

THE  
WAR OF THE REBELLION:

A COMPILATION OF THE  
OFFICIAL RECORDS

OF THE  
UNION AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES.

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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.

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PART I—REPORTS.

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## SECOND DIVISION.

Maj. Gen. P. R. CLEBURNE.

*First Brigade.*

Brig. Gen. L. E. POLK.

1st Arkansas, Col. John W. Colquitt.  
 13th Arkansas.  
 15th Arkansas.  
 5th Confederate, Col. J. A. Smith.  
 2d Tennessee, Col. W. D. Robison.  
 5th Tennessee, Col. B. J. Hill.  
 Helena (Ark.) Artillery, Lieut. T. J. Key.

*Second Brigade.*

Brig. Gen. ST. JOHN R. LIDDELL.

2d Arkansas, Col. D. C. Govan.  
 5th Arkansas, Lieut. Col. John E. Murray.  
 6th Arkansas, } Col. S. G. Smith.  
 7th Arkansas, } Lieut. Col. F. J. Cameron.  
 } Maj. W. F. Douglass.  
 8th Arkansas:  
 Col. John H. Kelly.  
 Lieut. Col. G. F. Baucum.  
 Swett's (Mississippi) battery, Lieut. H. Shannon.

## McCOWN'S DIVISION.\*

Maj. Gen. J. P. McCOWN.

*First Brigade.†*

Brig. Gen. M. D. ECTOR.

10th Texas Cavalry, Col. M. F. Locke.  
 11th Texas Cavalry:  
 Col. J. C. Burks.  
 Lieut. Col. J. M. Bounds.  
 14th Texas Cavalry, Col. J. L. Camp.  
 15th Texas Cavalry, Col. J. A. Andrews.  
 Texas Battery, Capt. J. P. Douglas.

*Third Brigade.*Brig. Gen. EVANDER MCNAIR.  
Col. R. W. HARPER.

1st Arkansas Mounted Rifles: †  
 Col. R. W. Harper.  
 Maj. L. M. Ramsaur.  
 2d Arkansas Mounted Rifles, † Lieut. Col. J. A. Williamson.  
 4th Arkansas, Col. H. G. Bunn.  
 30th Arkansas:  
 Maj. J. J. Franklin.  
 Capt. W. A. Cotter.  
 4th Arkansas Battalion, Maj. J. A. Ross.  
 Arkansas Battery, Capt. J. T. Humphreys.

\* Of Smith's corps, serving with Hardee.

† The regiments of this brigade serving as infantry.

‡ Serving as infantry.

*Third Brigade.*

Brig. Gen. BUSHROD R. JOHNSON.

17th Tennessee:  
 Col. A. S. Marks.  
 Lieut. Col. W. W. Floyd.  
 23d Tennessee, Lieut. Col. R. H. Keeble.  
 25th Tennessee:  
 Col. J. M. Hugha.  
 Lieut. Col. Samuel Davis.  
 37th Tennessee:  
 Col. M. White.  
 Maj. J. T. McReynolds.  
 Capt. C. G. Jarnagin.  
 44th Tennessee, Col. John S. Fulton.  
 Jefferson (Miss.) Artillery, Capt. Put. Darden.

*Fourth Brigade.*

Brig. Gen. S. A. M. WOOD.

16th Alabama, Col. W. B. Wood.  
 33d Alabama, Col. Samuel Adams.  
 3d Confederate, Maj. J. F. Cameron.  
 45th Mississippi, Lieut. Col. R. Charlton.  
 15th Mississippi Battalion Sharpshooters,  
 Capt. A. T. Hawkins.  
 Alabama Battery, Capt. Henry C. Semple.

*Second Brigade.*Brig. Gen. JAMES E. RAINS.  
Col. R. B. VANCE.

3d Georgia Battalion, Lieut. Col. M. A. Stovall.  
 9th Georgia Battalion, Maj. Joseph T. Smith.  
 29th North Carolina, Col. R. B. Vance.  
 11th Tennessee:  
 Col. G. W. Gordon.  
 Lieut. Col. William Thedford.  
 Eufaula (Ala.) Light Artillery, Lieut. W. A. McDuffie.

