

# RECITALS AND REMINISCENCES

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

## DUSHBECK'S BRIGADE.

Has Never Received Proper Credit for its Tired Work at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg.

Fellow National Tribune: I have read with great interest your history of the Army of the Potomac and the campaigns of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, and believe they are generally correct, or as near so as it is possible for one man to write them, for I appreciate the fact that it is next to impossible for one person to tell the story of even one battle and not make mistakes or overlook some of the important incidents, hence

behind Ames and Costar, but did not fire a gun, could not without firing into our own men, who were right in front of them. Your account gives no credit to the 33d Mass., who probably contributed as much as any command to the repulse of this attack.

In "New York at Gettysburg" you will find the statement that Costar's Brigade recaptured Wederick's guns. The statement is reliable and made after the most careful investigation. I have not written the above in a spirit of criticism, but that the truth might be known and credit placed where it belongs. It is surely surprising what egregious errors will creep into the statements of history, and it is the duty of those who helped to make the history to correct the false statements while they are still alive and can do it, so that coming gen-



GEN. SICKLES RODE UP AND SAID: "YOU ARE DOING NOBLY, BOYS."

## Not a Fighting Regiment.

Editor National Tribune: Every week you publish a sketch of several regiments, giving the names of their commanders, the divisions and corps to which they belonged; once in a while you designate one a fighting regiment, as the others were not. I think that if a regiment happens to be in a fort or over a mine and gets blown up and loses half of its men, it is no more a fighting regiment than one that may be 20 rods from it and lose only 10 men.

I will give you a little sketch of one that is not a fighting regiment. I suppose there are 600 in the same class that can equal or surpass it. The 77th N. Y. left Saratoga Springs on Thanksgiving Day, 1861; went to Washington and into camp on Meridian Hill. In February, 1862, we crossed the river, and were assigned to the Third Brigade, Gen. Davidson's, and Wm. F. Smith's Division. When Gen. McClellan transported his army to the Peninsula our regiment was with it. Then the Sixth Corps was organized, composed of Franklin's First and Smith's Second Division. We passed thru the siege of Chickahominy fever, and left with the rest of the army for the second Bull Run. We did not get very near the fighting line, as it took our corps three days to march to Centerville and only one night to get back to Alexandria. Then we marched thru Maryland, and our corps drove the rebels from Crampston Gap. From there we went to Antietam, and charged over the ground that had been fought over twice. Our regiment charged down toward the Dunkard Church. When Gen. Smith saw what a place we were in he said that the regiment had gone to —. Capt. Horton, Lieuts. Danbison and Skinner were wounded; our colorbearer was killed, as were many others. We fell back, over the crest of a hill, and held the ground until about noon the next day, when we were relieved. But we were not a fighting regiment. Next, we were at Fredericksburg, crossed the river at Franklin's Crossing, moved up to the front and held it until we recrossed the river. We also participated in the mud march. In the Spring, while Gen. Hooker, with the rest of the army, was at Chancellorsville, our corps crossed the river again and captured Marye's Heights. Our regiment captured two guns and a rebel flag, and was complimented by Gen. Smith. Capt. Wheeler of our regiment was killed on the Heights. Our regiment was detailed to run the pontoons down to the river, while another was to man them. They crossed the river under fire and captured the works; but we were not a fighting regiment.

