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.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1887.

CAVALRY.

Brig. Gen. DAVID S. STANLEY.

CAVALRY DIVISION.

Col. JOHN KENNETT.

First Brigade.

Col. ROBERT H. G. MINTY.

2d Indiana, Company M, Capt. J. A. S. Mitchell.
3d Kentucky, Col. Eli H. Murray.
4th Michigan, Lieut. Col. William H. Dickinson.
7th Pennsylvania, Maj. John E. Wynkoop.

Second Brigade.

Col. LEWIS ZAHM.

1st Ohio:
Col. Minor Milliken.
Maj. James Laughlin.
3d Ohio, Lieut. Col. Douglas A. Murray
4th Ohio, Maj. John L. Pugh.

Artillery.

1st Ohio, Battery D (section), Lieut. Nathaniel M. Newell.

RESERVE CAVALRY.*

15th Pennsylvania:
Maj. Adolph G. Rosengarten.
Maj. Frank B. Ward.
Capt. Alfred Vezin.
1st Middle (5th) Tennessee, Col. William B. Stokes.
2d Tennessee, Col. Daniel M. Ray.

UNATTACHED.

4th U. S. Cavalry, Capt. Elmer Otis.

MISCELLANEOUS.

PIONEER BRIGADE.

Capt. JAMES ST. C. MORTON.

1st Battalion, Capt. Lyman Bridges.
2d Battalion, Capt. Calvin Hood.
3d Battalion, Capt. Robert Clements.
Illinois Light Artillery, Stokes' battery, Capt. James H. Stokes.

ENGINEERS AND MECHANICS.

1st Michigan, Col. William P. Innes.

POST OF GALLATIN, TENN.†

Brig. Gen. ELEAZER A. PAINE.

Ward's (late Eighth) Brigade.

Brig. Gen. WILLIAM T. WARD.

102d Illinois, Lieut. Col. Frank C. Smith.
105th Illinois, Lieut. Col. Henry F. Vallette.
70th Indiana, Col. Benjamin Harrison.
79th Ohio, Col. Henry G. Kennett.
Indiana Light Artillery, 13th Battery, Capt. Benjamin S. Nicklin.

Cavalry.

1st Kentucky, Col. Frank Wolford.
7th Kentucky, Lieut. Col. John K. Faulkner.
11th Kentucky, Lieut. Col. William E. Riley.

* Under the immediate command of General Stanley, Chief of Cavalry.
† Not engaged at Stone's River. Commanders given as they stood December 31, 1862.

No. 2.

Reports of Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans, U. S. Army, commanding Army of the Cumberland, with congratulatory resolutions, orders, &c.

LA VERGNE, TENN., *December* 28,
By messenger to Louisville, Ky., December 31, 1862—noon.

Our advance was delayed one day. The right wing, under McCook, drove Hardee's skirmishers 18 miles down the Nolensville pike, and advanced on Triune for battle. A heavy fog delayed this advance, and gave Hardee time to escape toward Murfreesborough. Our left wing drove the enemy on the main Murfreesborough turnpike with heavy skirmishing, and seized all the bridges over Stewart's Creek last night, by dark. Our total loss on both lines does not exceed 20 killed, 100 wounded, and 10 missing. We have some 50 prisoners. Our center crossed from Nolensville yesterday and to-day, and now occupy the north side of Stewart's Creek, 10 miles from Murfreesborough—the right at Triune. Pursuing division went 7 miles toward Shelbyville. We have report from Murfreesborough to 10 o'clock yesterday. All his right wing, closed in, came toward Stewart's Creek. If, under Kentucky and Tennessee influence or orders, they fight as they propose, I think we are in position, by God's help, to win, and McCook will cut off their retreat.

W. S. ROSECRANS,
Major-General.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief.

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GENERAL ORDERS, No. —. HDQRS. DEPT. OF THE CUMBERLAND, *In front of Murfreesborough, December* 31, 1862.

The general commanding desires to say to the soldiers of the Army of the Cumberland that he was well pleased with their conduct yesterday; it is all he could have wished for; he neither saw nor heard of any skulking; they behaved with the coolness and gallantry of veterans. He now feels perfectly confident, with God's grace and their help, of striking this day a blow for the country the most crushing, perhaps, which the rebellion has yet sustained.

Soldiers, the eyes of the whole nation are upon you; the very fate of the nation may be said to hang on the issue of this day's battle. Be true, then, to yourselves, true to your own manly character and soldierly reputation, true to the love of your dear ones at home, whose prayers ascend to God this day for your success.

Be cool! I need not ask you to be brave. Keep ranks. Do not throw away your fire. Fire slowly, deliberately; above all, fire low, and be always sure of your aim. Close steadily in upon the enemy, and, when you get within charging distance, rush on him with the bayonet. Do this, and the victory will certainly be yours. Recollect that there are hardly any troops in the world that will stand a bayonet charge, and that those who make it, therefore, are sure to win.

By command of Maj. Gen. W. S. Rosecrans:

J. P. GARESCHÉ,
Assistant Adjutant-General and Chief of Staff.

Return of casualties in the Union forces, &c.—Continued.

