

THE
WAR OF THE REBELLION:

A COMPILATION OF THE
OFFICIAL RECORDS

OF THE
UNION AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES.

PREPARED, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR, BY
The late Lieut. Col. ROBERT N. SCOTT, Third U. S. Artillery.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF
Lieut. Col. HENRY M. LAZELLE, Twenty-third U. S. Infantry

PURSUANT TO ACTS OF CONGRESS.

SERIES I—VOLUME XX—IN TWO PARTS.
PART I—REPORTS.

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1887.

51st Ala. Cav.

CAVALRY.*

Brig. Gen. JOSEPH WHEELER.

Wheeler's Brigade.

Brig. Gen. JOSEPH WHEELER.

- 1st Alabama, Col. W. W. Allen.
- 3d Alabama:
 - Maj. F. Y. Gaines.
 - Capt. T. H. Mauldin.
- 51st Alabama:†
 - Col. John T. Morgan.
 - Lieut. Col. J. D. Webb.
- 8th Confederate, Col. W. B. Wade.
- 1st Tennessee, Col. James E. Carter.
- Tennessee Battalion, DeWitt C. Douglass.
- Tennessee Battalion, Maj. D. W. Holman.
- Arkansas Battery, Capt. J. H. Wiggins.

Buford's Brigade.

Brig. Gen. A. BUFORD.

- 3d Kentucky, Col. J. R. Butler.
- 5th Kentucky, Col. D. H. Smith.
- 6th Kentucky, Col. J. W. Grigsby.

Pegram's Brigade.†

Brig. Gen. JOHN PEGRAM.

- 1st Georgia.
- 1st Louisiana.

Wharton's Brigade.

Brig. Gen. JOHN A. WHARTON.

- 14th Alabama Battalion, Lieut. Col. James C. Malone.
- 1st Confederate, Col. John T. Cox.
- 3d Confederate, Lieut. Col. William N. Estes.
- 2d Georgia:
 - Lieut. Col. J. E. Dunlop.
 - Maj. F. M. Ison.
- 3d Georgia (detachment), Maj. R. Thompson.
- 2d Tennessee, Col. H. M. Ashby.
- 4th Tennessee, Col. Baxter Smith.
- Tennessee Battalion, Maj. John R. Davis.
- 8th Texas, Col. Thomas Harrison.
- Murray's (Tennessee) regiment, Maj. W. S. Bledsoe.
- Escort company, Capt. Paul F. Anderson.
- McCown's escort company, Capt. L. T. Hardy.
- White's (Tennessee) battery, Capt. B. F. White, jr.

ARTILLERY.‡

- Baxter's (Tennessee) battery.
- Byrne's (Kentucky) battery.
- Gibson's (Georgia) battery.

No. 190.

Reports of General Braxton Bragg, C. S. Army, commanding Army of Tennessee, with congratulatory orders, &c.

MURFREESBOROUGH, TENN., December 30, 1862.

(Received at Richmond, Va., January 1, 1863.)

Artillery firing at intervals and heavy skirmishing of light troops all day. Enemy very cautious, and declining a general engagement. Armies are in line of battle within sight.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

General S. COOPER.

* Forrest's and Morgan's commands on detached service.

† Probably incomplete.

‡ Byrne's battery mentioned in Breckenridge's report. The others do not appear to have been engaged in the campaign. Baxter's battery reported as at Shelbyville, December 31. and Gibson's was ordered, December 1, 1862, to Chattanooga, Tenn., to be fitted for the field.

No. 3.

Report of General Braxton Bragg, C. S. Army, commanding Army of Tennessee.

KNOXVILLE, TENN., November 9, 1862.

We had a brisk skirmish with the enemy near Nashville on the 5th, killing and wounding about 100. Our loss very slight. Destroyed a large number of cars, engines, water-tanks, and bridges on Nashville and Louisville road. Brigadier-General Forrest was in command. Enemy is reinforcing. Our forces are moving up. I leave to-morrow for the front.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

General S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General.

No. 4.

Report of Brig. Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, C. S. Army, commanding cavalry.

BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS,
La Vergne, Tenn., November 6, 1862.

GENERAL: Agreeably to orders received, I moved my commands on the night of the 4th instant in the direction of Nashville, distributing them as follows: Col. John T. Morgan's regiment [Fifty-first Alabama], of Partisan Rangers, and Capt. W. C. Bacot's battalion, Forrest's regiment, to the right of the Murfreesborough pike, with instructions to move forward on the Lebanon, Stone's River, and Chicken pikes, and to drive in the Abolitionists' pickets at daylight, which was done agreeably to orders and in gallant style, killing and wounding several, with the loss of 1 man killed and 2 horses wounded. Lieutenant-Colonel [A. A.] Russell, Partisan Rangers, on Murfreesborough pike, followed by Colonels [J. B.] Palmer's and [R. W.] Hanson's brigades, with four batteries of artillery, commanded by Major [R. E.] Graves, after proceeding to Dogtown, 3½ miles from Nashville, encountered the Abolitionists' pickets, at which place he (Colonel Russell) was ordered to dismount his command, press forward, and drive in the pickets. He succeeded in driving them to their first line of fortifications with considerable firing for 1½ miles. I here found them in some force behind a brush and log fortification around a high hill on right of pike. Here they made a stand, but after a short resistance [I] drove them from their position and gained the hill, at which place I planted my rifle battery of four pieces and opened fire on Jones' Hill, 1½ miles distant. At this time the firing was heard from Colonel [John T.] Morgan, at Edgefield. About the same time Colonel [James W.] Starnes opened fire on the Nolensville pike, he having been ordered, with Colonel [G. G.] Dibrell's regiment, Major [D. C.] Douglass' battalion, Captains [S. L.] Freeman's and [Franklin] Roberts' batteries, to the left of Murfreesborough pike, down the Nolensville, Mill Creek, and Franklin pikes. The engagement now became general, Captains Freeman's and Roberts' batteries having opened from Nolensville pike a vigorous fire on Saint Cloud's Hill. The firing was kept up until 10 o'clock, when I withdrew my forces.

Our loss in this action was 3 killed, 10 wounded, and 5 missing. Loss of Abolitionists, 15 killed, 20 prisoners, and supposed 20 wounded, one shell from Nolensville pike killing 5 in fortifications.