## 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.

Sixteenth Tennessee. The battery accordingly took position on the right of the Nashville road, about three-fourths of a mile in advance of its former position, and near the river. Here we halted about an hour, during which we lost 1 man killed and 2 horses without opening fire. The battery was then ordered to advance, in order the better to return the enemy's fire. We therefore proceeded up the road about 200 yards, when we were met by our forces, making a slight retrograde movement, and the battery was compelled to take its former position, nearly. Here we immediately went into battery and fired a few rounds, by order of General Breckinridge, to assist in steadying our own troops, though not having a very fair shot at the enemy. Late in the evening the battery was ordered to cross over to the Wilkinson road, and finally to its old position near the railroad bridge for the night.

On the next day, the 1st instant, we were ordered to occupy a position in line with four or five other batteries on the high ground to the left of the Nashville road, and about the same distance in front as our position the day before. We here fortified our guns as well as circumstances permitted, but did not return the few shots the enemy gave us in this position.

During the evening Captain Carnes, by order, took our two howitzers over to the bluff, on the right of the railroad and pike, near the river, and opened what we afterward learned to be a very destructive fire upon the enemy, compelling them to retire and change their position. The enemy did not reply with artillery, and our immediate front was cleared of his sharpshooters.

The next day, the 2d instant, our whole battery (also [Capt. T. J.] Stanford's and [M.] Smith's) took position in line on the same bluff. To our left, across the Nashville road, were [W. L.] Scott's and [F. H.] Robertson's batteries. We all opened simultaneously to clear our front of the enemy's sharpshooters, who had reoccupied the woods along our front during the night. The enemy replied by several batteries, two of which were composed of rifled guns. The firing continued about twenty minutes. Our caissons, under command of Lieutenant [James M.] Cockrill, were then ordered up to replenish our ammunition chests. Two similar artillery conflicts took place during the day, our caissons being brought up each time to supply our limbers. The caissons were held under such cover as the ground allowed, about 300 yards in the rear.

During the evening Captain Carnes took our two howitzers to the right of our line of batteries, very near the river, and effectually cleared the woods of the enemy in front of our right. At night the battery was ordered back to the rifle-trench running across the field, 200 or 300 yards in rear of the burnt brick house, and supported by General Maney's brigade.

At daylight on the morning of the 3d instant our battery took the same position by itself on the bluff, instructed not to reply to the enemy's artillery, but to repel any advance of the enemy's infantry or sharpshooters. We immediately opened a brisk fire upon the enemy's skirmishers, who had again occupied the woods in our front. We soon cleared the woods of the enemy, though supported, as usual, by their artillery.

Late in the evening the enemy opened a powerful fire of his artillery upon our position, attracted, probably, by the appearance of a regiment going to relieve our pickets in the woods. We lost at this time 1 man killed and 4 wounded. About 7 p. m. we were ordered to return to our old camp, near town.

Our battery had thus stood at strict attention for seven days, during which the harness had not been taken from the horses. Our men be-

haved with firmness throughout, and handled their guns with admirable skill and quickness.\*

Corpl. Martin Armstrong, missing, heard of at home since, near Tracy City.

We lost 4 horses killed. Three caisson wheels were rendered unserviceable.

We fired in all between 300 and 350 rounds. The battery was engaged once on Wednesday, once on Thursday, four times on Friday, and once on Saturday—in all seven times. We used almost entirely spherical case and canister, and in every case so far successful as to have the effect intended. The fuses operated in accordance with the tables, as we had taught the gunners. We used only the Bormann fuse. As to the adjustable sights, we could make little or no use of them, though we ascertained nothing against their character for very long ranges; but on the occasion under discussion our chiefs of pieces much preferred to watch the effect of their shots, and regulate the elevation accordingly.

L. G. MARSHALL,  
Lieutenant, Commanding Capt. W. W. Carnes' Battery.

No. 201.

Report of Brig. Gen. Alexander P. Stewart, C. S. Army, commanding  
Second Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND BRIGADE, FIRST DIVISION,  
POLK'S CORPS, ARMY OF TENNESSEE,  
January 13, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by this brigade in the military operations in front of Murfreesborough, Tenn., commencing on Monday, December 29, 1862, and closing on Sunday, January 4, 1863:

The brigade was composed of the Fourth and Fifth Tennessee Regiments, amalgamated and commanded by Col. O. F. Strahl; the Twenty-fourth Tennessee Regiment, Col. H. L. W. Bratton; the Thirty-first and Thirty-third Tennessee Regiments, amalgamated and commanded by Col. E. E. Tansil; the Nineteenth Tennessee Regiment, Col. F. M. Walker, and Capt. T. J. Stanford's Mississippi battery. We struck tents, packed up baggage, and sent the wagons to the rear on Sunday night, December 28.

