

REGISTRY RETURN RECEIPT sent APR 4 1898, 189 .

Reg. No. 23475 From Post Office at WASHINGTON, D. C.

Reg. Letter Addressed to Rev. J. M. Whitbread
Reg. Parcel Post Office at Topeka, Kansas

After obtaining receipt below, the Postmaster will mail this Card, without cover and without postage, to address on the other side.

RECEIVED THE ABOVE DESCRIBED REGISTERED { *LETTER.
PARCEL.

(SENDER'S NAME ON OTHER SIDE)

Sign on dotted lines to the right.

When delivery is made to other than addressee, the name of both addressee and recipient must appear.

J. M. Whitbread

Erase letter or parcel according to which is sent.

When the registered letter or parcel accompanying this card is delivered, the Postmaster will require signature to the receipt on the other side, also on his record of registered deliveries, and mail this card without cover to address below.
A penalty of \$300 is fixed by law for using this card for other than official business.

Post Office Department

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Post Office at

RETURN TO:

Name of Sender **RECORD & PENSION OFFICE,**

Street and Number, } **WAR DEPARTMENT.**
or Post Office Box. }

Post Office at **WASHINGTON,**

County of Washington, District of Columbia.

33197A

WASHINGTON
APR 2 1917

2
C APR 8
BPM
and date of delivery

Topeka Kansas April 11. 1898

Gen. R. A. Alger
Sety of War.
D. C.
Colonel 1st Army

Dear Sirs I am happy and
also thankful for the medal you
conferred to me. I value it far more
than if it were gold. I have ever felt
that I did my duty towards those brave
men who fell on the front lines, up-
holding the nations flag at Stone River Tenn.
I hold this act of yours as one I shall
ever feel grateful. Please accept this
heartfelt expression of thanks to you
and all those who aided in conferring
this valuable favor on me

Yours Very Truly
J. M. Whithead
Late Chaplain of 15th Reg of Indiana
Inf.

Medal received }
April 9th 1898 }

OFFICIAL COPY

DELIVERED TO The Auditor for the War Department.

Hd.Qrs.Department of the Cumberland,
Nashville,Tenn.,July 29,1863.

Special Orders)
No.199.)

331478
547345

x x x x x

IV. Leave of absence to take to their homes monies belonging to the soldiers of his regiment, is hereby granted

x x x x x

Chaplain Jno.M. Whitehead, 15th Ind.V.I. Twenty days. No.P.O.

x x x x x

By command of Maj.Gen.Rosecrans:

J. Bates Dickson,
Capt.and A.A.G.

Hd.Qrs.Dept.of the Cumberland,
Chattanooga, Tenn.,Nov.19,1863.

Special Field Orders)
No.310.)

x x x x x

XIII. Chaplain J.M.Whitehead,15th Ind.Vols.,has permission to proceed to Indiana, with such monies as may be entrusted to his care for distribution to the families of the officers and men of his regiment to be absent not to exceed twenty days. This order does not authorize transportation.

x x x x x

By command of Major General Thomas:

William McMichael, Major and A.A.G.

SUBJECT: Medal of Honor.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON,

FILE NO. R. & P. 501991.

March 22, 1898.

Rev. J. M. Whitehead,
Topeka, Kans.

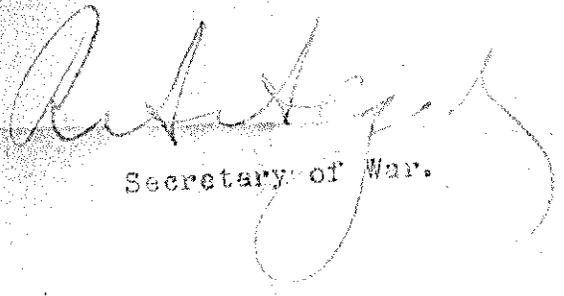
Sir:

You are hereby notified that by direction of the President and under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved March 3, 1863, providing for the presentation of medals of honor to such officers, non-commissioned officers and privates as have most distinguished themselves in action, a CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR has this day been presented to you for distinguished gallantry in action, the following being a statement of the particular service, viz:

"At Stone River, Tenn., December 31, 1862, this officer, then Chaplain 15th Indiana Volunteers, rendered service most conspicuous for bravery, by going to the front line of battle when the brigade was engaged in a desperate contest, and, unaided, carrying to the rear several wounded and helpless comrades."

The Medal will be forwarded to you by registered mail as soon as it shall have been engraved.

Respectfully,


Secretary of War.

OFFICIAL COPY

FURNISHED TO The Comptroller of the Treasury.

Headquarters, Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 13, 1862.

SPECIAL ORDERS)
No. 176.)

33/972
567700

I. J. M. Whitland (chaplain) of 15th Reg. Ind. Vol., will take charge of Thirty-three (33) men and Three (3) Recruits and proceed to Nashville, Tenn., without delay.

II. Upon his arrival at Louisville, Ky., he will report J.D. Fletcher, Co. A, 30th, and W. H. Cook, 60th Regt., and leave them there.

III. Upon his arrival at Nashville, Tenn., he will report to the Military Commander and obtain such information as will enable him to forward the men to their respective Regt.

IV. Transportation will be furnished by the A.Q.M.U.S.A. at Indianapolis, Ind.

By order:

J. S. Simonson,

Col. U.S.A., Comdg. Post.

Topeka Kansas Shuman Co

913 West 10th Street } May 13th, 1892.

JOHN C. DERMODY.

Washington, D. C.

SIR:

I hereby appoint you my attorney to prosecute my claim for correction of muster.

I was commissioned as follows, during the war of 1861:

As Chaplain of 15th Regiment of Indiana Reg't

of Ad Chaplain Volunteers, to rank from June 9th 1862;

As a _____ of Co. _____ of the _____ Reg't

of _____ Volunteers, to rank from _____ 186 _____;

As a _____ of Co. _____ of the _____ Reg't

of _____ Volunteers, to rank from _____ 186 _____;

As a _____ of Co. _____ of the _____ Reg't

of _____ Volunteers, to rank from date of Commission June 9 1862.

I was honorably discharged June 26th 1864, at Indianapolis Indiana

I was Mustered by reason of Regiments time of enlistment expired

I was with my Regiment all the time after joining them at Viola
Linn Co (Aug 22 1862 I think) until Mustered out except I was twice
sent home with money for my Regiment: each time I had leave of absence 20 days
I think

Respectfully,

(Sign here) John M Whitehead

Late Chaplain of _____ Vols.
15th Indiana Reg

Post-office Address:

913 West 10th Street
Topeka Shuman Co
Kansas

Here state ranks held by you.

you see

Subject: *Remuster*

331478

331478

War Department,
Washington City,

May 24, 1892

*Rev James M. Whitfield
c/o Mr. J. C. Denny, City
Washington, D. C.*

Sir:

I am directed by the Secretary of War to acknowledge the receipt of the papers in your claim for recognition as *Chaplain*, Company *15* Regiment *Indiana* Volunteers, from *June 9, 1862* to *July 15, 1862*, under the "Act to provide for the muster and pay of certain officers and enlisted men of the Volunteer forces," approved June 3, 1884; section 1 of which act was amended by the act approved February 3, 1887, so as to read as follows:

That the joint resolution approved July eleventh, eighteen hundred and seventy, entitled "Joint resolution amendatory of joint resolution for the relief of certain officers of the Army," approved July twenty-sixth, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, is hereby so amended and shall be so construed that in all cases arising under the same any person who was duly appointed and commissioned, whether his commission was actually received by him or not, shall be considered as commissioned to the grade therein named from the date from which he was to take rank under and by the terms of his said commission, and shall be entitled to all pay and emoluments as if actually mustered at that date: *Provided*, That at the date from which he was to take rank by the terms of his commission there was a vacancy to which he could be so commissioned and that he was actually performing the duties of the grade to which he was so commissioned, or, if not so performing such duties, then from such time after the date of his commission as he may have actually entered upon such duties: *And provided further*, That any person held as a prisoner of war, or who may have been absent by reason of wounds or in hospital by reason of disability received in the service in the line of duty, at the date of his commission, if a vacancy existed for him in the grade to which so commissioned, shall be entitled to the same pay and emoluments as if actually performing the duties of the grade to which he was commissioned and actually mustered at such date: *And provided further*, That this act and the resolution hereby amended shall be construed to apply only in those cases where the commission bears date prior to June twentieth, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, or after that date when their commands were not below the minimum number required by existing laws and regulations: *And provided further*, That the pay and allowances actually received shall be deducted from the sums to be paid under this act.

