

remained there, we were detailed as train guard to the front. About the last of August, we started to the front across the Cumberland Mountains with a drove of cattle, arriving at Bridgeport.

Last of September. From there we were ordered to the Sequatchie Valley to watch Wheeler's Cavalry from capturing our wagon trains as they were crossing the mountains, to haul rations to our army that was cooped up in Chattanooga. Just before the Battle of Lookout Mountain, we crossed the Tennessee river at Kelley's Ferry. Here we remained guarding supplies until after the battle of Missionary Ridge, after which we were ordered to Chattanooga. Here we did garrison duty until June 18, 1864, when our Regiment received orders to report to Camp Dennison, Ohio, to be mustered out.

We arrived at Camp Dennison on the 26th of June, were paid off and discharged June 27, 1864. Our Company took cars for Cardington, Ohio, arriving there in the evening, having served thirty-eight months.

The End.

May we, his descendants, forever strive to keep the freedom and unity of these glorious United States of America, and the Flag our Father fought to save.

DIARY OF MY LIFE



JOHN A. DUNCAN

COMPANY I, THIRD OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

that if Buell had brought up his whole force he could have bagged Bragg's whole army. His failure to do so caused him to lose the command of the Army. He was ordered to report at Washington.

13th. Moved from Perryville to near Harrodsburgh. Camped in a field without tents and raining. (I will here state that before the battle of Perryville we didn't like our Colonel very well. We thought he was too strict.) The next day the Colonel met Cap. Loomis of the Battery (The Battery had been with us all through West Virginia). We thought of the Battery Boys as our own Regiment. Loomis said, "Colonel Beatty, did you know you captured a Regiment at Perryville?" Colonel says, "I do not." Loomis says, "Yes, you captured the 3rd. There is not a man but what would die for you."

19th. Encamped in a hilly field five miles south (of) Crab Orchard. 24th. In camp in woods near Lebanon, without tents. We hear that Bragg is hastening toward Nashville, Tenn.

November 9th. In camp at Sinking Springs, Kentucky, General George H. Thomas in command. Designated as the Fourteenth Army Corps, consisting of 88,000 men. 11th. Moved to Mitchellville. 15th. Ordered to move to Tyree Springs. One rumor says that Bragg is at one place and another that he is somewhere else. General Rosencrantz is now in command of our Army.

20th. Still in camp having a good time. December 2nd. Move tomorrow to Nashville. 10th. Our Division (Roussan's) moved three miles beyond the City and went into camp on the Franklin road. 21st. Last evening a little after dark we were startled by heavy cannonading. We thought we were going to be attacked, but after awhile the firing ceased. We hear the Rebels are before us in force. 25th. Started this morning for Murfreesboro. Camped at night near the headwaters of Little Harpeth River. Commenced raining and rained for four hours until we were soaked to the hide. 26th. Moved at 8 this morning. We are on a dirt road between the Willson Pike and Nolensville Pike. About Ten o'clock the Artillery commenced thundering in our front. Went into camp fifteen miles from Nashville, midway between Franklin and Murfreesboro.

28th. At 4 o'clock ordered to (leave) baggage and teams behind and march to Stewarts creek. Reached the place at 11 o'clock at night, and lay on the ground until morning. 29th. At 8 A. M. the artillery opened in our front and lasted about two hours. 30th. A little after daylight we were within three miles of Murfreesboro. About Ten o'clock the boom of artillery was heard. Then the roar of musketry. At 9 o'clock we moved into the cedar woods to reinforce McCook. General Roussan now rides up and says to General Beatty (who is now in command of our Brigade), "Hold this place until Hell freezes over." Up to this time the enemy has been driving everything before them. On they came. The cedars are so dense that they do not see us. We open on them. They stagger and finally fall back. In a short time they came at us again. And again we force them back. We were then ordered to change position. The Artillery had all been concentrated, and as we fell back to the new line across and behind the railroad, the Rebs. thought they were driving us. As soon as they came in range, the batteries opened on them, and actually mowed great windrows of them. It was too much. No troops could

stand the rain of iron. They fled in confusion. Thus ended the first day's battle of Stone River. Several incidents happened in the early morning which I will relate here.