I then moved Colonels Starnes' and Dibrell's regiments and Captain

Freeman's and Roberts' batteries out on the Franklin pike 5 miles. The Abolitionists were in ambush with four regiments of infantry, twelve pieces of artillery, and a battalion of [William B.] Stokes' cavalry, commanded by Brigadier-General [James S.] Negley. They opened fire upon us from their position. I placed Freeman's and Roberts' batteries (four pieces each) on left of Franklin pike, between the Nolensville and Franklin pike, and returned their fire. After a spirited contest of an hour, they gave way, falling back down the Franklin pike toward Nashville. At this time I ordered my cavalry to charge, which order was quickly obeyed, their infantry and cavalry retreating down the pike toward Nashville. From this position my guns commanded the pike and played upon the Abolitionists with good effect, killing and wounding some 20 at one fire, which caused them to break and flee in disorder. I followed them up for a mile, when my artillery ammunition gave out and I withdrew my forces.

My loss in this action was 1 killed and 3 wounded. Loss of Abolitionists, 40 killed, 20 prisoners, and reported 60 wounded.

After this engagement I moved back to La Vergne.

Great credit is due Captain Freeman, of Freeman's battery, and Lieutenant [J. H.] Wiggins, commanding Roberts' battery, and their officers and men, for their coolness and discretion during this engagement. My officers and men acted well during the day, obeying with promptness each command.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

N. B. FORREST,
Brigadier-General.

Lieut. Col. J. A. BUCKNER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

NOVEMBER 5, 1862.—Affair near Piketon, Ky.

Reports of Col. John Dils, jr., Thirty-ninth Kentucky Infantry, with congratulatory letter from Maj. Gen. H. G. Wright.

HEADQUARTERS CAMP FINNELL,
November 10, 1862.

SIR: I took possession of this post on the 5th instant. The Confederates were camped 8 miles below this place, at Coal Grove (force 500 or 600, cavalry and infantry), but got notice of my approach in the night, when I was within 4 miles of them. The panic, I learn, was great. My little force entered their camp not more than one hour after the train left, but we pursued them, and in their camp and flight we captured about 75 prisoners, 150 guns, 3 wagons, a lot of tents, horses, and mules. I pursued within 20 miles of the Pound Gap, but my men were marched down, marching 30 miles the last day, and eating nothing but a little beef at night. This post is 100 miles from Catlettsburg, on the Ohio River, and the nearest force (Federal) is Ashland, 100 miles from here. The nearest Confederate force is 50 miles, Logan Court-House, Va. That force is 1,500 or 2,000, under Floyd and Witcher. My force that is armed, about 400. I will do the best I can, but there ought to be more force in this valley.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN DILS, JR.,
Colonel Thirty-ninth Kentucky Regiment.

General HORATIO G. WRIGHT.

the movement of the army till another could be constructed, the stream not being fordable at or near that point.

Shortly after this the enemy retired, and the Third Kentucky was ordered to hold the bridge, which they do at this time. Having accomplished the work set before me, I was about arranging my men in camp, and had got the One hundredth Illinois in position to cover the front of my proposed camp, and the Twenty-sixth Ohio in position, when I found myself suddenly attacked on my left flank by a force of the enemy's cavalry, who were endeavoring to cut their way to the bridge. I immediately ordered the Twenty-sixth to change front forward on the left company, to resist the attack in that direction. This repulsed the attack. Captain Munger's company, of the One hundredth Illinois, had been sent to the left to protect the flank of the regiment, and the enemy endeavored to cut them off and take them prisoners. The company turned upon them, fired, and demanded their surrender; which, being declined, they pressed upon them, drove them into the fence corners, and captured 24 of them, including Lieut. J. J. Seawell. They called themselves "Alabama Partisan Rangers." With them were captured 12 horses and saddles and 12 guns. The residue of them made their escape by flight. We took 10 or 12 other prisoners during the day, which I sent to the rear. I am not aware how much force we were contending with during the day, but we took prisoners from six or seven different regiments, principally Tennessee regiments.

For more minute particulars of the parts performed by the different regiments and the battery, I refer you to their reports, inclosed.

All my officers and men did their duty nobly, and I feel that it would be unjust to particularize. How much credit we all deserve, I leave for yourself and others to determine.

To my staff officers, Capt. Edmund R. Kerstetter, assistant adjutant-general; Captain Roberts, of the Third Kentucky, commissary; Lieut. James R. Hume, aide-de-camp, and Lieutenant Warner, inspector-general, I am under peculiar obligations.

The casualties are as follows:

Command.	Wounded.	Missing.	Total.
58th Indiana	7	1	8
26th Ohio	20	.....	20
100th Illinois	2	.....	2
3d Kentucky .....	.....	.....	.....
Estep's battery .....	.....	.....	.....
Total	29	1	30

One of the wounded has since died, and 4 or 5 more are thought to be mortally wounded.

The enemy's loss, that fell into our hands, were 4 killed and 5 wounded. We hear of many other killed and wounded being taken to the rear by them.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

MILO S. HASCALL,

Brigadier-General of Vols., Comdg. First Division, Left Wing.

Capt. M. P. BESTOW,

Assistant Adjutant-General, First Division, Left Wing.

HDQRS. FIRST BRIGADE, FIRST DIVISION, LEFT WING,
Near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 6, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of my brigade (formerly the Fifteenth Brigade, Sixth Division, but under the new nomenclature the First Brigade, First Division, left wing) on the eventful 31st of December, 1862:

During the night of the 30th, I had received notice, through General Wood, our division commander, that the left wing (Crittenden's corps) would cross Stone's River and attack the enemy on his right. My brigade was posted on the extreme left of our entire line of battle, and was guarding and overlooking the ford, over which we were to cross.

On the morning of the 31st, heavy firing was heard on the extreme right of our line (McCook's corps), but as they had been fighting their way all the distance from Nolensville, as we had from La Vergne, no particular importance was attached to this, and I was getting my brigade into position ready to cross as soon as General Van Cleve's division, which was then crossing, was over. All this time the firing on the right became heavier and apparently nearer to us, and our fears began to be aroused that the right wing was being driven rapidly back upon us. At this juncture Van Cleve halted his division, and the most terrible state of suspense pervaded the entire left, as it became more and more evident that the right was being driven rapidly back upon us.

On and on they came, till the heaviest fire was getting nearly around to the pike leading to Nashville, when General Rosecrans appeared in person, and ordered me to go with my brigade at once to the support of the right, pointing toward our rear, where the heaviest fire was raging. General Van Cleve's division and Colonel Harker's brigade, of our division, received the same order. I at once changed the front of my brigade to the rear, preparatory to starting in the new direction, but had not proceeded more than 200 yards in the new direction before the crowd of fugitives from the right wing became so numerous, and the fleeing mule teams and horsemen so thick, that it was impossible for me to go forward with my command without its becoming a confused mass. I therefore halted and awaited developments.