Command.	Killed.		Wounded.		Captured or missing.		Aggregate.
	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	
Artillery.							
Capt. GEORGE R. SWALLOW.							
Indiana Light Artillery, 7th Battery	.....	4	1	7	.....	.....	12
Pennsylvania Light Artillery, Battery B (Twenty-sixth)	.....	2	.....	7	.....	.....	9
Wisconsin Light Artillery, 3d Battery	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	4
Total artillery	.....	6	1	18	.....	.....	25
Total Third Division	15	215	60	931	5	461	1,687
Total Left Wing	42	608	171	2,840	11	862	4,534
CAVALRY.							
Brig. Gen. DAVID S. STANLEY.							
CAVALRY DIVISION.							
Col. JOHN KENNETT.							
First Brigade.							
Col. ROBERT H. G. MINTY.							
4th Indiana, Company M	.....	1	.....	.....	1	13	15
3d Kentucky	.....	1	1	7	.....	1	10
4th Michigan	.....	1	1	6	.....	12	20
7th Pennsylvania	.....	2	.....	9	.....	50	61
Total First Brigade	.....	5	2	22	1	76	106
Second Brigade.							
Col. LEWIS ZAHM.							
1st Ohio	3	2	1	10	1	14	31
3d Ohio	.....	6	.....	15	.....	13	34
4th Ohio	.....	7	.....	18	.....	31	56
Total Second Brigade	3	15	1	43	1	58	121
Artillery.							
1st Ohio Light Artillery, Battery D (section)	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Total Cavalry Division	3	21	3	65	2	134	228
*Reserve Cavalry.**							
15th Pennsylvania	1	8	1	8	.....	53	71
1st Middle (5th) Tennessee	.....	.....	1	5	1	8	15
2d Tennessee	1	2	.....	10	.....	5	18
Total Reserve Cavalry	2	10	2	23	1	66	104
Unattached.							
4th United States	.....	3	1	9	.....	12	25
Total Cavalry	5	34	6	97	3	212	357
PIONEER BRIGADE.							
Capt. JAMES ST. C. MORTON.							
1st Battalion	.....	4	3	5	.....	.....	12
2d Battalion	.....	4	.....	5	.....	.....	9

* Under the immediate command of General Stanley, chief of cavalry.

Return of casualties in the Union forces, &c.—Continued.

Command.	Killed.		Wounded.		Captured or missing.		Aggregate.
	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	
PIONEER BRIGADE—Continued.							
3d Battalion	.....	4	.....	10	.....	.....	14
Illinois Light Artillery, Stokes' battery	.....	3	1	9	.....	.....	13
Total Pioneer Brigade	.....	15	4	29	.....	.....	48
1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics	.....	2	.....	9	.....	5	16
Total Engineers and Mechanics	.....	2	.....	9	.....	5	16

RECAPITULATION.

General headquarters	1	3	2	3	.....	.....	9
Right Wing	35	641	121	2,700	26	2,084	5,607
Left Wing	42	608	171	2,840	11	862	4,534
Center	17	327	101	1,719	4	510	2,678
Cavalry	5	34	6	97	3	212	357
Pioneer Brigade	.....	15	4	29	.....	.....	48
Engineers and Mechanics	.....	2	.....	9	.....	5	16
Grand total	100	1,630	405	7,397	44	3,673	13,249

OFFICERS KILLED.

Brig. Gen. Joshua W. Sill.
Lieut. Col. Julius P. Garesché, assistant adjutant-general.

ILLINOIS.

Capt. Knowlton H. Chandler, 19th Infantry.
Lieut. Joseph C. Alvord, 21st Infantry.
Lieut. Emanuel M. Weigle, 21st Infantry.
Col. Thomas D. Williams, 25th Infantry.
Col. Fazilo A. Harrington, 27th Infantry.
Capt. Mabry G. Greenwood, 34th Infantry.
Lieut. John M. Smith, 34th Infantry.
Lieut. Soren L. Olson, 36th Infantry.
Capt. James P. Mead, 38th Infantry.
Lieut. John L. Dillon, 38th Infantry.
Col. George W. Roberts (commanding brigade), 42d Infantry.
Lieut. Julius Lettman, 42d Infantry.
Capt. Andrew J. Hosmer, 44th Infantry.
Lieut. John S. Keith, 51st Infantry.
Capt. Edwin Alsop, 73d Infantry.
Lieut. Col. Sheridan P. Read, 79th Infantry.
Lieut. Luther T. Ball, 84th Infantry.
Lieut. Henry E. Abercrombie, 84th Infantry.
Lieut. Thomas F. W. Gullich, 88th Infantry.
Capt. Henry S. Willett, 89th Infantry.
Lieut. Morris Worthingham, 100th Infantry.
Lieut. Jesse G. Payne, 110th Infantry.

INDIANA.

Lieut. Henry Kessler, 9th Infantry.
Capt. Robert J. Templeton, 15th Infantry.
Capt. Joel W. Foster, 15th Infantry.
Capt. Frank Stebbins, 29th Infantry.
Lieut. Edwin B. Stribley, 30th Infantry.
Capt. Abram D. Shultz, 36th Infantry.
Capt. James H. King, 36th Infantry.
Lieut. Isaac N. Abernethy, 37th Infantry.
Lieut. Jesse B. Holman, 37th Infantry.
Capt. James E. Fouts, 38th Infantry.
Lieut. Francis B. Blackford, 58th Infantry.
Capt. Miles H. Tibbits, 73d Infantry.
Capt. Peter Doyle, 73d Infantry.
Lieut. Benjamin T. Poynter, 79th Infantry.
Lieut. William M. Morgan, 81st Infantry.
Lieut. George W. Smith, 86th Infantry.

7, and scattering the rebel cavalry by his well and timely aimed shots. He has on several occasions displayed talents of the first order as an artillerist. It would not be amiss to state at this time that my entire command were short of rations, performing duty night and day in the wet fields, without shelter, exposed to the wet, cold, and hunger without a murmur.