We were ordered to the front before we had got our breakfast. We moved down to the edge of the timber and our boys began to make little fires to make coffee. Just as our coffee was boiling, the order came from the Officers, "Fall in Boys, fall in quick." And away we went. And away went our coffee, cups and all. As we went into the thick cedars, rabbits would jump up and run among our feet. And wild turkey flew in among us. They didn't know where to go, for the firing was all around us. Many of our poor boys went down in this terrible struggle. About dusk, General Rosencrantz came riding along where our Regiment was and says, "Boys, what Regiment is this?" We told him, the 3rd Ohio. He says, "Where is your Colonel?" We told him, he just rode down in the timber. At this he looked and saw the Colonel coming. He shook hands with him and says, "Colonel, have your men move up a little nearer to the brow of the hill. They will not be so apt to be hit by shells as they pass over. You understand?" "You boys understand, don't you?" That night we lay on our arms.

January 1st, 1863. At dawn we are all in line expecting hostilities to commence. Both armies seem to want to rest. Small parties are going over the field, burying the dead. A little before sundown all Hell seemed to break loose. The thunder of artillery and volleys of small arms was deafening. But it was simply the evening salutation. Fifty Thousand hungry men stretch beside their guns. Not a bite to eat. After General Rosencrantz left us our Colonel moved us up near the top of the hill, where we lay down on our arms all night. What a contrast there is between Rosencrantz and Buell. While we were under his command from December '61 to October '62, I never recollect of seeing him (Buell), while Rosencrantz mingled with us frequently. At Stone River, he was continually along the lines giving words of encouragement to officers and men.

2nd. About sunrise the Rebs. opened on our front and center with about sixty pieces of artillery. It didn't seem possible that anything could escape. Loomis's Battery was stationed on the right of our Regiment. General Rosencrantz came riding down to where Captain Loomis was sitting on his horse and says, "Captain, can you do anything for those fellows?" Captain says, "Of course, I can." He ordered the boys to run out the guns. Now let me tell you, if the 12-lb. Parrots didn't make lively work! The Rebs. soon got up and dug. Those that were able to get away. Everything was quiet the rest of the day until evening, when the Rebs. undertook to turn our left flank. They drove our men back for a while, but Rosencrantz rushed reinforcements over from the right and they were repulsed and driven across the river. Darkness coming, our army lay on their arms during the night.

3rd. All quiet. About dark our Regiment and the 88th Indiana were ordered to make a night charge on our front. The Rebs. had erected log breastworks and their sharpshooters were making it disagreeable for our gunners. As soon as it got dark, one of our batteries opened on the Rebs. and shelled them lively and then we made the

charge. The only thing we had to go by was the flash of the enemy's guns. It was pitch dark. The Bugle sounded the charge and away we went. We reached the breastworks. Then it was a hand to hand struggle for a few moments, and the Rebs. fell back. We lay on our arms for the remainder of the night. Next morning the Rebs. had gone. That day we strolled over the battlefield. What terrible sights we beheld! We found men with their heads torn off, some with their bowels torn from them, some with half their faces gone, some with both legs torn off. One boy was lying with his hands clasped above his head, as though his last words were a prayer. Many horses and mules were lying around with their legs blown off. Many of our poor boys were scattered around over the field. We found many covered with dirt, and their toes sticking out.

4th. In the afternoon we crossed over the river, and went into camp. 15th. This is the coldest day we have had this winter; ground covered with snow. We are camped along the Nashville and Murfreesboro Pike, south of Stone River.

February 10th. Have commenced constructing fortifications. This is to be a base for supplies. 19th. Still at work on the fortifications. We work four hours a day in the trenches. March 15th. The weather is remarkable. The roads are becoming good. Officers are having a fine time riding by our camp on the pike.

18th. Still at work on the fortifications. 24th. Still at work on the fortifications. April 1st. Pleasant, cool, but clear. 6th. Our Regiment, the 51st Indiana, 73rd Indiana, and the 80th Illinois, under Col. A. D. Streight of the 51st Indiana are ordered on an expedition, we know not where. 7th. We took the cars for Nashville. Arrived at Nashville at night. 8th. At Nashville. In Evening are ordered to deposit our knapsacks in large brick building, and take boats and proceed down the Cumberland. 9th. Land in morning at a little place. Our regiment marches across the country to Fort Henry on the Tennessee river. Were ordered to gather up all the horses and mules. When we arrived at Henry we were all mounted.