In reply I am directed by the Secretary of War to inform you that the records of this Department show that *your muster is in service as Chaplain 15th Indiana*

207103

Infantry Volunteers to date from
July 15, 1862, recognized you as such
from the earliest date you entered
upon duty.

It will be seen therefore
that your claim does not come within
the terms of the law and consequently
cannot be favorably entertained

Very respectfully



Major & Surgeon U.S.A.

CHESTER I. LONG, CHAIRMAN.
EUGENE HALE, SAMUEL D. McENERY.
PORTER J. MCCUMBER, JAMES P. TALIAFERRO,
ALBERT J. HOPKINS, JOSEPH C. S. BLACKBURN,
CHARLES DICK, JOSEPH W. BAILEY.
THOMAS H. CARTER,
ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE,
RALPH H. FAXON, CLERK.

SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
COMMITTEE ON THE CENSUS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

F/L

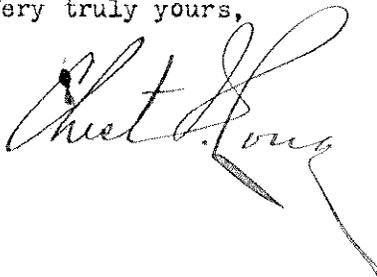
March 3, 1906.

My Dear Sir:

I shall appreciate the favor if you will advise me whether there is record of a medal granted to John M. Whitehead, chaplain, Fifteenth Indiana infantry, for bravery at Stone River, Tennessee, December 31, 1862, for riding into fire and carrying eight wounded men off the field.

Very truly yours,

General F. C. Ainsworth,
The Military Secretary,
War Department.



File with R.P. 331478

MILITARY SECRETARY'S OFFICE

MAR 5 1106597

WAR DEPARTMENT

Washington, D.C.
March 3, 1906

Hon. Chester I. Long, U.S.S.

Asks to be advised as to whether there is record of a medal granted to John M. Whitehead, late Chaplain 15th Ind. Inf., for bravery at Stone River, Tenn., Dec. 31, 1862, for riding into fire and carrying eight wounded men off the field.

Letter Mar. 5-06 E.H.H.

Received, M.S.O., MAR 4 1906

WAR DEPARTMENT,
THE MILITARY SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON.

March 5, 1906.

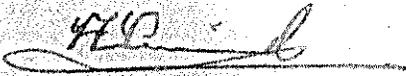
Hon. Chester I. Long,
United States Senate.

Sir:

Referring to your letter of the 3d instant, received to-day, in which you request to be advised relative to the award of the medal of honor to John M. Whitehead, chaplain, 15th Indiana Infantry, I have the honor to inform you as follows:

It is shown by the records that the Congressional medal of honor was awarded March 22, 1898, to Rev. John M. Whitehead, of Topeka, Kansas, for most distinguished gallantry in action at Stone River, Tenn., December 31, 1862, while chaplain, 15th Indiana Infantry Volunteers. On that occasion the officer went to the front line of battle when the brigade was engaged in a desperate contest and, unaided, carried to the rear "several" wounded and helpless comrades.

Very respectfully,


The Military Secretary.

CHESTER I. LONG, CHAIRMAN.
EUGENE HALE, SAMUEL D. MCENERY,
PORTER J. MCCUMBER, JAMES P. TALIAFERRO,
ALBERT J. HOPKINS, JOSEPH C. S. BLACKBURN,
CHARLES DICK, JOSEPH W. BAILEY,
THOMAS H. CARTER,

SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
COMMITTEE ON THE CENSUS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

RALPH H. FAXON, CLERK.

CCL

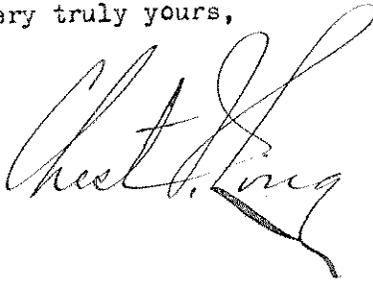
February 22, 1906.

My Dear Sir:

In the case of J. M. Whitehead, chaplain, Fifth Indiana infantry, I shall appreciate the favor if you will advise me of the complete military and medical history.

Very truly yours,

General F. C. Ainsworth,
The Military Secretary,
War Department.



NO 1103253 9

WAR DEPARTMENT

File with RPO 331478

M. S. Senate,

Feb. 22, 1906.

*Dr. Wm. Whitehead,
Chapel Hill S. C. S. C. S. C.*

*Hon. Charles J. Long M. S. S.
Requests military and
medical history of above
named.*

*Letter to Hon. Charles J. Long 7/23/06
W. S. S. C.*

RP 331478

1103453

WAR DEPARTMENT,
THE MILITARY SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON.

February 23, 1906.

~~non. Charles L. Long,~~

United States Senate.

Sir:

Referring to your letter of the 22d instant, received today, in which you ask for the military and medical record in the case of J. W. Whitehead, chaplain, 5th Indiana Infantry, I have the honor to advise you as follows:

It does not appear from the records that such an organization as the 5th Indiana Infantry was in the military service of the United States during the civil war.

It is shown by the records, however, that John M. Whitehead was mustered into service to take effect from July 15, 1862, as chaplain, 15th Indiana Infantry Volunteers, to serve for three years, and that he was mustered out with the regiment and honorably discharged the service, as chaplain, June 25, 1864. No medical record in his case has been found.

It is proper to add that, on March 22, 1898, a Congressional medal of honor was awarded to this officer for most distinguished gallantry in action at Stone River, Tennessee, December 31, 1862.

Very respectfully,


The Military Secretary.

Medal of Honor

Case of
Rev. Geo. M. Whitehead
Chaplain 15th Ind Vols
R.P. 50,991.

Granted

Papers for signature
of Secretary of War
Jan 3, 1897. a

Signed Mar 23/98

To R.P.O. Mar 24/98

Subject: Medal of honor.

501,991.

Record and Pension Office,
War Department,
Washington City,

April 4, 1898.

Hon. Charles Curtis,
House of Representatives.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that, by direction of the President and in accordance with the act of Congress approved March 3, 1863, the Secretary of War has awarded a medal of honor to Rev. John M. Whitehead, late chaplain, 15th Indiana Infantry, for most distinguished gallantry in action at Stone River, Tennessee, December 31, 1862.

The medal has this day been forwarded to Rev. Mr. Whitehead at Topeka, Kansas, by registered mail.

Very respectfully,


Colonel, U. S. Army,

Chief, Record and Pension Office.

R.M.
A.G.O. No. 501991

Papers re
Award of Medal of Honor
in case of

John M. Whitehead

Chaplain 15 Regt Ind Inftry

17 Papers herein.

REMARKS.

Loaned to Mrs of
Hon Bd

With ROP 331478

CONFIRMED

RETURNED OCT 27 1916

1330

See also

DOCUMENT FILE.

