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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:
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1887.

I am entirely satisfied with the conduct of every officer and man I had with me. This report is so hastily written that I fear it will be unintelligible.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. N. KIRK,
Commanding Fifth Brigade.

Capt J. E. STEARNS,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Second Division.

NOVEMBER 19, 1862.—Skirmish near Tompkinsville, Ky.

Report of Col. James R. Howard, Alabama cavalry.

CAMP KIRBY, November 20, 1862.

GENERAL: I have the honor to submit to you a report of a scout made by me into Kentucky.

On the 17th instant a portion of my command took up their line of march from camp near Sparta for the Kentucky line. When about 75 miles over the Kentucky and Tennessee line, we encountered a large force of the enemy's cavalry, gave them fight, and, after a brisk engagement of about half an hour, with the assistance of Divine Providence, we completely routed them, killing 27, and wounding a large number. Our loss, 4 men killed and 3 wounded. My command behaved gallantly, especially the officers, and too much praise cannot be given to my adjutant, Noah D. Rothrock, for his valuable assistance and gallantry on the occasion. We followed up the enemy and had a short hand-to-hand engagement, and again cut them up badly, bringing out from them nearly 5,000 head of hogs. While accomplishing this, the enemy rallied twice, and on both occasions we repulsed them, bringing the hogs safely through, and turning them over to Major [John J.] Murphy, commissary of subsistence.

Another portion of my command made a scout with a train of wagons, and succeeded in bringing them out safely, loaded with flour and bacon. They encountered no regular forces, but were much annoyed by bushwhackers. None of our men were hurt, but we gave them a Southern lesson.

I have the honor, general, to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES R. HOWARD,
Colonel, Commanding Cavalry.

Lieut. Gen. E. KIRBY SMITH,
Commanding Department of East Tennessee.

NOVEMBER 24, 1862.—Skirmish near Tompkinsville, Ky.

Report of Col. Joseph R. Scott, Nineteenth Illinois Infantry.

HDQRS. 39TH BRIG., 12TH DIV. (CENTER),
14TH CORPS D'ARMÉE,
Hartsville, Tenn., November 28, 1862.

SIR: I respectfully report the arrival of my command at this point at 2 p. m. to-day; also the arrival of my train from Cave City, via Gallatin, with five days' rations and ammunition.

On the afternoon of the 24th instant the enemy made a slight demonstration upon Tompkinsville with cavalry and artillery. My pickets, aided by cavalry, repulsed them, capturing one, a private of Hamilton's company, who reports the attacking party to have been a detachment of Scott's cavalry, 700 strong, with three mountain howitzers. They came from Sparta, by way of Bennett's Ferry, crossing the Cumberland at Celina. Hamilton's company has been enforcing the conscript law and guarding stock between Celina and Gainsborough.

Being induced to believe that the enemy was crossing the Scottsville road, preparatory to attacking me from that quarter in the morning, I, in obedience to marching orders, received the night previous, left Tompkinsville by that road at 9 p. m. on the evening of the 24th instant. I failed to meet the enemy; took the branch road to La Fayette, and from thence to Hartsville. It is reported that the enemy occupied Tompkinsville on my departure. I met with no interruption in my march until within 3 miles of Hartsville, when I came upon a body of rebel cavalry, of whom I took 2 prisoners. They report themselves as belonging to Bennett's cavalry, 200 of whom, under the command of Colonel Bennett himself, left their camp at Stone's River, 6 miles from Murfreesborough, on a scout this side of the Cumberland yesterday evening, having ridden all night. They report Morgan and Duke encamped in similar positions around Murfreesborough, where there is also a large force of infantry. The rebel cavalry fled, at my approach, in the direction of Dickinson's Springs, 8 miles from here. Upon nearing the town, I met a detachment of the Second Indiana Cavalry, attached to the troops at this point, who reported the capture, by this party of rebels, of a forage train and one company of cavalry. I immediately sent one regiment of infantry after them, directing the cavalry to make a detour, in order to intercept them on the road. The infantry has returned, and report the cavalry as having missed the enemy, and gone forward in pursuit.

I received dispatches by courier to-night, and will immediately follow your instructions in regard to scouts. I relieve the troops of the Second Brigade, First Division, who march from here to-morrow morning.

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

JOS. R. SCOTT,
Colonel, Commanding Thirty-ninth Brigade.

Capt. D. BRADEN, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

NOVEMBER 26-27, 1862.—Reconnaissance to La Vergne, Tenn., and skirmish.

REPORTS, ETC.

- No. 1.—Brig. Gen. Joshua W. Sill, U. S. Army, commanding division.
No. 2.—Lieut. Col. Peter B. Housum, Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania Infantry.
No. 3.—Capt. Thomas E. Rose, Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania Infantry.
No. 4.—Congratulatory letter from General Braxton Bragg to Brig. Gen. Joseph Wheeler, C. S. Army, commanding cavalry.