Major Paramore, of the Third Ohio, displayed great presence of mind and determination in maintaining his position on the right flank with his battalion to cover an ammunition train long after the cavalry on his right had been driven away by the enemy's shells. I annex his report, all of which I respectfully submit for your review.

Your obedient servant,

JNO. KENNETT,
Colonel, Commanding First Cavalry Division.

Capt. W. H. SINCLAIR.

No. 167.

Report of Lieut. Nathaniel M. Newell, Battery D, First Ohio Light Artillery, of skirmishes near La Vergne and Stewart's Creek, December 26–January 1.

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY D, FIRST OHIO ARTILLERY,
Camp near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 12, 1863.

LIEUTENANT: December 26, 1862, Colonel Kennett ordered me to move with the First Brigade, Colonel Minty, from camp, near Nashville, on Murfreesborough pike, toward La Vergne. Two miles from La Vergne we came upon a body of Confederate cavalry, and went into action, dispersing them after firing 4 rounds. We then moved forward a mile; we there took position on the pike and opened fire on a section of rebel artillery, distant about a mile. I fired 60 rounds, losing, during the action, 1 man killed—Private F. T. Coffin—and 1 horse disabled. I then moved into a field on the right of the pike and opened fire. The enemy retired from their position to the left and rear. I then moved to the left of the pike, and took position near a small church, from which position we fired until dark, silencing the enemy after a few rounds. That night I encamped with the brigade on the right of the pike and 1 mile back.

From the night of December 26 to the morning of January 1, I occupied different positions in and around La Vergne and Stewart's Creek.

On January 1, moved from Stewart's Creek to La Vergne with Colonel Dickinson, of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry, to re-enforce Colonel Innes, of the First Michigan Engineers and Mechanics, stationed near La Vergne. About 1 mile from that place I found Wheeler's rebel cavalry on the left of the pike. I went into action and drove them from the field, and then joined Colonel Innes' command, with whom I remained until the 9th instant.

On the 9th instant received orders to report to General Stanley, chief of cavalry, and by him was ordered to report to Colonel Kennett, and am now in camp on Manchester pike, near First Cavalry Brigade.

Very respectfully,

N. M. NEWELL,
Lieutenant, Commanding Battery D, First Ohio Artillery.

Lieut. M. B. CHAMBERLIN,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, First Cavalry Division.

No. 168.

Report of Col. Robert H. G. Minty, Fourth Michigan Cavalry, commanding First Brigade, including skirmishes at La Vergne, December 26, between Stewart's Creek and La Vergne, December 30, at Overall's Creek, December 31, and on Manchester pike, January 5.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST CAVALRY BRIGADE,
Camp near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 7, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to hand you the following report of the part taken by the First Brigade, First Division of the Cavalry Reserve, in the operations from the advance from Nashville to and including the battles before Murfreesborough:

I marched from Camp Rosecrans, near Nashville, on the morning of the 26th ultimo, with the Third Kentucky, Fourth Michigan, Seventh Pennsylvania, and one company of the Second Indiana, and reported to General Palmer, on the Murfreesborough road. In accordance with orders received from him through the colonel commanding the division, I placed the Third Kentucky on the left and the Seventh Pennsylvania on the right of the road, keeping the Fourth Michigan on the pike, with a strong advance guard out. Ten miles from Nashville I met the enemy's pickets, who, as they fell back before us, were continually re-enforced, until, arriving at La Vergne, they disputed our progress with a force of 2,500 cavalry and mounted infantry, supported by four pieces of artillery, under the command of General Wheeler. As the enemy had us most perfectly in range, after some sharp skirmishing, I moved, under cover of a slight eminence, on which Lieutenant Newell, of Battery D, First Ohio, had his section planted, leaving two companies of the Fourth Michigan, dismounted and in ambush, behind a fence to support the battery.

I must here mention that Lieutenant Newell did splendid service with his two 3-inch Rodmans. Every shot was well planted, and he nobly fought the four guns of the enemy for over half an hour, when a battery from General Palmer's division moved up to his assistance. One of the gunners was killed by a shell from the enemy while serving his gun.

Saturday, December 27, the Seventh Pennsylvania, under Major Wynkoop, made a reconnaissance in front of General Palmer's division, which occupied a position on the left of the line. One battalion of the Fourth Michigan, under command of Captain Mix, was sent out on the Jefferson pike, and did not rejoin the brigade until the following day. I beg to refer you to Captain Mix's report for particulars. The army advanced at about 11 a. m., the Third Kentucky and one company of the Second Indiana, under command of Colonel Murray, covering the left flank, and the Fourth Michigan, under my immediate direction, covering the right flank. Camped near Stewart's Creek this night.

Sunday, December 28, sent one battalion of the Seventh Pennsylvania to relieve the battalion of the Fourth Michigan, on Jefferson pike.

Monday, December 29, army again advanced; Seventh Pennsylvania, under Major Wynkoop, on the left flank; Third Kentucky on the right flank, under Colonel Murray; Fourth Michigan in reserve; Second Indiana on courier duty. Light skirmishing with the enemy all day. Found the enemy in position in front of Murfreesborough at about 3 p. m. Bivouacked for the night immediately in rear of our line of battle.

