

unhurt⁷. Lt. White has acted most gallantly in a skirmish preceeding the Battle, as did the whole of Company A. They, together with Comp. C., who did nearly as well, killed 2 Majors, and 14 Enlisted men of cavalry who attacked them, besides taking three of them wounded, the rest of the wounded being carried off by the enemy.

N. B. This was a most conspicuously gallant little affair between two squadrons of the 15th. Penna. Cavalry and Companies A. and C. 10th. S.C. Regt. The details are more fully given in my letter of Jan. 15th, No. 29 of the series. As soon as Genl. Bragg heard of the bravery and skill of Lieut. C. C. White, he sent down a staff officer and promoted him to the rank of Captain. The only instance I ever knew of such promotion on the actual field of battle by the general commanding.

Lt. Col. Pressley managed the Regt. most excellently, and behaved most gallantly. Not one of our mess got a scratch, although we all were under a most terrific fire.

I telegraphed, as soon as I could, to Father, and suppose he sent it on to you. I will write again – when we get to Shelbyville. Hoping that the same kind of Providence which has so far spared me may continue his protection, I remain, with love to our friends

Your own *****

XXIX.

Hd. Qrs. 4th Brigde. W.D.R.C.A.T

Near Shelbyville, Jan. 15th. 1863.

Yours of the 25th and 30th have been received since our arrival at this place. I have been endeavoring to write you fully for some time, but have not had an opportunity because 1st. of the movements incident to the recent battle of Murfreesboro, and 2nd. that I have been extremely busy since we have been stationary, collecting and writing the various reports of that engagement. All this is in addition to regular duties and to the orders of two weeks standing which are to be extended and what rendered my duties more arduous is that I was obliged to dismiss my clerk * * * *

But I can steal a few moments to acknowledge the receipt of your two precious letters and give you an account of the Battle. I am glad that your second is written in a more pleasant and hopeful than the first. You speak of sad faces and mourning. I am glad that you only see the result of, and not the sad battle-field itself. The grief, the sadness, the mourning of relatives is nothing as compared with the horrors of the battle ground the piteous cry for help of the wounded and cold pallid faces of the unburied dead.

Jan. 19th. I propose to give you a rather more minute account of battle of Murfreesboro that I was unable to do in my last. But before doing so let me tell you that I commenced

this letter of 15th. but since have been so busy that I have not had time to write any since I left off above.

On Sunday Dec. 28th, 1862. The Army was placed in position as you will see on the map accompanying this letter.

N.B. The map is a rough map of the field, being practically and far more accurately shown upon the official map. It was not preserved with the letters.

Cleburn's Division on the right, Withers & McCown on the left, Breckenridge and Cheatham forming 2nd line. Withers' right resting on Stone River. On the afternoon of the 29th. the enemies Cavalry attacked our line of infantry pickets, but were repulsed.

At this time occurred the very pretty little affair of Co.A. The pickets on their right gave way, and before they were aware of it, they were completely surrounded.

N. B. In my "10th S.C. Sketch" this is stated rather differently, and I think more correctly. In that is said: "The picket line on our right had been re-adjusted leaving a gap and through this a squadron of Cavalry rode in. Lieut. C. C. White, hearing of the gap had gone to right of his Com-

pany to arrange it, he (not his company) was surrounded and captured with the two right groups of his pickets."

The prisoners were left in charge of a Lieut. and Squad of men, and the rest of the Cavalry dashed on. So it left isolated, this Squad of Union Cavalry, and their prisoners. Lieut. White, a prisoner, called out "Co. A, Rally on the right", which they did, and Lieut. W. Secured his freedom, as narrated in the letter.

Lt. White and Sargt. Larabour⁸ were taken prisoners, and had given up their arms, when the enemy fired on him, and White then called on his company to rally and he had a hand to hand fight with his captor, and before the Yankee had time to run he was knocked off his horse and White liberate.