Early Monday morning we crossed Stone's River and formed line of battle on its north bank, being on the left of Donelson and right of Maney, the right of the brigade being some distance on the left of the Wilkinson pike. An open country lay in front of the line, excepting on the left, where Walker's regiment was covered by the open forest. From 800 to 1,000 yards in front of us lay the first line, Major-General Withers' division, our division forming the second and supporting line. Nothing of special interest occurred on Monday.

On Tuesday morning a few shells from the enemy passed over and near us, wounding one man in Bratton's regiment, and late in the evening we were under a heavy artillery fire for some half hour or more, but without injury. In the course of the afternoon of Tuesday an officer came from Colonel Manigault, of the Tenth South Carolina, who com-

\* Nominal list shows 2 men killed and 4 wounded.

manded the third brigade from the right in Withers' division. He stated that Colonel Manigault was in need of a section of long-range guns to dislodge guns of the enemy, he having only smooth-bores of short range, and that he had applied to General Maney, whose brigade was the support of Manigault's, who replied that he had none suitable for the purpose. He came to me, therefore, for a section of Stanford's battery. Knowing that Stanford, his officers, and men were always ready to go wherever needed, two pieces were promptly dispatched in charge of Lieutenant [A. A.] Hardin. On their return I was informed they were not properly supported; that they were required to engage, at a distance not exceeding 600 yards, guns that were throwing shell, canister, and spherical case; that they accomplished no useful purpose, but sustained some loss, one or two men being wounded, and Lieut. A. A. Hardin, commanding a section, a most estimable and gallant young officer, being killed.

Tuesday night, or early Wednesday morning, was received a copy of General Bragg's order directing an attack to commence on the left and gradually extend to the Murfreesborough and Nashville pike, the left wing to swing round toward the right on a pivot at the pike. I was also informed both by Lieutenant-General Polk and by a staff officer from Major General Withers that I was to be directed by the latter, and to obey his orders.

On Wednesday morning, December 31, about 8 o'clock, I was notified to move forward, gradually wheeling to the right and maintaining a distance of a few hundred yards (supporting distance) from Anderson's brigade, Withers' division. After advancing some distance directly to the front across the open field, the brigade was moved to the left by the flank, so as to place the entire line under cover of the forest from the enemy's artillery fire. The ground over which we were then moving being wet and heavy, Captain Stanford was directed to take the Wilkinson (or Wilkerson) pike. I did not see anything more of him or his battery for a day or two, they having doubtless been employed elsewhere by the orders of some one of my superiors.

The line of infantry advanced through the woods, gradually wheeling to the right, and occasionally halting to readjust the line, and maintaining its supporting distance from Anderson, General Withers himself being often with us, and the movements of the brigade corresponding to his wishes. At one point he sent word that Anderson's two left regiments would be thrown forward, perhaps, to attack the battery that continued to play upon our advancing lines, and desired me to throw forward two regiments in a corresponding manner. Fearing this would scatter the brigade and produce confusion, it was suggested to him that the entire brigade had better be advanced, to which he assented. We shortly arrived at the stone wall built by Anderson's men, where they were placed in line on Sunday, the 28th. Several men were wounded here by the fire of the battery in front. While in this position the Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth Regiments Mississippi Volunteers (belonging, as was supposed, to Anderson's brigade) fell back in disorder, leaving a large number of dead and wounded in the open ground beyond the Wilkinson pike, over which they had charged. They were rallied in our rear chiefly by Major [L. W.] Finlay, of my staff, and again sent forward. The Twenty-ninth ultimately formed on my left, where it remained until the close of the battle, when it moved away to join its brigade. The brigade moved on from this position to the pike, where it was faced by the left flank and marched a short distance down the road, to bring its right under cover of the woods, when it moved

