

REPORT OF LIEUT. COL. H. TRIPP

HEADQUARTERS 6TH REGIMENT IND.

VOLUNTEERS, camp in field near

Murfreesboro, Jan. 4, '63.

Colonel P. P. Baldwin, commanding Third Brigade:

Sir: I have the honor to report the part taken by my regiment in the skirmish fight on the 27th; also in the battle of the 31st [illegible]

On the morning of the 27th, while in march some 2 1/2 miles north of the village of Triune, on Nolinsville pike, we encountered the enemy near the intersection of the Bold Jack road and pike. I immediately deployed in line of battle on the right of the road, my left resting on the road, being supported on my right by the 1st Ohio volunteers, and the 93d Ohio volunteers in reserve.

I at once advanced, as skirmishers, Company A; Capt. D. Kavanaugh, and Company B, Lt. P. C. McGannon commanding; Captain Simonson, of the 5th Indiana artillery, shelling the enemy from the hilltops, being energetically replied to by the enemy's guns.

The fight continued till we arrived at Triune, where the rebels made a stand, when we changed double quick their battery and drove them from the field.

We pursued them some two miles, they contesting each rod of ground, when they again made a stand. We again drove them from their position in precipitate retreat.

Night coming on, put an end to one day's labor.

I cannot speak in too high terms of commendation of the gallantry of the officers and men of my command throughout the entire day.—When we consider that for eight hours they fought under the hardest rain of the season, and in mud to their ankles, pressing forward to the mark of their high calling, with the utmost cheerfulness, their endurance was worthy of the highest commendation.

On the 30th, we marched from Triune to the field which was to be the scene of the battle of Murfreesboro, a distance of sixteen miles.—When we arrived, at 5 p.m., we were at once sent some 2 1/2 miles to the right of the right wing of the army. Being informed that the enemy was in too large force for us to maintain our position, we returned at 9 o'clock to the position first taken.

At 7 a.m. on the 31st, I was posted in line of battle behind a rail fence, my right resting on an open field, a stalk field in front, extending far to my left, a wood in rear, and also extending to the left.

On my right, some 75 yards to the front, was a section of Simonson's 5th Indiana battery—To the right of it lay the 1st Ohio regiment behind a fence. The whole supported by the 93d Ohio volunteers, Col. Anderson.

I promptly deployed as skirmishers the first platoons of Company A, Captain Kavanaugh, and Company B, Lt. P.C. McGannon commanding.

Some half hour after my skirmishers returned, being driven in by the enemy, their skirmishers in pursuit. A few shots from my line seemed to hold them in check. When their main line advanced, deployed, column after column, making some four or five lines, and approached our front. When within 100 yards of my line I ordered my men to fire, and they went at it with a right good will, it having been difficult to restrain them so long. One fire caused the enemy to waver, and checked their advance. They were not idle, but threw upon us their leaden hail, which caused my men to hug close their frail defence [sic], delivering their fire with the steadiness of veterans. At this time the artillery ceased on my right, and in a few moments the 1st Ohio gave way, and fell back on the 5th Ky., who in turn, also, fell back before an overwhelming force of the enemy, who were passing my right flank in line of battle, their right within 50 yards of my right, which produced some unsteadiness in one or two of the companies, they getting out of place for the purpose of firing into the enemies flanks as they passed. I promptly rallied them to the fences. In the meantime the line in front had advanced to within 25 yards of my line. A rebel regiment had crossed the fence on my left. Those advancing on the 1st Ohio and 5th Kentucky on my right were already some 100 yards to my rear, and being closely pursued in front. I gave the order to fall back slow and in good order, which was well executed at a double quick. At one time I had some wavering in ranks in consequence of some unauthorized person giving an order to fall back to the men instead of to me, but I rallied them without difficulty, and continued the fight. I fell back to a point some 200 yards east of the Nolinsville Pike, where I formed the regiment in line, and faced about, intending to resume the fight, but seeing General McCook, reported to him for orders, when he ordered me to the rear, which I did, halting upon the Nashville Pike, thence to the railroad, where I reported to you.

On the 1st, 2d and 3d inst. my command bore a full share of the skirmish fighting on our part of the line. The particulars need not be mentioned here.

I would do violence to my own feelings did I close this report without mentioning the good conduct and soldierly bearing of the men of my command:

To the company officers am I greatly indebted for the steadiness of their several companies. I would be glad to name some of them, but when all have so ably done their duty it would be invidious to do so. I must, however, acknowledge the able, prompt and energetic assistance I received from Major C. D. Campbell throughout the engagement.

Herewith please find a list of our loss in killed, wounded, prisoners and missing.

Co. A.—Capt. Delaney Kavenaugh, prisoner; Corporal George A. Benefield and private Wm. T. Ellis, killed; Corp'l. Samuel M. Storm, in arm private George Smith, in foot; James Stevenson in hip; John W. Anderson, in hand; Jefferson Coeperrider, slightly; George Mossmore, Ebenezer Marquis, James Flin, D. Saliers, Dow Conway, Moses Lewis, missing; John McCarty, captured.

Co. F, A. J. Newland commanding—Eligh C. Daily, Cornelius Underwood, in breast, severe; M. B. Cook, prisoner; L. Bryant, missing.

Co. D, Capt. Sam. Russell—Jonathan Eads, in ankle; Casper Land, in leg; Wm. Conway, John Long and Wm. Wallace, wounded; Chas. Irish, August Shroerlocks, P. O'Bryan, Norman B. Cook, James A. Duncan, D. Barret, Carl A. Ramspot, Alford Venats and Charles Donehue, missing.

Co. I.—Silas D. Huckelberry; Virgil Baker, in knee; Nathan H. Gloyed, in leg; Henry Dixon, severe; Wm. Underwood, John McMahan, Jarves Gorbit, missing.

Co. C, Lieut. W. A. Cummings commanding—private Samuel Stoell, Ira Roberts, David B. Simonton, killed; private Enos Clark, Goreton Cummings, Robert Guy, Virgil Brown, Wallace Donlap [sp?], Wm. N. Young, wounded; Sergt. James [page cuts off]