We were at Gettysburg, our corps mostly in reserve, having marched 35 miles in a day to get there. After Gen. Lee recrossed the Potomac we were engaged in backing and filling, from the Rappahannock to Centerville, until it was decided to cross the river, when our corps captured the rebel works at Rappahannock Station, went out to Brandy Station and stayed there until we went to Mine Run. Thence we returned and went into winter quarters; but when Gen. Grant decided to cross the Rapidan with his army he could not get along without our regiment, and we had to leave our comfortable quarters at Brandy Station and march into the Wilderness. When our right was turned, May 6, it all went back until it came to our regiment. Our left clung to the breastworks, the Third and First Divisions having gone back. Our right was at right angles to the works, forming the base for a new line. My orderly was wounded and went back a short distance, where he saw Gen. Sedgwick in an old road, with his hat in his hand and only one Aid with him. The Sergeant said, "General, I am wounded. Where is the rear?" Gen. Sedgwick said, "Stay right where you are. I haven't any rear now, but will soon have one." Capts. Smith and Winnie, Lieuts. Rowland, Fowler and Worden were wounded. Lieut. Rowe was captured. (He was recaptured after a few days.) You see, we were not a fighting regiment.

Derwerker were wounded not a fighting regiment. As the battle of Cedar Creek Early's unscrupulous Sixth Corps was returned where the Winter was 12 miles. When the rebel attack on Fort Stanton to relieve the pressure attacked the picket line, captured it. Capt. Calk, Pierce were killed.

On April 7, 1865, organized in the rear of it in echelon, the Second Division, the brigades in echelon on the right and the Third in echelon. The 77th an were the point of the we were ready to remove it 4:30 a. m. the gun from signaled the advance of wedge that was to pierce able works that had ce Army of the Potomac year. The works were e message sent to Jeff Day (Col. Caw and Capt. Clapp ed. But our regiment de to the noble 300, tho it place from the organizati bandment of an army th up-and be knocked down and each time get up a good fighting as any oth aid, until it finally came o the grand old Army of t C. E. Stevens, Captain, Westport, N. Y.

## Kept Behind It

Editor National Tribune: In regard to Sabl and Pleasant Hill. I was occasion, particularly th had just returned with from the Meridian camp were ordered to reinfo on his expedition to th Galveston. It is believ we had a battle and took t We went to Alexandria, a Gov. Moore's plantation awaiting arrival of Banks of about 30,000. When just as we were lined up of the road watching t lot of soldiers I never dressed as if going to a here that Gen. Banks call guerrillas, and that not ever after. He rode up and said, "General, what with those guerrillas?" was, "I will show you t thru with them." We fear of Banks until we t Crossroads. We could h sounds perhaps 15 to 20 front, about 4 or 5 o'clock of April 8. We soon Combe-quick. It was p o'clock when we reached We lay there until som noon, when we changed formed a line of battle until about 4 p. m., w took it into their hands t as they did Banks the Banks and his entire ar appeared to the rear; we Grand Store. He had time sent three messen Smith to follow him th but Gen. Smith stubborn ing that he came out t and would not retreat whipped. About 4 o'clock of rebels appeared with we all knew well and will but they went back fast came. They returned a again; and so it was t about 7 o'clock, when the they had enough, and ne any more. We remain until 12 o'clock, when w to build all the fire we done which we followe from that until about 2 the Mississippi River w rear. Had to form a the rebels a few round number on our side, Vicksburg we were sup 10,000, but about 3,000 transports, going up, had

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"I go with great reluctance that I presume to criticize or find fault with any of your statements; but after reading and rereading your account of the battle of Chancellorsville I am at a loss to understand why you so utterly ignore the part taken by Bushbeck's Brigade of the Eleventh Corps. In giving the details of the fight made by the first and Third Divisions you make mention of Bushbeck's position, but as the action drifts back to the Dowdall house, you pass over the stand made there by Bushbeck's men without a word. This is particularly notable, because it is a historical fact that Bushbeck's command did make a very gallant defense, and Gen. Hooker himself has placed on record his statement that this command was entitled to the credit of saving the artillery and trains of the corps. Therefore, no account of Chancellorsville, pretending to be a history of that affair, is complete or correct without the statement of the part played by the first brigade of the Second Division. Some idea of how they stayed may be caught from the fact that the regiment to which I had the honor to belong lost 57 officers and men killed and wounded right there in that position. And again, instead of telling the story of Bushbeck's fight, you hurry past to tell about the great charge of a division of the Third Corps into the woods in front of Jackson's advance, and state that they broke Bushbeck's breastworks. This is entirely wrong. Bushbeck's breastworks were not broken by any Union troops during the battle, and the extreme advance of the Third Corps on the evening of May 2 was never within half a mile of those breastworks, neither did they meet Jackson's advance at all that night. The remnant of Bushbeck's Brigade halted and faced Jackson's advance west of the little creek or run in front of Fairview, and was firing at their pursuers when Gen. Sickles rode up in our rear and said, 'You are doing nobly, boys. Hold them 10 minutes longer, and I will have 10,000 men here to help you.' A part of his corps came up and formed to our right, but did not advance toward our position. Jackson's advance had stopped before they arrived. We remained at that point all that night, and were not relieved until daylight the morning, and at no time during the night was there any Union force between us and the enemy. I personally talked with Gen. Sickles about this incident in Chicago a few years ago, and he then said that he distinctly remembered the circumstance as I have stated it.