N.B. – On returning to his company Lieut. W. formed it at right angles to its previous line, along a rail fence and Co. C. formed on its flank. The 15th. Penna Cavalry acted with distinguished gallantry. Maj. Rosengarten⁹ dashed up to the fence, and with his pistol shot down a man in Co. A. but the Company concentrated their fire upon him and the brave fellow fell, riddled. The enemy charged them several times, but only to be repulsed. Our loss was 1 killed and 1 wounded, - the enemy's 14 killed, 3 prisoners, wounded and got off the field, except three which we brought in.

White and his Company acted very gallantly. On the morning of the 30th, the enemies infantry skirmishers appeared and gradually drove our back to the edge of the woods in which our line was formed, this being accomplished about noon; they made during the afternoon a desperate attempt to drive them in entirely and find position of our line. They were aided by their Artillery, but though we were under a pretty hot fire all day, yet they could not discover the exact position of our line. This took place in immediate front of 3rd. and 4th. and 1st. Brigades of Withers Div.

I don't know how they succeeded in other parts of the field. On this night they formed a line in our front, not over 500 yards off, and boldly built their fires and made as much noise as

N. B. – A very amusing little incident occurred during this effort of the enemy. So poorly were we Confederates armed, that more than half of the Companies of our Regiment were armed with old flint and steel smooth bore muskets altered to percussion. Their range was about 100 yards. At one time the entire Picket line of our Regt. was armed thus, and consequently our friends, the enemy, showed themselves openly and rather laughed at us. Col. Manigault slipped up on the picket line, some Companies

armed with Rifles, range 500 or 1,000 yards, and there was then a general scamper of the enemy for cover, as they opened fire. This is but an example of the kinds of arms the confederates were forced to use. Our Regiment was not armed all alike, with the same caliber arms, until after the Battle of Franklin, Nov. 1864, near the close of the ar. Then I found many arms scattered over the field, and as the Springfield Rifle was the same caliber as our Enfield, I had our Ordinance Sergt. gather up enough Arms of same caliber for the entire Regt., previously we had three calibers in the Arms of the Regt.

they choose. We could hear them talking. Meanwhile not a fire burned, not a sound was heard along our lines. Tonight we prepare for the deadly conflict of tomorrow.

During the night, orders were received for an advance to be made by McCown's Div. and 1st and 4th. Brigade of Withers, they were to wheel round and straighten the line which made a large angle on the right of our Brigade. The movement to commence on the left at dawn of day next morning. Before daylight on the 31st. ult. the army was under arm and ready for coming contest. The day opened with heavy skirmishing and picket firing. We look anxiously for movement on our left. Soon the Battle flags of Deas' (1st) Brigade¹⁰ were seen advancing, Col. M. sends orders for 34th Ala. Regt. on left of

our Brigade to rise and charge opposite hill, in a moment and with a shout this gallant Regt. rushes to meet the foe. Hardly have they started when they are followed by 28th Ala., 24th. Ala., 19th. So. Ca., in quick succession and the 10th S. C. wheels into its position. In a moment the quiet field is filled with contending hosts. The rattle of musketry becomes incessant, and the hail of canister, shot and shell and scrapnel is moving down the ranks of our advancing line. the 34th. and 28th Ala. Regts. have gained the hill simultaneously with the 1st Brigade and driven the enemy from it, and the 24th. Ala. and 19th S. C. continue to advance under a most terrific fire, but suddenly the enemy, (owing to the bend in our lines) open an enfilade fire on our lines, and throw heavy reinforcements to support their beaten Regts. (a brigade of Regulars¹¹) and ours, & the 1st. Brigade gives way – our right flank is exposed to the enfilade fire and our left exposed by the retreat of the 1st., and we were compelled to fall back. But they were rallied and led again to the charge and were again terribly repulsed and driven back to our first position before the men could be rallied. I had gone to Genl. Maney Comdg. our supporting Brigade¹² in 2d. line, to bring him up to our assistance, and arrived just at this time. But before another attack was made by our Brigade, McCown's Div. and 1st. Brigade W. D. has wheeled round, flanked the enemy, and driven them from our front. The 10th Being on

the right were but little exposed. The ground was now clear and the left wing wheeled round and occupied a line along the road marked on map "country road" and at right angles to our former position, our right remaining stationary. The battle now raged along our whole line from left to right, the booming of heavy guns to be heard over the sharp rattle of musketry. While our line was in the last mentioned position a Battery of Rifle guns and Napoleons posted on the Nolensville Pike shelled our lines¹³, making a great deal of noise and doing very little damage. They had not the most remote idea that we were so near them. Genl. Maney now brought up a battery near the Gin House¹⁴ and opened on this Battery, this drawing its attention and ordered Col. M to charge it.