10th. Still scouting around for horses and mules. 11th. Today we take boats and steam up the Tennessee river. Rained in the night and we had to lay out on the deck of the boat. In the morning we land at a place called Eastport. I and Brother Jim were detailed to guard the Officer's accoutrements. I and Jim confiscated a saddle and bridle apiece. 13th. Started to march across to Tusculumbia, Ala. Arrived there at night. Boys caught a porker and began to cook it. Major Vanenda came over and took supper with us. Before leaving Nashville we drew pup tents. We had put them up for the first time, as it looked like rain. About ten o'clock it began to rain, and it just poured down. We would go together in threes; I and Jim Watson and Mike Vincent were in one tent. When it began to pour down the water run under us and we had to crawl out and hunt a dry place to sleep. We were told that all the troops that were mounted were to report to Headquarters about One o'clock A. M. I and Jim Watson and Mike Vincent got into an old log corn crib. There were guards on to guard the corn. I told the guard to wake me up about 11 o'clock, but I was awake (then) and going up to the top of the hill, I found a loose mule running around. So I caught it and took it down to where

the other boys were, got some corn and fed him and went and told them there were other mules loose. And they went up and soon came back leading a mule apiece. We all got ready and went over to Headquarters where the boys were busy cooking their breakfast. About One o'clock we started. Dark as a black cat, and shortly after we started it commenced to rain. Halted about daylight to feed our horses and mules, and get a little breakfast for ourselves. Brother Jim got some corn meal and told me to get some corn bread made. I found an old darkey woman and got her to bake me some Hoe Cake. About noon, we saddled up and started again (of course, us privates had no idea where our destination was. All we had to do was to follow our officers and ask no questions). We had scouts out all the time gathering up horses and mules to mount those of our command that were following. I told Brother Jim (as he was one of the Scouts) to get me a good horse or mule, as mine was a hard rider. We went into camp near a little Town (I have forgotten the name). In the evening we tied and fed our mules; eat our hard-bread. After it got dark Mike Vincent and I started out to see what was in the town. While we were gone the Scouts came in and Bro. Jim had got a mule for me and had taken my mule and turned him over to Brigade Quartermaster. When Mike and I came back we spread our blankets down, our saddles under our heads, stretched ourselves out for a night's rest. I hardly got stretched out when the bugle called Boots and Saddles. I started to get my mule and he was gone. I looked and hunted, couldn't find him anywhere. By this time I was using some pretty big words. Bro. Jim heard me. He says, "What's the matter with you?" I told him my mule was gone. He says, "I got you a mule and took yours away." "Well," I says, "where is he?" He says, "I tied him down in the woods." He went with me. I got him and went to get my saddle. When the command started, I saddled my mule, got on him and started. By this time I was way in the rear. My mule didn't seem to be in any hurry to go. So I gave him a dig with my spurs. You ought to have seen him go. Down through the line he went, jumping stiff-legged, until he got nearly to the head of the column before I got him stopped. You ought to have heard the boys cuss. We rode on until about daylight. We came to the black Warrior River. Now things began to look like we were going to have a scrap, but it proved to be a lot of citizens over on the other side. There had been so much rain that the river was swelling, but there was no other show, so we had to swim. Orders were to take off our cartridge boxes and hold them up above our heads. We started in way above the ford so as to make the landing on the other side. We crossed all right, but all of our ammunition that was on our pack mules and in our saddle pockets was wet. We travelled until about 8 o'clock. We were ordered to dismount in the edge of the timber and unsaddle and feed. We had eaten our hard-bread, and our mules and horses were about half done eating, when "Boom!" went a gun across to our right. Orders came, "Saddle up boys, and mount." This was the first intimation we had, that the enemy was near us. We lit out in a hurry, rode until near noon, when we were ordered to halt and form line of battle at the brow of a hill. We were ordered to right dress in Regimental line and count