Tuesday, December 30, one battalion of the Seventh Pennsylvania and one of the Third Kentucky formed a chain of vedettes in rear of

the line of battle, with orders to drive up all stragglers. Under orders from the colonel commanding the division, I took the Fourth Michigan and one battalion of the Seventh Pennsylvania back on the Nashville pike, to operate against Wheeler's cavalry, who, a few hours before, had destroyed the train of the Twenty-eighth Brigade on the Jefferson pike. Between Stewart's Creek and La Vergne I met the enemy, about 100 strong, and dressed in our uniforms. The Seventh Pennsylvania drove them until after dark. I reported to Colonel Walker, Thirty-first Ohio, commanding a brigade, and encamped with him that night, 2½ miles south of La Vergne.

Wednesday, December 31, under orders from Major-General Rosecrans, I reported to Brigadier-General Stanley, chief of cavalry, who came up the same morning with the First Middle Tennessee and part of the Fifteenth Pennsylvania. Under orders from General Stanley, we moved rapidly across the country toward the right of General McCook's position (leaving Lieutenant-Colonel Dickinson, Fourth Michigan Cavalry, with 120 men, to support Lieutenant Newell's section of artillery at the cross-roads northwest of Stewart's Creek), the enemy's cavalry falling back rapidly before us. When close to Overall's Creek our own artillery, in position to our left, opened on us with shell, and severely wounded 1 man of the Fifteenth Pennsylvania.

Crossing Overall's Creek, I took up position parallel to, and three-fourths of a mile distant from, the Nashville and Murfreesborough road. The Fourth Michigan dismounted, forming a line of skirmishers on the edge of the woods immediately in our front, out of which they had driven a large force of the rebel cavalry. They were supported by a part of the First Tennessee, also dismounted. Captain Jennings' battalion, Seventh Pennsylvania, and two companies Third Kentucky, under Captain Davis, were posted in the woods to the right and in rear of the Fourth Michigan, with the Fifteenth Pennsylvania in their rear. Our entire force at this time was 950 men.

The enemy advanced rapidly with 2,500 cavalry, mounted and dismounted, with three pieces of artillery, all under the command of General Wheeler. They drove back the Fourth Michigan to the line of the First Tennessee skirmishers, and then attacked the Seventh Pennsylvania with great fury, but met with determined resistance. I went forward to the dismounted skirmishers and endeavored to move them to the right, to strengthen the Seventh Pennsylvania, but the moment the right of the line showed itself from behind the fence where they were posted, the whole of the enemy's fire was directed on it, turning it completely around. At this moment the Fifteenth Pennsylvania gave way and retreated rapidly, leaving the battalion of the Seventh Pennsylvania and the dismounted men almost entirely unsupported, and leaving them no alternative but retreat.

We fell back a couple of fields and reformed in rear of a rising ground, which protected us from the enemy's artillery.

The rebel cavalry had followed us up sharply into the open ground, and now menaced us with three strong lines, two directly in front of my position and one opposite our left flank, with its right thrown well forward, and a strong body of skirmishers in the woods to our right, and threatening that flank.

General Stanley gave the order to charge, and he himself led two companies (K and H) of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry and about 50 men of the Fifteenth Pennsylvania against the line in front of our left, routed the enemy, and captured one stand of colors, which was brought in by a sergeant of the Fifteenth Pennsylvania. Captain Jennings, Seventh Pennsylvania, with his battalion, supported this movement.

At the same time I charged the first line in our front with the Fourth Michigan and First Tennessee, supported on the right by a fire from the Fifteenth Pennsylvania, and drove them from the field. The second line was formed on the far side of a lane, with a partially destroyed fence on each side of it, and still stood their ground. I reformed my men and again charged. The enemy was again broken and driven from the field.

Colonel Kennett, commanding First Cavalry Division, now arrived on the field with re-enforcements. I held the ground that night with the First Tennessee, Fifteenth Pennsylvania, and Fourth Michigan, picketing the whole of my first position.

A sergeant of the Seventh Pennsylvania, who was taken prisoner by the enemy, states that before we charged we had killed 27, including many officers.

January 1, 2, and 3, had the brigade under arms all day, with two regiments on picket and skirmishing with the enemy's pickets.

Sunday, January 4, moved the brigade to Wilkinson's Cross-Roads, and bivouacked there for the night with the Fourth Cavalry.

Monday, January 5, marched through Murfreesborough and took the Manchester pike; 1 mile out met the enemy's pickets; reported to General Stanley, who ordered an advance, and took the lead himself with the Fourth Cavalry. After crossing a small creek, about 2 miles from Murfreesborough, the bridge over which had been destroyed, the enemy commenced shelling us. I sent the Third Kentucky well to the right and front and the Seventh Pennsylvania to the left, keeping the First and Second Tennessee and the Fourth Michigan in reserve. After some little delay, the general again ordered an advance. I placed the five companies, Fourth Michigan, on the right of the road, with one company advanced as skirmishers; the Third Kentucky on the right of the Fourth Michigan, and the First Tennessee on the right of the Third Kentucky, with the Second Tennessee in reserve. In this formation we advanced through a cedar wood with a dense undergrowth, rendering it almost impossible to force our way through. We had occasional skirmishing with the enemy, who continued to shell us as we advanced.

About 6 miles out we met the enemy in force; a sharp skirmish ensued. The Fourth Cavalry, First Tennessee Infantry, and Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry were chiefly engaged on our side. The enemy were driven from the field, and we returned within 1½ miles of Murfreesborough and went into camp.

I beg to refer you to the reports of regimental commanders for particulars of operations of detached portions of the brigade.

Inclosed herewith I hand you a report of such officers and men as deserve special mention; also the report of casualties.

