

One 2-horse spring ambulance; 70 dozen bandages; 2 pounds opium; and other medicines; 1 dozen sets splints.

Dr. Templeton is the hospital steward of the Forty-fourth Tennessee Regiment.

Respectfully submitted.

JNO. S. FULTON,  
*Colonel, Commanding Johnson's Brigade.*

Capt. W. T. BLAKEMORE,  
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 415.



*Report of Lieut. Col. Watt W. Floyd, Seventeenth Tennessee Infantry.*

HDQRS. SEVENTEENTH TENNESSEE REGIMENT,  
*Chattanooga Valley, September 26, 1863.*

COLONEL: I respectfully submit the following report of the part taken by the Seventeenth Regiment Tennessee Volunteers in the action of the 18th, 19th, and 20th instant, near Chickamauga River, Ga.:

On the morning of the 18th, the brigade which you had the honor to command was put in line of march from Ringgold to the scene of action of the succeeding days. The brigade moved left in front, which placed my regiment in advance. On arriving at Ellison's Mill, the brigade halted and I was ordered to send forward a picket on the Reed's Bridge road. I took Captain McDonald and his company forward about 700 yards and placed them in position, and then went forward in company with Adjutant Fitzpatrick to make a reconnaissance.

On reaching the bank of Pea Vine Creek, some 300 yards in advance of my pickets, I discovered two Federal vedettes near a house about 150 yards from me. One of them fired and I returned to the brigade to report the facts. Soon after this 15 or 20 more Federal cavalry came up and charged my pickets, but they were repulsed with a loss of 3 killed and 1 mortally wounded.

After crossing Pea Vine Ridge my regiment was detached from the brigade by General Forrest's order, through you, and was carried about half a mile to the left to attack a force of Federals near their principal camp; but before we got in range the enemy fled. I then moved by the right flank to rejoin the brigade.

On reaching the road that led to the bridge, I learned that the brigade had crossed the bridge under a heavy fire from the enemy's artillery. I also had to cross under similar fire. Lieutenant Hastings, of Company A, was severely wounded by a solid shot from a 6-pounder gun near there. This was the only casualty in my regiment this day. Nothing further occurred worthy of mention this day.

The regiment entered the fight to-day with 27 officers and 222 enlisted men; aggregate, 249.

*Saturday, September 19.*—Early this morning we were put in position on the west side of the Chickamauga. The general direction of our line was north and south. My regiment occupied the left position

in Johnson's brigade, commanded by you. Gregg's brigade was immediately on my left.

Early in the morning I sent forward a reconnoitering party with instructions to advance until they found the enemy. The sergeant of the squad returned about 10 a. m. and reported the enemy in force about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles in front of our line. About 1 o'clock the enemy's skirmishers drove mine back nearly to our line. At the same time the enemy drove in the skirmishers of the brigade on our left. A general engagement was now commenced on our left, the left companies of my regiment participating, firing obliquely to the left. At this time a battery was put in position behind the left of my regiment, which drove back the enemy in my front.

About 2 p. m. the command "forward" was given with instructions to keep closed to the right. We had not advanced far when my skirmishers engaged those of the enemy, and it seemed to be general all along the line. After advancing some 600 or 700 yards, we got under fire of the enemy's artillery. Our boys gave a shout and rushed madly forward. My regiment separated from the brigade on my left. We soon met the fire of the enemy's first line of infantry, but continued the charge until we reached the Chattanooga and Lee and Gordon's Mills road. Our course thus far had been nearly due west and through a very thick wood; the distance we had passed over about three-quarters of a mile. I saw no enemy up to this time, save the heavy line of skirmishers that we encountered on our advance.

On reaching the road, I discovered the battery that had been firing on us posted in a field about 400 yards to my right and about 80 yards beyond the road, and his line of infantry about 200 yards in my front. The wood between my regiment and the enemy was open, the small growth having been cut away for fire-wood. I halted the regiment at the road, and opened a regular fire on the enemy. My men had kept up a running fire from the time we encountered the enemy's skirmishers.

While at this place we received two rounds of grape from the Yankee battery, and the fire of small-arms was very heavy. I had 1 officer killed, 2 officers and about 20 men wounded at this place. The enemy soon gave way in our front. Another charge was made by the Seventeenth, Twenty-third, and Twenty-fifth Tennessee Regiments of your brigade, under fire of the battery on our right, and a very heavy enfilading fire from a thick wood in rear of the battery.

