

5, wounded and missing 18, 7 out of the number having been detailed during the engagement to man a battery. Some of the wounded have since died, and some few of the slightest have again returned to duty in the regiment, though scarcely able.

My loss through the three days (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) was 12 officers and 91 non-commissioned officers and privates; aggregate, 103.

Every member of the field and staff were struck. Lieutenant-Colonel Ready and Major Lowe nobly did their duty until wounded. Adjutant Gwyn rendered valuable services on this occasion, and Private Ridley (ex-captain), the soldier without bounty, displayed that extraordinary zeal and valor which entitles him to the highest consideration. Second Sergt. J. J. Shelton, Company D, distinguished himself for his great coolness and readiness. Z. P. Lee, of Company C, and Aaron Todd, of Company H, privates, both displayed the highest degree of heroism by refusing to leave the field after they were wounded, but continued to battle on as long as they were able. Private J. D. Jeffries, color bearer, displayed the highest degree of courage and extraordinary degree of valor in the manner in which he bore the colors. Always far in advance, he would move it defiantly in the very face of the enemy. Lieutenant Vernon, of Company B, deserves especial mention for the manner in which he bore himself.

Most respectfully submitted.

R. H. KEEBLE,

Colonel, Comdg. Twenty-third Tennessee Regiment.

[Lieut.] R. G. CROSS,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 417.



Report of Lieut. Col. R. B. Snowden, Twenty-fifth Tennessee Infantry.

HDQRS. TWENTY-FIFTH TENNESSEE REGIMENT,

In the Field, near Chattanooga, September 28, 1863.

SIR: On the 17th instant, my regiment was encamped, with the balance of Johnson's brigade, about 3 miles south of Ringgold, on the Ringgold and Dalton roads. Here we received orders to move at 2 p. m. to a new encampment nearer Ringgold. The brigade was put in motion about 3 p. m., the Twenty-fifth Tennessee Regiment in front.

On approaching Ringgold we met a large number of wagons in a complete state of rout, the drivers and officers in charge of the train reporting the enemy in Ringgold. My regiment being some distance in advance of the balance of the brigade, I pushed forward to Taylor's Ridge, and took position on the slope with a view to protect the retreat of the train, which was still passing. I threw out a company as skirmishers to an elevated position on my right flank. After getting my regiment into position some 400 or 500 yards from the depot in Ringgold, I proceeded to an elevation and discovered that the enemy had not reached Ringgold, but was forming line of battle about 2 miles northwest of the depot. I discovered their artillery being placed in position, and everything showed that they

were preparing for a fight. At this time the remaining three regiments of the brigade, under the command of Col. John S. Fulton, came up and formed on either side of my command. Everett's battery of artillery was placed in position on the elevation above alluded to. One company from each regiment was thrown out as skirmishers, under charge of Maj. J. C. Davis, of the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment, with instructions to advance beyond the town and resist the farther advance of the enemy. This movement caused the enemy to open fire with his artillery, but his shell did not reach our lines, but fell harmlessly between us and our skirmishers. The advance of our skirmishers and some fifteen minutes' shelling from our battery caused the enemy to retire on the Chattanooga road. They were at once pursued by Col. John S. Scott with a small force of cavalry and Everett's battery.

We rested in line of battle until morning, when we followed the enemy in the direction of Chattanooga, and found him strongly posted on a ridge near and opposite to the junction of the Graysville and La Fayette and Ringgold and Chattanooga roads, with their artillery in excellent position. We immediately formed line of battle under the direction of Brig. Gen. B. R. Johnson, who had brought up under his command four brigades, namely, Gregg's, McNair's, [Robertson's,] and his own brigade, Johnson's brigade being on the right of and contiguous to the Chattanooga road, with Forrest's cavalry to protect our flank and skirmish with the enemy. Our skirmishers very soon became engaged, and drew from the enemy some well-directed shots from his artillery. Our line was ordered to advance, and did so in good order over very rough and broken ground until we came to a deep and muddy stream, which with some difficulty we succeeded in crossing. Our infantry having reformed, an advance was ordered, and our skirmishers, with Forrest's cavalry, made short work of the enemy's strong position, he falling back in confusion, leaving a few horses, many blankets, oil-cloths, boxes of hard bread, &c., in our hands. The difficulty now was to march in line of battle over the very rough and uneven ground, passing briar-thickets, many of the men being barefooted.