The Adjutant General's Office, War Department.

RECORD & PENSION OFFICE

DEC 16 501991 1897
WAR DEPARTMENT

(12)

Washington, D.C.
Dec. 14, 1897.

John M. Whitehead
Chap., 15th Ind. Vols.

Hon. Cha. Curtis, M.C.
transmits application
for medal.

Letter to Whitehead Feb 25 98
Letter to Whitehead
Letter to Hon. Mr. Curtis Apr. 4 98

with 331478

Record and Pension Office,
War Department,
Washington, Dec. 18, 1897.

Respectfully submitted to

The Honorable

The Secretary of War,

with report inclosed.



Colonel, U. S. Army,

Chief of Office.

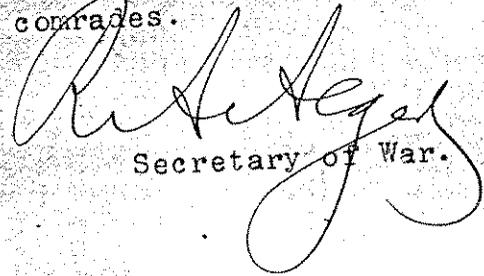
(10 inclosures.)

Rec'd Back MAR 23 1898

War Department,
Office of the Secretary,
March 22, 1898., 1897.

By direction of the President
a medal of honor is presented to
Rev. J. M. Whitehead.

At Stone River, Tenn., December
31, 1862, this officer, then
Chaplain 15th Indiana Volunteers,
rendered service most conspicuous
for bravery, by going to the
front line of battle when the bri-
gade was engaged in a desperate
contest, and, unaided, carrying
to the rear several wounded and
helpless comrades.



Secretary of War.

City Officers.

I. C. B. SUMAN, Mayor
 J. W. HALADAY, Clerk
 C. W. BARTHOLOMEW, Treasurer
 W. C. SERGEANT, Marshal
 WM. JOHNSTON, Attorney
 THOS. H. CARVER, City Engineer

Councilmen.

FIRST WARD. THEO. CRUMPACKER
 C. W. BENTON
 SECOND WARD. S. C. HACKETT
 FREEMAN CROSBY
 THIRD WARD. CHAS. M. GOGAN
 FRED SHOEMAKER
 FOURTH WARD. T. M. SHREVE
 J. B. BISSELL

City Council Chamber.

Gen I. C. B. Suman
 also Col 9th Ind Reg Vols Inftry

Valparaiso, Ind., Dec 4th 1897

To the Honorable the House of Representatives
 of the United States in Congress assembled,
 your obedient servant,
 I respectfully calls your attention to
 the distinguished services, of the Rev John M Whitehead
 late Chaplain 15th Regt Indiana Vol Inftry. Especially
 his services at the Battle of Stone River Tennessee
 as he came under my notice in that great battle.
 I was very severely wounded in the early morning of
 the 31st of December, having been shot through the left arm
 near the shoulder, and a second ball in my shoulder, the
 wound in the arm having severed the artery and I was
 bleeding very profusely when this gallant chaplain came
 to me, bandaged my wounds, helped me to mount my
 horse so I could return to my Regiment, in the
 "Round Forest" between the Rail Road & the Pike where
 we held till night, Chaplain Whitehead when he gave
 me assistance he was as bloody as a butcher
 from the wounded he had cared for before he came

City Council Chamber.

I. C. B. SUMAN, Mayor
J. W. HALLADAY, Clerk
C. W. BARTHOLOMEW, Treasurer
W. C. SERGEANT, Marshal
WM. JOHNSTON, Attorney
THOS. H. CARVER, City Engineer

=====
Councilmen.

FIRST WARD. THEO. CRUMPACKER
C. W. BENTON
SECOND WARD. S. C. HACKETT
FREEMAN CROSBY
THIRD WARD. CHAS. M. GOGAN
FRED SHOEMAKER
FOURTH WARD. T. M. SHREVE
J. B. BISSELL

Valparaiso, Ind., 189.....

To My assistance he seemed to be a Ministering
Angel among the wounded of all commands
yank & Johnny alike. He seemed to think nothing
about the danger he was in, by going from
Place to Place, looking after the wounded carefully
for all the dead directing and assisting in
their burial. I served in the army for the
preservation of the union from start to finish.
I came in contact with many chaplains in my
long service, and can say that the Rev John Mc
Whitehead 15th Regt 2nd Vol Infy, was the most worthy
chaplain that ever came under my notice.
In camp, on the march, & especially his conduct on
the battle field at Stone Dec 31st 1862.

I believe the nation owes this grand old
Christian gentleman a medal for heroism
Energy and faithful services without hope of
Promotion as other officers of the time. In my
own old Regt I always promoted Meritorious Soldiers who
Earned it on the battle field. Respectfully J. C. B. Suman

Blanco - Blanco Co.
State of Texas

✓ Do the House of Congress:-
Washington D.C

Sir's - I respectfully ask that Our Congress
in Session - give recognition - to Our Comrade
J. M. Whitehead Captain of 15 Reg Ind inftry
for deeds of Gallantry and Merit - in giving
aid and comfort to those who were wounded
dying & dead Comrades - upon the battlefields
at Stone River - Missionary Ridge - the 10th on Dec^{31st}
1862: & Jan^{1st} 1863. He bound up their wounds and looked
after those not of our Reg - but took great interest
in all, and to see that there were none missing
and to supply their wants - even to a cup of water.

For this service so needfull and
Gallantry done which I recognize worthy of a
Marked Distinction. Respectfully ask that a Medal of
honor be awarded him "J. M. Whitehead" in recognition
of these meritorious deeds of Valor upon these battle
fields in Our Country's darkest hour.

All of which I most respectfully submit for
your kind and deliberate consideration and
approval.

Respectfully

Geo W Combsant late
Lieut Col 15 Reg Ind
Inftry.

South Bend, Ind. Oct. 28. 1897.

Rev. Jno. M. Whitehead
 Lake Chaplain, 15th Ind. Inf. Vols.

Lopeka
Illinois Kan.

My dear General

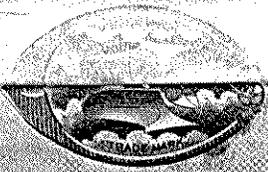
I have learned with much satisfaction that many of the survivors of the 15th Ind. Vols. are urging your claims to the government medal which is being awarded for gallantry & distinguished service in the battlefields of the late war.

Your record at the battle of Stone's River Dec. 31. 1862 - to Jan. 2. 1863 richly entitles you to this distinction & the government will honor itself in honoring you.

As I was Adjutant of the regiment at the time I was in a position to know much that you did. - I know that although a non-combatant you accompanied the regiment into action & bore your part manfully. I know that when Capt. Templeton of Co. D. was mortally wounded by the fire of the rebel battery in our front you hastened to him and bore him off the field in your arms. I know that you ministered to his wants, received his last words & having done all that could be done returned to the regiment. -

Owing to our exposed position & the terrible fire we were under it was impossible for the ambulances to reach us & almost equally impossible for the stretcher bearers to do effective service so that much was left to individual efforts. You accepted the chances of life & death with rare courage and manly fortitude in the breach. -

I know that you carried a number of exhausted men off the field & that all through the desperate fighting in which the 15th Ind. held to its place on the left - losing 169 officers & men killed & wounded - out of 440 engaged - you were with us cheering the living, caring for the wounded & receiving the last messages of the dying.



South Bend Ind. 10/28 1897.