After passing about 200 yards beyond the road, I halted my regiment. Lieutenant-Colonel Snowden, of the Twenty-fifth, had wheeled his regiment to the right and gallantly attacked the battery above referred to, and soon relieved us of its annoying fire. The enfilading fire from the wood at our right continued for some time. My regiment and the Twenty-third Tennessee kept up a brisk fire obliquely to the right until we drove the enemy from the wood behind his battery. Shortly after we got to this position the Forty-first and Tenth Tennessee Regiments, of Gregg's brigade, came up and formed on my left. I thought at the time that the whole line on my left was up with us, as there was no firing near us in that direction.

We were now in sight of the enemy's second line. The firing had all ceased in our brigade. I had my regiment all in line and lying down. We had been in this position thirty minutes or more, when

Lieutenant-Colonel Tillman, of the Forty-first Tennessee Regiment, came up and informed me that the enemy was moving down the road, and that he would soon be in our rear. I told him that he was certainly mistaken; that there was a connected line on my left, and the enemy could not get there. He replied that only two regiments had ever come up there, and they had left, and he did not know where they had gone to. I then called to you and gave you the information, and in company with Colonel Keeble and Lieutenant-Colonel Tillman we started back to the road to satisfy ourselves as to the correctness of the report.

When we had gone about half way we discovered a line of troops moving by the flank (left flank) in the direction of the left wing of my regiment. Before we could determine who they were the commands "halt," "front," were given by the commander of the leading regiment, and they immediately discharged a volley at our men. A general stampede of our men ensued. So sudden and unexpected was the attack from our rear that every man seemed to act for himself, regardless of orders. I was too far from my regiment to give any directions or render any assistance at the time. Major Davis was lying down behind the left of the regiment, but gave no commands of any kind. Doubtless he thought it was folly to attempt to do anything when the enemy was within 30 yards of him and in his rear. Some of the company officers ordered their men to face about and fire. A number of the men fired on the enemy. Some of them fired two or three rounds before they got out of reach.

Immediately after the discharge of the first volley from the enemy I turned to look at the fate of my regiment. I saw that a number of the men were making their way out in the only direction by which they could possibly escape, and I saw at once that if I could get back to the line at all, the men who were left there would be prisoners before I could reach them. All of my regiment that escaped moved by the right flank about 200 yards, and then filed to the rear and came out at the right of the brigade. In crossing the road as I fell back I was able to see the position and strength of the enemy. He had come down the road by the flank to a point about opposite the left company of my regiment, and then filed left, and about two regiments had changed direction when they commenced firing. There were two regiments still in the road.

It is proper for me to state here that immediately on my left and running back to the road the bushes were very thick, which accounts for the two regiments of Gregg's brigade retiring and the enemy slipping in there undiscovered by me or any of my officers or men. When the brigade fell back into the woods, I soon had the remnant of my regiment formed and in their proper position, where we bivouacked for the night.

I entered the fight this day with 26 officers and 221 men; had 1 officer killed and 3 officers and 20 men wounded; missing, 11 officers and 60 men. Lieutenant Scruggs, of Company G, was dangerously wounded and captured, but was recaptured the next day. Others who were captured may have been wounded, but Lieutenant Scruggs could give me no information about them, as he was insensible for some time after he was wounded. My regiment took some 5 or 6 prisoners this day.

*Sunday, September 20.*—About 10 o'clock this morning the enemy's skirmishers advanced on our line. Owing to the nature of the ground

in front of my line, my men did not fire upon them. Ten minutes before 11 o'clock the command "forward" was given. My regiment was on the left of the brigade. We advanced but a short distance before we encountered the enemy's line of skirmishers. I did not meet the fire from the main line until I crossed the Chattanooga road. On crossing the road my regiment entered an open field to the left of the —— house, the right of the regiment passing near a garden. The field that the regiment was now in was about 220 yards wide. There was a slight elevation about the center, where my regiment crossed the field. The fire became terrific about the time we reached the center of the field. My men scarcely made a stop at this place, although the enemy was lying behind his fortifications within 100 yards of us, and the right of the brigade on my left gave way and fell back to the road. The enemy immediately in our front left their works and fled. Nearly all my men directed their fire to the left until the enemy gave way in that direction. We met with but a feeble resistance from the infantry in our front after this, during the first part of this day's fighting.