In your issue of Aug. 27 Corp. Isaac P. Grapp, East Mass., gives the correct version of the movements of Berry's Division that evening. Knowing that you are acquainted with Col. Hamilton's book on this battle (than which there is no book extant more reliable), the mystery of such a glaringly erroneous statement is beyond comprehension. It is a well-known fact that that part of the army that had served under McLellan never considered the Eleventh and Twelfth Corps as a part of the Army of the Potomac, and never gave credit for what they did, and many of them to this day would try to make the Eleventh Corps the scapegoat for the mistakes made by those high in command. When such undoubted authorities as Gens. Hunt, Doubleday and Hooker say that the Eleventh Corps did all that men could do under the circumstances we need pay little attention to unreliable writers like the Cannonier and others of that ilk.

Again, in your account of the attack on East Cemetery Hill, at Gettysburg, on the evening of July 2, you state that Carroll's Brigade made a great charge and recaptured the batteries. This is another of the Cannonier's yarns. After the attack had been repulsed Carroll's brigade arrived, and formed in column

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**EGYPT STATION, MISS.**

**The Conduct of the Ex-Prisoners Recaptured There.**

Editor National Tribune: In your reply to T. J. Williams, Duncan, Okla., in regard to 100 ex-prisoners of war captured at Egypt Station Dec. 23, 1864, you say that the skirmish line composed of the ex-prisoners' fired upon and killed three officers and 20 men of the 2d N. J. Cav. This is surely a mistake.

In the report of Col. P. J. Yorke, the first skirmish line was composed of the ex-prisoners. I had command of the first 20 men that charged thru this skirmish line. We could not understand their actions, as a few of them fired their guns in the air, threw down their arms and ran toward us, saying why they were and saying to us 'not to fire upon men wearing black patches on their caps.' Close behind this skirmish line was another skirmish line composed of rebels themselves.

We were joined here by Maj. Gallagher, with part of his battalion. This second skirmish line then fired on us, killing Maj. Gallagher and some 20 men. We were then driven back, and the regiment, with others, charged upon the intrenchments, composed of railroad ties on end with holes between for firing thru, which led to the capture of the entire rebel command.

A person in this town, now dead, was one of the ex-prisoners captured at this place. In conversation with him, in regard to this matter, he verified every statement that I have here made. Corp. Daniel Rhoads, now living at Mansfield, Pa., also gives the same account of this that I do.

I would like to correspond with any member of my old regiment that may read this. W. H. Ardell, Sergeant, Co. E, 2d N. J. Cav., East Mauch Chunk, Pa.

**Merrill Horse.**

Editor National Tribune: Will you kindly publish the following notice to the old boys who are left, scattered as they are all thru the country. It would probably be impossible to hold anything like a satisfactory Reunion at the National Encampment, the regiment being formed of troops from four different States, and none but the Michigan battalion, I think, have kept up an organization, holding Annual Reunions for the past 24 years. That we may know the Ohio, Missouri and Indiana boys at the National Encampment, I would suggest that every comrade attending the National Encampment wear a Merrill Horse badge, if he has one; or, if not that, something conspicuous, to let others know to what regiment he belonged.—Geo. H. Rowell, Secretary, Michigan Battalion Association, Battle Creek, Mich.