N. B. – Col. M was ordered to charge it with two Regiments and he most naturally selected his two South Carolina Regts.

The 10th S. C. Were brought to front and supported by the 19th. S. C. were ordered to advance.

N. B. – While this was going on, Genl. Maney, commanding a Tenn. Brigade, moved and formed on the left of Manigault's Brigade. Col. Manigault sent me to Gen. M. to request him to make a demonstration to aid his attack, as he did not believe the Battery

was unsupported, as was informed. As soon as I heard the rattle of musketry from the charge, I galloped back and found the two South Carolina Regiments had got into a hornet's nest, the Battery being supported by a heavy infantry force. I immediately ordered up the Alabama Regts. of the Brigade, and they reached the So. Ca. Regts. just as the movement of the 3rd. Brigade on our right had aided us, and the whole Brigade swept victoriously over the Battery.

These gallant Regts. move steadily forward and when they reached the enemies line of skirmishers charged with a shout driving the Brigade of the enemies infantry¹⁵ from their position and silenced every gun of the Battery but one, but the 2nd line of the enemy appearing in front and a Regt. moving round on our left flank to enfilade them they were brought to a stand. The rest of the Brigade was ordered to their support, but this proved inefficient to withstand the numbers of the enemy and as the Brigades on our right and left did not move up in time to support our as had been promised, we were compelled to fall back. Just as we gave way the 3rd. Brigade on our right came up, but too late to suport us, although they advanced, and drove back the enemy, compelling them to leave their Battery and take flight. McCown's Div. was advancing at this time, and they swept the enemy before them, our Brigade following, until the enemy were driven across to the Nash-

ville Pike, where they rallied behind a heavy artillery force planted along Nashville Pike (see on map near Nashville Pike) and our forces having already driven the enemy further than they were ordered and having in their front an open field over which to advance against a tremendous collection of Batteries, our line halted in woods to N. S. of Nolensville Pike. So on the left we had swung completely round, driving the enemy more than 2 ½ miles and capturing several batteries of artillery. This had been achieved however with heavy loss. In the charge on the Battery the 10th. S. C. Regt. lost 85 men – nearly ¼ of the number on the field. Our battle flag was riddled, and the Blue State (Mrs. Wilson's) flag was shot off the staff, but it was brought off the field in safety. On the right the fighting was not so hard, we however drove the enemy back and advanced to position shown on map as 2nd position. During the rest of the day, on the left, we made no advance, the enemy keeping up an extremely heavy shelling on our position – they were so near that they did but little harm, although I was not under a heavier fire of artillery all day then at this time. Night, however, soon closed this, the longest day of my existence. We confidently expected the fight to be renewed the next day, but our army was too small to make the attack, and the Yankees too badly whipped to move out of the intrenchments they had thrown up during the night.

Thursday, New Year day was spent in this position,

we momentarily expecting either an order to advance, or an advance of the enemy, but the day passed and neither came. Friday we remained quiet. Breckenridge made an attack on the enemy but was repulsed. Saturday our Brigade changed its position to that first occupied by the Brigade. W. D. between Nolensville and Nashville Pikes and Chalmers, Deas and Anderson (2nd. 1st. and 3rd. Brigades of our Division) were moved to their right, in front of Stone River. The day was a rainy one, and we suffered very much. Our troops were now become quite exhausted, we had been in line of Battle one week. That night came the orders to retire and with a heavy heart and tired steps our brave but crippled and exhausted Army retreated towards Shelbyville. We marched all night and next afternoon arrived at Shelbyville, (25 miles). One days rest here and we pushed on to Alisonia, 26 miles, which place we only reached to be ordered back to Shelbyville so we had four days marching thrown away. I don't complain of this – I was glad that we could go back to Shelbyville.

