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Number of 2 18 Peterson (OHU)

Corvist.

5341 Foxglove Bossier City, La. 71112 Feb.20,1989

Charles Spearman Rt. 10 Box 495 Old Nashville Highway Murfreesboro, Tn. 37130

Dear Charles:

We met on the 17th and I told you I would forward information I have on Marshall Patrick Murphy. I am sending a copy of the write up and I have translated it the best I could. There are a couple words I could not make out. Also, there are some signatures I could not read, but did read Bragg's, Patton Anderson, General Ewell, W.C. Richards and Cheatham. Can you enlighten me on any of the others? It appears the commendation went to Tullahoma on Feb 2, 1863; to Chattanooga on Feb 5th, somewhere Feb 12th.???

Anyway, I hope you find the information worthwhile. As I mentioned, I am trying to find out why he was demoted to private by order of Brig. Gen. Tucker in April, 1864. Also, he started out with Chalmers. When Chalmers transferred to the calvary under Forrest, who took over the 9th Batt'l. Miss. Sharpshooters? Remained under Commanue.

It appears he fought at Murfreesboro under Chalmers who was assigned to Patton Anderson. Is that correct? No writes

Any help you may give me would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

James E. Sanders

James E. Sandus

P.S. anyway to Determine NAME of OFFicer Killed.



K14

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Stones River National Battlefield Rt. 10, Box 495 Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37130

March 3, 1989

Mr. James E. Sanders 5341 Foxglove Bossier, LA 71112

Dear Mr. Sanders:

Thank you for the information on Marshall Murphy and the 9th Battalion Mississippi Sharpshooters at Murfreesboro. General Chalmers was badly wounded on December 31 and as a result no report was written for the brigade. The brigade was taken over by the ranking officer Col. Thomas W. White, commander of the 9th Mississippi. We have very little information on the unit's participation in the battle so your account is especially helpful. It gives an indication of the degree of support Chalmers' Brigade provided to Breckenridge's attack on January 2.

General Chalmers was not the commander of the 9th Battalion so it was not necessary to appoint a new commander when he joined Forrest. Major William C. Richards, who signed the letter commending Murphy, was the battalion commander. The cover sheet is also signed by J. M. Walker who was acting brigade commander at the time. It was received on February 12, 1863, by Hugh L. Clay of the Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, C.S.A., in Richmond. Chalmers' Brigade at Murfreesboro was assigned to Jones Withers' Division, not Patton Anderson's. During the battle, Anderson commanded Walthall's Mississippi Brigade. Later, when the letter was forwarded, Anderson was temporarily acting commander of Wither's Division. Eventually Anderson became the brigade commander for what had been Chalmers' Brigade. Later in the war, at the start of the Atlanta campaign, Gen. William Tucker became brigade commander.

The records we have do not give any indication of the officer wounded or why Murphy was demoted to private.

Good luck with your research on the Civil War.

Sincerely,

Charles M. Spearman Historian

CAMP NEAR SHELBYVILLE, TENN. January 27th 1863

CAPTAIN:

In addition to the report already forwarded of Officers and men displaying extraordinary valor and skill upon the battlefield as called for by the General Order 52 War Dept., I deem it due 4C Sergt. M. Murphy, Co. A 9th Miss. Batt. Sharp Shooters to make a special report to the Col. concerning Brigade of the circumstances connected with the killing an abolition officer and capturing four privates in the late battle before Murphreesboro.

On Friday evening, Jan. 2nd, 1863, Company A of this Battn. being deployed on the West bank of Stone River and on the left of Breckin-ridge's Division which was on the East bank-advanced with that division in its attack. The fire of the enemy was met and repulsed by us-but being reinforced with a second and third Division, they in turn repulsed us.

Sergt. Murphy, who was in charge of the night group of his company, owing to the irregularity of the ground became separated from his commander in falling back and while following the course of the stream, came upon an abolition officer and four privates, concealed by a large rock. They had been overrun by the sharp shooters in their first advance. He brought his gun to his shoulder and 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 General Breckin-ridge's Command.

Ruly submitted to the Suy Julis/1/3. V Letters Lie a Ivadi A & I G O,

Camp Bish form Allynder tone in addition to the report already fur milnut of Oficers + men displaying extracroman Talor + still upon the Buttle fiel - as called for ty em brdie 52 has Defet & deen it dece A Singt I'm Munich, Coll got the Built 555 to marke a special report to the Cel, commen Itrigade if the circumstance conseded prite lin Killing an abilition Officer teafer Timing four privates in the Late battle before On tridery evening Jany 2" 6 3 - Company A If the Bull's being defloyed on the West buck of stone Kiver thapping on the left of Artek wridges Livision which was on the Fast bank - acraiced with that herrisis to its attach - The first time of the energy now mut + refulsed by us - but being reinforced with a second r tried Line They in her repulsed us - Jergt Musiciang who was in charge if the right grown of the great became reparales from his Commades in talling buck + while toller in courte of the sman - carre come lujure an altime thing the

encealed by a large rock & who has been Troine by the Sharp Thorter in Their first a trance instantly bringing his your this shoulder he ordered the party to I wrender or he would five whom The Officer Told him, to fine too d-d + ordered his new to The Though son the a bitch May be, delivered his five, Killing The Orien heatautly + The drawing a ereall nitt ordered the four privates was rost the liver where he delivered Them together with the star Officers Invote to kuil Brakenider Com Wenn the felfly mand The Kionard Thetital rope Maijor Cours in Chainers Us a G Vin (95) Seastle Thank worken