

RECALLS AND REMINISCENCES

Stories Eminently Worth Telling of Experiences and Adventures in the Great National Struggle.

BANK ARMED BY REB.

How Comrade Brown Secured a Musket at Gettysburg After Removing a Wounded Comrade from the Battlefield.

Comrade George W. Brown, Co. D, 29th Pa., writes from Wayne, Pa., of which place he is the Postmaster, that he recently received a letter from Mr. George W. Martz, of Dayton, Va., stating that he was the member of the 10th Va. (Confederate) who furnished Brown, a Yankee with an Enfield rifle on the night of July 2, 1863, on Culp's Hill, Gettysburg. This transaction occurred in this way: Comrade Brown fell out of line on the morning of the 2nd of July, and the Sergeant-Major of his regiment, Charles H. Letford, was calling for help as he lay wounded, a shell having shattered both of his legs. The Twelfth Corps (except Green's Brigade of New Yorkers, who remained in their breastworks) were ordered on July 2,

and followed by the 205th, 211th, and I believe, the 208th, of the First Brigade, all under the command of Col. R. C. Cox, of the 207th Pa. These regiments entered the rebel fort within 20 minutes from the time the order was given to charge, and the regiment was over the fort all day. "The 207th Pa. can justly claim the honor of leading the assault that captured Fort Mahone, and the sacrifice was 37 killed and 40 wounded. I do not wish to infer that other regiments would not have done just as well if the work had been put up to them. I am aware that the 27th Mich. and the 37th Wis. were on hand, but these regiments were held in reserve, and if they got into Fort Mahone that day, which I have no doubt they did, it was after the fort had fallen. "I also beg leave to differ with the Michigan comrade about the time of



"THE CONFEDERATE FURNISHED HIM WITH AN ENFIELD."

at 6:30 p. m., to vacate their works on Culp's Hill and to move to the assistance of the Third Corps, they furnished engaged with Gen. Longstreet's Confederate troops on the left center of the Union line of battle. While the troops were moving up the hill by the right flank, Sgt. Maj. Letford was wounded. Thirty minutes later, at 7 p. m., Gen. Ewell's Confederate troops were attacking the Union works, and the soon occupying the Union works. Brown, with help, managed to remove his wounded comrade to a place of safety, and returning to Culp's Hill at 8 o'clock he found the right flank in possession of the 10th Va. He was then between two lines of Confederate troops, one line in possession of the Union lines of works, the other 200 yards farther west (or front), both lines facing westward toward the Baltimore pike. In touch with the rebels, Brown kept moving northward, and, if possible, in touch with the New Yorkers, who were able to prevent the Confederates from capturing their works. An hour previous to the time Comrade Brown returned to Culp's Hill the right regiment of Green's Brigade, the 137th N. Y., were forced from their works and the line formed a line at a right angle to the right. Comrade Brown returned to the 137th N. Y. Brown having no musket since receiving a new one from the 137th N. Y. from the field, the Confederate soldier furnished him with an Enfield—only which was surrendered to the Government several days later, when he received a Springfield of the same pattern that his regiment, the 29th Pa., were armed with.

Who Saved Washington in 1864?

Editor National Tribune: I fully agree with Comrade Crittenden, 9th N. Y. H. A., that there is glory enough for all who took part in the battle of Monocacy, July 9, 1864, without casting reflections on any troops engaged in the same. Therefore I take exception to his short article in The National Tribune, especially that part which says it was the Third Division of the Sixth Corps that held the rebels at bay that day and saved the city of Washington from Early. He eliminates all other troops, and takes credit for his division. What would have become of the battle if the rebels had not Tyler's Brigade of the Eighth Corps held the Stone Bridge and the fordings of the river on your right during the fight and held the 30,000 men in the rear? You could not have stood as long as you did had it not been for Tyler's Brigade north of the railroad bridge, and I am sure we of the right could have done as well as the rebels had it not been for the Third Division of the Sixth Corps. Comrade, let us look at history. Here is the First Brigade of the Third Division, Sixth Corps: Killed—officers 2, enlisted men 74; wounded—officers 16, enlisted men 240; captured or missing—officers one, enlisted men 167. Total, 443. Second Brigade, Third Division, Sixth Corps: Killed—officers 2, enlisted men 250; wounded—officers 15, enlisted men 245; captured or missing—officers 3, enlisted men 274. Total, 577. Tyler's Brigade, Eighth Corps: Killed—officers 1, enlisted men 14; wounded—officers 3, enlisted men 65; captured or missing—officers 6, enlisted men 236. Total, 319. There must have been some fighting on the right, comrade. I take my cap off to the grand old Third Division for what we did on July 9, 1864, helping to save Washington.—John H. Barney, First Sergeant, Co. B, 3d Md. P. H. B., Clearville, Pa.