We pushed forward, however, the enemy making but feeble resistance to the determined advance of our skirmishers, until we reached Chickamauga Creek, where the enemy had posted himself in strong force to resist our farther advance and to hold a bridge across this stream. Without even stopping to consider, we made an impetuous charge with a yell, driving him from the bridge before he could destroy it. The division was crossed on this bridge, reformed in line of battle, and after moving a short distance advanced in column up the road to a distance of about 3 miles, when a little after dark our flankers and cavalry and part of Gregg's brigade in our front became engaged. Here we moved by the right flank in line of battle some 300 yards, the enemy disappearing. We rested on our arms till morning.

Saturday, September 19.—The general battle commenced on the right about 8 a. m. and continued constantly until after dark. The Twenty-fifth Tennessee Regiment was in its position—right center of Johnson's brigade, which was commanded by Col. John S. Fulton, and composed of the Forty-fourth, Twenty-third, Seventeenth, and Twenty-fifth Tennessee Regiments. Brig. Gen. B. R. Johnson being in command of a division composed of Gregg's (Tennessee), McNair's (Arkansas), and his old brigade of Tennesseans, his divis-

ion seemed to occupy a position a little left of center of the general line, and was placed in Longstreet's corps, now under the command of Major-General Hood, and also in the front line. The battle raged fiercely on the right until about 12 m., when occasional volleys might be heard on the left.

At 2 p. m. our skirmishers became engaged and we were ordered forward to meet the now advancing enemy. Our boys, eager to make short work of it, fought most gallantly, and after about an hour's most desperate struggle, in which the enemy made a most stubborn resistance, we drove him step by step through a dense thicket, in which he had greatly the advantage of ground, and across the Chattanooga and La Fayette roads.

On emerging from the thicket into the road, I discovered that I was disconnected with any line to my right or left. The cause of the right not being on line with me was very plain. A battery of the enemy, being in good position in an open field to my right and apparently in front of the right of the Forty-fourth Regiment, was pouring a deadly fire into their line. I hesitated for a moment whether to cross the road with a single regiment, but a couple of shots directed at my front from the battery decided me to shelter my regiment in the woods across the road to the flank of the battery. As I crossed the road I observed the Twenty-third and Seventeenth Regiments coming up *en échelon* to my left. The enemy that we had fought so desperately and driven from the thicket not appearing in my front, I turned my attention to the battery, which with a continuous fire was apparently holding in check the entire line to my right. I wheeled my regiment to the right to a fence running at right angles with our line of battle and on the immediate right of the battery. After firing a few rounds, I ordered my command to cease firing and load their pieces, which being done I directed them to charge the battery, which they did promptly, driving the gunners from their pieces, killing several horses, and causing them to retreat, taking with them only the caissons, leaving their pieces on the field. The battery being silenced, no obstruction was offered to the advance of the entire line to my right, but they seemed to move forward with extreme caution, and while in consultation with Colonels Keeble and Floyd as to the propriety of forming a new line, to my astonishment I saw the brigade to my right give way, leaving the Seventeenth and Twenty-third Regiments and part of the Twenty-fifth in line of battle 200 yards in front of the road and general line of battle. I at once sent Major McCarver, of the Twenty-fifth Regiment, back to bring up that portion of my command that had fallen back when the line gave way; but before he could return, the enemy had discovered our isolated formation, had moved a brigade under cover of a thicket into the flank and rear of the Seventeenth Regiment, at once pouring on us a most terrific volley of musketry at a distance not exceeding 40 yards, which caused us to retire at a double-quick.

It was at this time and point that Lieut. Noah L. Kuhn, Company C, was killed, and Lieut. D. M. Molloy fell mortally wounded. In falling back, which was done in good order, without the loss of a single man in prisoners, we rallied without delay on the general line of battle, which we found a short distance in rear of the road last alluded to.