General Van Cleve and Colonel Harker, not meeting with so much opposition, pressed forward and got into position beyond the railroad, ready to open on the enemy as soon as our fugitives were out of the way. They soon opened fire, joined by some batteries and troops belonging to the center (General Thomas' corps) and Estep's battery, of my brigade, and, after about one hour's firing along this new line, during which time I was moving my command from point to point, ready to support any troops that most needed it, the onslaught of the enemy seemed to be in a great measure checked, and we had reasonable probability of maintaining this line. During all this time my men were exposed to a severe fire of shot and shell from a battery on the other side of the river, and several were killed.

About this time an aide of General Palmer came galloping up to me and said that, unless he could be supported, his division would have to give way. Palmer's division formed the right of General Crittenden's line of battle on the morning of the 31st. After consulting with General Wood, he ordered me to send a regiment to support General Palmer; accordingly I sent the Third Kentucky Regiment, commanded by Lieut. Col. Samuel McKee.

Before the regiment had been ten minutes in its new position, Captain Kerstetter, my adjutant-general, reported to me that Colonel McKee had

in obvious view of the enemy's battle array, halted, as explained in my report, and precautionary dispositions commenced for the night, an order was received to continue the advance on Murfreesborough. The order was received just at nightfall, when darkness was beginning to shroud the ground to be passed over with obscurity. The movement was at once commenced, but was subsequently suspended by General Crittenden until further communication could be had with the commanding general of the army. Before, however, the order was suspended, Har-ker's brigade had crossed Stone's River under a galling fire, driven in the enemy's outposts, and seized a strong position, which it held until nearly 10 o'clock that evening.

The commanding general having approved the suspension of the order, and it not being prudent to leave the brigade in so exposed a position, it was ordered to recross the river. It performed the retrograde movement handsomely, in good order and with perfect success, though confronted by an entire division (Breckinridge's) of the enemy. This fact was learned from a prisoner, captured when the brigade first crossed the river. Bradley's (Sixth Ohio) battery accompanied the brigade in the entire movement.

I desire to repair the omission in my previous report, and request that this communication be made part of it. It will readily be perceived how the omission occurred when it is remembered that my original report was prepared without the aid of the reports of subordinate commanders, and written under the compound embarrassment of inconvenience from my wound and suffering from a quotidian intermittent fever, with which I had been afflicted for ten days previous to the battle of the 31st ultimo.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

TH. J. WOOD,

Brigadier-General of Volunteers.

Maj. LYNE STARLING,
Asst. Adjt. Gen., Chief of Staff, Crittenden's Corps.

No. 97.

Reports of Brig. Gen. Milo S. Hascall, U. S. Army, commanding First Brigade and First Division, including skirmishes at La Vergne and on the Murfreesborough pike, at Stewart's Creek Bridge.

HDQRS. FIRST BRIGADE, FIRST DIVISION, LEFT WING,
Stewart's Creek, Tenn., December 28, 1862.

Yesterday, about 11 a. m., while General Wood's division was lying about three-fourths of a mile beyond La Vergne, near the Murfreesborough pike, I received notice from General Wood that General Crittenden's command (being the left wing, Fourteenth Army Corps) would again advance, General Wood's leading, and that my brigade had been directed by him to take the advance. My instructions were to advance by the Murfreesborough pike, and reach Stewart's Creek and save the bridge at that point if possible.

The enemy had been throwing shells at us at intervals all the morning from an eminence a little this side of La Vergne, wounding some of our men, so that we knew the town and the hills beyond were occupied by the enemy. Accordingly, I at once formed my brigade in order of battle in two lines, the Fifty-eighth Indiana on the right of the first line, supported by the Third Kentucky, and the Twenty-sixth Ohio,

commanded by Maj. William H. Squires, on the left of the first line, supported by the One hundredth Illinois, the Eighth Indiana Battery, commanded by Lieut. George Estep, occupying the intervals between the infantry. This disposition having been made, and the front well covered, with the flank companies of the first line as skirmishers, the order to advance was given. We had to pass over an open field the entire distance to the town.

Before we had been five minutes in motion, a brisk fire was opened by the enemy in and about town upon our skirmishers, which soon became effectual upon the first line also. The fire was vigorously returned by our skirmishers, but, I presume, with little effect, owing to the cover the town, fences, and bushes afforded the enemy.

Not wishing to try and cope with the enemy under such unfavorable circumstances any longer than was absolutely necessary, I ordered the skirmishers and the first line to charge at a double-quick and get possession of the town at all hazards. The front line was lying flat on their faces at the time of receiving the order; but in the twinkling of an eye the entire line sprang to their feet, fixed their bayonets, and, rushing forward with a yell, had, in five minutes' time, possession of the town and the crest beyond. The manner in which this was done left nothing to be desired.

Our entire loss, though skirmishing all day, was sustained at this point. Twenty of the Twenty-sixth Ohio and 7 of the Fifty-eighth Indiana were lying around with wounds of greater or less severity to tell the tale.

Leaving our wounded to be cared for by the rear brigades, we pushed forward, skirmishing nearly all the time. After advancing about 1½ miles beyond the town, I discovered that the front line was becoming much exhausted, and many of the Twenty-sixth Ohio were throwing their knapsacks away. I, therefore, relieved it with the second line, sent a detail back to collect the knapsacks, and pressed on to this point, skirmishing all the way through a drenching rain, and through almost impassable thickets of cedar, and over muddy and sloppy plowed fields. At half a dozen points on the way we were resisted by the enemy's artillery; but Lieutenant Estep's battery, assisted by Maj. S. Race, in command of the artillery of the division, soon dislodged them, and we moved forward without allowing ourselves to be even temporarily detained, until we came to the eminence just in front of our camp, and which overlooks the bridge at Stewart's Creek.

Here we found the enemy had a battery planted on the hill beyond Stewart's Creek. We had no sooner planted a section of Estep's battery and opened upon them than they promptly returned our fire. The fearful accuracy of their fire soon convinced us that this was a different battery from that with which we had been contending all day, as every shot from them either struck our pieces or came within close proximity. Having no long-range guns in Estep's battery, I sent to the rear for some out of another battery, and as soon as they had got in position the enemy's fire was silenced.

It was during this artillery duel that my skirmishers, who were concealed near the banks of Stewart's Creek, discovered that the enemy had loaded the bridge with rails and other combustible material and had set fire to it. Volunteers being called for to extinguish the flame at all hazards, the entire line of skirmishers from the Third Kentucky, assisted by Company B, Captain Ewing, of the Twenty-sixth Ohio, rushed in and threw the combustibles from the bridge, and saved it. Great credit is due for this act, as the loss of the bridge would have delayed

In that charge I had 1 man killed, 1 wounded, and 1 taken prisoner, and the other two companies suffered proportionately.