In explanation of the large number of missing reported by the Seventh Pennsylvania, I would call your attention to the fact that the entire of one battalion was deployed as a chain of vedettes in rear of our line of battle, where the right wing was driven back, and many of the men must have been captured by the enemy while endeavoring to drive up the straggling infantry. I have to call your particular attention to the reports of Colonel Murray, Captain Mix, and Lieutenant Eldridge.

Colonel Murray, with a handful of men, performed services that would do honor to a full regiment.

Captain Mix, with about 50 men, not only drove 200 of the enemy over

2 miles, but he there held his position against an entire regiment of rebel cavalry.

Lieutenant Eldridge, with 18 men, dismounted, attacked the enemy, routed them, and recaptured a wagon full of ammunition.

In the engagement of Wednesday, while leading his company in a charge, Captain Mix's horse was shot under him, and in the same charge Lieutenant Woolley, my acting assistant adjutant-general, was thrown from his horse, severely hurting his leg; notwithstanding which, he immediately remounted and continued to perform all his duties.

The brigade has captured and turned over 192 prisoners.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. H. G. MINTY,
Colonel, Commanding First Cavalry Division.

Lieutenant CHAMBERLIN,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, First Cavalry Division.

No. 169.

Report of Capt. Joseph A. S. Mitchell, Second Indiana Cavalry, of operations near La Vergne, December 29–31.

NASHVILLE, TENN., *January* 2, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report that, in accordance with your order, I reported to Captain Otis, chief of couriers, on the 29th ultimo, and that on the same date, by his direction, my men were posted on the Nashville and Murfreesborough road as couriers, commencing 9 miles from Nashville, and extending to the headquarters of Major-General Crittenden.

On the 31st ultimo, at 3 p. m., the enemy made a raid upon La Vergne, at which point I had made my headquarters, capturing from my command 1 lieutenant and 13 men, and making it necessary for two other courier posts to abandon their stations to prevent capture, all of which I immediately reported to Major-General Rosecrans the same evening. The places of my men were supplied from another command, and I proceeded to this place to collect the few men who still remained of my company. Those who were at General Crittenden's headquarters having been sent here as an escort with his headquarters train, I collected 17 men for duty and reported to Brigadier-General Mitchell, commanding the post, and, by his command, I have placed them as couriers between Nashville and La Vergne.

I have to report, besides the loss already mentioned, 15 Government horses, 10 mules, 2 wagons, all of the equipage, tents, &c., of the company, 15 Colt's revolving pistols and holsters, 11 Colt's revolving rifles, 14 saddles, bridles, and halters, besides all of my own private baggage and personal effects.

Since occupying the present line, I have to report 1 man killed while bearing a dispatch.

I am, most truly, your obedient servant,

J. A. S. MITCHELL,
Captain, Commanding Company.

Col. R. H. G. MINTY,
Commanding First Cavalry Brigade.

No. 170.

Report of Col. Eli H. Murray, Third Kentucky Cavalry, including skirmishes at La Vergne, December 26, Wilkinson's Cross-Roads, December 31, and on Manchester pike, January 5.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD KENTUCKY CAVALRY,
Camp Stanley, near Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 7, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to transmit a report of the part taken by my command from December 26, 1862, the day of our advance from Nashville, the engagement before Murfreesborough, and pursuit of the enemy in their retreat.

On passing our outpost before Nashville, on the Murfreesborough road, my command formed the left wing of the advance. We had proceeded but a short distance when we encountered the enemy, and, pressing them closely, soon engaged in quite a brisk skirmish. Driving them in a lively chase, we succeeded in capturing 5 of the enemy. Skirmishing all day long through dense cedar thickets, we found quite a force at La Vergne, with quite an engagement, exposed to the fire of their artillery, which resulted only in the loss of 2 horses. Changing my position, my command formed the left, joined to General Cruft's brigade, capturing 1 other of the enemy.

We moved from there to Stewart's Creek the following day, forming still the left, and capturing 7 of the enemy. Advancing from thence, my command formed the right. Night found us on the ground afterward occupied by General Negley in the beginning of the general engagement. Captain Wolfley, commanding Second Battalion, opened communication with Major-General McCook during the day.

Major Shacklett, with his battalion, on the 30th formed a line of couriers (in rear of line of battle) with Major-General McCook. Captain Davis, with squadron, Companies B and D, ordered to report to General Stanley, at Wilkinson's Cross-Roads. This squadron was afterward with Colonel Minty, and engaged, with his command, the enemy while detached from me. Fifteen men, of Company C, under Lieutenant Smock, reported to General Van Cleve.

At 8 o'clock, December 31, 1862, Colonel Kennett, commanding division, gave me orders to move to Wilkinson's Cross-Roads. Having moved but a short distance, and in the direction of the cross-roads, I found the greatest confusion, caused by the right wing of the army falling back. Going but little farther, I found our whole train of baggage and ammunition in possession of the enemy. Captain Wolfley, with part of his battalion, and Captain Breathitt, commanding the First Battalion, with a squad of his command, in all about 80 men, in a moment were engaged charging down the train. We came upon the enemy in all directions. Here were engagements hand-to-hand, but dashing onward my men were doing in earnest the work before them. The open field gave us the place for charging. The enemy were marching about 250 of our men to their rear as prisoners. These we recaptured. We also recaptured a portion of the Fifth Wisconsin Battery; also a section supposed to be the First Ohio. The hospital of General Palmer's division was still held by them. Bringing about 40 men to dash upon them, their whole command fled. At one time it seemed as if my whole command were taking prisoners to the rear. There being no support near, I ordered the prisoners to be given to the nearest infantry, in order that I might bring all my force against them and hold the train. Major Shacklett here rejoined me, and having taken position near the hospital, our

Infantry, stationed in our rear, at Stewart's Creek. Another body of about 40 men started, but, I regret to say, were recaptured. Of the 79 sent to the rear, there was 1 captain and 2 lieutenants. I have no doubt there were other officers, but did not have an opportunity to examine them closely enough to find out.