again to the front. It crossed the open ground intervening between the pike and the cedar forest beyond, and advanced to the relief of the front line, which was giving way, and, by a rapid fire, commencing with Walker's regiment (the Nineteenth) on the left and gradually extending to the right, repulsed the enemy, who fled in confusion to the dense cedar woods, leaving many dead and wounded behind. Near the edge of the woods we came upon the battery (First Missouri) that had previously annoyed us so much, and which the enemy were now attempting to remove. Our advance was so rapid and fire so destructive that they were compelled to abandon two pieces and one or two caissons. We left them behind, and, pressing rapidly forward, drove the enemy before us. They attempted to make a stand at several points, but, unable to endure our fire, were driven through the forest and across the open field beyond to the high ground in the vicinity of the railroad. Here they took shelter under the guns of three or four batteries, leaving a number of prisoners in our hands and many dead and wounded scattered through the woods and covering the open field over which they fled in double-quick time. These batteries opened upon us, and for some time we were exposed to a terrific fire of shell, canister, and spherical case. Having no battery of our own, and being nearly out of ammunition, it was impossible to proceed farther. Staff officers were dispatched—one to bring up Stanford's battery, another for ammunition. The latter was soon supplied, but word came from Lieutenant-General Polk that Stanford was employed under his own immediate orders, and could not be spared. While moving through the cedar forest the command of Brigadier General Jackson came up on the right. The Fifth Georgia, immediately on the right, with the Fourth and Fifth Tennessee, advanced beyond the general line and delivered a heavy and well-sustained fire upon the retreating ranks of the enemy, doing fine execution.

About this time Colonel [J. A.] Jaquess, of the First Louisiana (Regulars), rode rapidly up to Colonel [E. E.] Tansil and delivered some order, which I did not hear. Immediately Tansil's regiment began to fall back without waiting for a command, and was gradually followed by the rest of the brigade, and I learned from Tansil that Jaquess brought to him an order purporting to come from Major-General Cheatham to "move by the right of companies to the rear." The order not having been delivered to me, not recognizing Colonel Jaquess as a member of General Cheatham's staff, and satisfied that the movement was demoralizing in a high degree, it was arrested as promptly as possible. The line was halted and reformed, and moved forward again to the edge of the woods, where we remained until dark, when, leaving a strong picket guard, the command was withdrawn a few hundred yards to the rear, to bivouac, taking along a large number of small-arms, ammunition, and equipments, which were removed next day by wagons brought out for the purpose.

Late in the afternoon, Lieut. Col. W. B. Ross, formerly of Col. [J.] Knox Walker's (Second) Tennessee regiment, was wounded by a minie bullet in the right side of the neck and throat. He was removed to the hospital, and subsequently to a private residence in Murfreesborough, where he died on Friday, January 2. He was serving as a volunteer on my staff. He was with his regiment at the battle of Belmont in November, 1861; resigned in January, 1862, and joined me as a volunteer aide at Corinth a few days before the battle of Shiloh, where he behaved well, and was very useful. He was a brave man and a good officer.

While attempting to stop the retrograde movement alluded to, Col. H. L. W. Bratton, of the Twenty-fourth Regiment, had his left leg shot

tered near the thigh joint by a piece of shell or a grape-shot. The limb was amputated, and he was left in hospital in Murfreesborough, with little hope on the part of the surgeons of his recovery. He was one of the best and bravest officers in the entire army. Always prompt to obey or execute an order, indefatigable in drilling and disciplining his men, he was animated by a lofty courage and patriotism that bid defiance to danger. He distinguished himself by his cool and courageous bearing both at Perryville and Murfreesborough, and was indeed a "knight without fear and without reproach."

The force we engaged in this famous cedar brake was composed, at least in part, of regulars. Some of the prisoners and wounded men stated that they belonged to the Sixteenth, Seventeenth, and Eighteenth Regiments, and that their brigade was commanded by Colonel [George W.] Roberts, who fell while gallantly attempting to rally his men about opposite the center of my line. He was buried Saturday evening, and the spot marked by a stone having his name scratched upon it with the point of a bayonet.

During the three following days (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday) we held our position at the edge of the brake, the enemy occupying the ridge, but a few hundred yards in front, with a heavy force of infantry and artillery, frequently shelling us, and wounding a few men at almost every round. The command remained in line, enduring this trying ordeal with admirable patience and fortitude. At length, on Saturday night, our pickets were relieved by Colonel Carter's cavalry, and about 1 or 2 a. m. on Sunday, the 4th, we left the field for Shelbyville.

Throughout the week officers and men behaved in a manner that is beyond praise.