**The 5th Mass. Cav.**

Editor National Tribune: Reading the account of the 5th Mass. Cav. in your paper, I was much pleased with it. As you are writing history, I know you intend to be fair with all. I will add what you have omitted, that the 5th Mass. was mounted, equipped and drilled while guarding 3,000 or 4,000 Confederate prisoners at Point Lookout, and was one of the first regiments to rush into Richmond the morning the city fell. I was in charge of a squad of prisoners gathered in. I turned them over to the Provost-Marshal, and received a receipt for the same. They said that we made a great impression on the people in the city that morning. All I know is that we went in one end of the city and out at the other end on the Turnpike road. We were on a trot all the time.—Jas. Carrel, Sergeant, Co. K, 5th Mass., 65 Ruggles St., Roxbury, Mass.

Wheeler, Lewis Rowland, Fowler and Worland were wounded. Lieut. Howe was captured. He was recaptured after a few days. You see, we were not a fighting regiment.

At Spotsylvania the 77th was selected as one of the 14 regiments of our corps to charge the enemy's works, under Gen. Upton. The column carried the works, and captured almost as many men as there were in the charging column. We also captured a battery, but not being supported, we were compelled to fall back and leave the works. Capt. Carpenter and Lieut. Lyon were killed and Capt. Devoe and Rowland were wounded; but we were not a fighting regiment.

The 77th was at Bloody Angle, where oak trees 18 inches thru were cut down by the artillery fire. Capt. Huxg, of our regiment, was killed. Over the works I counted 11 rebels who lay dead under a large limb of a tree that had been cut down by a shell from our guns.

From there we went to Petersburg, where three men in my company each lost a leg from one shell. Each was named James.

When Early was near Washington our corps was sent there to protect it. At Fort Stevens our brigade made a charge under the eyes of President Lincoln, and drove the enemy back a mile. Every regimental commander in the brigade being killed or wounded, but we were not a fighting regiment.

We then chased Early around for awhile, and Gen. Sheridan being sent up there to look after things, he found Early at Winchester. He drove Early up the Valley to Fisher's Hill, but did not let him stay long, not liking to have him so near. As Gen. Sheridan had been called to Washington Gen. Early thought he would interview the army while Phil was away. Our corps was lying at the right of the story, when, on the morning of the 3d, we were awakened by being in our pickets and heavy firing to the left. Soon we were marched there where Lee's orders were harassing and harrying in the rear.

Men from the Eighth and Nineteenth Corps passed us saying that Early had captured all except those who were holding to Winchester. We were marched west to the Winchester pike, and formed our line at the foot of a small hill, and were then moved back over the crest of the hill. I was sent out on the skirmish line with my company, and soon saw the enemy forming a line at the foot of the hill where we first formed. I reported to Col. French, and told him if we could give them a volley as they came over the hill and then charge them we could drive them like sheep. They tried it three times, but could not get over the hill. Capt. Lennon was mortally wounded at that time. After the third time there was no infantry firing on our line, tho we got a terrible shelling from the enemy. It was at that time that Gen. Bidwell, of our brigade, was killed by a shell, and Capt. Torr, of our regiment, lost an arm.

