

U. S. HISTORY. CIVIL WAR. CAMPAIGNS & BATTLES. MURFREESBORO, BATTLE OF, 1862-1863.

n.d. G. A. R. Dept. of Ill. George H. Thomas Post.

Collection of information sheets re. Civil War veterans...some being personal narratives were individually catalogued, viz. John Toomey's, giving an account of the Chgo. Board of Trade Btry. from Sep 1862 thru Jul '65, with several good comments on combat, particularly at Murfreesboro.

9 ms. pp.

Gift: G.A.R. Memorial Ass'n., 1960. 60:251.

Collections U. S. History. Civil War. Biography.



Toomey, John D., 1841-1907.

COMRADE John D. Toomey

Born March 7<sup>th</sup> 1841 in Ohio came to Chicago

State of Ill. Reg. 1853 Admitted to Geo. H. Thomas Post, No. 5.

G. A. R. of Chicago June 24<sup>th</sup> 1887 Enlisted Chicago July 23 1862 as

Private in Co. Chicago Band of Trade Battery Vol. for the period

of 3 years, and was discharged therefrom as Corporal by reason of

orders of war Department at Chicago Ill

June 30<sup>th</sup> 1865 Re-enlisted, 18 as

in Co. \_\_\_\_\_ Regiment \_\_\_\_\_ Vol. for the period

of \_\_\_\_\_ year and was discharged therefrom as \_\_\_\_\_ by reason of

at \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_ Was taken prisoner

at the battle of Stone River Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> & Jan 1 & 2<sup>d</sup> 1863 and imprisoned at \_\_\_\_\_

until \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_ Was wounded at the battle of

Decatur Ga July 22 1864 and cared for in the Hospital at Columbia Tenn

rejoined the Regiment Oct 1864 Served in the Division 14 Army Corps

Corps, and took part in the following battles and campaigns: Our Battery after being

fully equipped by the Camp Sept 9<sup>th</sup> at Camp Douglas

and started for Louisville from thence to Bowling Green

and went into Camp. Capt. Stokes wired Rosecrans at Nashville

for permission to get to the front Request granted the Cannoniers

were furnished with Muskets and Marched to Nashville with

Out-Escort it was rather a daring exploit and Rosecrans

complimented the Battery very highly on Dec 30 for the Battery

was attached to the Pioneer Brigade an organization formed of 2 men

from each company of the Army of the Cumberland under command

of Capt. St-Clair Weston on Dec 26/62 we started on our march

from Nashville and met Brags Army at Stone River this was

my first Battle the world knows the history of that Battle

Our Battery was held in Reserve 2 hours or more in this

engagement



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My position was ~~no~~ one on the Gun and after we got in to position and commenced firing I had no further fear of being shot as it took all my time and attention to load and sponge out the Gun the order was to Load and fire at will with terrible Effect as the Enemy fell within 30 yards of our Guns and although <sup>many</sup> ~~my~~ Comrades fell dead and wounded all around me I was so completely exhausted that I did not realize my position or care anything about bullets whistling over my head as the Battle continued with unabated fury until darkness compelled both Armies <sup>to</sup> cease firing and under the cover of darkness we buried our dead and slept or rested that night on the frozen corn field and renewed the conflict on the early morn of the new year Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 63. about 4 PM while in the act of Loading the Gun I was hit <sup>the</sup> my abdomen with a spent Ball I fell forward to the ground I heard the Lieut. say another man gone and I thought so myself for I was in great pain at the time. I was taken to the field hospital by Comrades I thought I was shot through the body, while I was waiting my turn for Examination I took Courage & thought I had better Examine the wound myself. I did so and to my great surprise found the bullet in my clothes and only a flesh wound I applied some salve to the wound and immediately returned to the Battery and assumed my position on the Gun, that Evening while Changing position on the field



suddenly lit on my feet and recognized the voice of one of  
 our pretensions I yelled to him he recognized my voice and stopped  
 I mounted one of the Guns, got in to position on our left  
 and spent another night on the field of Stone River. Jan 3/63  
 there was constant fighting all day and every reader of our history  
 knows how desperate Gen Bragg fought - to hold  
 Murfreesboro but without avail as on the night of Jan 3/63  
 he evacuated Murfreesboro & ended the Battle of Stone River  
 with our knowledge the following dispatch was sent to Chicago  
 Nashville Tenn Jan 3 - 1893. Murray Nelson to Chicago  
 Murfreesboro is ours terrific fighting Friday no more Casual  
 ties in the Battery it has won glorious Distinction.  
 Battery remained in Camp at Murfreesboro Tenn from Jan 6 to Jan 13/63  
 the only notable event during our encampment was the changing  
 of our Battery from field to horse Artillery and attached to  
 the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division of Cavalry Army of the Cumberland Comma  
 nded by Brig. Gen John B Turchin and were the only  
 Battery of flying Artillery in the Western Armies.  
 Jan 14/63 took Camp and advanced with the army keeping on  
 its flanks following Bragg's army through Tullahoma and  
 Winchester to Ma Minville and Pittsville crossing the Tennessee  
 River on the left of the army and at Ringold Va fired the first  
 Gun which opened the Battle of Chickamauga Sept 19<sup>th</sup> 63. from