I lost in this first field 12 or 15 men wounded, some of them badly. We pursued the enemy closely through a large woodland. The number of his killed and wounded in this wood showed how well our boys had aimed. In passing out of this wood and by a house surrounded by a small field, we received a heavy fire from the enemy's battery in the large field. We passed through another piece of wood and then into the open ground near the —— house. The regiment took several prisoners between this place and the bald hill, where we halted and reformed. When we halted on this bald ridge, which overlooks the big hollow, I sent forward Lieutenant McCullough with some men to reconnoiter the hollow. He soon came back and reported a very prominent road and a telegraph line down in the hollow not more than 200 yards in front of us. I directed him to cut the wire at once. While we remained here my men, who were out in front, captured several prisoners. Among the number was a staff officer of Major-General Van Cleve and one of General Rosecrans' escort, with their horses and equipments.

On leaving our position on the bald hill, the command was given to change direction to the right. In sweeping around, the left of my regiment touched the road above alluded to in the hollow, which I learned was the Chattanooga and Crawfish Spring road. On completing the movement our line stood perpendicular to our original line, and, in passing forward up the hollow, my left passed along the road up to the Vidito house, where the road turned to the left. Close around the Vidito house a number of ordnance wagons, caissons, and one Napoleon gun were abandoned by the enemy; also one quartermaster's wagon capsized, which I discovered, on visiting the place three days afterward, had an iron safe in it. In marching up the hollow to this house we had no troops at all on my left, nor any in my rear that were in sight. There were also a number of Federal wounded at the Vidito house.

Permit me to digress a little from the main subject to relate one of the most touching incidents that I ever witnessed. Four very nice looking ladies were lying in a little hole under the kitchen floor, where they had been ever since the fight commenced on Saturday, to shield themselves from the insults and dangers of the vandal foe. Mr. Vidito, it appears, was in the house watching the progress of events through the cracks. Just as we passed the house he

discovered who we were and exclaimed, "The rebels have the field." Upon hearing that the ladies threw off the planks that covered them, rushed out of the house, and came bounding toward us, clapping their hands, and shouting as I had never seen women shout before. The tear of joyful sympathy started from many a soldier's eye, and you might have read in their countenances, "We will save you or die."

We advanced up a spur of Missionary Ridge to near the top, where we halted and waited for our battery to come up. I kept flankers well out on my left, as an occasional shot from the enemy's sharpshooters indicated danger from that quarter. The order to advance was given about 2 o'clock. We received the enemy's fire before we had gone 100 yards. I continued to advance until I got a favorable position to make a standing fight, and halted. We held the enemy in check in our front, but I soon discovered that he was advancing to my left. As soon as he made his appearance I directed my men to fire to the left oblique. About the time I got them all to firing in that direction I discovered that the regiments on my right were falling back rapidly. I had several men badly wounded here.

On reaching the position from which we advanced, I discovered reinforcements coming. They were then passing the Vidito house, which was about 400 yards off. I thought that if we could hold the hill until they came up, the remnant of my regiment would get some rest, but I soon learned that I was mistaken. These troops came up in fine order. Two brigades were on my left. At the command "forward" they started off well, but when they had advanced about 50 yards they received the fire of the enemy's sharpshooters and fell back. The command was then given to forward Johnson's brigade, and forward we went. McNair's brigade was now on my left.

I advanced my regiment to the summit of the hill and got my men in line. Here we had a long and desperate struggle. During this awful struggle over the spur of Missionary Ridge hundreds were skulking behind trees in our rear. Myself and several officers of our brigade went back at one time to try to rally these men—we succeeded in rallying enough to increase the strength of our fire smartly. Lieutenant-Colonel Reynolds, of the First (dismounted) Arkansas Regiment, was rendering good service in driving the men out from behind the trees. I am proud to say that not a single man from Johnson's brigade was found behind in this last fight.

About 5.30 o'clock the enemy gave way and left the field, which closed the fight of the ever-memorable 20th.

I carried into the fight this day 14 officers and 141 enlisted men, and had several men severely wounded.

From the beginning of the fight on the 18th up to the close on the 20th, every officer and man did his duty, particularly the noble little band that I carried into the fight on Sunday, the 20th. Every officer and man this day made himself a hero, and I cannot discriminate by making special mention of any one. I inclose a list\* of killed, wounded, and missing.

Respectfully submitted.

WATT W. FLOYD,

*Lieut. Col., Comdg. Seventeenth Regt. Tennessee Vols.*

Col. JOHN S. FULTON,

*Commanding Johnson's Brigade.*

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\* Not found.