Thus I have told the story of the Battle of Murfreesboro. It was a complete, though unfortunately, not a decisive victory. Bragg deserves every praise for doing what he has done – with an army of barely 30,000 he defeated, or say checked, Rosencrans with over 65,000 more than two to one¹⁶.

Our Brigade, though every time repulsed, acted most

gallantly and has been highly complimented by our commander. But the two S. C. Regts. have had the highest honor paid them. Genl Bragg "for brilliant deeds on Battlefield of Murfreesboro" presented them with the Battery we silenced on the Nolensville Pike, left it to them to inscribe the names on the pieces, to be presented by them to their favorite Genl. Beauregard as a trophy of the late Battle. Capt. White as "the most gallant officer of the two So. Ca. Regts." is one of the escort in charge. Neddy Howard¹⁷ was specially mentioned by Genl. Bragg to go to So. Ca. with the Battery. So you see the reputation of So. Ca. was ably sustained by her sons in the West. I can speak for this, for I acted as Asst. Ajt. Genl to Col. M. Comdg. Brigde. and was not Adjt of the 10th., so I can tell its honors without the imputation of egotism.

Now for our friends. Col M. managed the Brigade not only ably, but with telling effect on the enemy, - he has been highly complimented by Genl. Bragg. * * *, acting as Aide to Col. M. and * * * as Brigade Inspector, were fearless in the discharge of their duties, displaying not only intrepidity but much bravery. The latter once rallied and led to the front one of our broken Regts. You spoke too severely of Lt. Col. P. in the Battle he proved himself a man. He was Officer of the Day when White's skirmish took place, and managed his skirmishers admirably. When in command of the Regt. he handled it well, and acted most gallantly. Maj. Porcher was cool and

collected, and was as little excited when under the terrific fire which the Regt. encountered in the charge on the Battery on the Nolensville Pike, as if he was on parade. Willie Huger was most gallant. Corpl. Duggan carrying Battle flag was shot down, and Shaw took his flag and Willie the Blue flag and brought it off the field in safety¹⁸. Capt. Nettles was peculiarly marked for gallantry and coolness and his name is inscribed on one of the Guns presented to Beauregard. But poor fellow, he was shot down in three places while leading his company to the charge¹⁹. Capt. Palmer did well, but was slightly wounded in leg. LeGrande Shaw distinguished himself. But Lt. C. C. White's single handed and unarmed fight on the 29th. and his noble bearing through whole fight has made him the hero of the regt. col. Lythgoe 19th. S. C. Regt. was mortally wounded in thigh, and died under subsequent operation. Do you remember old Corpl. (late Sergeant), Cockfield. The poor fellow was shot as he led his company in the charge. He died immediately.

N. B. – As I passed over the ground where the 10 and 19 S. C. Regts had been fighting I saw Sergt. Cockfield and his son both lying dead side by side, as they fell²⁰.

Our success was owing entirely to our impetuous charges and unanticipated attack, a thing never thought of by the enemy.

It was our battery (Capt. D. D. Waters) who shot off the head of Rosencran's Chief of Staff²¹ – you have no doubt heard of it through the papers.

The Providence of God, alone saved me. The shot, shell and ball seemed to strike everywhere but just where I was. I thank Him for it.

The days of the battle were the most exciting of my life. I never passed so long days. I have seen one battle, and am satisfied – have no relish for another.

I send you a copy of Bragg's Order to troops after Battle.

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XXX

Hd. Qrs. 4th. Brigade W. D. P.C.W.S.
Near Shelbyville, Jun. 29, 1863.