After awhile we were ordered to fall back, and our brigade kept their line as if on parade. We fell back, then were halted, faced about, marched a little ways to the front and threw up a few rails for a breastwork. After awhile we heard cheering down the pike, and saw an officer on a black horse covered with foam, riding up the pike with gun Aft. It proved to be Gen. Sheridan. He made some inquiries of Col. French, who was in command, and rode off to the right, between the skirmish line and line of battle. One could tell by the cheering how far he was up the line. After he had gone awhile there came an order for the men to make coffee, as they had lost their breakfast. Later there came an order that there would be a general attack at 1 p. m., and that the men should sleep in their old camps. At the designated time we were up and after them. The left of our regiment was on the pike, and when our brigade was to advance the rebels were behind a stone wall and we suffered severely. Capt. Holden and Taber and Adjt. Thomas were killed. Capt. Thompson and Ross and Lieut. Van

the rebels a number on a Chickburg as 10,000, but as transports could not hold the vessels between 6,000. Rebels no doubt cause they defore, who had strong as we had of one division A. J. Smith in doubt that w army front be That made our Smith a Major at that time I charges again the orders Schmidt, Co. I

**That**  
Editor Nat'l Tribune: I have seen your statements as Pa., and also Tenn. I shd. He carried it until the bat flag then was below, Pa. 'Philadelphia' ment gave it. he lived. At his right to longed to ry to keep until to be turned sylvania for years after I pass, with I flag is Phil in the Dover was this no boys order the 14th Pa. came of this Hamilton, O.

Editor Nat'l Tribune: I am from I. H., T. O. H. numbered in 1862, and in 1, 1864; and was then the regiment 'The Redskins,' 2nd Quarters, Warron, W. Smith, I was Lieut. in command of the 2d Ill., is helped man of '41 Captain, Co. D. C.

Editor Nat'l Tribune: I was at the battle of Durham, N. C. says that of the 2d Ill. of, contained wounded. It is mistaken the 2d Ill. Lieut.-Col. August, 184 of Bolivar, against the are all gett slope of our not quite so I don't thi 2d Ill. Cav. of the regt aff thru the the fifth ma bridge over Moss E. K. the cavalry went as clo Chickburg, a big guns, on we heard Daniels, Co.

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I will give you a little sketch of that is not a fighting regiment. I suppose there are 600 in the game of that can equal or surpass it. The 7th N. Y. left Saratoga Springs on Thanksgiving Day, 1861; went to Washington and into camp on Meridian Hill. February, 1862, we crossed the river and were assigned to the Third Brigade, Gen. Davidson's, and Wm. F. Smith's Division. When Gen. McClellan transported his army to the Peninsula, our regiment was with it. Then the 8th Corps was organized, composed of Franklin's First and Smith's Second Divisions. We passed thru the siege of Chickahominy fever, and left with the rest of the army for the second time. We did not get very near a fighting line, as it took our corps 10 days to march to Centerville and one night to get back to Alexandria. Then we marched thru Maryland, our corps drove the rebels from Cratton Gap. From there we went to Gettysburg, and charged over the ground that had been fought over twice. Our regiment charged down toward Dunkard Church. When Gen. Smith saw what a place we were in he thought that the regiment had gone to — Capt. Horton, Lieut. Dennison, Skinner were wounded; our color bearer was killed, as were many others, fell back, over the crest of a hill, and held the ground until about noon the next day, when we were relieved. We were not a fighting regiment. Next we were at Fredericksburg, crossed the river at Franklin's Crossing, moved to the front and held it until we crossed the river. We also participated in the mud march. In the Spring while Gen. Hooker, with the rest of the army, was at Chancellorsville, our corps crossed the river again and captured Marye's Heights. Our regiment captured two guns and a rebel flag, and was complimented by Gen. Smith. Gen. Wheeler of our regiment was killed on the Heights. Our regiment was ordered to run the pontoons down the river, while another was to man the pontoons. They crossed the river under fire and captured the works; but we were not a fighting regiment.

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When Early was searing Washington our corps was sent there to protect it. At Fort Stevens our brigade made a charge under the eyes of President Lincoln, and drove the enemy back a mile, every regimental commander in the brigade being killed or wounded, but we were not a fighting regiment.