I trust to be pardoned for the vanity I display in calling your particular attention to this glorious little episode of that day. I know well the pride you take in anything done meritorious by your command, and this, in addition to the reflection that there seems to be a design somewhere to detract from the old Fourth's glory, induces me to make mention thus. I, moreover, say that "honor to whom honor is due" should apply in the case in which we are all so much interested; and if the old Fourth did anything creditable, it is my duty and your duty, and every man's duty, to see that she meets not with detraction. In your report of the conduct of the regiment, I deem this may justly take a conspicuous part. I was in all the fight, and I can proudly testify as to the conduct of our regiment, whatever else others may say to the contrary notwithstanding.

I am, sir, with much respect, your obedient servant,

H. B. TEETOR,

Captain, Comdg. Company B, Fourth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry.

Lieut. Col. J. L. PUGH,

Commanding Fourth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry.

No. 182.

Report of Maj. Robert Klein, Third Indiana Cavalry (unattached), including skirmishes at Triune, December 27, and near Overall's Creek, December 31.

HDQRS. THIRD BATTALION, THIRD INDIANA CAVALRY,
Near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 7, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by this battalion in the field since leaving the camp near Nashville, on the 26th ultimo, up to the 3d instant:

The four companies under my command left camp on the 26th, as ordered, and, bringing up the rear of the Second Division, encamped beyond Nolensville.

On the following morning, 27th, having orders, reported to General Stanley, chief of cavalry, who, remarking he "had understood the Third knew how to take these rebels," ordered me to move forward and take the advance of the column of cavalry then moving toward Triune. I succeeded in gaining the advance at about the point where the enemy's outposts were expected to be. I then threw out portions of Company H, Lieutenant Young commanding, on either side of the pike, and, putting out an advance guard, moved smartly down the pike. Our advance soon encountered the enemy in considerable force drawn up in line of battle. The column now moved on to them at a gallop, receiving the whole of their fire into one company (Company G, Captain Herriott), the skirmishers on the flanks not being able to come up for some time, on account of the soft nature of the ground and the fences intervening. Company G held their ground until Company I, Captain Vanosdal, on the right, and Company K, Lieutenant Lieske, on the left, advanced gallantly to the rescue, and, despite superior force, drove them across the narrow valley to a position beyond where their artillery covered them. Here we advanced with the remainder of our cavalry force and drove them from this hill, from which they fell back to Triune. Here

we were ordered by General Stanley, with one company of the Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, to attack the enemy on the right side of the pike. They were posted behind a stone wall, heads only visible, one or more regiments strong. We advanced across the open fields, and were pouring in a steady fire at easy range, when two pieces of artillery on our left, about 500 yards, and two in front, opened on us, obliging us to retire to the cover of the woods from where we advanced. This movement was done promptly, but in good order.

On the following morning my battalion was in advance of the reconnaissance under General Willich; did no fighting, but captured some 16 of the enemy's stragglers. On the Nolensville pike we lost 3 killed and 3 wounded.* We lost also a few horses wounded and disabled, and 1 killed by cannon shot.

On the 29th and 30th nothing worthy of note occurred.

On the morning of the 31st ultimo my battalion was posted with our cavalry force beyond Wilson's Cross-Roads pike, on the right and rear of the Second Division. When our forces first gave way before the overwhelming numbers of the enemy, the efficiency of my battalion was destroyed in being divided by one of our own cavalry regiments running through our ranks and scattering the men. This movement, had it been in the opposite direction, would have been a most gallant charge, and, doubtless, from its determination, an efficient one. We kept falling back, forming and charging at intervals, until forced across to the Murfreesborough pike, where one of my companies was first to form to drive the enemy from our train.

We captured during the retreat 11 of the enemy. One of Company G, Corporal Justice, recaptured our ambulance, containing our surgeon, by shooting down one of its captors and frightening the others away. I regret to say that Corporal Justice was afterward captured.

We were formed near the center of our cavalry, when the enemy, in the afternoon, again attempted to take our train. We participated in the fight and the charge that followed. We lost 1 man on that morning, Private Daniel Gibbons, of General Willich's escort, and 2 others wounded.

On the following days of the fight my battalion was on provost duty.

Our loss sums up: Killed, 4; wounded, 6; missing, 10; captured, 5. Of the missing, doubtless nearly all were captured. Our total loss is 25; horses, 30, and 1 ambulance.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. KLEIN,

Major, Commanding Battalion

Captain BARTLETT,

Captain and Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 183.

Report of Lieut. William S. Hall, adjutant Second Tennessee Cavalry.

CAMP NEAR MURFREESBOROUGH, TENN.,

January 9, 1863.

SIR: In compliance with your request, I have the honor to report the following operations of which the Second East Tennessee Cavalry took an active part in the late battles before Murfreesborough, viz:

On December 27, 1862, while attached to the command of Colonel

* Nominal list omitted.

Stokes, we engaged a strong party of the rebel cavalry southeast of the Nolensville pike, and after a sharp engagement put the enemy to flight.

On the following day, while under the same command, we encountered the enemy near Triune, and, after an obstinate engagement, drove the enemy in the direction of Shelbyville, Tenn., in which engagement we sustained a loss of 4 horses killed, and captured a first lieutenant and 5 privates belonging to the Fiftieth* Alabama Cavalry. The following day we rested near Triune.

The next day, December 29, we started in pursuit, in the direction of Murfreesborough, taking the mountain path, leaving all our wagons behind, with the exception of the ambulances. On the afternoon of said day, being in the advance, we discovered the enemy strongly posted about 6 miles in front of Murfreesborough, near the Murfreesborough pike. We, in connection with the First Cavalry Brigade, came up in line of battle. The enemy not showing a disposition to engage us, we waited the coming up of our infantry and artillery. We remained in that condition until Major-General McCook came up. At dark, by the order of General Stanley, chief of cavalry, we were placed on the extreme right as a picket.

The succeeding day we were skirmishing with the enemy during the entire day.

Our loss was, in killed and wounded, Captain Morris, of Company L, 1 private in Company F, and 5 slightly wounded. Several horses shot under the men.

During the remainder of the battle we were held in readiness, but not actively engaged, with the exception of Sunday. We were sent to the river to protect the railroad bridge, within about 1 mile of Murfreesborough, which was on fire. We had a slight engagement with the enemy's rear guard. No damage sustained.

I am, sir, respectfully,

WM. S. HALL,

Adjutant Second East Tennessee Regiment of Cavalry.

