

## W C Richards Letter

Camp Bishop near Shelbyville Tenn [sic]

Jany [sic] 27th 1863

Captain

In addition to the report already furnished of Officers and men displaying extraordinary Valor and skill upon the Battle field – as called for by Genl Orders 52 War Dept I deem it [illegible] 4th Sergt. [sic] M. Murphy Co. A 9th Mi. Batt S.S. to make a special report to the Col. Commdng [sic] Brigade of the circumstances connected with his killing an Abolition Officer and capturing four privates in the late battle before Murfreesboro.

On Friday evening Jany [sic] 2nd 63 company H of this Battle being deployed on the West bank of Stone [sic] River and lapping on the left of Breckinridge's Division which was on the East bank advanced [illegible] that Division for its attack. The first fire of the evening was met and repulsed by us – but being reinforced with a second and third Line they in turn repulsed us. Sirtg [sic] Murphy who was in charge of the right group of his Company – owing to the inequality of the ground became separated from his comrades in falling back and while following the course of the stream came single-handed before an Abolition Officer and four privates concealed by a Large rock who had been overrun by the Sharp Shooter in their first advance – instantly bringing his gun to his shoulder he ordered the party to surrender or he would fire upon them – the Officer told him to fire and be d-d and ordered his men to shoot the d-d son of a bitch. Murphy delivered his fire, killing the Officer instantly and then drawing a small pistol ordered the four privates across the River where he delivered them together with the slain Officer's sword to Genl Breckenridge Command

Very Repctfly [sic]

Your obdt [sic] Svt [sic]

W C Richards

Major Commdng [sic] Chalmers' Battn [sic] Sharp Shooters

To

Capt [sic] W [illegible]

A A G