

# ...Reminiscences...

of

## Company "H," First Arkansas Mounted Rifles.

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By DR. ROBT. H. DACUS.

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[What I have written has been almost entirely from memory, having nothing but the company roll to guide me; and as more than thirty years have elapsed since the incidents recorded occurred, it will not be expected that I am correct in every detail. Yet I am confident that J. K. Perry, L. G. Hart, T. J. McCray, H. C. Cunningham and W. D. Jennings, who were with me, will corroborate, in the main, everything I have written. Neither have I written through egotism, but feeling that someone ought to give to posterity a condensed but true history of every company of Arkansas troops who served in the war. Were this done, and the whole taken and compiled into historical form, it would show the heroic part borne by Arkansas in the great struggle for State supremacy, one of the grandest of all the grand principles of Democracy.—R. H. D.]

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Dardanelle, Ark., August 1st, 1897.



on every possible occasion. This is a digression upon which as writing, but I felt that I could not pass it by in silence, and I feel that all who read this digression at least all fair minded people.

During the campaign in Kentucky we marched according to the diary by Philip Pfeifer, of Littleport, that campaign it was demonstrated that marching better than horses, because while we carried our time and the others' baggage was hauled in with their horses of superfluous load, yet the men in Kentucky in good health and fine condition, while all others' horses were tired and jaded. And it being in the year, feed was plentiful as provisions, so the army to eat all the ground. We joined Bragg again, at Frankfort, before the battle of Perryville had commenced at that time. After leaving Frankfort our retreat was interrupted, so far as could be seen. On the 23d or 24th we reached Cumberland Gap and on the night of the 26th about 12 or 15 miles deep. We went from Cumberland to Loudon, Tennessee where we remained until some time in October, when we marched to Murfreesboro, where the battle was fought December 31. At that time half our company were engaged in the battle and were killed or wounded, L. Harn and Warren Swilling were killed. Our brigade and Ector's Texas Brigade were before sunrise charging the enemy, who lay in line just across a mile from us, and before the sun was up we captured a battery from them, and before the hour high we captured another, which made eight in an hour and for Ector's men, or 12 guns for us, but in the charge division to our right failed to get on or other to move forward, and but for the time of Cleburne with the Arkansas division our two brigades had been annihilated. The enemy to the right of our line in two places changed front and was getting on us on our right flank, when Cleburne, who always was in the right place at the right time when there was to be done, came our rescue just in time to save us as they were contending for us. With Cleburne's division swept on and until we had doubled their right in their center. Here as we emerged from a thicket we went up with bran briars, and entered a peach orchard upon a line of sharp troops, intrenched behind a line of timber running through the orchard. Our only show was to keep our lines and to charge or fall back, and as it was impossible to form under such a fire as we were being shot at, the other half of our men behind us, either dead or wounded, and us who were thrown out with fatigue, as it was in the afternoon and we had been fighting without being relieved.

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