No. 1.

Report of Brig. Gen. Joshua W. Sill, U. S. Army, commanding division.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND DIVISION,
November 27, 1862.

GENERAL: Hearing some vague rumors yesterday concerning a heavy

Colonels Malone and Estes, Captains [G.] Cook and [S. P.] Christian, of Texas Rangers, and Captain [L. T.] Hardy, of General McCown's escort, behaved with the utmost gallantry and judgment. Maj. F. M. Ison commanded the Second Georgia during Wednesday's fight. The members of my staff were prompt and efficient, and reckless of danger.

The loss of the brigade was 108 killed and wounded, and 107 captured; 150 horses killed. A detailed account of the casualties has been sent to General Bragg.

Captain [B. F.] White, jr., of my battery, whose gallantry upon this and every other field was most conspicuous, was taken so violently ill upon Wednesday night as to render it entirely impossible for him to be removed upon our evacuation of Murfreesborough.

Colonel Ashby was ordered to report early Thursday morning to General Pegram with his regiment, and was not in my brigade afterward. The entire strength of the brigade was about 2,000.

I have the honor to remain, your most obedient servant,
JNO. A. WHARTON,
Brigadier-General of Cavalry.

Maj. T. B. ROY,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 306.

Report of Brig. Gen. Abraham Buford, U. S. Army, commanding Cavalry Brigade, including skirmishes December 31-January 3.

HEADQUARTERS BUFORD'S CAVALRY BRIGADE,
Camp near Beech Grove, Tenn., January 11, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor herewith to forward report of my brigade during the battle of Murfreesborough, [Tenn.]

My brigade, composed of Colonel Smith's regiment, assigned for duty with Colonel Grigsby, numbering 220 effective men, Colonel Grigsby's regiment, 230, and Colonel Butler, 180 men, in all 631 effective men, in accordance with orders from the general commanding, moved to Rover, 18 miles southwest of Murfreesborough, on the Shelbyville and Nashville pike, where I remained until Wednesday, 31st [ultimo].

Having received an order from General Bragg to move upon the enemy's flank and be ready for a vigorous pursuit, delivered at 12 m. Tuesday night (30th), I moved at daylight Wednesday morning (31st), and reached the battle-field at 12 m., taking position on the extreme left. I there joined General Wheeler, and, in concert with him, moved rapidly along the enemy's flank, my brigade being in advance, until we encountered a force of the enemy, consisting of artillery, cavalry, and infantry, escorting a large wagon train, the enemy occupying quite a strong position on a hill near Miller's. I immediately disposed my command for an attack, threw forward Captain [T. H.] Shanks' company, of Colonel Grigsby's regiment, as skirmishers, and formed the brigade in line of battle, Colonel Butler on the right, threatening the enemy's flank, and Colonel Grigsby on the left, in front of the enemy's lines. The attack was opened by our skirmishers, the enemy replying with artillery. After firing a few rounds, I received an order from General Wheeler to withdraw my brigade.

In this skirmish I lost 1 man (private of Colonel Butler's regiment) killed and 3 wounded; 2 horses killed and 2 disabled. We captured some 30 prisoners, who were paroled on the field.

Having withdrawn my force in good order, and acting in conjunction with General Wheeler, I moved back on the right toward and on the Wilkinson pike, on the left bank of Overall's Creek, near Mrs. Washington's. Here we found the enemy posted on the right bank of the creek, under cover of the woods. General Wheeler, on the right bank, attacked them, and I immediately drew up Colonel Grigsby's regiment (holding Colonel Butler's in reserve) on the right flank of the enemy, crossed the creek, charged the enemy, and drove him back with severe loss upon the lines of his heavy infantry.

My loss was here 2 commissioned officers (Major Chenoweth and Capt. William Campbell) and 6 privates wounded. We captured some 10 or 15 prisoners, who were paroled on the field.

Night coming on, my brigade was withdrawn from the field, receiving orders to move the next day (Thursday), in conjunction with Generals Wheeler and Wharton, to the rear of the enemy. Uniting my brigade with theirs, I marched to La Vergne, co-operating with them in capturing and destroying a large number of wagons laden with commissary and quartermaster's stores, taking a large number of prisoners. Ninety-five of the Twenty-second Indiana Infantry came out and voluntarily surrendered to Lieut. D. E. Myers, who was alone a short distance in front of his command.

I returned the next morning (Friday) to my original position on the left of our line of battle, near Mrs. Washington's, and remained there during the day, with no material results. At 9 p. m. I was ordered again to co-operate with General Wheeler in rear of the enemy, and moved at once. We encountered the enemy near Cox's Hill, about 8 miles from Nashville, on the Nashville and Murfreesborough pike. My brigade being in the rear, found on arriving that General Wheeler had already engaged the enemy, who was drawn up along the pike, his cavalry opposite the right wing of my brigade, which I had moved into a corn-field adjoining the pike. Receiving an order from General Wheeler to move back to the woodland skirting the field, I did so, to support the attack in which he was engaged. I drew up the brigade, dismounted them to act as skirmishers, preparatory to an attack on the enemy's left. Before engaging, I was ordered by General Wheeler to withdraw my command, as he had been ordered to return immediately to Murfreesborough.