Looking Backward to the '60's.

"I would like to corroborate the statement of Comrade Cowman in a recent issue touching the battle of Fort Donelson," writes Comrade G. A. Pease, Co. K, 3d Ill. Inf., from Des Moines, Iowa. "He was correct regarding the honors claimed by some of the 13th Wis. boys. They may have been there in spirit, but very much absent in person. Some time later the 13th came in to our camp, and they took them in our care and keeping and by our guardianship soon proved worthy of the 'U. S.' standing out in bold relief from each breast. "One little detail, I perceive, escaped Comrade Cowman's attention. The personage of Second Lieut. J. S. Garrett, Co. K, more commonly known by the name of 'By-the-Life,' who, by the way, had succeeded in recruiting from the 'stay-at-home male population' that section sufficient to form a company of mounted infantry, patriotic and brave, whose last was clear. On the morning of the battle, the lieutenant received orders to reconnoiter with his 'recreter-backs' and ascertain whether the rumors of Johnnies being in our neighborhood was all grapevine or otherwise. "One volley from the advance guard 'cooked their goose to a brown finish.' To say they flew would be stating mildly. Safe under projecting rocks and in friendly caves by the river bank they hovered until the smoke of battle cleared away. This episode of ours was highly favorable to our side of the house. For the ensuing 18 months we held high carnival at our old roosting place, and our camp was given many cognomens, including

Feather Bed Regiment' 'Calico Brigade' etc. But we had no kicking for while the common herd was floundering through mud, corduroy, etc., subsisting on corn and raw cabbage, more often these visionary, we were the elite. But we were not only took in angles quite diverse, and we welcomed the hotel de rail-pile or any old pile of sticks in lieu of mother and mud, in order to recruit poor, weary humanity. These are credible, comrades, 40 years and upwards since these characteristics of our lives were in existence? This interestingly ponder over reminiscences of the past. The chip is on my shoulder."

DEFENSE OF BURNSIDE.

A Kentucky Comrade Who Was With Him at the Battle of Burnside, and Campaign Was a Meritorious One and Was Commended by Gen. Grant.

Comrade D. H. Baker, 12th Ky. Cav., writes from Orange Home, Fla., that he regards a recent article by Comrade George W. Martz, of Dayton, Va., in which he attacks the 12th Ky. Cav. as unjust to Gen. Burnside. "Gen. Rueling says: 'I do not want to be unfair or unkind to poor Gen. Burnside. "I do not see how his East Tennessee campaign goes. That campaign by Gen. Burnside started in Kentucky in August, 1862, and the roads that were as bad as roads could be, and across the mountains between Kentucky and East Tennessee, through a country that was infested with as bad a character of guerrilla as was to be found. All his supplies and munitions of war had to be taken through these rough mountain passes. The guerrilla force was a real menace to the main army, but it caused havoc among the supply trains. "The authorities at Washington were very anxious to have all armed Confederate forces in East Tennessee to protect the Union in that section. This Gen. Burnside had done, and all was quiet until the latter part of October, when we began to have some trouble in possession of the line. If a soldier should call that trouble Confederate cavalry began to come in. They were met at Sweetwater and at Philadelphia, to the west of London, which was a place of some importance. Knoxville. They also came in at Marysville, to the south of Knoxville. I believe the records will show that Gen. Burnside was ordered to hold East Tennessee at all hazards. "Now, let us see what Gen. Grant says: 'On the 4th of November Longstreet left our front with about 15,000 men, besides his cavalry. He had 5,000, to move against Burnside. The situation seemed desperate. All Burnside's dispatches showed the greatest confidence in his ability to hold his position as long as his ammunition lasted. He even suggested the propriety of abandoning the territory he held south and west of Knoxville, so as to draw the enemy further from his base and supplies and make it difficult for him to get back to Chattanooga when the battle should begin. Burnside's suggestion was a good one, and was adopted.'—Gen. Grant's Memoirs, vol. 2, pages 159 and 160. "Thus it will be seen that while Burnside was getting into 'trouble' he was making a grand strategic move, and the fact that he held the line from Grant's front that he might more easily win his great victory at Chattanooga, for Burnside did fall back from Marysville, on the south, and London, on the west, and he was ordered to Longstreet beyond any railroad transportation, a distance of 23 miles, so he could not possibly get back to assist Longstreet when the battle should begin at Chattanooga. "While the hardships of Burnside's army were great, the privations many and the mud deep and sticky, yet there was no time through that 'trouble,' campaign and the fact that he held the line was not full of confidence in Gen. Burnside and equally proud of his determination to never surrender. Our army was small, perhaps not over 10,000 men in the trenches. Gen. Burnside having sent back to Cumberland Gap all men except those injured to the hardships of campaigning, so he might have no one to feed but men fit for duty. "Upon the whole, his small command, the many difficulties under which he labored, having no base of supplies, and co-operating with Gen. Grant as he did, assuring his soldiers personally that Grant would send relief, it was a well-managed campaign. The good Union people of East Tennessee should be proud of Burnside and his men did the rest."

