

“VETERAN H. W. DODEY’S EXPERIENCE AS A SOLDIER
IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY”

On the 27th, of November 1861, I joined the Confederate Army, at the age of sixteen years. I was mustered into service on the above named date at Camp Hampton, near Columbia, South Carolina. As a member of Company B. 19th. S. C. volunteers, Regiment; said Company being commanded by Captain T. P. Shaw.

The Regiment at that time commanded by Col. Moragun and later on by Col. Lychgo and upon his being killed, at Murfreesboro, Tenn. Captain T. P. Shaw was promoted Colonel of the Regiment.

We were sent from Columbia to Charleston about the first of January 1862, and placed in Camp of Instructions at Warpoo Cut, just across the Ashly River, said Camp being named Camp Warpoo. We remained here until April, during which time we were drilled in military tactics and also taught to observe strict military discipline.

About the first of April (Don’t remember the date) we were ordered to Corinth, Miss, as reinforcement to Braggs Army, just after the battle of Shilo. From first one cause and then another we were three weeks on the road, having finally to go by way of Mobile, Ala. We had a disastrous R. R. wreck on the Mobile and Ohio R. R. between Enterprise and Meridian, Miss. Six men were killed and thirty or forty injured, among the killed were John Timmerman.

Our stay at Corinth was about one month, and my, my, how we did suffer for water! And I might say something to eat also, for our rations were hard tack and pickled beef, the boys said it was pickled mule. Really the water was so scarce we really suffered, and what we got was as bad as a mud hole in the road. The men were sent to the hospitals by the car loads.

PAGE NO. 2.

We were moved from there to Tupelo and after remaining there only a short while, we were sent to Saltville, at which place we had good water and the health of the men was better.

The Campaign ended in Mississippi, about the last of August 1862, without any severe battle.

After the battle of Shilo, about the time we were ordered to Tenn. we were sent by way of Mobile, then by steamer up the Alabama River to Montgomery, then to Atlanta by Railroad, and then on to Tennessee, our place of Destination being what is known as Camp Gladin, which was located about sixteen miles above Chattanooga, Tenn. on the Tennessee River.

At this place we remained three or four weeks, in order to recuperate and get in shape for General Braggs noted march through Tennessee and Kentucky (I wish I could remember dates, but working only from memory, without any diary). Anyway after remaining at Camp Gladden about that length of time we took up our line of march through Tennessee, marching through twenty miles each day. All we were allowed to carry was one suit of under wear, a blanket, forty rounds of cartridges and a rifle. We would stop at night, broken down, with feet all blistered, at the same time hungry; however, we had plenty of water and that which was good. We marched through Tennessee and into Kentucky as far as Bardstown without any severe engagement with the enemy. I stood the Campaign fine, while I was small I marched in line and kept up. The only battle of note fought during that Campaign, was the battle of Perryville. Our division was not engaged though (as I heard from some misunderstanding). At

PAGE NO. 3

Mumfordsville Kentucky we captured five thousand Yankees, without any severe fighting; they being surrounded without giving battle, however, just two days before General Chalmers, of Mississippi, charged the same Fort and was defeated with heavy loss.

While on our advance march we fared fairly well, in as much as we had our commissary wagon with us, but when we commenced our retreat the wagon was placed in front of the army and we had to depend on what we could get from the Country through which we traveled. Really we suffered, I went for three days with nothing to eat but parched corn and roasted pumpkins. Pretty light diet to march twenty miles on, Eh? We were given beef but had no way of cooking it and neither had salt, however, we would broil a piece on some coals and try to eat it. We waded the Cumberland River, crossed Walden Ridge Mountain and come back through the Cumberland Gap, near Knoxville, Tenn. At that time I had contracted a cold and we camped eight miles from Knoxville and I slept on the ground, on one blanket and covered with one, having as my Companion Thos. Howle. It was very cold and snowed on us some during the night. The next morning I was too sick to march and the Dr. sent me to Knoxville. I rode in an open wagon and I liked to have frozen. The deaf and dumb Asylum had been turned into a Hospital and I was assigned there, my cold developed into pneumonia and for several days I was dangerously ill. There were several hospitals in town and all were full of sick soldiers, a great many of whom died. I had a good nurse, a man by the name of Joseph McLawhorn, waited on me like a brother. This was during the month of October 1862. I remained at the hospital something over two weeks, during which time my Father hearing

PAGE NO. 4

I was sick came up there. He interceded for me and obtained twenty days leave of absence for me. I came home and at the expiration of the time I secured an entention, in consequence of not being sufficiently strong to return to my command. At the expiration of the extention I returned to my command, which was stationed near Shelbyville, Tenn. My term of enlistment having expired, I received an honorable discharge from the army. I returned home and remained home the greater part of 1863, however, during the summer of that year the yankees made a demonstration in front of Charleston by sending a fleet there, the rumor was that a night fight was expected to come off there soon, so a call was made for the old men and boys to volunteer for the emergency, I went with a lot of the othere. About four hundred of us organized into a battalion and commanded by Major Andrew Hammond. We were stationed on Mount Pleasant. After remaining there about two weeks, it was found out that the idea of attacking Charleston by said fleet had been abandoned. We were disbanded and returned home, this was during the month of July. I remained home the remainder of that year in 1863.