I know that until midnight or after of the first days battle you were covered in your work of mercy and I know that each and every survivor of the regiment was and is proud of your splendid exemplification of practical Christianity. I heard of similar service that you performed for members of the 9th or 10th Ind regiments which were in action near us and Col. Suman of the 9th has spoken to me of your help in the most glowing terms. —

The medal ought to be awarded to you without hesitation and if the facts are properly presented I am sure it will be. — Do not hesitate to use this letter if you think it will be of benefit. — I am conscious that it is but a poor presentment of what I saw and know but it is true and comes from my heart. —

Faithfully your friend, Gen. Connors

Edwin Nicor

Late 1st Lieut. and Adj. Gen. Capt. Co. "K" 15th Ind. Inf. Vols. —

Valparaiso, Ind.

November 23, 1897.

To the War Department
of the
United States,

or to
whom it may concern:

Washington, D. C.

In the matter of the application of
Rev. John M. Whitehead, late Chaplain of the Fifteenth Regiment Indiana
Volunteer Infantry, for a BADGE of HONOR for MERITORIOUS SERVICES on
the 31st day of December, 1862, in the Battle of Stone's River, or
Murfreesboro, Tennessee, I can say that my name is Edward M. Burns, I
was a member of Company G of the Fifteenth Regiment Indiana Volunteer
Infantry: that I was present in the battle and had an opportunity to
see what transpired within the limits of said regiment and its imme-
diate surroundings.

The Fifteenth Indiana Regiment was situated in said battle, on
the extreme left, on the right bank of Stone's River, opposite Brecken-
ridge's entire division, composed of Adams' Brigade, Preston's Brigade,
Jackson's Brigade, and Hanson's Brigade: and under the murderous fire
- across the River on the left- of Cob's Kentucky Battery, with two
guns of Slocumb's Battery and Semple's Battery.

The Fifteenth Indiana Regiment went into this engagement with
four hundred and forty men, rank and file, and during the day's engage-
ment, lost two hundred and two men, killed and wounded. It made three

For these worthy efforts on his part, in that noted battle, I can, and do, hereby cheerfully recommend Chaplain John M. Whitehead worthy of a badge of Honor: and do hereby petition the authority that can so award, to permit the old Chaplain to be the recipient of such Honors.

(Signed)

E. M. Burns
Late of Co. G 15th Regt. Ind. Vols.
and on the occasion above
enumerated.

of Co. "B" and was present at the battle of Gettysburg, 1863 and for one year was present at the battle of Vicksburg, 1863. During the time I was in the army I saw Chaplain Whitehead at the hospital and he spoke of the daring of the Chaplain in aiding the wounded to the rear and of his kindly ministrations to them at the hospital.

My army comrade that evening I visited the wounded of the 13th at the hospital and in talking with them and especially the boys of Company B they all spoke of the daring of the Chaplain in aiding the wounded to the rear and of his kindly ministrations to them at the hospital.

No 5.

Edward M Burns Valparaiso Indiana assistant Hospital Steward
Post office Valparaiso Ind
15th Reg Ind Vols

Duplicate

Valparaiso, Indiana, Nov. 23, 1897.

To the War Department

of the
United States,

or to

Whom it may concern:

Washington, D. C.

In the matter of the application of
Rev. John M. Whitehead, late Chaplain of the Fifteenth Regiment Indiana
Volunteer Infantry, for a BADGE OF HONOR for MERITORIOUS SERVICES on
the 31st day of December, 1892, in the Battle of Stone's River, or
Murfreesboro, Tennessee, I can say that my name is Edward M. Burns, I
was a member of Company G of the Fifteenth Regiment Indiana Volunteer
Infantry: that I was present at the battle and had an opportunity to
see what transpired within limits of said regiment and its immediate
surroundings.

The Fifteenth Indiana Regiment was situated in said battle, on
the extreme left, on the right bank of Stone's River, opposite Breck-
ridge's entire division, composed of Adcm's Brigade, Preston's Brigade,
Jackson's Brigade, and Hanson's Brigade; and under the murderous fire
across the river on the left of Cob's Kentucky Battery, with two guns
of Slemons's Battery and Serpito's Battery.

The Fifteenth Indiana Regiment went into this engagement with four hun-
dred and forty men, rank and file, and during the day's engagement, lost
lost two hundred and two men, killed and wounded. It made three
successive charges and captured more men than went in its own command.

At all times and under all circumstances, Chaplain John M. Whitehead

was with the command during the day, and removing the wounded from the field of battle. He, being a large and robust man, would take a wounded man up in his arms or on his shoulders, and alone, would carry him from the field. He followed up the Regiment in each charge and carried back with him the wounded men nearest the enemy's line.

I will here enumerate a few of the many he removed from the field of battle: Captain Templeton, Christian Board, John Long, and Calvin R. Zener. These men were carried from the extreme advance point of the Regiment's charge to the front. Christian Board was shot through his leg and body. John Long had one leg nearly shot off and took his pocket knife and severed it entirely and left the foot on the battle field.

Toward night, on the 31st, I was ordered by the commanding officer to go with Surgeon Youart to the field Hospital and assist the Hospital Steward in caring for the wounded, and I have personal knowledge of the unreserved and untiring work of Chaplain Whitehead, throughout the night, in bringing into the Hospital, from the front, wounded men. For three days and three nights, without ceasing and scarcely any sleep, he continued to administer to the wants of the wounded and to help with the shovel in hand to bury the dead at the Hospital.

For these worthy efforts on his part, in that noted battle, I can, and do, hereby cheerfully, recommend Chaplain John H. Whitehead worthy of a BADGE OF HONOR: and do hereby petition the authority that can award, to permit the old Chaplain to be the recipient of such honors.
(Signed)

E. H. Burns,

Late of Company G, 15th Regiment Indiana Volunteers, and on the occasion above enumerated.

Assistant Hospital Steward.

No. 6.

Hulbert Fullum - Co. C 15 Ind Reg-
La Porte, La Porte Indiana

La Porte, Indiana, October 30, 1897.

Rev. J. M. Whitehead,
Topeka, Kansas.

Supplement

Dear Comrade:--

I was a member of Company C, 15th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. I was present and on duty at the battle of Stone's River, Tenn., on December 31st, 1862, and January 2nd, 1863, till about 12.30 P.M. on the last date mentioned, when I was wounded and taken to the rear.

During the fighting on the 31st of December 1862, my time and attention was fully occupied by the enemy; and I don't now remember seeing you at the front during the day; but after the fighting ceased that evening, I visited the wounded of the 15th at the hospital, and in talking with them and especially the boys of Company C, they all spoke of the daring of the Chaplain in aiding the wounded to the rear, and of his kindly ministrations to them at the hospital. Of course I cannot remember names at this late date, but I think that Lucas and Vannote of Company C- in fact, numbers of them told me that they were aided to the rear by the Chaplain and I am certain that many of the wounded who recovered and are now living, owe their lives to John M. Whitehead, the Chaplain of the 15th.

When I was wounded on the 2nd of January, 1863, I know you dressed my wounds, and I also know I would have fared badly but for you; I also know you assisted Corporal C. R. Zener of "C", from the front about the time I was taken to the rear, and gave him every attention until he died.

I know you exposed your life to aid the wounded to ^{the} rear, and your ^{you} health in nursing and caring for them, and I know were everywhere- regardless of personal danger- where aid was to be given, or suffering to be alleviated; and ^{know} ~~that~~ ~~at~~ ~~all~~ ~~times~~ you were a Christian gentleman,

1807
a model soldier, and a true hero, entitled to, and receiving, the love
and gratitude of every man who, in our command was wounded at that time.

In P. C. & L.

Your Comrade and Friend,

Hulbert Pullum,

Late of Company C, 15th Indiana Infnt.

No 7.