This being about dusk, we were not advanced, but ordered to erect temporary breastworks of such loose material as was at hand. Having completed this work, the command slept by reliefs (one-third

on watch) on the ensanguined field we had contested and won during the evening. The night being unusually cold and the circumstances by which we were surrounded, our bivouac being amid the dying and the dead, and the fact of this being the third night the command had been without fires, all tended to make the night pass gloomy and cheerless.

All night long the busy sound of the enemy's axes and implements of construction warned us that they were preparing to give us a warm reception on the morrow from behind an intrenched position. Our ubiquitous general, early in the saddle, our line was in readiness before day, and as morning dawned it showed a band of eager and determined countenances who had resolved to finish well on this bright Sabbath the work they had so nobly begun. Some hours before day troops could be heard moving from left to right, leaving us (Johnson's brigade) almost on the extreme left of our line.

Sunday, September 20.—Again the battle opened briskly on the right at 7 a. m., gradually extending to center, and from center to left, until about 10 a. m. our skirmishers were driven in. Then our line became engaged from behind its works. An advance was shortly afterward ordered, and as one man the entire line rose, pushed forward, and engaged the enemy, and after a conflict of about fifteen minutes we drove him a second time across the Chattanooga and La Fayette road. The Twenty-fifth Tennessee Regiment at this point was confronted by the One hundredth Illinois Regiment (under a colonel—F. A. Bartleson—with but one arm), which, being routed, had taken shelter behind a picket and garden fence and houses adjoining. Here our charge was so impetuous that this colonel, all of his officers, and most of his men fell into our hands, and Yankee liberality supplied the necessities of the officers of the Twenty-fifth Regiment with swords, belts, pistols, &c.

On we pushed through an open field to a wooded slope, where they made another stand; but the impulse given to our victorious column was irresistible. We drove them slowly through a densely wooded thicket, passing over their dead and wounded and large quantities of small-arms, our men replenishing their boxes from those of the enemy's dead. Passing on through a dense pine thicket under a constant fire we halted, moved about 200 yards to the left into the edge of an open field with extended fields to the right for the distance of at least 1 mile. Here was presented to the eye the most magnificent scene of the day, brigade after brigade emerging *en échelon* from the woods and sweeping across the extended area of clearing with a wildness of enthusiasm that struck panic to the hearts of the confronting column. They fled, leaving many pieces of artillery in the hands of our fortunate comrades to the right.

On passing through or across this extended field, we approached a belt of woods where it was expected the enemy might have sought shelter, but to our astonishment he had fled still beyond. Here we halted for a very few moments, dressed our line, and advanced through still another large field, which was located on a steep hill or rising ground, on the summit of which we were again halted for the purpose of changing direction. During our halt here our skirmishers sent to the rear several of the enemy's mounted men.

At this point we learned the line on either side of us had not kept up with the rapid advance of Johnson's brigade, consequently were ordered to rest on our arms. So far had we advanced it was deemed

necessary to send a stand of regimental colors to the rear to advise the advancing columns of our identity, which was done. So strong had this position been considered by the enemy, and so far in the rear of his expected scene of action, they had made it a depot for the personal baggage of the men for an extended line. The men of this brigade bountifully supplied themselves with oil-cloths, blankets, and many other articles conducive to the soldiers' comfort and well-being.

Just as the line became complete, General Johnson informed us that a large wagon train was passing in our front on the Crawfish Spring road and that he would capture it. Having placed his artillery in position, we moved forward, changing direction to the right and bearing to the left, and after a rapid march of a few hundred yards through a corn-field, the rear of a wagon train came in sight, which had been routed and thrown into confusion by the action of our artillery. Here we passed over several pieces of cannon and many wagons heavily loaded with ordnance, including valuable artillery ammunition.

At this place we were welcomed by the rejoicing of a family, including several ladies, whose enthusiasm knew no bounds at again seeing those who represented a cause so near and dear to them. On inquiry I afterward learned the residence was inhabited by a family named Vidito, who informed me this was the foot of Missionary Ridge.