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TOOMEY, JOHN D. 1841-1907

COMRADE John D. Toomey

Born March 7th 1841 in Ohio came to Chicago State of Ill. Aug 1853 Admitted to Geo. H. Thomas Post, No. 5, G.A.R. of Chicago June 24th 1887 Enlisted Chicago July 23 1862 as Private in Co. Chicago Board of Trade Battery Vol for the period of 3 years, and was discharged therefrom as Corporal by reason of orders of War Department at Chicago Ill June 30th 1865

wounded at the battle of Stone River Dec. 31, 1862 & Jan 1 & 2 1863

wounded at the battle of Decatur Ga July 22 1864 and cared for in the hospital at Columbia Tenn rejoined the Regiment Oct. 1864 Served in the Division 14 Army Corps and took part in the following battles and campaigns

our battery after being finally equipped broke camp Sept 9th 62 at Camp Douglas and started for Louisville from there to Bowling Green and went into Camp. Capt Stokes wired ROSECRANS AT Nashville for permission to get to the front Request granted the Cannoneers were furnished with muskets and marched to Nashville with out escort it was rather a daring Exploit--and Rosecrans complimented the Battery very highly on Dec. 20, 1862 the Battery was attached to the pioneer Brigade an organization formed of 2 men from each company of the Army of the Cumberland under command of Capt St. Clair Morton on Dec. 26 62 we started on our march from Nashville and met Brags army at stone River this was my first Battle the world knows the history of that Battle. Our Battery was kept in reserve 2 hours or more after the engagement began. It would be impossible for me to describe my feelings during this interval the roaring of cannon the rattle of musketry and the rapier movements of troops into position made the suspense dreadfull, Finally old Rosey appeared



On the scene and ordered our command into action this was somewhat of a relief to me and yet I didnt relish the Idea of going up to the front. to be shot at. Now for the first time our Battery was under fire. My position was No. one on the Gun and after we got in to positinn and commenced firing I had no further fear of being shot as it took all my time and attention to load and sponge out the gun The order was to Load and fired will with terrible effect as the enemy fell within 30 yards of our guns and although many comrades fell dead and wounded all around me was I was so completely exhausted that I did not realize my position or care anything about Bullets whistling over my head ? the Battle contued with unstaled fury until darkness compelled both Armys to cease firing and under the cover of darkness we buried our dead, and slept or rested that night on the frozen corn field and renewed the conflict on the early morn of the new Year Jan 1st 63 about 4 p m while in the act of loading the Guns I was hit in the abdomen with a spent ball. I fell forward to the ground I heard the Lieut say another man gone and I thought so myself for I was in great pain and at the time I was taken to the field hospital by comrades I thought I was shot through the body, while I was waiting myturn for examination I took Courage and thought I had better examine the wound myself. I did so and to my great surprise found the bullet in my clothes and lonly a flesh wound I applied some salve to the wound and immediately returned to the Battery and assumed my position on teh Gun, that evening while changing position on the field I was sitting on the ammunition chest of the Guns when the wheel struck a stump and threw me up into the air it would take to much time and space to tell all my thoughts while in mid air sufice it to say I did not think that I would ever get down to the Earth alive but fortunately I hit on my feet and recognized the



voice of one of our postillions I yelled to him he recognized my voice and ~~stop~~ 3  
stopped, I mounted one of the Guns, got in to position on our left and spent  
another night on the field of Stone River Jan 3/63 Have had continuous  
fighting all day and every reader of our history knows how desperate Gen Bragg  
fought to hold Murfreesboro but without avail as on the night of Jan 3/63 he  
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the following dispatch was sent to Chicago Nashville Tenn Jan 3 1863 Murray N  
Nelson and Co. Chicago Murfreesbor is ours Terific fighting Friday no more casual  
ties in the Battery it has won Glorious Distinction. Battery remained in camp  
at Murfrreesboro Tenn from Jan 6 to June 23/63 the only notable event during our  
encampment was the changing of our Battery from field to horse Artillery and  
attached to the 2nd Division of Cavalry Army of the Cumberland commanded by  
Brig Gen John B. Turchin and were the only Battery of flying Artillery in the  
western Armies. June 24/63 broke camp and advanced with the Army through  
tullahoma and winchester to McMinnville and Pikesville crossing the Tennessee  
river on the left of the army and at Ringold Ga fired the first gun which opened  
the Battle of Chickamauga Sept 19th/63 from Sept 23 to Oct the 1st the Battery  
with the 2nd Division of Cavalry and in Brig Gen George Crook was guarding fords  
above Chattanooga on the 1st the Rebel Gen Wheeler crossed at Washington 40 miles  
above with 6000 men 2 othe columns were preparing to cross below one  
at bellfonte the other at countland Ala. intending to form a junction with  
Gen. Wheeler on Oct 3 we decended the Cumberland Mountains