnote: only one volley] "The enemy's command in their immediate front was well nigh annihilated". "At this point a number of prisoners were taken, and among them several corps, Division and Brigade staff officers, and darkness closing in, I ordered the troops to cease firing and to bivouac for the night". Before this, and immediately in our front, when Gen'l [sic] Liddell received his last order, was a battery, and infantry command. We engaged them, severely handling the battery, while the Brigade gave the infantry all they wanted, when they double-quickened [sic] in a flank movement, the artillery company going off with the gun limbers and caissons, leaving their guns on the field.

We climbed rather a steep hill, up comparatively level ground, in scattering woods. It was nearly dark; the moon being about four days old. About fifty yards in front of us was a command firing to the right oblique, but no one could tell whether it was Federal or Confederate. Either Gen'l [sic] Polk, or Col. John Kelly of the 8th Ark. regiment, went forward and asked what command it was, and received the reply "22d or 32d Indiana!

Do you want me down there”? The answer was a negative, and in a minute the whole of Liddell’s Brigade fired on them, nearly all who were not killed, being taken prisoners. The artillery did nothing here. Everything being quiet, I was talking to the Col. of the Regiment, and he exclaimed, [see footnote 2] “My God! [illegible] killed nearly every man I had”. [footnote 2: Our brigade had one man wounded – none killed C.S.]

We remained here till midnight, and bivouaced [sic] in a field of shocked corn close by, where the horses were fed.

In the morning before the line of battle was formed, Gen’l [sic] Hardee came to me and directed that the battery occupy the position where it was. This was our extreme left. He then asked how far it was to a brick academy east of us. I told him what I thought to be the distance, and he told me to come with him. We reached the academy, where I found a battery of 12 pounder Napoleon guns. The Gen’l directed me to remain with it, as he wanted the battery to protect the left of our line. My situation was, to say the least, a very awkward one, but fortunately I knew the officers well, and on stating the case, they expressed themselves by saying they were very glad of it. The company was a very fine one, but had never been in action. It rendered splendid service to the close of the war.

In a short time, Gen’l [sic] Buckner, whom I knew, rode up and case was made known to him, when he told me as he was back, his chief would take charge, and I returned to the battery, which I found in a few minutes.

Before we reached Perryville, the road was exceedingly dusty, which the battery would raise in such clouds as almost to strangle us. As for water, there was none. We could not exclaim as did the “Ancient Mariner”, “Water, water everywhere, and not a drop to drink”, but, water, water nowhere, and I’m dying for a drink.

Killed and wounded.

Mike Davine, Killed.

Ed Dowling, Killed

There must have been more.

#### PERRYVILLE TO MURFRESBORO. [sic]

Oct. 9/62, the day after the battle, we started for Cumberland Gap, reaching camp Dick Robinson the next day. Here we found 2000 barrels of pork, and took all we wanted. On the 21st, passed through the Gap and arrived at Knoxville on the 25th. The next morning the snow was four inches deep on the Caisson chests, though I slept well under a blanket, with the additional coat of snow. Oct. 31st, left Knoxville and reached Shelbyville on Nov. 23d. The enemy advancing in force from Nashville, to attack us, the army was concentrated at Murfresboro [sic], which place we reached on Dec. 28th, and

formed line-of-battle. Though Nashville is only 20 miles from Murfresboro [sic], the cavalry was so skillfully handled that Rosecrans was four days in reaching us.

Battle of Murfresboro. [sic]

We were in line-of-battle for three days, during which time there was much heavy skirmishing, and many dashes made by the cavalry. Our Corps, Lieut. Gen'l [sic] Hardee's, was ordered to attack the enemy at daylight on Wednesday Dec. 31st. At this time we were not quite half a mile from the enemy. Between 7 and 8 O'clock, the rattle of small arms and boom of artillery evinced the fact that the battle was in progress. The enemy not expecting the attack, were to some extent surprised and not prepared to oppose us successfully, consequently we drove the Federal right back to a right angle with their line, our Brigade, Liddell's capturing six guns. After this, Johnson's Brigade being repulsed, caused our Division, Cleburne's to fall back. The next morning, Jan'y [sic] 1st 1863, we had a brush with cavalry, though it was rather quiet on our left. Both armies seemed to be preparing to renew the fight, but very little was done until the next morning, Jan'y [sic] 3d, at which time we had been in line-of-battle five days, and were not only [illegible] [illegible], but pretty well worn out. Up to this time, Stone [sic] River could be forded almost anywhere, but a continuous rain caused it to rise, and the condition was reversed and changed the status of both armies. That night at near 12 O'clock, Bragg retired from the field to a position on Duck River, the cavalry remaining until the 5th. Nothing followed us. We were informed that the Federals lost nearly thirty pieces of artillery, including the 6 pieces taken by our Brigade, Liddell's.

In this battle, Lieut. Havern's horse was killed, by a cannon shot passing through him, though Havern was not seriously hurt by the fall. About a foot of the muzzle of one of our guns was blown off, and we secured another at a depot near by. We took from the field two rifled guns, one a parrot 10 pounder, which was taken from the enemy.

Killed and wounded.