Captain OTIS,
Brigade Commander, U. S. Army.

No. 184.

Report of Capt. Elmer Otis, Fourth U. S. Cavalry, including skirmishes at Overall's Creek, December 31, and on the Manchester pike, January 5.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTH U. S. CAVALRY,
In Camp near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 7, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of the Fourth U. S. Cavalry in the late battles in front of Murfreesborough:

On December 30, the Fourth U. S. Cavalry left camp at Stewart's Creek, leaving the train and baggage under charge of a strong guard, commanded by Lieutenant Rendelbrook. The regiment proceeded to join General Rosecrans on the field of battle, and was drawn up in line of battle in rear of the general's headquarters, but took no immediate part in the action. That day, Company L, commanded by Lieutenant Roys, was detached as General Rosecrans' immediate escort (about 10 o'clock in the morning), and so remains at the present time. Company

* Fifty-first Alabama Partisan Rangers.

M, strengthened by 50 men detailed from Companies B, C, D, G, I, and K, commanded by Lieutenant L'Hommedieu, proceeded to establish a courier line from General Rosecrans' headquarters to La Vergne, and so remained, doing good service, until relieved January 4, 1863. These details left me with only six small companies, numbering in the aggregate 260 men, rank and file.

On the morning of the 31st, Colonel Garesché informed me that rebel cavalry were appearing on the right flank of the line of battle, and ordered me to proceed with the Fourth U. S. Cavalry to look after them. This must have been between 7 and 8 o'clock in the morning. I crossed the Murfreesborough pike, and drew up the six companies in line of battle in the following way: Each company was in column of fours, led by the company commanders; the companies on a line parallel to each other, company distance apart according to the following diagram, leading the center myself:



This was owing to the wooded country and fences that were obstructions to the ordinary line of battle. Proceeding to the right of the line, I found our entire right flank had given way. Learning from some men of General Davis' division the position of the enemy's cavalry, I made a turn to the right, moving about one-quarter of a mile, and discovered the enemy. I came out of a piece of timber I was in, and, getting over the fence rapidly, charged the enemy with my entire command, completely routing them, with the exception of two pieces of artillery, supported by about 125 cavalry, stationed between my right and the Murfreesborough and Nashville pike, who were not at first discovered. I rallied my men again, and, while rallying, I saw about 300 of the volunteer cavalry on my right. I rode over to them, and asked them to charge the artillery with me and the few men I had rallied to take the pieces. The officer replied that he was placed there to protect a train, and would not charge with me. I have no doubt I could have taken the artillery. Before I could get my command rallied the artillery moved off. About the time I had got my men rallied I received an order from General Rosecrans to proceed to the Nashville and Murfreesborough pike as soon as possible. I did so immediately. I have since thought that the general did not know my position, or he would have allowed me to follow up the enemy. I was much nearer the pike than I thought I was. I saw no more of the enemy's cavalry on the pike that morning.

In this charge I cannot speak in too high terms of the officers and men. Every man charged and kept in position, taking over 100 prisoners of the enemy and releasing a large number of our own captured men. More redounds to their credit, considering that a large majority are recruits from volunteer infantry, and only some five days drilled and mounted. Two companies of infantry were released in a body.

The train on the pike, I have since learned, was in possession of the enemy, with a large number of stragglers, who were being disarmed at the time. These stragglers did nothing at all to protect the wagons, scarcely firing a shot. From prisoners taken I have learned that the Fourth U. S. Cavalry charged at this time an entire brigade of cavalry, and routed them to such an extent that they disappeared from the field at that point entirely.

Later in the day I sent 79 prisoners in one body to the Tenth Ohio

formed our first line this a. m., 4 miles from Murfreesborough. The cavalry we kept back with the greatest ease, but finally they brought up several regiments of infantry in line of battle, colors flying, with cavalry on the flanks and artillery placed in a favorable position. By this means they succeeded in driving us 2 miles. The last attack was 5 miles from Murfreesborough, the shock of which was sufficiently great to prevent them from making any farther advance to-night. We must have killed and wounded a great many of them. Our loss, 6 or 7 wounded, including my aide, Lieutenant Wailes. My adjutant, Lieutenant Burford, was slightly wounded yesterday by a shell. I shall have no difficulty in keeping back the enemy from Bellbuckle for several days, if General Wharton succeeds in keeping them back on the Shelbyville pike. Of course, it will take more time to reach Wartrace and Shelbyville.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOS. WHEELER,

Brigadier-General and Chief of Cavalry.

Lieutenant-General POLK.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY,

Near Posterville, Tenn., January 26, 1863.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report that my command—consisting of the First Alabama Cavalry, Colonel [William W.] Allen; Third Alabama, Major [F. Y.] Gaines; Fifty-first Alabama, Colonel [John T.] Morgan; Eighth Confederate, Colonel [W. B.] Wade, and two Tennessee battalions, under Majors [D. W.] Holman and DeWitt C. Douglass, together with [Capt. J. H.] Wiggins' battery—was, on the 26th ultimo, stationed at Stewart's Creek, on the Murfreesborough and Nashville pike, and about 10 miles northwest of Murfreesborough. My line of vedettes, forming a continuous line, extended from a point east of Stone's River, on my right, crossing the Nashville and Murfreesborough pike about 10 miles from Nashville, and extending to a point about half way from said pike to Brentwood, the posts of the pickets and grand guards being at favorable positions on the avenues of approach and at points varying from 300 to 1,000 yards in rear of the line of vedettes. General Pegram's brigade was stationed on the right and General Wharton's brigade on the left of my line.

About 7 o'clock on the morning of December 26, [1862,] the enemy advanced in large force, driving in our vedettes. On arriving at the front and seeing the extent of the movement, I ordered up the entire command and deployed it in line of battle. We engaged the enemy during the entire day, falling back about 3 miles. We also engaged the enemy during the 28th and 29th ultimo, killing and wounding large numbers, meeting but very slight losses ourselves.

By the evening of the 29th we had reached the line of battle of our infantry and had placed my brigade on the extreme right of the line.

At midnight, pursuant to orders from General Bragg, I proceeded with my command, re-enforced by Colonel [James E.] Carter's regiment, to the enemy's rear.

By daylight on the 30th we had reached Jefferson, and soon after met a brigade train, with all the equipage of one brigade. We attacked vigorously, drove off the guards, and destroyed the train, baggage, equipage, &c., also capturing about 50 prisoners. We then proceeded toward La Vergne, and captured a party of Federals out stealing and gathering stock, and soon after overtook and captured a small foraging train.