In January 1864, I again enlisted in the service of the Confederate Army, in Company with E. J. Miller and Charlie. We went to Jacksonboro in Colleton County, and joined Company B. of the 6th. S. C. Cavalry, commanded by Captain Gregg, and stationed at that place at that time. We remained there until April or May (I forget which) doing picket duty down the Edisto River, at Cattle Island and Battery Griffin. About the time mentioned (April or May) our Regiment was ordered to Virginia to relieve the second S. S. Regiment of Cavalry. We rode through Columbia, S. C. to Wannville and on to Richmond. From then on until the close of the war we saw active service. When we

PAGE NO. 5

arrived at Richmond we were stationed on the Chicahominy River, at Bottoms Bridge.

There we had skirmishing with the enemy, but not much fighting.

On the 8th of June Scouts, having reported to Hampton that General Sheridan, with one thousand yankees cavalry, had moved out from behind Grant's Army, and was moving northward. General Butler received orders to draw three days rations for his men, which consisted of about one and one half pounds of hard tack and a half pound of bacon, that had to be eaten raw while we were in the saddle, as we were allowed to stop only long enough to graze our horses from twelve till tow o'clock in the day, and from twelve till two o'clock in the night, we had no time to unsaddle for eight days and nights. On the morning of June the ninth, General Hampton and Ftz. Lee's division of Cavalry, about forty-five hundred men, all total, moved towards Gordensville. After leaving Camp we grazed our horses, as stated, about half way between Richmond and Trevillian Station, on the Virginia Central Railroad. The next night we reached Trevillian. We had about eaten our rations, on the morning of the eleventh we were mounted by daylight. General Sheridan was in out immediate front. About sun rise we were ordered to make the attack. We met the enemy in thick woods with heave under growth. We were engaged during the greater part of the day, neither side getting much advantage. We were withdrawn and camped about three miles east of Trevillian Station. Early Sunday morning the 12th, we moved back to Trevillian Station and took our position in front of the enemy. We were hundre having eaten the last of our hard tack and bacon on Friday night and after considerable skirmishing our skirmishers were driven in and the general engagement commenced about twelve A. M. and the fighting was

PAGE NO. 6

desperate until after night. We were stationed behind the R. R. Bank, Assault after assault was made on our line, each one being repulsed with heavy loss, the seventh and last assault was made about sunset, when they came within a short distance of our line. The loss on both sides was heavy. The Company to which I belonged Viz. Co. B. of the 6th. S. C. went into this fight Sunday with sixty four men and when it ended thirty-seven of them had been killed, wounded or captured. General Sheridan commenced his retreat about nine o'clock Sunday night, the twelfth of June. We were relieved about twelve o'clock and went into Camp all jaded and worn out, not having anything to eat since Friday night, on the morning of June the 13th, after drawing something to eat we took up our line of march in pursuit of the enemy. We followed them about one hundred miles, through the hottest, dustiest, and driest country imaginable. It was not any infrequent thing for us to pass from five to eight horses or mules dead lying on the line of march. These horses had no doubt broken down and were killed to keep them from falling into our hands. We followed them until we got under cover of the yankee gun boats, on the night of June the 20th. Our command was next engaged with General Gregg's (Yankee Division) of cavalry at _____ Church. After considerable fighting the Yanks were routed. Our command captured about three hundred of the enemy. The next encounter with the enemy was on the 28th of June, at or near Stonycreek, on the Petersburg and Weldon R. R. about twenty miles below Petersburg, Yankee General Wilson, undertook to cut the R. R. at that point, but was completely routed by our cavalry.

We also fought the Yanks at Gravel Run, Reams Station, on Weldon R. R. We never went north of the James River any more, and when Sherman made his march

PAGE NO. 7

through Georgia about the time he got to Savannah we were ordered South. I had a spell of typhoid fever during the fall and was in the hospital at Goldsboro, N. C. I obtained a furlough after I was able to travel. I came home and at the expiration of the same, I joined my command and we were in Front of Sherman from the time his army entered S. C. until the surrender of General Johnston, the 27th of April 1865 at Hillsboro, N. C. We disputed every inch of ground, Our command being in numeroud engagements with the enemy noted among the fights, was our surprising General Ailpatrick. And the Battle of Bentonville, N. C.

When our Company went to Virginia it numbered about one hundred men rank and file, and when the war was over I don't think there were more than twenty five of us together. I left Hillsboro on the night before the surrender (April the 26th) and rode through home. I arrived home on the fifth of May 1865, in my 20th year. I was never wounded or taken a prisoner.

The above is a true sketch of a part of my experience as a soldier in the Confederate Army.

Veteran H. W. Doby

Co. B. 6th. S. C. Vol.

For Mary Ann Buie Chapter:
