

from *CIVIL WAR JOURNAL AND LETTERS OF WASHINGTON IVES, 4TH FLA. C. S. A.*, edited by Jim R. Cabaniss, 1987, pp. 17-18:

Dec. 2nd Bates Division crossed Harpeth River and marched to Triune 18 miles bad road. Citizens patriotic.

Dec. 3rd Marched 16 miles and camped 1 mile west of Murfreesboro.

Dec. 4th Bates Division marched to Nashville Pike 6 miles north of Murfreesboro and Finleys Brigade of 200 men ordered to support Battery of artillery (5th Washington Louisiana Battery) and attacked the blockhouse on Duvalls Creek. Jacksons Brig. 250 men ordered to tear up railroad. Tylers Brig. 275 in reserve. At 3:00 p.m. skirmishing began and the yanks marched out two brigades of Infantry and 400 cavalry from Murfreesboro and just at dusk charged Finleys Brigade which had no support and as it was too weak to contend against such odds it was compelled to fall back losing about 50 men out of 200. The 1st and 4th Fla. losing 2/3 of the whole wounded and 1 killed. John Vaughn 1st Cav. lost his leg, J. Weeks 4th Fla. left foot and many were badly wounded. The Div. fell back three miles at midnight so that the wounded could be cared for.

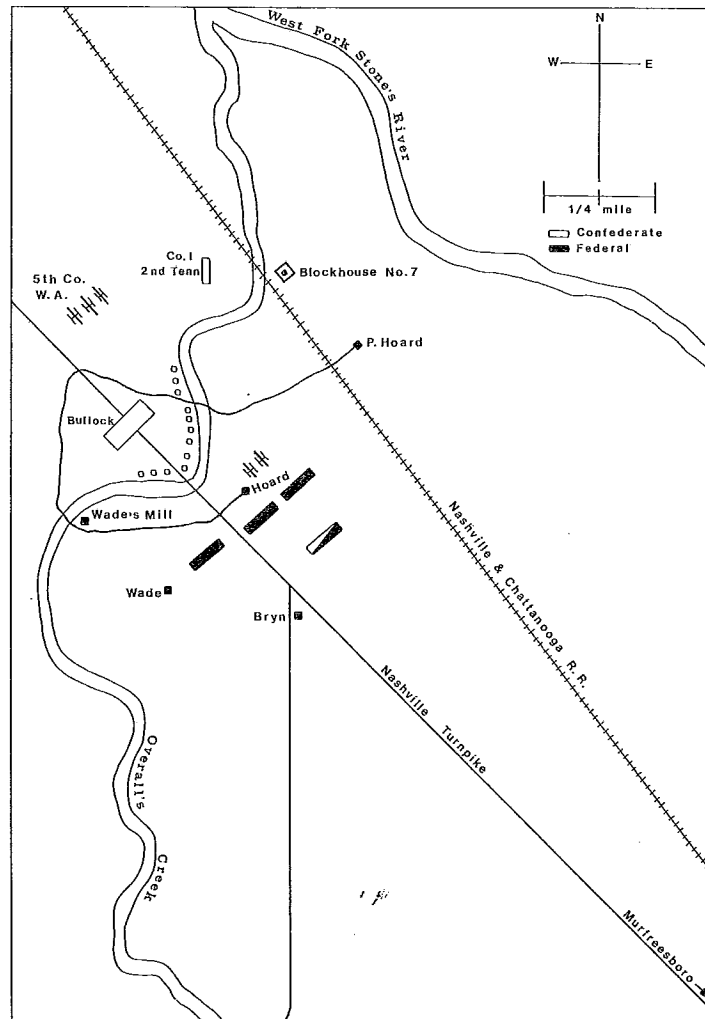
Dec. 5th 1st and 4th Fla. on Picket at the Nashville Pike at the 11 mile point 2 Divisions of Forrest Cavalry passed us going towards Murfreesboro late in the day Bates Division returned to the former battlefield.

Dec. 6th Bates Division fortifying on the old battlefields, two brigades of Infantry from Nashville reinforced it and Forrest Cav. were ordered to the S.W. of Murfreesboro.

Dec. 7th Our troops were kept moving backwards until 4:00 p.m. Where the yankees made a charge on a part of our line which had been overlooked and broke the line where Finleys Brigade resided. Two pieces of the Washington Artillery were lost (but not by Finegans Brigade). The whole command

ran about the same time and in 1/2 hour the infantry was in full retreat. We fell back to Stewarts Creek where we lay during the 8th, 9th and 10th on the 9th a heavy snowstorm fell and on the 11th Bates Div. marched 9 miles and camped 4 miles north of Lavergne. The ground having covered with frozen snow.

Dec. 12th I know was the coldest day I ever experienced. We marched 8 miles and camped near Nashville. Many were frost bitten and the ice was so thick that the weapons did not disturb it.



Battle of the Blockhouse, December 4, 1864

from *THE PRIDE OF THE CONFEDERATE ARTILLERY: THE WASHINGTON ARTILLERY IN THE ARMY OF TENNESSEE* by Dr. Nathaniel C. Hughes, Jr., 1997, p. 231