WHY NEGLEY RETREATED.

Comrade Reese Climbed a Tree Before Chickamauga and Had a Great Rebel Host on the Move and Gave the Union General Timely Warning.

"I have never seen anything in print," writes Comrade G. J. Reese, from Horton, Pa., "which explained the cause of Gen. Negley's retreat after he had crossed over the mountain and marched into Macland Mountain and the fact that he was ordered to retreat. I will try to relate the circumstance as it occurred. On the first morning after being in camp I was detailed to report to Gen. Negley and then reported to him he asked what my regiment I belonged to. I told him I was from the 78th Pa. Co. C. He asked me if I had ever used a field glass. I replied that I had not. He told me he wanted me to pass out through the picket line in front of where we were standing and advance to the top of the ridge, or as far as I could go. "I started, and when I reached the summit of the ridge I climbed a 'black-jack' tree, and with the field glass I surveyed the valley beyond, where I saw cavalry, artillery and infantry marching toward the mountain. I did not remain long, for I was spied by some of the rebel pickets, and I decided in my mind that it was not a healthy place to be so I descended as fast as I could to the ground, and then went back and reported to Gen. Negley what I had seen. I told him I thought by the camps there were from 10,000 to 15,000 troops, and they were marching with a heavy column of cavalry, artillery and infantry toward the mountain. "I gave him my glass, and told him if he looked in the direction I pointed he would see a heavy cloud of dust in the air. After looking through his glass he ordered the retreat. He then took my name, company and regiment, and told me to remain with his headquarters, that he might need me again. "The next morning when I was coming up the road from getting a drink of water Gen. Negley and staff came along, and when he saw me he called and told me to report back to my company; that there was going to be some fighting to-day. We marched by the way to near Snodgrass Hill, where we formed in line of battle. "The 21st Ohio was relieved by the 21st Ohio. Then we were marched back toward Chattanooga, where we were employed as skirmishers to stop stragglers. "The 21st Ohio lost more than 350 men in less than an hour. This is to show the survivors of Gen. Negley's Division, Fourteenth Corps, that I am the man who saved them from being captured before the battle of Chickamauga."

The 29th Ill.

Editor National Tribune: I should like very much to see something in your issue touching the 29th Ill. Can you give me a short history of that regiment?—Job S. Hedger, Modest, O.

The 1st Mounted Rifles.

Editor National Tribune: You are publishing the greatest paper in this country. I would rather read it than any other paper that I take. I am almost totally blind, but the National Tribune comes I get out my magnifying glasses and read all about the old comrades. I wish you would publish a short history of the 1st Mounted Rifles. I served five years in Co. F. That regiment furnished some good material for both sides. Capt. Andrew Porter, andrevet Lieutenant-Colonel, was in the company. W. W. Averill was assigned to my company, and performed his first duties in it. W. W. Loring was Colonel of our regiment.—O. E. McDaniel, Shumway, Ill.

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Who Was the Oldest Soldier?

Editor National Tribune: In connection with the interesting discussions published in The National Tribune relating to a claim of having been the youngest recruit in the civil war, I thought has occurred to me that if claims of being the oldest living representative volunteer soldier of the war were made, the oldest would be John C. Fremont, who was discharged from the 3d U. S. Cav. assigned to the Armies of the Trans-Mississippi, and lost 32 years of being 86 years old and having served six years and one month as a volunteer during and subsequent to the close of the war of rebellion.—James Johnson, 708 Halsey St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

The 97th Ohio.