About noon we arrived in the vicinity of La Vergne and found it filled with soldiers and large trains parked in the fields surrounding the place. We immediately charged in three columns, completely surprising the guards, who made but slight resistance. We immediately paroled the prisoners, amounting to about 700, and destroyed immense trains and stores, amounting to many hundred thousands of dollars. We then proceeded to Rock Spring, attacked, captured, and destroyed another large train. We then marched on Nolensville without opposition, capturing large trains, stores, and arms, and about 300 prisoners. We slept for a few hours 5 miles from Nolensville, and at 2 o'clock the next morning proceeded to the left flank of our army, having made a complete circuit of the enemy's rear. On arriving the line was engaged. We pressed on and attacked enemy on the Murfreesborough and Nashville pike, just north of Overall's Creek. After a brisk engagement we moved across the creek and made an attack on the enemy at that point, driving him for 2 miles and successfully engaging him until dark, when we fell back to the left of our line, where we remained during the night.

In this latter engagement Colonel Allen and Lieutenant-Colonel [James D.] Webb were wounded.

Early on the morning of January 1, I proceeded, pursuant to directions from General Bragg, with my own and General Wharton's brigade, to the rear of the enemy. We attacked a large train near La Vergne, dispersing its guards, and captured and destroyed a large number of wagons and stores. We also captured one piece of artillery. Toward evening we received orders to return, and we regained our positions on the flanks of the army by 2 o'clock on the morning of the 2d instant. We remained in position that night and next day, engaging the enemy at every opportunity.

At 9 o'clock that evening I proceeded again to the rear of the enemy, according to directions from General Bragg, and succeeded next morning in capturing a number of horses, wagons, and prisoners. About 2 p. m. we attacked a large ordnance train at Cox's Hill, heavily guarded by cavalry and infantry, and succeeded in driving off the cavalry guards and in breaking down and upsetting a large number of wagons. The enemy's infantry being in such force (quite treble our numbers), we were prevented from destroying the train, but succeeded in preventing its making any further progress that day. By this time we received orders to immediately return to the army, which order was obeyed, we reaching our former position on the left flank of our army about 4 o'clock next morning. We here learned that the army had fallen back, and about 9 o'clock that morning we crossed Stone's River and took position in front of Murfreesborough.

About 3 p. m. the enemy advanced to the river and commenced a brisk skirmish with artillery and infantry. After dark the enemy retired a short distance, and our pickets in front of Murfreesborough were unmolested during the night.

At daylight on Monday, the 4th [5th] instant, we fell back to a point on the Manchester pike about 3 miles from Murfreesborough. About 1 o'clock the enemy advanced, and after a short skirmish we fell back half a mile to a favorable position. Here we formed line of battle in conjunction with General Pegram's brigade, in a very favorable position, behind fences, entirely obscured from view. About 3 o'clock the enemy advanced with a brigade of infantry and artillery in line of battle, with heavy force of cavalry on their flanks. When they arrived within about 250 yards, we opened on them a heavy fire of small-arms and artillery with excellent effect, killing and wounding large numbers. After an

engagement of about thirty minutes they turned off and left the field, and have not since advanced any farther from Murfreesborough on this road.

During the many engagements incident to the battle of Murfreesborough, I take pleasure in commending the gallantry and good soldierly conduct of Colonel Allen, Captain [V. M.] Elmore, and Lieutenant [Edward S.] Ledyard, of the First Alabama, and Major [C. J.] Prentice and Captain [Richard] McCann, who commanded detachments. Colonel Allen and Major Prentice were severely wounded while fighting gallantly.

Lieutenants [E. S.] Burford and [William E.] Wailes, of my staff, were at all times distinguished for gallantry, zeal, and efficiency, and were both wounded.

Very respectfully, colonel, your obedient servant,
JOS. WHEELER,

Major-General and Chief of Cavalry.

Col. GEORGE WILLIAM BRENT,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY, DEPARTMENT No. 2,
 January 29, 1863.

COLONEL: I have the honor to state that the cavalry of Lieutenant-General Hardee's corps, under my command, engaged the enemy as they advanced upon the Nashville and Murfreesborough pike, and on the adjoining approaches, from the morning of the 26th ultimo to the evening of the 29th. At midnight on the night of the 29th ultimo I proceeded with the command across the West Fork of Stone's River, by way of the Lebanon road, hence by a circuitous route to Jefferson, where, at about 9 a. m. on the 30th, we attacked, captured, and destroyed an entire brigade train. We then proceeded toward La Vergne, capturing a party sent out after horses and mules, and also a foraging party. We attacked La Vergne about 1 p. m., capturing about 500 prisoners, 200 stand of arms, and the reserve wagon trains of the enemy; the wagons were destroyed. We then proceeded to Rock Spring, capturing a brigade train, which we destroyed, with its equipage. We then proceeded to Nolensville, capturing a train and about 200 prisoners and 200 stand of arms.

We then made a circuit around Triune, and the next morning attacked the enemy, stationed on the Nashville and Murfreesborough pike north of Overall's Creek. We then moved down toward Murfreesborough, and again attacked them south of Overall's Creek, driving the enemy for a distance of 2 miles from the Wilkinson pike to the Nashville pike, engaging their infantry and cavalry until dark. We then withdrew to our position on the left of our wing. At daylight we proceeded again to La Vergne, in the enemy's rear, attacked a large train, burned several wagons, and captured many prisoners. We then received orders to return to the army, where we arrived at about 2 o'clock the next morning, and placed our pickets out to the front. We remained in this position until dark, when we moved again to Antioch, capturing a few wagons, and at about 3 p. m. attacked a large train on Cox's Hill. After capturing the train, and injuring some of the wagons, four regiments of infantry attacked us, and we were obliged to retire. I then received orders to return, and arrived at my old stand, on the left of our wing, at about 4 o'clock on Sunday morning, January 3 [4]. As our army had retired, I moved over the river and remained in Murfreesborough that

day. Toward evening I skirmished with the enemy and withdrew my pickets 3 miles at daylight the next morning.

At 3 p. m. Monday, the enemy advanced and engaged us warmly. The enemy did not advance any farther.

On January 8, I moved over to the Cumberland, and a detachment, under Captain [Richard] McCann, destroyed the railroad bridge over Mill Creek and a construction train.

On the 12th, we drove in a large foraging party to Nashville, and on the 13th and 14th we captured a gunboat and four transports. We also destroyed a large amount of stores at Ashland, which the enemy had left under guard, but the guard ran off as we approached. Many other transports threw off a great part of their cargo to avoid capture.

On the 25th, we captured a construction train near Antioch.

A detachment, under Major [D. W.] Holman, captured another transport on the 17th.