I desire especially to mention Col. O. F. Strahl, commanding Fourth and Fifth Regiments; Col. H. L. W. Bratton, of the Twenty-fourth; Col. E. E. Tansil, commanding the Thirty-first and Thirty-third, and Col. F. M. Walker, of the Nineteenth, who, with all their field officers, behaved most nobly.

The Nineteenth (Colonel Walker's) suffered more heavily than any other in the brigade. Colonel Walker, in his report, mentions the brave conduct of Orderly Sergt. Joseph Thompson, Company I, who, after the brigade had halted at the edge of the cedar bottom, advanced far into the field and captured 2 prisoners. Our loss was heavy—over one-fourth of those engaged. The list\* of killed and wounded has already been sent in.

Besides those already mentioned, Lieutenant-Colonel [J. A.] Wilson and Adjt. H. W. Mott,† of the Twenty-fourth, were wounded, as were also Major [R. A.] Jarnigan, of the Nineteenth, and Captain [T. H.] Francis, of the Fourth. Several valuable officers were killed. Lieutenant-Colonel [Andrew J.] Kellar, of the Fourth, was really too ill for duty; nevertheless, he was at his post.

Many of the enemy's dead, and some of our own, were left on the field unburied. We procured a few spades on Saturday evening, and buried as many bodies as was possible under the circumstances. I would respectfully submit that at least all our own dead might have been buried during the three days we held the field. Attention is also respectfully called to the plundering and stripping of the dead, even our own, and to the propriety of a general order prohibiting it.

I cannot close this imperfect sketch without expressing my obligations to the gentlemen who served on my staff, and who made themselves so

\* See No. 191, p. 676.

† Register has W. H. Mott killed at Murfreesborough.

intelligently useful and efficient, regardless of danger, viz: Col. [Capt.] W. M. Reed, assistant adjutant-general; Capt. R. A. Hatcher, aide-de-camp; Capt. John A. Lauderdale, formerly of the Fifth, a volunteer aide; Maj. L. W. Finlay, of the Fourth, and Lieut. Paul Jones, jr., of the Thirty-third, supernumeraries by the amalgamation of their regiments with others, but who preferred to be in the field. These officers, and Private Frank C. Usher, of the First Tennessee, acting as orderly, were active and efficient, and contributed not a little to the ease and facility with which I was enabled to handle the brigade.

Having received no report from Captain Stanford, and his battery having been detached from the brigade before it really went into action, it is not in my power to give an account of its services, which I learn, however, were, as usual, valuable.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
A. P. STEWART,  
Brigadier-General.

Capt. JOHN INGRAM,  
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 202.

Report of Col. Oscar F. Strahl, Fourth Tennessee Infantry, commanding Fourth and Fifth Regiments.

JANUARY 5, 1863.

SIR: On the morning of December 29, 1862, I took command of the Fourth and Fifth Regiments Tennessee Volunteers, and was immediately ordered out to take position in line of battle. The position we occupied was on the west bank of Stone's River and immediately on the left of General Donelson's brigade, the right of which brigade rested on the Chattanooga and Nashville Railroad. We remained in this position until about 9 o'clock in the morning of the 31st, when we were ordered to advance in such a manner as to change direction gradually to the right, keeping dressed to the left. We advanced in this manner until we came to where General Withers' men had thrown up small breast-works. At this point we were halted for a short time, and had several men wounded by grape and canister from the enemy's guns. While remaining here, a regiment from General Withers' division fell back and formed immediately in my rear. We then advanced, first through a cedar thicket and then through an open field for some 400 or 500 yards, where we entered a cedar glade. All this time we were gradually changing direction to the right. In a few minutes after passing into the cedar glade we were engaged by the enemy, but drove them before us, taking quite a number of prisoners. We continued to press the enemy, fighting as we advanced, until we had driven them entirely out of the glade. The slaughter of the enemy was very great just at the edge of the glade, as they were slow to leave the timber and our men were close upon them, and every shot did its work. Then the enemy opened a very heavy fire upon us from a battery within a few hundred yards of our lines. We soon silenced it, however, by sending out some sharpshooters, who so disabled it that the battery retired, leaving one gun and caisson behind. This was on Wednesday evening, the 31st. We remained in the position we now occupied until Saturday night, all the time exposed to the enemy's guns.

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 Foster ville, 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. Colouel 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.