Serv J. Bryant Super to Division
Co G 15th Ind Reg

Duplicate

La Porte, Indiana, October 20, 1887.

To Whom it May Concern:

I was a member of the 15th Indiana Infantry, Company G, and was acquainted with the Chaplain of the 15th, the Rev. John M. Whitehead. I was on detached service and not with the Regiment at the battle of Stone's River, Tenn., on December 31st, 1862, and January 2nd, 1863, but joined the Regiment on the 3rd or 4th of January, 1863, and on every hand I heard the heroism of the Chaplain talked about.

The men said that no one was wounded and needing aid too far to the front for the Chaplain to go to his assistance; and I know that his courage and forgetfulness of self on those trying days made him the most popular Chaplain with his Regiment in the Army of the Cumberland.

The comrades of the Regiment told me that after the severe fighting of the 31st, the Chaplain's clothing was covered with blood from carrying off from the field the wounded. They all pronounced him a hero.

Respectfully,

L. J. Bryant,

Late Private, Company G, 15th Indiana Infantry.

No 8. Henry H. Maxwell Co. "G" 15th Ind Reg
Fastoppin Laporte Indiana (Duplicate)

La Porte, Indiana, Nov. 8, 1897.

To Whom It May Concern:--

I was a member of Company G, 15th Indiana Volunteers, Infantry, and well do I remember our brave Chaplain, J. M. Whitehead, and I also well remember his bravery in caring for and looking after our wounded comrades during the three day's battle at Stone's River, Tenn. I can say truthfully his gallantry was remarkable.

(Signed) R. H. Maxwell

Inc. 2

RECORD & PENSION OFFICE

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WAR DEPARTMENT

Statement of

Rev. Jno. H. Whitehead
of Topeka, Kans.,

late chaplain
Indiana Vols.

John H. Whitehead

1897

No 1.
THE BATTLE OF STONE RIVER, TENNESSEE, DEC. 31st, 1862.

To the Honorable Body of Congressmen

of the
United States, Washington, D. C.--

Statement of J. M. Whitehead

*Late Chaplain 15th Ind Reg.
in regard to service at Battle of
Stone River Dec 31/62*

On the night of December 30th, 1862, the 15th Indiana Regiment Vol. Infantry, was ordered to cross Stone River; having marched from beyond Stuart's creek; our corps was General Crittendens' on the extreme left of the army. We crossed at the ford in front of Breckenridges' corps. The river was from two to three feet deep. Some of the men took off their clothes and held them on their shoulders; but most of the men waded, the water coming up to their arm-pits, in the dead of winter.

Our camping ground was two or three hundred ^{yards} along the hillside. But as we were forming into line and position, when, behold! we ran into the Confederate picket post and lines, and were almost together. They fired a volley of some twenty or thirty shots, not more than five rods from us. They overshot us, and the bullets rattled down on us like hail. We could distinctly hear the officers, in a low tone above a whisper: "Fall in, boys, fall in"; "By the right", "By the right", "Steady, boys, steady; steady boys". We counter-marched and crossed the river again, took our position in a little clump of trees, in front of the cotton fields east of the railroad; there we bivouacked, stacked arms, but did not break ranks.

Our pickets and the Confederate pickets were within a few rods of each other; neither pressed for advance. Early on Wednesday morning, Dec. 31st, 1862, we were ordered at five o'clock to get up, eat, without kindling fires. By six o'clock the enemy's pickets were advancing slowly. Ours fell back ^{step by step} without resistance.

#2.
or about

At the dawn, ~~at~~ daylight Gen. Braggs' entire army was moving on our right---except Breckenridges' corps. At seven o'clock the battle opened with the roar of artillery and sharp rattle of musketry, volley, after volley, and salvo, after salvo, until the very earth trembled as if Sinai's awful thunders were repeated.

McCooks' corps was half cut off, captured, killed or wounded. Our line was half "face about", by eleven o'clock. With forty Thousand men on a side, with but few reserves held back on either side, thus, the terribly hotly contested battle of Stone River has gone down in history as one of the hardest fought battles of the late rebellion: not in men killed, and in wounded, but in grit, fight, and hold-on. It was twelve solid hours without a moments calmness when the dread ~~roar~~ ^{when the roar} of canon and musketry was not belching out continuously.

Our position was between Stone River and the railroad; directly in front of Cobb's Kentucky battery: added parts of Semples' and Slocumbs' batteries across the river. The firing from these Confederate batteries was terrible and destructive. From one of these, Col. Garashee, Roscranes, Chief of Staff, had the upper part of his head shot off as he was about to mount his horse near the little log cabin just a few rods from us.

Order came to our ~~general~~ ^{col. G.} Wood, to hold that point at all hazards: that meant to simply fight till you die on that field or conquer. When he received this order, he called "attention", went through the manual of arms, then fixed bayonets, faced the enemy coming a brigade strong, ordered double-quick charge ^d Jackson's Brigade coming down the right bank of Stone River. They were met at the crest of the hill and driven back, but they came back with the additional reenforcement of another brigade and were met, "with bloody hands and hospitable, graves"* and driven back with greater loss; but still they came back--Jackson's, Adam's, and Preston's Brigades. Again the third charge was made. Our ~~Regiment~~ ^{Regiment} bringing back a greater number of men as prisoners than there w

* ~~How~~ Thomas Corwin in the Senate Hall at Washington D.C. 1846

were men in our entire command, when we went into battle; but this bravery was at the loss of scores of men killed and wounded. Captain Templeton, that noble officer, fell mortally wounded; I carried back the Captain to the rear and sat by him at his request and that of Surgeon Youart until he breathed his last; I copied his last message and sent it to his home in Lafayette, Indiana. Here the gallant captain of Company G, Jael W. Foster, my next door neighbor at home, fell mortally wounded by shell from that Confederate Battery, with his leg mangled above the knee. The same ball ^{ricochet} ~~ricocheted~~ and killed corporal Douglas of the same company and still farther on killed another man.

Here that dauntless Colonel of the 9th Regiment of the Indiana Volunteers, Colonel I. C. B. Suman, was twice shot, one ball severing the ^{artery} ~~arteries~~ in the arm. When he rode from the field, bleeding his life away, I met him, bound up his wounds, and helped him on his horse; with one boot filled with blood he rode back on the field, took his command and held his position at "Round Forest". Here Lieutenant Colonel Neff of the 40th Indiana, was shot in the arm and left the field bleeding. Here Corporal Logan, Company B, fell helpless. Here Christain Board, Company G, fell shot in the arm, in the leg, and through the breast. Here John Long fell with his leg nearly blown off by a shell; he took out his knife, cut off the remaining parts, and laid the foot beside the stump ^{by} ~~of~~ which he sat. Here Captain John M. Smith of my home town, was shot. Here George Brown fell dead. ^{of my town} Here John Vannote, another townsman, fell shot through the right lung, but pulled through. Here Hulbert Fullum was wounded. Here Corporal Calvin H. Zener, my fellow townsman; we carried him off the field and he was surrounded by his commanding officer and comrades. As we all knelt round him and offered up our united prayers, he talked to all his comrades like a true Christain and then said, "Now boys, let us all sing once more together", and he struck up his favorite hymn, "O, sing to me of heaven!"

In the three charges made, our Regiment lost men killed and wounded who fell two hundred and fifty yards in advance of the line of battle; brave fellows, but it cost something to check that on-tide of Kentucky's brave Confederates under their proud leader, Breckénridge.

Allow me to say that I was constantly with my Regiment during that terrible day, carrying the wounded, ^{off the field} caring for the dying, whenever they came under my notice. My Regiment kept this position during the whole day's battle. We lost every alternate man, killed or wounded, losing over two hundred; the 8th Indiana Regiment, Colonel Sumner in command, lost one hundred and sixty men killed and wounded; the 40th Indiana Regiment, Colonel Blake in command, lost about the same. Other Regiments marched and counter-marched over this same field, as ordered.