Respectfully, colonel, your obedient servant,
JOS. WHEELER,

Major-General.

Col. T. B. ROY, *Chief of Staff.*

No. 302.

Report of Capt. T. H. Mauldin, Third Alabama Cavalry, Wheeler's brigade, including skirmishes December 26-January 5.

FOSTERVILLE, TENN.,
 February 19, 1863.

COLONEL: The Third Alabama Cavalry was engaged in skirmishing with the enemy on December 26, 27, 28, and 29, 1862, from La Vergne to Murfreesborough, Tenn.

On the 30th, was present at a skirmish near Jefferson, La Vergne, and Nolensville.

On the 31st, was in a charge made by the cavalry upon the right of the Federal army, where it was subjected to a heavy fire of small-arms from infantry and cavalry, losing, however, but 1 man killed and 2 lieutenants and 2 men wounded and left on the field.

On January 1 and 2, the regiment was in front of the enemy upon the extreme left of the Confederate army without any fighting.

On the night of the 2d, it marched to the rear of the Federal army, and on the 3d was engaged in an attack upon one of the enemy's wagon trains, upon the Nashville and Murfreesborough turnpike, and returned to the field of battle near Murfreesborough about an hour before day the morning of the 4th.

During the day of the 4th, this regiment moved through Murfreesborough, and bivouacked at night about 2 miles from town, on the Manchester turnpike.

On the 5th, was engaged in a fight with some of the Federal infantry 6 miles from Murfreesborough, on the Manchester pike.

This ended the series of battles and skirmishes from December 25, 1862, to January 5, 1863, in which the regiment was engaged.

During this time the regiment lost, in killed, wounded, and missing, 25, including 3 lieutenants wounded.

I would respectfully report that on the memorable field of Murfreesborough, Sergt. Maj. H. M. Cooper and Sergt. J. W. Norwood, of Company A, are worthy of promotion for their gallantry in rallying the regiment and assisting in bringing it out in order from under a galling fire from the enemy's infantry and cavalry combined on December 31, 1862.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. H. MAULDIN,

Captain, Commanding Third Alabama Cavalry.

Col. W. B. WADE,

Commanding First Cavalry Brigade.

No. 303.

Report of Lieut. Col. J. D. Webb, Fifty-first Alabama Partisan Rangers including skirmishes December 26-January 5.

OLD FOSTERVILLE, TENN., February 23, 1863.

In obedience to General Orders, No. 6, in the absence of Col. John T. Morgan, Fifty-first Alabama Regiment, Partisan Rangers, who was in command on the occasion of which report is to be made, I beg leave to submit the following:

On Friday evening, December 26 [ultimo], the regiment left their camp on Stewart's Creek, on the Murfreesborough and Nashville turnpike, and promptly reported to the general commanding at La Vergne, which is a distance of 5 miles from the camp. They were ordered to the right of the railroad and to the front of La Vergne. The command was dismounted to fight, and soon became engaged along the line with the sharpshooters and skirmishers of the enemy's infantry, as also their advanced guard, on the left of their line. This was kept up steadily on both sides until the order was given to fall back, to take a position nearer the turnpike, and to be in supporting distance of the artillery. The order was executed in good order. They then formed a line of battle, the right resting on the turnpike and extending near to the railroad. The enemy did not pursue. Night came on, and the regiment remained in line of battle until 10 o'clock. They were ordered to return to camp.

In this skirmish we lost 1 private of Company C, supposed to be captured and not killed; 1 private from Company D, known to be captured.

At early dawn on Saturday, the 27th, was ordered to the front. They were again ordered to take position in advance of the ground on which they were formed the evening before. Soon after reaching the position we were again engaged with the enemy's left, advancing in line of battle under cover of his artillery, throwing grape and shell. We continued the engagement until our artillery was forced to retire on the pike, when we fell back slowly to the right of and along the Jefferson pike, in the direction of the town of Jefferson. Heavy rain commenced to fall and continued for several hours. When the command had reached the Jefferson pike, and near the residence of Mr. York, Captain [N. D.] Johnson, of Company F, with his company, was ordered to go in the direction of Buchanan's Mill on a scout; and Lieutenant [J. J.] Seawell, in command of Company I, with his company, was ordered, too, as a scouting party in the direction of La Vergne, neither of whom joined the regiment again that day. In a few minutes after each of these com-

panies left, in obedience to orders, a large force of cavalry, accompanied by artillery and infantry, advanced on the Jefferson pike, and commenced a heavy and brisk firing upon us as we were crossing Stewart's [Creek], where the Jefferson pike crosses that stream. Their fire was returned with vigor, and their advance checked until their artillery and infantry came up. Being heavily pressed by greatly superior numbers, and opened upon by their artillery with grape, canister, and shell vigorously, we retired in good order on the pike in the direction of Jefferson.

While the enemy were pressing our rear, after crossing Stewart's Creek, in this engagement, the conduct of Capt. M. L. Kirkpatrick, Company H; Capt. L. W. Battle, Company B; Lieut. William [M.] Fitt, Company G, deserves especial mention in rallying their men and leading them in a charge on the enemy's cavalry.

Justice requires that the name of James W. Copiley, of Company I (who was then and is now acting ordnance sergeant for this regiment), should be mentioned for his gallantry and daring at the head of the column in this charge.

The gallant and brave Lieut. William [M.] Fitt, Company G, was killed; Private Holey, of Company G, and Private Urley, of Company K, were killed; Lieutenant [John O.] Zeigler, of Company B, and 2 privates of Company G, were wounded. Lieutenant [J. J.] Seawell, with 12 of his company, were captured. We are informed by those of his command who made their escape that they are almost certain that he with those of his men who were captured, were wounded. They saw several of their horses fall.

The coolness and bravery of Orderly Sergt. H. Clay Reynolds, of Company I, distinguished him while he brought off several of his company under a heavy fire in crossing Stewart's Creek, [and] rejoined his command. His conduct commends him for special mention. The regiment bivouacked that night on Stone's River without rations.

On the morning of the 28th, we formed line of battle to the right of the Nashville turnpike, 8 miles from Murfreesborough, and opposite to a church on the pike. We occupied the position until nightfall, and, with the exception of slight skirmishing with the enemy's pickets, were not engaged. We bivouacked for the night opposite to Miller's, near the pike.

On the morning of the 29th, we advanced on the pike and again formed line of battle on the ground of the day before, and remained until we were ordered to fall back to the left and along the turnpike in the direction of Murfreesborough, skirmishing with the enemy's advance forces from that point until we entered our infantry lines, drawn up in front of Murfreesborough in line of battle, which was late in the afternoon of that day, being the whole distance under the fire of the enemy, both artillery and small-arms.