Of the officers engaged it is almost impossible to particularize, they all did so well. Capt. Eli Long led his company with the greatest gallantry, and was wounded by a ball through his left arm. Lieutenants Mauck, Kelly, Lee, and Healy could not have done better. It was a matter of surprise to me, considering the ground passed over, to find Dr. Comfort so soon on the field with his ambulance, caring for the wounded. He was in time to capture a prisoner himself. First Sergt. Martin Murphy led Company G, and commanded it with great gallantry. He reports having counted 11 dead of the enemy on the ground over which his company charged. Sergt. Maj. John G. Webster behaved gallantly, taking 1 lieutenant, mounted on a fine mare. First Sergt. James McAlpin led Company K after Captain Long was wounded, and reports having killed 2 with two successive shots of his pistol. First Sergt. John Dolan, Company B, captured a captain and received his sword. No one could have acted more bravely than First Sergt. Charles McMasters, of Company I. First Sergt. Christian Haefling, in charge of courier line near headquarters, proceeded in the thickest of the fire and recovered the effects of Colonel Garesché, on his body, killed in this day's fight. Our loss in this charge was trifling. Capt. Eli Long and 6 privates wounded.

Proceeding on the Nashville pike, I was ordered to escort a train to the rear. I afterward got orders to return, to report to General Rosecrans. I returned, and for two hours looked for the general, with my command, but was unable to find him, although I found several of his staff. I then proceeded to the right flank, and formed my regiment in front of some rebel cavalry, who showed themselves in the distance, in order to protect our train. I returned to General Rosecrans' headquarters that night, and bivouacked near him.

The next morning, January 1, I was ordered to make a reconnaissance on the right flank, which I did, making my reports frequently to Major Goddard, acting assistant adjutant-general, that night bivouacking near Overall's Creek, where my command remained watching the movements of the enemy as far as possible, and making reports thereon, until January 4, when my command was moved to Wilkinson's Cross-Roads.

On the 5th my command proceeded, under command of General Stanley, to engage the enemy's rear guard on the Manchester pike, driving them some 2 or 3 miles. Private Snow, of Company L, orderly to General Rosecrans, was ordered, on January 2, to pick up 15 stragglers, which he did, and was then ordered to take them to the front and turn them over to some commissioned officer. Failing to find one, he put them into line and fought them himself, telling them the first one who attempted to run he would shoot. Private Snow reports they fought bravely.*

Lieutenant Rendelbrook was exceedingly vigilant in guarding the train, and of great service in sending forward supplies.

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

ELMER OTIS,
Captain, Commanding Fourth U. S. Cavalry.

Maj. C. GODDARD,
A. A. A. G., Hdqrs. Dept. of the Cumberland, in the Field.

* Nominal list of casualties omitted. See p. 214.

No. 185.

Report of Col. William P. Innes, First Michigan Engineers, of attack on wagon train near La Vergne, January 1.

HDQRS. FIRST REGT. MICHIGAN ENGINEERS AND MECHANICS,
In Camp, January —, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report that, in accordance with your orders, I broke camp at Mill Creek on December 31, at 7 a. m., and took up line of march for this point, sending my wagon train around by the pike, and went into camp at this point, about three-quarters of a mile south of the village of La Vergne, on the Murfreesborough pike.

About 2 o'clock on the following day my command, numbering 391 effective men, was attacked by a rebel force of cavalry under command of Generals Wheeler and Wharton and Colonel Morgan, of Alabama, said to number between 3,000 and 4,000 strong, with two pieces of artillery. They first dispersed the wagon guard and teamsters of the train going north, and fired and plundered about 30 wagons. The enemy attacked us with great fury, making seven distinct charges upon us, attacking us on every side, mounted and on foot, dashing forward in a gallant and determined manner, but were again and again severely repulsed by my gallant regiment. During the interval between their cavalry charges their artillery were throwing shot and shell, some of them causing considerable damage.

At about 5 o'clock the enemy sent in two flags of truce, demanding an immediate surrender of our position, which I peremptorily refused. They sent in another flag of truce, asking permission to bury their dead, which I refused, and returned for answer that I would bury their dead and take care of their wounded.

In the mean time I had dispatched a messenger to Colonel Burke, of the Tenth Ohio Infantry, stationed at Stewart's Creek, asking him for re-enforcements, which was promptly answered by that gallant officer, who immediately came to my rescue with a section of the First Ohio Battery, in command of Lieutenant Newell, and four companies of the Tenth Ohio; and, although he did not arrive until the enemy had retreated, yet too much credit cannot be given to that gallant officer for his promptness in coming to my aid, which he did under the double-quick.

It is impossible for me to make personal mention of either officers or men where all behaved so gallantly. Every officer was at his post and every man did his duty. The coolness and bravery of the officers was only equaled by the promptness and efficiency of the men.

The following is a statement of the casualties, as near as I have been able to learn: Our loss, 2 killed, 9 wounded, and 5 missing. Enemy's loss, 6 killed, buried by our men; 6 wounded, taken to our hospital, and 7 prisoners. From what I have been able to learn from prisoners, the enemy acknowledge their own loss of killed and wounded at between 40 and 50. We lost 41 horses and mules, and had 3 wagons entirely destroyed and others damaged by the bursting of shell.