Most of those whose names I mentioned, I carried off the field or bound up their wounds, and to some I did both and I can truthfully say I helped scores of others whose names I cannot now call to mind.

After night-fall when all was quiet along our front lines, an order came to my Surgeon Youart to move the wounded from the field hospital to the general hospital, which was in a large brick house two miles ^{back to} ~~from~~ Stuart's Creek. Part of this time I was assisted by Assistant Hospital Steward E. M. Burns; when he was ordered to the big Brick hospital I was left alone to get the wounded into the ambulances. Most of them who could not walk I carried on my shoulders.

About two o'clock I placed the last man in the ambulance who was ^{field hospital} ~~in the~~ carried to the general hospital; when I went to my horse I did not find my blanket, haversack, or canteen; so I laid down under a porch of a deserted house but it was too cold to sleep and I mounted my horse. I ^{rode} ~~found~~ ^{ambon} found my Regiment holding the hotly contested ground in whose defence so many brave men had fallen the day before. I sat down with my mess-mates and ate the first food for twenty-four hours.

#5.

This brief and imperfect sketch is respectfully submitted to the Congress of the United States for its candid consideration, by one who was a non-combatant, and had no line of hope for promotion in government service by Army Regulations.

I am truly yours,

John M. Whitehead

Late Chaplain of 15th Regiment Indiana
Volunteers.

Topeka, Kansas,

December 1st, 1897.

703. *St Col John M. Comperat 15th Reg Ind Int*
Post office Blanco Blanco Co Texas.

Blanco, Texas, November, 17th, 1897.

To the House of Congress,
Washington, D.C.

(Duplicate)

Gentlemen:-

I respectfully ask that our Congress in Session give recognition to our comrade, ^{Rev} J.M. Whitehead, Chaplain, Regiment Fifteen, Indiana Infantry, for Deeds of Gallantry and Merit, in giving aid and comfort to those who were wounded, dying and dead upon the battle field of Stone River, Missionary Ridge, on the first of December, 1862 and January 1863. He bound up their wounds and looked after those; not only of our own Regiment, but took great interest in all: and to see that there were none missing, and to supply their wants--" Even to a cup of water".

For this service done, so needfully and gallantry, which I recognize worthy of a marked distinction, respectfully ask that a "Medal of Honor" be awarded him--Mr. J.M. Whitehead, in recognition of those meritorious deeds of valor upon those battle fields in our country's darkest hour.

All of the above I respectfully submit for your kind and deliberate consideration and approval.

Respectfully,

(Signed)

John M. Comperat *pronounced Comperat*
Late Lieut. Col. 15th, Reg. Ind. Int

No 2.

Duplicate

CITY OFFICERS.

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER.

I. C. B. SUGAN, Mayor

Gen. J. C. B. Swann and Col 9th Ind Reg
Post office Valparaiso Indiana

Valparaiso, Indiana, Nov. 4th, 1897.

To the Honorable House of Representatives

United States, in Congress assembled:--

Present and Gentlemen:--

Your Petitioner respectfully calls your attention to the distinguished services of the Rev. John ^M Whitehead, late Chaplain of the 15th Regiment Indiana Volunteers Infantry, especially his services at the Battle of Stone River, Tennessee, as he came under my notice in that great battle. I was very severely wounded in the early morning of the 31st of December, having been shot through the left arm and through the shoulder; the wound in the arm severed the artery and I was bleeding very profusely when this gallant Chaplain came to me, helped me to mount my horse, after having first bandaged my wounds, so that I could return to my Regiment in the "Round Forest" between the railroad and the pike, which place we held until night.

When Chaplain Whitehead gave me my assistance, he was as bloody as a butcher from the wounded he had cared for; he seemed to be a ministering angel among the wounded of all commands, Yank and Johnny alike. He seemed to think nothing of the danger he was in in looking after the wounded, caring for all the dead, directing and assisting in their burial.

I served in the army for the preservation of the Union from start to finish. I came in contact with many chaplains in my long service, and can say that the Rev. John M. Whitehead was the most worthy chaplain that ever came under my notice, in camp, on the march, and especially was his conduct admirable on the battle field at Stone River, December 31st 1862

1868. 87330

I believe the nation owes this grand old Christian gentleman a medal for his heroism, energy, and faithful services, performed without hope of reward by promotions which other officers had. In my own old Regiment, I always promoted meritorious soldiers who earned promotion on the battle field.

Respectfully,

(Signed)

I. C. B. Suman

No 4.

*Capt Edwin Hicar
Adjutant 15th Reg Indiana
South Bend,
Indiana*

OLIVER CHILLED PLOW WORKS,
South Bend Iron Works, Prop's.

South Bend, Indiana, October 28, 1897.

Rev. John M. Whitehead,

Late Chaplain of the 15th Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

Topeka, Kansas.

My dear comrade:--

I have learned with much satisfaction, that many of the survivors of the 15th Indiana Volunteers are urging your claim to the government medal, which is being awarded for gallantry and distinguished service on the battle fields of the late war.

Your record at the Battle of Stone's River, December 31st, 1862, to January 2nd, 1863, richly entitles you to this distinction, and the government will honor itself in honoring you.

As I was Adjutant at that time, I was in a position to know much that you did. I know that, although a non-combatant, you accompanied the regiment into action and bore yourself bravely; I know that when Captain Templeton of Company D was mortally wounded by the fire of the rebel battery in our front, you hastened to him and bore him off the field in your arms; I know that you ministered to his wants, received his last words, and having done all that could be done, returned to the regiment. Owing to our exposed position and the terrible fire we were under, it was almost impossible for the ambulances to visit us, and almost equally impossible for the stretcher-bearers to do effective service; so much was left to individual effort.

You accepted the chances of life and death with rare courage and never faltered in the least. I know that you carried a number of enlisted men off the field, and that all through the desperate fighting in which the 15th held to its place on the left-- losing 189 officers and men killed and wounded out of 440 engaged-- you were with us, cheering

the living, caring for the wounded and receiving the last messages of the dying. I know that until midnight or after, you never ceased in your work of mercy, and I know that each and every survivor of the regiment is proud of your splendid exemplification of Christianity.

I heard of similar service that was performed for members of the 9th and 40th Indiana Regiments, which were in action near us; and Col. Suman of the 9th has spoken to me of your help in the most trying times.

The medal ought to be awarded to you without hesitation, and if the facts are properly presented, I am sure it will be. Do not hesitate to use this letter if it will be of any benefit. I am convinced that it is but a poor presentment of what I saw and know, but it is true and comes from my heart.

Faithfully your friend and comrade,

Edwin Nicar,

Late 1st Lieutenant and Adjutant and Captain of Company

H, 15th Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

B.
Subject: Medal of honor.

Address: "Chief of the Record and Pension Office, War Department, Washington, D.C."

501,991.

Record and Pension Office,

War Department,

Washington City,

March 28, 1898.

MEMORANDUM.

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The Secretary of War has directed the issue of a medal of honor to Rev. John M. Whitehead, late chaplain, 15th Indiana Infantry, the medal to be engraved as follows:

The Congress

to

Chaplain John M. Whitehead,

15th Ind. Inf.,

for

gallantry at Stone River, Tenn.,

Dec. 31, 1862.


Colonel, U. S. Army,

Chief, Record and Pension Office.

Subject: ^w Medal of honor.

*Address: "Chief of the Record and Pension Office, War Department, Washington, D.C."

501,991.