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I may now reasonably think that the time is not far distant when we will meet again. the Winter is passing rapidly away, and the enemy gains no advantage, meanwhile the people, the public sentiment of the North is calling for peace and the hope of subjugating the South is become fainter and fainter, the great Northwest is becoming tired of Abolition rule, and is plotting against the Government. Changes of sentiment in the North have always been

rapid, and in the change about taking place we may discern the first rays of peace. Moreover the finances of the government are failing, they are throwing into circulation millions of their already depreciated currency, which will only depreciate it still more – soon to become worthless, then their government must fail, then they will com cringing to our feet, begging for the peace we have so long offered them. But apart from all this, the winter is the time of the year they claim as their own, their own to conquer us, have they done anything yet this winter; defeated at Fredericksburg, Murfreesboro, and Vicksburg? We show every ability to hold our own till spring when we may move forward and carry "the war into Africa." This will bring on peace – so don't you think with me, - if not, I know you hope with me?

I am sorry that Genl Bragg is so much abused²². I wish some of his abusers could have been with us in the charge on the battery on the Nolensville Pike. Do you think that they would have talked so loud. Unfortunately those who know most of our Battlefields and criticize hardest the plans of our Generals, are those farthest from the scene of action. I tell you, if Genl. Bragg had not fought the battle as he did, surprising the enemy by the desperate charges of our men, he would have been compelled to leave the field, if not beaten, at any rate ten times worse off than we were. We could, I think, have held our ground for one day, but would have been compelled to withdraw at the end of that day. So much, however, for Genl. B. I will

write or at any rate tell to you, a defense of his campaign hereafter, I mind not the harsh words spoken against him, as they spring from a supreme ignorance of the case.

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Your own dear,

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XXXI

Hd. Qrs. 4th Brigde. W.D.R.C.A.T.
Near Shelbyville, Feby 22, 1863.

I have yours of the 30th ult. before me, received some days since, while I was out on picket duty. This duty and since our return to camp my indisposition, has prevented my answering sooner. I have been quite unwell for the past ten days, spending a week in bed. Only my system out of order, induced by the exposure etc. incident to the late Battle, and the marches thereafter. But I am happy to say that I am now quite restored, only feeling a little weak, but hope in a day or two to have my usual strength and resume my usual duties.

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I am very happy to be able to state that the Army is again in splendid condition for fighting, and willing and anxious to meet Rosencrans whenever he desires to advance and try his luck with us again. I am told that the Army is

stronger now than it was before the battle of Murfreesboro, and I know that our Brigade is larger now than we were before the battle. Many officers have been sent home, and are picking up all of our stragglers and sending them on. Another good thing, Bragg has done. He has consolidated every two Regts. into one – thus the 10th. and 19th. So. Ca. have been consolidated into one Regt. Six Companies were made out of our twelve and four Companies out of the 10 companies of the 19th. The two Regts. together make a very respectable Regt²³. This of course calls for only one half the officers, the best half have been retained with the Regt. and others sent home to hunt up and forward conscripts and absentees – the latter I must say have done well and our increase is due to them. * * *

So you have seen a snow storm at last. They are so common here that we hardly notice them, they come and go, and we never think of them. As to admiring their beauty, it is generally so cold outside and so warm inside of the tents, that we keep snug and quiet indoors and never think of going out.

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Your own dear * * *

XXXII

Near Shelbyville, March 2nd, 1863.

Your letter of Oct. 31, 1862 was received on the 27th. ult., and on the following day yours of Feb 8th. 1863. This speaks a little unfavorably for the regularity of the mails of these Confederate States. I will try and answer them both in the order they were written and received.

You regret that the 10th. S. C. did not take part in the Battle of Perryville, not having an opportunity of distinguishing itself. It was not because it lacked the confidence of its commanders, for Bragg expected the great battle of Kentucky to take place near Lawrenceburg and not at Perryville, and he selected Withers' Division from this whole army as reinforcements for Genl. H.K. Smith, whose army had been sent to fight the battle. So you see that our not being in the Battle of Perryville was owing to the confidence Genl. Bragg had in our Division.

But since the writing of your letter and long before its receipt, the gallant 10th S. C. won for itself a crown of laurels on the bloody field of Murfreesboro. So if we missed Perryville, we established our fame at Murfreesboro. But when one is under a pleasant delusion it is a great pity to awake them to the truth. Bragg's train of wagons 40 miles