I have the honor to remain, major, your most obedient servant,

WM. P. INNES,
Col., Comdg. First Regt. Michigan Engineers and Mechanics.

Maj. C. GODDARD,
A. A. A. G., Fourteenth Army Corps, Dept. of the Cumberland.

on Wednesday morning, my officers and men, without one exception, behaved with great coolness, and are entitled to much credit for the determined and successful effort in preventing a disgraceful rout of a large portion of the right wing of the army.

I remain, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. PARKHURST,

Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Ninth Michigan Volunteers.

Maj. GEORGE E. FLYNT,

Assistant Adjutant-General and Chief of Staff.

No. 187.

Report of Lieut. Col. Joseph W. Burke, Tenth Ohio Infantry, of operations December 31–January 22.

HEADQUARTERS TENTH OHIO VOLUNTEERS,
Murfreesborough, Tenn., January 28, 1863.

COLONEL: I beg leave to submit the following report of my command, while posted at Stewart's Creek Bridge, from December 31, 1862, to January 22, 1863:

I remained at Stewart's Creek with eight companies of the regiment, in charge of headquarters train, after detaching two companies of my command, under Capt. John E. Hudson, to accompany headquarters in the field.

On December 31, information reached me that the trains of the Twenty-eighth Brigade had been attacked and captured near Smyrna, at 9 o'clock in the morning of that day; and at a later hour, learning that the rebel cavalry were destroying it, I dispatched a party to the scene, and succeeded in saving 8 wagons loaded with supplies.

I had sufficient force to have saved this train entirely, but, owing to the extreme negligence of the quartermaster in charge of the train, in not reporting the fact of capture to me at an early hour, the enemy were enabled to carry away and destroy a large portion of it.

The force that attacked that train was very small, and I understand there was a guard with it, all of whom were paroled.

We were threatened with attack at the bridge during the whole day. I had the large train corraled in close order, and by extreme vigilance prepared to resist any attack during the night.

A large number of stragglers came back from the front, from an early hour of the day. I deployed a line of skirmishers across the country, from the pike to the railroad, with instructions to shoot down every straggler who attempted to force the line, and marched into camp at night over 1,100 of these men.

Regiments of stragglers were organized, officered by my own commissioned and non-commissioned officers, and put on duty.

On January 1, I was re-enforced by four companies of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Dickinson, and a section of Company D, First Ohio Battery, under Lieutenant Newell.

Rebel cavalry threatened the post during the day, and their advance guard was twice repulsed by my pickets and reserve. Concluding not to attack at Stewart's Creek, this force, consisting of Wheeler's, Wharton's, Buford's, John H. Morgan's, and McCann's rebel cavalry, with

two pieces of artillery, passed on toward La Vergne, where they attacked Colonel Innes, First Michigan Engineers, at 1 o'clock. I apprised Colonel Innes of the movements of this force at an early hour.

About 1 o'clock a squadron of affrighted negroes came charging at full gallop from Murfreesborough toward Stewart's Creek, and with such impetuosity and recklessness that over 100 passed the bridge before I could check the progress of the main cavalcade. They were dismounted and some of them ducked by my men. This was the advance of what seemed to me to be the whole army—cavalrymen with jaded horses, artillery and infantry soldiers, breathless and holding on to wagons, relating the most incredible defeats and annihilation of the army and their respective regiments, came streaming down the road and pouring through the woods on their way toward the bridge. In vain did my small guard stationed on the road try to check this panic. Officers drew their revolvers, but the fugitives heeded them not.

My regiment was in line on the hill-side, and I promptly fixed bayonet, marched at double-quick to the bridge, and drew up a line before it, sending out, at the same time, two companies, deployed as skirmishers, on the right and left, to prevent the passing of the creek by fording. The fugitives crowded in thousands, and at one time pressed closely up to the bayonets of my men. I ordered the battalion to load, and determined to fire if the crowd did not move back; seeing which, many took flight back toward the front. At this critical moment I was rendered most valuable assistance by Lieutenant Rendelbrook, Fourth U. S. Cavalry, and his men, who were stationed at the bridge with their camp and train.

To him I assigned the duty of getting the stragglers into line, and nobly did his men execute his orders. Riding through the panic-stricken crowds, the cavalrymen drove them into a field, where a good line was formed, and every straggler taken and made dress up. When I had a regiment formed in this manner, I assigned it officers and marched it across the bridge, stacked arms, and rested it. In this manner I secured over 4,000 men. I must mention here the fact that the prominent movers in the panic were the quartermasters in charge of trains. There was only one who behaved with anything like courage and coolness—the quartermaster of the Pioneer Brigade.

Later in the day I was notified by Colonel Innes that he was attacked fiercely by rebel cavalry; that a demand for surrender had been made twice, and asking to be re-enforced. I promptly dispatched four companies of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry and the section of artillery (Rodman guns) to his assistance, and ordered them to move up at a trot, holding my own forces ready to support them.

After the lapse of two hours, during which the cannonading of Colonel Innes' stockade was kept up by the rebels (hearing the report of each gun), Mr. Reily, a citizen, made his escape through the rebel lines, bearing a dispatch from Colonel Innes requesting me to re-enforce him, and the astonishing information that the troops I sent up under Lieutenant-Colonel Dickinson were on their way back to me without having fired a shot, and the rebels were burning the trains.

I quickly decided to save the trains and leave the bridge to the protection of the regiments of stragglers, and set out at a rapid pace for La Vergne with my own command. I met the section of artillery returning, as well as part of the cavalry. I ordered them to fall in behind me, and sent in a strong support of infantry to the guns.