K. Martin Green, Lived a few hours.

W. John Burcher,

W. C. McDermott,

W. J. McMullen,

W. E.H. Dugger,

W. F. Bonengal,

W. Peter Hogan,

Martin Green's last words were, "go on boys, and do your duty, I shall not last long".

Some of the wounded died – Don't remember whom C.

MURFRESBORO [sic] TO TULLAHOMA, CHATTANOOGA AND CHICKAMAUGA.

Jan'y [sic] 3/63. Last night we started for Manchester, camping in the evening within five miles of that place. After being in line-of-battle for seven days instead of five, as previously stated.

We arrived at Manchester at 10 A.M. on the 5th, and reached our old camp ground at Estill Springs, at 5 O'clock P.M.

Jan. 8th, Gen'l [sic] Liddell being ordered to the front with his Brigade, we started this morning for Wartrace, located north of Tullahoma, camping near Roswell, 8 miles distant, and arrived at Wartrace on the 9th of Jan. On the 16th, we received a detail of 1[illegible] men from the Infantry, to complete our gun detachments. At this time the rest of Hardee's Corps was at Tullahoma, and Polk's Corps at Shelbyville. We remained here, doing very little, until a gun under command of Lieut. Havern was sent to Normandy to protect a bridge on the railroad, where Lieut. Havern was killed by a falling tree, after being in every engagement of the company, from Woodsonville Ky. to the present time. He was buried at Wartrace, in the Beechwood Cemetery, and Mrs. [illegible] Irwin placed a marble slab at the head of his grave, as also at head of other graves of officers whom she knew, using a marble mantle piece for the purpose.

Feb. 2/63. Sent to depot for a rifle gun, and received another the next day. Gen'l [sic] Hardee desiring another rifle battery in his command, said we should have it, and directed me to go to Chattanooga for it.

8th. Resolutions were drawn concerning Lieut. Havern's death, and adopted by company. March 9th. An election was held for Lieut. to fill vacancy caused by Havern's death, and Sergeant W.P. McDonald was elected. On the 27th I was in command of Hardee's Artillery and went to Tullahoma. April 21st. Today we had target practice.

On the 24th, Gen'l [sic] Hardee's Corps arrived at Wartrace, the Gen'ls [sic] Head Quarters being at Col. Irwins [sic] residence. Then Hardee's Corps arrived at Wartrace, the company moved to Bellbuckle with our Brigade. May 9th, left Bellbuckle for Wartrace, being relieved by another battery. May 23d. Received two Napoleon guns. June 2d, 30 horses were sent to us. June 4th. We were ordered to cook two days rations, but started in such a hurry nothing was cooked. Arrived near Fairfield about 2 A.M. next morning, where cooking was done. The Brigade skirmished with the enemy. June 7th. Two guns were ordered to go to Liberty Gap; the Federals making no demonstration, the artillery was not used. June 15th 1863. Second section relieved first section, which returned to Bellbuckle. June 17th. [illegible] having resigned, Henry H. Steel was elected Lieut. to fill the vacancy. June 25th. Fighting at Liberty Gap. We took no part in this affair, which was simply heavy skirmishing. On June 27th, began to fall back towards Tullahoma, and arrived there on the 28th at 12 M. July 1st. We are with the Brigade at Elk River and in position for action, commanding Manchester Road. July 2d. Arrived at Dechard, going from there to Vahatchie, where all but the horses was loaded on the cars for Chattanooga, the horses going by dirt road. Aug. 8th, target

practice at 1800 yards. Aug. 10th. In camp, principal duty being pasturing horses. Aug 20th. Left Graysville and reached Harrison, near Tenn. River. Aug. 22. Shelling by Federals from opposite side of river. They shelled Chattanooga several days ago. Gen'l [sic] Liddell has command of a Division, composed of his and Walthall's Brigades. Aug. 29th. Threw up breastworks near the river. Sept. 2d. Order came from Gen'l [sic] Bragg transferring us to our old Brigade, and heart cheers were given. Sept. 24th. Reached camp about two miles from Chicamauga [sic]. Nearly all of troops are going towards Chattanooga, as Rosecrans has made his appearance near that place. Sept. 6th. received orders to cook three days rations immediately.

Sept. 7th. left about 7 P.M., for Ringgold, which was reached on the following morning at sunrise, and found the enemy retreating. Left here at 5 P.M., and camped at night in a corn field, plenty of provender for the present. Sept. 9th. Travelled 17 miles and reached LaFayette, about 5 O'clock P.M. We are now attached to W.H.T. Walker's Corps. left camp 11th, at 6 A.M., going about four miles, and joined the line-of-battle at McLemore's Cave, where we had pretty heavy fighting with Siegel's Corps. We went into camp about dark. Sept. 12th, returned to our old camp. At 3 P.M. same day, left camp, travelled 12 miles, and again joined a line-of-battle. Sept 13th, Forest reporting no federals, returned to old camp. Sept. 15, cooked three days rations, leaving camp on the 17th, and travelled 10 miles. 18th, travelled 5 miles and again joined line-of-battle. Here the company was engaged for a time, the Federal's cavalry being driven across Chicamauga [sic] Creek, and we crossed after them, camping about two miles from creek.