Editor National Tribune: I would like to see a short history of the grand old 97th Ohio. I was in it from 1861 to 1865. The Colonel was John C. Lane, who was brevetted a Brigadier-General. It belonged to Newton's Division, Fourth Corps, Army of the Cumberland, and lost 93 killed and 161 died from disease.—Editor National Tribune.

The 15th Kan. Cav.

Editor National Tribune: Please give a short history of the 15th Kan. Cav.—Hector Grant, M. Y.

The 15th Kan. Cav.

The 15th Kan. Cav. was organized at Leavenworth from September, 1862, and Cos. L and M of the 5th Kan. Cav. were consolidated with it Aug. 22, 1865. It was then transferred to the 1st Division, First Corps, and was commanded by Col. Charles J. Jenkinson, who was dismissed and succeeded by Col. William F. Cloud. It was transferred to the Armies of the Trans-Mississippi, and lost 100 killed and 100 died from disease.—Editor National Tribune.

The 12th Mo.

Editor National Tribune: I was not, as you supposed, in the 12th Mo. I am the son of a veteran of the 12th Mo. My father was Charles Freer, a private in Co. A, 12th Mo. Cav. I am devoted to the soldiers' friends. The National Tribune. Am interested in all that has to say about their experience, and would like especially to hear from any of the survivors of my father's regiment, Mississippi, and would like to hear of their success.—John E. Freer, Maynard, Ark.

GEN. ASHBY'S MISSION.

Comrade Murphy Met the Rebel Chief, Fata Face to Face and Was Much Impressed by His Soldierly Appearance.

Comrade D. P. Murphy, Co. C, 39th Ill., writes from Pontiac, Ill.: "I saw the Rebel Chief, Fata Face, some time ago on a short history of Gen. Ashby, who commanded the rebel cavalry in the Shenandoah Valley. Col. Ashby, or Gen. Ashby, as the correspondent writes, was a great rebel officer, known by sight. My regiment, the 39th Ill., was guarding the B. & O. Railroad in the winter of 1861 and 1862. My company (C) and Cos. A and F were stationed at Alpine Station, Va., and across the river from Hancock. The remaining companies of the regiment were stationed at other points along the railroad, some at Bath and some at Sky Hook. Gen. Jackson, on Jan. 2, 1862, marched from Winchester and attacked our boys at Bath, driving them across the Potomac River at Sir he attacked our force at the mouth of Jackson's force was estimated at from 15,000 to 16,000 strong. The Union force at Alpine Station consisted of the 39th Ill., the 11th and 12th Pa. artillery regiments and a battery of U. S. artillery. When Ashby's cavalry charged into our camp he was met with a warm reception and driven back in August, 1862, and the course, the Union forces retreated from Alpine Station across the river to Hancock. The rebels shelled the town and river that night, doing but little damage. "The next morning the 39th boys were drawn up in line along the bank of the river, trying their new Springfield rifles on the Johnnies. This was the first time the 39th Ill. were engaged in. While thus engaged a white flag appeared on the Virginia side of the river. Our officers commanded us to cease firing, as it was a flag of truce. The first act of Ashby's was to plant a flag of truce, and see what the rebels wanted. "Now, there is a dispute as to who that officer was. Our Historian of the 39th Ill. says it was Maj. Gen. Ashby, while First Lieut. Wallace Lord, of Pontiac, claims he was the officer who went over and met Col. Ashby and conducted him to the headquarters of the 39th Ill. Gen. Jackson demanded the unconditional surrender of all of the Union forces at Hancock. It is my recollection it was Lieut. Lord, as I was very near the landing when the boat came ashore. Ashby was detained, and I had a good view of the rebel officer before he was blindfolded. I remember distinctly what a grand-looking, soldierly officer he appeared. He was dressed in a blue uniform, and while First Lieut. Wallace Lord, of Pontiac, claims he was the officer who went over and met Col. Ashby and conducted him to the headquarters of the 39th Ill. Gen. Jackson demanded the unconditional surrender of all of the Union forces at Hancock. It is my recollection it was Lieut. Lord, as I was very near the landing when the boat came ashore. Ashby was detained, and I had a good view of the rebel officer before he was blindfolded. I remember distinctly what a grand-looking, soldierly officer he appeared. He was dressed in a blue uniform, and while First Lieut. 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