The scene on the road was indescribable. Teamsters had abandoned

their wagons and came back mounted on their mules and horses; wagons were packed across the road, and many capsized on the side of the pike; horses ran wild through the woods, and, although men were allowed by me to pass as wagon guards, there were none at their posts. They had left the road and were bivouacking in small parties in the woods, evidently careless of the fate of the trains.

The woods toward La Vergne were filled with small bodies of rebel cavalry, which were quickly dislodged by my skirmishers and driven off. I reached Colonel Innes at La Vergne at 7 o'clock, and assisted him in arranging the trains and forwarding them to Nashville.

I detached four companies of my regiment, and Lieutenant-Colonel Dickinson's command, and sent them back to Stewart's Creek at daylight next morning, remaining myself at La Vergne, collecting supplies from the trains, gathering in cattle abandoned by our men, and sending them to the front.

With the remaining portion of my command I joined the garrison at Stewart's Creek, January 7, and immediately set to work putting it in a defensible condition by erecting a stockade and throwing up a small redoubt to cover the bridge.

I was relieved in command there by Lieutenant-Colonel Carroll, commanding Tenth Indiana Volunteers, on January 22, and reported for duty at headquarters.

In connection with the disgraceful panic of January 1, I would mention the names of the following officers: Lieutenant Gilbert, Second Tennessee Cavalry, who had his horse hitched up to a wagon on the road, and who abandoned it with the teamsters, joining in the stampede; Lieutenant Newell, Twenty-first Wisconsin, and the regimental quartermaster Seventy-ninth Pennsylvania, who abandoned the train of the Twenty-eighth Brigade, and, although within my lines, never communicated the fact of capture until it was too late to pursue the enemy.

Out of a crowd of runaway teamsters I took the names of four men who cut loose their mules from the wagons and left them to their fate: Henry W. Davis, Twenty-fifth Illinois; Scott Cunningham, Twenty-fifth Illiaois; Henry Denney, Fifty ninth Ohio, and Jacob Rohrer, One hundred and first Ohio. A number of commissioned officers came back with the men, but, on seeing the obstacles interposed to their passage, they returned voluntarily to the front.

My officers and men performed their duty faithfully and strictly. I was rendered signal assistance by Lieutenant Rendelbrook, Fourth U. S. Cavalry, and the non-commissioned officers and men of his command, as also Lieutenant Maple, Anderson Troop, who, with their commands, were constantly on duty, reporting the movements of the enemy, and assisting in effectually checking the disgraceful and causeless panic.

I would respectfully mention the name of Captain Perkins, assistant quartermaster, headquarters quartermaster, who evinced the utmost zeal and vigilance, and assisted most materially in the defense of the post, and in restoring order among the trains.

I have the honor to be, colonel, with great respect, your obedient servant,

J. W. BURKE,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Comdg. Tenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Col. C. GODDARD,
Assistant Adjutant-General and Chief of Staff.

No. 188.

Reports of General Joseph E. Johnston, C. S. Army, commanding the Western Department, with congratulatory orders.

JACKSON, MISS., *January* 6, 1863.

General Bragg reports the enemy fell back from the field of battle to intrenchments, which he attacked and was repulsed. On hearing that the enemy was re-enforced, he fell back from Murfreesborough; not followed by the Federals.

General S. COOPER. J. E. JOHNSTON.

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JACKSON, *January* 9, 1863.

Colonel Ewell informs me, from Chattanooga, that on the 31st General Bragg had 35,000, including Wharton's cavalry. Lost 9,000; 3,000 sick, since, from exposure. We have not force enough here if the enemy is vigorous. Prisoners tell General Bragg of Federal re-enforcements from West Tennessee.

J. E. JOHNSTON,
General.

The PRESIDENT, *Richmond.*

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HEADQUARTERS,
Jackson, via Montgomery, January 11, 1863.

I have just received the following dispatch from Colonel Ewell, Chattanooga:

The following is a summing up of what has been done, by the advice of General Bragg, since 1st of December, obtained unofficially, but directly from him, including Hartsville:

Morgan and Forrest have captured 5,500 prisoners, killed and wounded 2,000, destroyed stores and ammunition in immense quantities. Forrest has also fitted out his entire command in splendid style. Wheeler and Wharton captured 1,000 prisoners at Murfreesborough, and 4,000 more prisoners of war taken at the same place, and not less than 12,000 killed and wounded; total, 10,500 prisoners, and 14,000 killed and wounded; 10,000 small-arms, besides 2,000 distributed to our troops, and 30 pieces of artillery were sent to the rear, and 1,000 wagons, mostly loaded, were secured or destroyed, with a large number of mules and harness secured. The losses on our side were, at the most, 9,000 killed, wounded, and missing, and four pieces of cannon.

General S. COOPER. J. E. JOHNSTON.

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GENERAL ORDERS, No. 4.

HEADQUARTERS,
Chattanooga, January 28, 1863.

General Johnston has great satisfaction in expressing to this command his sense of the high services and admirable conduct of the Army of Tennessee, especially in the recent operations near Murfreesborough. In those operations that patriotic army, contending with greatly superior numbers, by its own courage, and the skill of its general, inflicted upon the enemy a loss almost equal to its own number, besides capturing thirty-three cannon and a thousand wagons—an exploit unparalleled in modern battles. For its heroic fortitude in enduring fatigue, privation, and exposure, and bravery in battle, he can, with confidence, promise to it the thanks of the Government and gratitude of the country.

By command of General Johnston:

BENJ. S. EWELL,
Assistant Adjutant-General.