We then chased Early around for awhile, and Gen. Sheridan being sent up there to look after things, he found Early at Winchester. He drove Early up the Valley to Fisher's Hill, but did not let him stay long, not liking to have him so near. As Gen. Sheridan had been called to Washington Gen. Early thought he would interview the army while Phil was away. Our corps was lying at the right of the army, when, on the morning of Oct. 2, we were awakened by firing on our pickets and heavy firing to the left. Soon we were marched there where teamsters were harnessing and hurrying to the rear.

Men from the Eighth and Nineteenth Corps passed us, saying that Early had captured all except those who were hurrying to Winchester. We were marched east to the Winchester place, and formed our line at the foot of a small hill, and were then moved back over the crest of the hill. I was sent out on the skirmish line with my company, and soon saw the enemy forming a line at the foot of the hill where we first formed. I reported to Col. French, and told him if we could give them a volley as they came over the hill and then charge them we could drive them like sheep. They tried it three times, but could not get over the hill. Capt. Lennon was mortally wounded at that time. After the third time there was no infantry firing on our line, so we got a terrible shelling from the enemy. It was at that time that Gen. Bidwell, of our brigade, was killed by a shell, and Capt. Orr, of our regiment, lost an arm. After awhile we were ordered to fall back, and our brigade kept their line as if on parade. We fell back, then were halted, faced about, marched a little ways to the front and threw up a few rails for a breastwork. After awhile we heard cheering down the place, and saw an officer on a black horse covered with foam, riding up the pike with one Ahl. It proved to be Gen. Sheridan. He made some inquiries of Col. French, who was in command, and rode off to the right, between the skirmish line and line of battle. One could tell by the cheering how far he was up the line. After he had gone awhile there came an order for the men to make coffee, as they had lost their breakfast. Later there came an order that there would be a general attack at 3 p. m., and that the men should sleep in their old camps. At the designated time we were up and after them. The left of our regiment was on the pike; and where our brigade was to advance the rebels were behind a stone wall and we suffered severely. Capt. Holden and Tabor and Adjt. Thomas were killed. Capt. Thompson and Ross and Lieut. Van

to hold all the news done which we got from that until after the Mississippi River war. Had to form the rebels a few numbers on our side. Vicksburg we were 10,000, but about 1 transports going up the river, some 6,000 to 7,000 rebels no doubt because they defeated us, who had an army as we had. I of one division of A. J. Smith in command that we say army front becoming. That made our gall. Smith a Major-General at that time that he charges against S. the orders to Schmidt, Co. H, 117

## That Tsch

Editor National Tribune: I have seen statements as to O. Pa., and also the Tenn. I should like to carry the col until the battle of flag then was sent to Pa. Why Philadelphia? After gave it to him he lived. Who in this right to be transferred to every in to keep until the sylvanly for safe years after the war pass, with instr. dug to Philadelphia the Governor of was this not done obeys orders. On the 24th Pa had some of this one Hamilton, O. R. I

## The s

Editor National Tribune: I am from the 2d Ill. T. G. Holcomb mustered in at O 1842, and left for 3, 1842; mustered and was therefore regiment. There, Hatcher, Adjt. Quartermaster F. Warren, Robinson Smith, Inters, W. Lieut. Holder an union of the reg. Artors, Ill. Capt. is hoped many one age of '61-'65—Captain, Co. A, 3, D. C.

## Some Old

Editor National Tribune: I like to straighten Durham, Five Ma says that on May of the 2d Ill. Cav. of commissary was wounded after the he mistaken when the 2d Ill. Cav. Lieut.-Col. Harry August, 1852, also of Bolivar, Tenn., against the rebel are all getting to slope of our year; not quite so tall; I don't think the 2d Ill. Cav. at th of the regiment v aff thru the Louis the fifth man to a bridge over Black Moss E. Kelley, the cavalry squad went as close as I Vicksburg, and the big guns on us. T) we heard "Whist Daniels, Co. I, 2d I