

colors awarded by the State to the colonel who should first raise his regiment; and a fine band of music was made up from the men of his command.

But little drilling of the regiment was done before it was ordered to the front. The muster of the several companies was completed on the 21st of August—the next day Col. Larrabee received his commission; and on the 5th of September the Twenty-Fourth left Milwaukee for Kentucky, one thousand and twenty strong. On the 8th of October the regiment received its baptism of fire at the battle of Perryville or Chaplin Hills, serving as a part of Greusel's brigade, and Gen. P. H. Sheridan's division. In that engagement, Col. Larrabee's Badger boys were held in reserve in support of a battery, yet shared in the activities and perils of the day.

An eye-witness and participant in the operations of the regiment writes: "Our general says, that the Twenty-Fourth Wisconsin saved the battery in that bold and terrific charge by Walker's and Adams' Confederate brigades. The rebels came up through the corn-field in two solid lines; and as the grape and canister mowed through their ranks, they closed up and steadily advanced. We were in the rear of the battery when they first advanced, and were moved by the west flank around to its left, taking our position on the road. The hill-top was before us, and shielded us from the bullets that hummed like a hornet's nest over us, not a foot above our heads. The Fifty-Second Ohio was over the brow of the hill, and was driven back slowly until they rested on our front. Then, at that critical moment, Col. Larrabee gave the command to advance to the hill-top, and fire. Our left was screened by a piece of woods, and was not one hundred feet from the solid Rebel lines, which halted at the fence that enclosed the field, and who were subjected to the terrible cross and direct fire of our battery, the Twenty-Fourth Wisconsin, the Thirty-Sixth Illinois, and the Fifty-Second Ohio; their almost demoniacal cheers were soon discomfited, they broke ranks and skedaddled. The officers of the Twenty-Fourth acted with fearlessness and discipline. Col. Larrabee is a model and brave officer, and acted accordingly."