After reaching our infantry lines we were ordered to form a line of battle, our left extending toward and within a short distance of the Lebanon turnpike, about 2 miles from Murfreesborough. We remained there until 12 o'clock that night. We then took up the march and proceeded down that pike, crossing Stone's River, until we reached the Jefferson pike, and proceeded on that pike in the direction of Jefferson until daylight; then, turning to the right, continued the march until we encountered the enemy on Tuesday morning. This regiment remained to support the artillery, and were not actively engaged with the enemy at this point.

At 2 o'clock on that day the regiment charged at La Vergne a train

of wagons parked on the plains; captured 36 wagons laden with ammunition, commissary and quartermaster's stores, which were burned; the teams of mules and horses attached to them, 8 or 10 wagons, and 50 prisoners. After which they proceeded to Nolensville, and, with other commands of this brigade, captured 20 wagons, 50 prisoners, the teams of horses and mules, late in the afternoon of that day. From thence they proceeded in a westerly direction for 6 or 8 miles and bivouacked for the night.

Before daylight on Wednesday morning, the 31st, we were ordered to march, and at 2 o'clock on that day, on the Wilkinson pike, engaged in skirmishing with the infantry of the enemy's right in front of Murfreesborough. The engagement was kept up until nightfall.

In this engagement Lieutenant-Colonel Webb was struck on the forehead by a fragment of a shell; 1 private of Company A wounded; 4 privates of Company B wounded; Company D, 1 private wounded; Company H, 1 private; Company F, 3 privates; Company E, 1 private.

Again on January 1, 1863, we engaged the enemy at La Vergne, on the left of the pike, facing toward Murfreesborough, for nearly one hour. They were well posted on an eminence behind houses, a train of wagons parked, and fences. The contest for the time was very warm. We captured some 15 or 20 prisoners, 5 or 6 wagons, destroyed some 8 or 10 wagons laden with army stores, and carried off the teams of mules. We held our position until we were ordered to retire.

The casualties were—Company C, 1 sergeant wounded; Company D, 1 private; Company E, 2 privates; Company F, 1 private; Company G, 1 private; Company H, 2 privates; Company I, 1 private; Company K, 1 private killed and 2 wounded. We returned to a place on the Nashville and Shelbyville dirt road, and at 2 o'clock in the morning halted to rest.

Friday morning, the 2d, we were ordered to march, and proceeded to the point on the Wilkinson pike where we engaged the enemy on the afternoon of the 31st. We remained drawn up in line of battle until after sunset that evening, when we were ordered to proceed down the Wilkinson pike several miles, and, turning on a dirt road, marched until a late hour in the night. We were halted and ordered to rest.

At daylight the next morning (the 3d) we were ordered to remount, and proceeded to Antioch Church. At that point we were ordered to proceed to the Nashville and Murfreesborough pike, at or near Blood's, which is within 8 miles of Nashville. We reached the point designated about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and soon became engaged in a skirmish with the enemy, which was kept up for half an hour, when orders were received from General Wheeler to withdraw and return by Antioch Church and join him. We did so, and after a toilsome march we halted at the place from which we moved on Friday evening, and bivouacked until morning.

On Monday morning, the 4th, about sunrise, we crossed Stone's River and proceeded on the Manchester pike 3 miles. We halted and remained there until the next morning, when we were again ordered to march. We advanced on that pike for 4 miles farther, where we halted until the afternoon, when we [were] ordered to return on the pike some 3 miles. We were ordered to dismount to fight, and formed on the right of the pike facing Murfreesborough, and soon became engaged with the enemy's cavalry, who advanced under cover of their artillery, firing grape and shell. We checked their advance and kept up a brisk engagement until artillery retired on the pike, before a greatly superior force, with the following casualties: Company B, 1 private wounded; Company C, 2

wounded; Company E, 1 wounded; Company G, 1, mortally; Company H, 1 wounded; Company K, 1 killed. That night we bivouacked on the Manchester pike, 8 miles from Murfreesborough.

On the morning of the 6th, we moved slowly down the pike to Beech Grove, where we remained, and bivouacked until Friday, the 9th, at which time we set out on the march for the Cumberland River.

On each of the occasions mentioned the officers and men behaved with such coolness and bravery as to show that they could be relied on in an hour of danger or peril—not to be dismayed by unequal numbers and superior equipments.

I regret the absence of Colonel Morgan in making this report, as I had not expected to be called on to do so, and kept no memorandum from which to prepare a more accurate account or detailed report. The surgeon of the regiment has provided the list of the casualties mentioned.

Respectfully submitted.

J. D. WEBB,

Lieut. Col., Comdg. Fifty-first Alabama Regt. Partisan Rangers.

No. 304.

Report of Capt. J. H. Wiggins, Arkansas battery, including skirmishes at La Vergne December 26-27.

FEBRUARY 19, 1863.

In compliance with General Orders, No. 6, I have the honor to submit the following report of the part borne by Wiggins' battery in the fights before Murfreesborough:

On the evening of December 26, [1862,] the enemy advanced upon La Vergne, and one section of the battery was advanced, under Lieutenant [J. W.] Calloway, to engage the enemy. During the engagement that evening we lost 3 horses and had 2 men wounded. That night the section under Lieutenant Calloway retired about a mile, and one section under Lieutenant [J. P.] Bryant was left in La Vergne on picket.

On the morning of the 27th; Lieutenant Calloway, with his section, was ordered to the front to engage the enemy again, while Lieutenant Bryant, with his section, was posted on a hill to the left of the pike and in rear of La Vergne, to relieve the retreat of Lieutenant Calloway. The battery retired to Stewart's Creek that evening, engaging the enemy by sections alternately. Loss that day, one horse. One section, under Lieutenant Bryant, was left on picket at Stewart's Creek until Monday morning, the rest of the battery retiring farther to the rear.

On Monday, the 29th, we retired to our lines in front of Murfreesborough, firing in the same manner as at Stewart's Creek, and moved with the command to the right and encamped until midnight, when, in compliance with orders from General Wheeler, took Lieutenant Calloway with a section of guns and moved with the command on the Lebanon pike and north of Old Jefferson, where a camp of the enemy was attacked, and the battery fired about a dozen rounds; then moved on with the command by way of La Vergne and Nolensville, but had no other engagement until Wednesday evening, when the enemy was attacked and the battery engaged two hours. Lost 1 man wounded, 1 horse killed, and several horses wounded.

On Wednesday (31st), one piece of the section which was left behind was taken out by Lieutenant Bryant, by order of General Bragg, with