On reaching the summit of the first ridge, our artillery opened fire and developed the enemy on the opposite ridge advancing. After a short conflict we drove him from his first position in gallant style. A second time our artillery was advanced while we engaged him from his former position, driving him slowly up a rising ground, which he contested with a stubbornness not before manifested in any previous engagement of the day. Our artillery again getting into position, the battle raged with an intense fierceness not equaled by any in the two days' fight. For hours the issue of the contest hung in equal balance. Again and again were their lines broken and rallied, ours in turn. Still were we driving him with imperceptible advantage.

In this desperate struggle we had a battery commanded by Lieutenant Dent, a most gallant and meritorious officer, with a company of men not less so; also Everett's battery, temporarily attached to Johnson's brigade. With this armament of guns, Johnson's brigade, with a part of the division, fought for four hours, and succeeded in driving from the strongest position of the ensanguined field of Chickamauga the concentrated Reserve Corps of the Yankee army, commanded by Gordon Granger, and followed him until farther pursuit was prevented by the darkness of night.

During this last engagement a stand of regimental colors, supposed to be the Tenth South Carolina, were recaptured by Adjt. A. R. Greigg, of my command.

I am proud of the conviction that no regiment could have acted with more gallantry than the Twenty-fifth Tennessee, and that it was second to none in contributing to the glorious result our arms achieved in the late engagement in North Georgia. My officers to a man did their whole duty, and never was there a time when the gallant bearing of officers did more to achieve a glorious victory.

It is only necessary to state here that my loss in killed and wounded was more than 50 per cent. of those carried into action. I had no stragglers and none taken prisoners.

For a list of killed and wounded, I refer you to Abstract A.* For a list of officers, non-commissioned officers, and men who particularly distinguished themselves for extraordinary skill and valor, see Abstract B.* For a list of captures, including prisoners, see Abstract C.* For a report of the effective strength carried into action each day, see Abstract D.*

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. B. SNOWDEN,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.

[Lieut.] R. G. CROSS, *Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 418.

Report of Maj. G. M. Crawford, Forty-fourth Tennessee Infantry.

ON OUTPOST DUTY, NEAR CHATTANOOGA,
September 28, 1863.

SIR: On Friday, September 18, the Forty-fourth Tennessee Regiment left Ringgold, Ga., and marched 3 miles to [Cherokee] Spring, where the enemy's pickets had been posted, but were driven in by some of our brigade. It was very soon ascertained that the enemy was not far distant, his number unknown. One company of the regiment was thrown out as skirmishers while the regiment halted near the springs. Very soon afterward General Forrest came up and took the left wing of the regiment and went forward in the direction of the enemy, perhaps to ascertain his locality. The rest of the regiment, in connection with the brigade, was soon ordered forward, and so eager were our troops and settled their determination for victory that the enemy was compelled to retreat about 5 miles that day. At night we encamped near the bloody field of the two succeeding days.

Saturday morning the regiment remained quiet, excepting some few changes of position. About 3 o'clock in the evening, however, the regiment was ordered forward, and a few moments found it contending with the enemy. Near two hours was the regiment engaged in a severe conflict with the enemy, exposed to such showers of Minie, grape, canister, and shell as is seldom experienced in the battles of modern times. The enemy was driven back from his hidden position some distance; but the brigades on the right and left having fallen back, leaving us exposed to an enfilading fire of the enemy, compelled the regiment (with the brigade) to fall back a short distance, which it did, and was very soon ready for a hot reception of the enemy. At this point, however, we remained during the night prepared for the enemy at a moment's warning.

Sunday morning (perhaps about 9 o'clock), after some skirmishing with our pickets, the regiment was ordered forward to meet the insolent invader. This order was promptly obeyed, and the Middle Tennesseans gallantly pressed forward, wishing not only to clear Georgia's soil of the vandal hosts, but also hoping that a victory there and then would speed the time when their present blockaded pathway would be opened, when, if not permitted to see their homes, they could at least hear therefrom. The regiment advanced but a short distance before it was engaged with the enemy, which was very soon dislodged and compelled to flee for quarters. From here the

* Not found.