Record and Pension Office,
War Department,
Washington City,

April 4, 1898.

Rev. J. M. Whitehead,
Late Chaplain, 15th Indiana Infantry,
Topeka, Kansas.

Sir:

I am directed by the Secretary of War to inform you that the medal of honor which has been awarded to you by direction of the President, in accordance with the act of Congress approved March 3, 1863, as you were notified on the 22d ultimo, has this day been forwarded to you by registered mail. Upon receipt of the medal please advise this office thereof.

Very respectfully,


Colonel, U. S. Army,

Chief, Record and Pension Office.

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166105

[Inclosure No. 10.]

Report of
Chief of Record and Pension Office

on
application for award of

MEDAL OF HONOR

to

J O H N M. W H I T E H E A D,
late chaplain, 15th Regiment Indiana
Volunteers.

Case of

J O H N M. W H I T E H E A D,

late chaplain, 15th Regiment Indiana Volunteers.

--o--

APPLICATION FOR A MEDAL OF HONOR.

--o--

Under date of the 14th instant, Hon. Charles Curtis, M. C., transmits papers in support of an application for the award of a medal of honor to Rev. John M. Whitehead, of Topeka, Kansas, late a chaplain of the above mentioned regiment, for distinguished gallantry at the battle of Stone's River (Murfreesboro), Tennessee, December 31, 1862, to January 2, 1863. Mr. Curtis requests that after a careful consideration of the papers a medal of honor be awarded, if possible. The following are pertinent extracts from the statements submitted in support of the application:

1. Letter from Colonel I. C. B. Suman, mayor of Valparaiso, Indiana, late of the 9th Indiana Infantry, dated November 4, 1897.

"I was very severely wounded in the early morning of the 31st of December, having been shot through the left arm near the shoulder, and a second ball in my shoulder, the wound in the arm having severed the artery and I was bleeding very profusely when this gallant chaplain came to me, bandaged my wounds, helped me to mount my horse so I could return to my regiment, in the 'round forrest' between the railroad and the pike where we held till night. Chaplain Whitehead when he gave me assistance he was as bloody as a butcher from the wounded he had cared for before he came to my assistance. He seemed to be a ministering angel among the wounded of all commands, Yank and Johney alike. He seemed to think nothing about the danger he was in by going from place to place, looking after the wounded, caring for all the dead, directing and assisting in their burial. I served in the army for the preservation of the Union from start to finish. I came in contact with many chaplains in my long service, and can say that the Rev. John M. Whitehead, 15th Regt. Ind. Vol. Infy. was the most worthy chaplain that ever came under my notice. In camp, on the march, and especially his conduct on the battle field at Stone River, Dec. 31, 1862. I believe the Nation owes this grand old christian gentleman a medal for heroism, energy and faithful services without hope of promotion as other officers of the line. In my own old Regt. I always promoted meritorious soldiers who earned it on the battlefield."

2. Letter from Edwin Nicar, late 1st lieutenant and adjutant, and captain of Company H, 15th Indiana Volunteers, dated South Bend, Indiana, October 28, 1897, addressed to Mr. Whitehead:

"I have learned with much satisfaction that many of the survivors of the 15th Ind. Vols. are urging your claims to the Government medal which is being awarded for gallantry and distinguished service on the battlefields of the late war.

"Your record at the battle of Stone's River, Decr. 31, 1862, to Jan. 2, 1863, richly entitles you to this distinction, and the government will honor itself in honoring you.

"As I was Adjutant of the regiment at the time, I was in a position to know much that you did. I know that although a noncombatant you accompanied the regiment into action and bore your part manfully. I know that when Capt. Templeton of Company D was mortally wounded by the fire of the rebel battery in our front you hastened to him and bore him off the field in your arms. I know that you ministered to his wants, received his last words, and having done all that could be done returned to the regiment.

"Owing to our exposed position and the terrible fire we were under it was impossible for the ambulances to visit us and almost equally impossible for the stretcher bearers to do effective service so that much was left to individual effort. You accepted the chances of life and death with rare courage and never faltered in the least.

"I know that you carried a number of enlisted men off the field and that all through the desperate fighting in which the 15th Ind. held to its place on the left, losing 189 officers and men killed and wounded, out of 440 engaged, you were with us cheering the living, caring for the wounded and receiving the last messages of the dying. I know that until midnight or after of the first days battle you never ceased in your work of mercy and I know that each and every survivor of the regiment was and is proud of your splendid exemplification of practical christianity. I heard of similar service that you performed for members of the 9th and 40th Ind. regiments which were in action near us, and Col. Suman of the 9th has spoken to me of your help in the most glowing terms.

"The medal ought to be awarded to you without hesitation, and if the facts are properly presented I am sure it will be. Do not hesitate to use this letter if you think it will be of benefit. I am conscious that it is but a poor presentment of what I saw and know, but it is true and comes from my heart."

3. Letter from E. M. Burns, late of Company G, 15th Indiana Volunteers, and acting hospital steward, dated Valparaiso, Indiana, November 23, 1897.

"The Fifteenth Indiana Regiment went into this engagement with four hundred and forty men, rank and file, and during the day's engagement, lost two hundred and two men, killed and wounded. It made three successive charges and captured more men than were in its own command.

"At all times and under all circumstances, Chaplain John M. Whitehead was with the command during the day and removed the wounded from the field of battle. He being a large and robust man, would take a wounded man up in his arms or on his shoulders and alone, carry him from the field. He followed up the regiment in each charge and carried back with him the wounded man nearest the enemy's line.

"I will enumerate a few of the many he removed from the field of battle: Captain Templeton, Christian Board, John Long and Calvin R. Zener. These men were carried from the extreme advance point of the Regiment's charge to the front. Christian Board was shot through the leg and body. John Long had one leg nearly shot off and took his pocket knife and severed it entirely and left the foot on the battlefield.

"Toward night, on the 31st, I was ordered by the commanding officer to go with Surgeon Youart to the field hospital and assist the Hospital steward in caring for the wounded, and I have personal knowledge of the unreserved and untiring work of Chaplain Whitehead, throughout the night, in bringing into the hospital, from the front, wounded men. For three days and three nights, without ceasing and scarcely any sleep, he continued to administer to the wants of the wounded and to help with shovel in hand to bury the dead at the hospital.

"For these worthy efforts on his part, in that noted battle, I can and do, hereby cheerfully recommend Chaplain John M. Whitehead worthy of a badge of honor: and do hereby petition the authority that can so award, to permit the old chaplain to be the recipient of such Honors."

4. Letter from Hulbert Fullum, late of Company C, 15th Indiana Volunteers, dated La Porte, Indiana, October 30, 1897, addressed to Mr. Whitehead:

"During the fighting on the 31st Dec. 62 my time and attention was fully occupied by the enemy and I dont now remember seeing you at the front during the day, but after the fighting ceased that evening I visited the wounded of the 15th at the hospital and in talking with them, and especially the boys of Company C, they all spoke of the daring of the Chaplain in aiding the wounded to the rear and of his kindly ministrations to them at the hospital. * * * When I was wounded on the 2 of Jan., 1863, I know you dressed my wounds and I also know I would have fared badly but for you. I also know you assisted in carrying Corporal C. R. Zener of 'G' from the front about the time I was taken to the rear and gave him every attention till he died. I know you exposed your life to aid the wounded to rear and your health in nursing and caring for them, and I know you were everywhere, regardless of personal danger, where aid was to be given, or suffering to be alleviated and I know at all times you was a christian gentleman, a model soldier, and a true hero, entitled to, and receiving, the love and gratitude of every man, in our command who was wounded on that time."

5. Letter, not dated, from John M. Comporet, of Blanco, Texas, late lieutenant colonel, 15th Indiana Volunteers:

"I respectfully ask that our Congress in session give recognition to our comrade J. M. Whitehead, Chaplain of 15th Reg. Ind. Infy., for deeds of gallantry and merit, in giving aid and comfort to those who were wounded dying and dead comrades upon the battlefield at Stone River - Missionary Ridge - the 1st on Dec. 31st, 1862; and Jan. 2, 1863. He bound up their wounds and looked after those not of our Reg. but took great interest in all, and to see that there were none missing and to supply their wants, 'even to a cup of water.'

"For service so needful and gallantry done, which I recognize worthy of a marked distinction, respectfully ask that a medal of honor be awarded him, 'J. M. Whitehead' in recognition of these meritorious deeds of valor upon these battlefields, in our Country's darkest hours. All of which I most respectfully submit for your kind and deliberate consideration and approval."

6. Letter from L. J. Bryant, late of Company G, 15th Indiana Volunteers, dated La Porte, Indiana, October 29, 1897.

"I was on detached service and not with the Regiment at the battle of Stone's River, Tenn., on Dec. 31st, 1862, and Jan. 2d, 1863, but joined the regiment on the 3d or 4th of Jan., 1863, and on every hand I heard the heroism of the Chaplain spoken of and talked about.

"The men said no one was wounded, and needing aid, so far to the front for the Chaplain not to go to his assistance, and I know his courage and forgetfulness of self on those trying days made him the most popular chaplain with his regiment in the Army of the Cumberland.

"The comrades of the regiment told me that after the severe fighting of the 31st the chaplain's clothing was covered with blood from carrying off from the field the wounded. They all pronounced him a hero."

7. Letter from R. H. Maxwell, late of Company G, 15th Indiana Volunteers, dated La Porte, Indiana, November 8, 1897.

"Well do I remember our brave Chaplain J.M.Whitehead, and I also well remember his bravery in caring and looking after our wounded comrades during the three days battle at Stone River, Tenn. I can say truthfully his gallantry was remarkable."

8. Statement of Rev. John M. Whitehead, a chaplain, 15th Indiana Volunteers, dated Topeka, Kansas, December 1, 1897:

"Orders came to our Col. G. A. Wood, to hold that point at all hazards: that meant to simply fight till you die on that field or conquer. When he received this order, he called 'attention', went through the manual of arms, then fixed bayonets, faced the enemy coming a brigade strong, ordered double-quick charged Jackson's Brigade coming down the right bank on Stone River. They were met at the crest of the hill and driven back, but they came back with the additional reinforcement of another brigade and were met 'with bloody hands and hospitable graves' and driven back with greater loss; but still they came back - Jackson's, Adam's, and Preston's Brigades. Again the third charge was made. Our regiment bringing back a greater number of men as prisoners than there were men in our entire command, when we went into battle; but this bravery was at the loss of scores of men killed and wounded. Captain Templeton, that noble officer, fell mortally wounded; I carried back the Captain to the rear and sat by him at his request and that of Surgeon Youart until he breathed his last; I copied his last message and sent it to his home in Lafayette, Indiana. Here the gallant Captain of Company G, Joel W. Foster, my next door neighbor at home, fell mortally wounded by shell from that Confederate Battery, with his leg mangled above the knee. The same ball ricocheted and killed Corporal Douglas of the same company and still further on killed another man.

"Here that dauntless Colonel of the 9th regiment of the Indiana Volunteers, Col. I. C. B. Suman, was twice shot, one ball severing the artery in the arm. When he rode from the field, bleeding his life away, I met him, bound up his wounds, and helped him on his horse; with one foot filled with blood he rode back on the field, took his command and held his position at 'Round Forest'. Here Lieutenant Colonel Neff of the 40th Indiana was shot in the arm and left the field bleeding. Here Corporal Logan, Company B, fell helpless. Here Christian Board, Company G, fell shot in the arm, in the leg, and through the breast. Here John Long fell with his leg nearly blown off by a shell; he took out his knife, cut off the remaining parts, and lay the foot beside the stump by which he sat. Here captain John M. Smith of my home town, was shot. Here George Brown fell dead, of my town. Here John Vannote, another townsman, fell shot through the right lung, but pulled through. Here Hulbert Fullum was wounded. Here Corporal Calvin H. Zener, my fellow townsman; we carried him off the field and he was surrounded by his commanding officers and comrades. As we all knelt round him and offered up our united prayers, he talked to all his comrades like a true christian and then said, 'Now, boys, let us all sing once more together', and he struck up his favorite hymn, 'O, sing to me of heaven.'

"In the three charges made, our regiment lost men killed and wounded who fell two hundred and fifty yards in advance of the line of battle; brave fellows, but it cost something to check that on-tide of Kentucky's brave Confederates under their proud leader, Breckenridge.

"Allow me to say that I was constantly with my regiment during that terrible day, carrying the wounded off the field, caring for the dying, whenever they came under my notice. My regiment kept this position during the whole days' battle. We lost every alternate man, killed or wounded, losing over two hundred; the 9th Indiana Regiment, Colonel Suman in command, lost one hundred and sixty men killed and wounded; the 40th Indiana Regiment, Colonel Blake in command, lost about the same. Other regiments marched and counter-marched over this same field, as ordered.

"Most of those whose names I mentioned, I carried off the field or bound up their wounds, and to some I did both and I can truthfully say I helped scores of others whose names I cannot now call to mind.

"After night-fall when all was quiet along our front lines, an order came to my Surgeon Youart to move the wounded from the field hospital to the general hospital, which was in a large brick house two miles back to Steuart's Creek. Part of this time I was assisted by Assistant Hospital Steward E. M. Burns; when he was ordered to the big brick hospital I was left alone to get the wounded into the ambulances. Most of them who could not walk I carried on my shoulder.

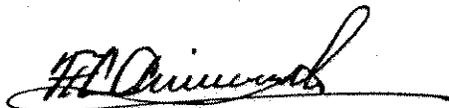
"About two o'clock I placed the last man in the ambulance who was in the field hospital carried to the general hospital; when I went to my horse I did not find my blankets, haversack, or canteen; so I laid down under a porch of a deserted house but it was too cold to sleep and I mounted my horse. I rode an hour found my regiment

holding the hotly contested ground in whose defence so many brave men had fallen the day before. I sat down with my mess-mates and ate the first food for twenty-four hours.

"This brief and imperfect sketch is respectfully submitted to the Congress of the United States for its candid consideration, by one who was a non-combatant, and had no line of hope for promotion in government service by Army Regulations."

The records show that John M. Whitehead was enrolled July 15, 1862, at Westville, Indiana, and mustered into service to take effect from the same date, as chaplain, 15th Indiana Infantry Volunteers, to serve three years, and that he was mustered out with the regiment and honorably discharged the service as chaplain, June 25, 1864, at Indianapolis, Indiana. During the period of his service the rolls show him present, except the roll dated December 31, 1863, which shows him absent at Chattanooga, Tennessee, in charge of sick and wounded. No official mention has been found of his personal conduct at the battle of Stone's River.

The regiment was in action at Stone's River, Tennessee, from December 31, 1862, to January 3, 1863. It appears from the records that the petitioners were members of the organizations alleged, and held the ranks stated, and all are shown to have been present on the dates mentioned except Robert H. Maxwell, who was absent sick. The records show that Colonel Suman, 9th Indiana Volunteers, Christian Board, and John D. Long were wounded in said battle, and that Captain Robert J. Templeton was killed December 31, 1862, and Corporal Calvin R. Zener was killed January 2, 1863.



Colonel, U. S. Army,

Chief, Record and Pension Office.

Record and Pension Office,

War Department,

December 18, 1897.