I returned that (Saturday) night to my original position on the left of our line of battle, near Mrs. Washington's, and remained there until sunrise Sunday morning, when a dispatch from General Wheeler informed me that the army had commenced a retreat. I fell back to Murfreesborough, and retired on the Shelbyville pike in rear of the army.

I take pleasure in calling the attention of the commanding general to the good conduct and military bearing of most of the officers and men of my command, and particularly the gallant conduct of Maj. J. Q. Chenoweth, of Colonel Butler's regiment, who was on duty as a member of my staff, and Capt. G. M. Tilford and Lieut. D. E. Myers, of Colonel Smith's regiment, who were on duty with Col. J. Warren Grigsby's regiment during the engagement of Wednesday evening.

My thanks are due to the officers acting on my staff for the efficient aid rendered me during the engagement.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,
A. BUFORD,
Brigadier-General, Provisional Army.

GENERAL COMMANDING ARMY,
(Through George William Brent, Assistant Adjutant-General.)

with turpentine. You will, if you find it practicable, proceed to or beyond Boston, via Barbourville, and ascertain the force and position of the enemy at Big Creek Gap, or in the vicinity of Boston, Ky., or in Scott County, Tennessee. If, however, you find it practicable to do so with the forces you have, you may proceed to Strawberry Plains, about 15 miles from Knoxville, and destroy the big railroad bridge at that place. It is with the hope that you may find it practicable to accomplish this with safety that I have directed the turpentine to be procured. Should you reach the railroad, you will, of course, destroy the telegraph wires as soon as you get there. In my judgment, if you reach the railroad, it will be safe for you to return via Cumberland Gap, but in reference to the route you take, both going and returning, you will be governed by the best information you can obtain, and your operations throughout must necessarily be directed accordingly by your own good judgment and discretion. You will report from time to time to Col. S. A. Gilbert, at Richmond, and on your return will report direct to him.

Very respectfully, &c.,

H. B. WILSON,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.

No. 2.

Report of Maj. James L. Foley, Tenth Kentucky Cavalry.

HDQRS. SECOND BATT., TENTH KENTUCKY CAVALRY,
Danville, Ky., January 3, 1863.

I have the honor to report that, in accordance with instructions received from headquarters, I proceeded to London, Ky., on the morning of December 25, 1862, with the greater portion of my command, including the force reported to me under command of Captain Buchanan, of Munday's cavalry. Arriving at London, I learned that Major Brown had been ordered to Barbourville by Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, who likewise ordered that the next morning I should proceed to Williamsburg, in Whitley County, Kentucky. This point was reached at 9 p. m. the following day, where I had made arrangements by my advance guard to select a camp, procure a sufficient quantity of forage, and also to picket all roads leading out of the town until my arrival.

My detachment rested here until the next evening, the 27th instant, during which time I spent in learning the location, numbers, and disposition of the rebel forces. My command was again in motion at 8 p. m., having been informed by scouts that a rebel force, 350 strong, had encamped at a point on Elk Fork, called Perkins' Mill, in Campbell County, Tennessee, 19 miles from Williamsburg. Proceeding cautiously in that direction, I came upon their pickets at 4 a. m. of the 28th instant, which were captured, 16 in number, by my advance guard, under command of Lieutenant Kerr, of Munday's cavalry, without the slightest noise or confusion; in fact, they were fast asleep. From them I learned the location of their camp, numbers, strength, &c., which was very accurate, as I afterward discovered.

Forming my line, I now awaited the approach of daylight, but so intense and heavy was the fog as to prevent anything being seen at the distance of 20 paces. I determined, however, to attack them, and detailed 40 men of Munday's cavalry, under Lieutenant Kerr, armed with carbines and the captured rifles. I deployed this force as skirmishers,

with instructions to approach the camps as near as possible before opening fire. The cavalry companies (B and M, Tenth Kentucky), supported these. The order "forward" was now given, and after proceeding a quarter of a mile the skirmishers opened fire. This was returned by the enemy with considerable spirit, but they soon gave way at the approach of the cavalry, after three unsuccessful attempts to form their line. The rout now became general; the enemy, pushed one very side, refused to stand their ground; our forces, elated with the first success, manfully bore down upon them, and in less than one hour we had full possession of their camp.

They lost 30 killed, 17 wounded, and 51 captured. In addition to this, 80 head of horses and mules fell into our hands, together with a large number of Enfield rifles and ammunition. What could not be brought away was destroyed. The number of rifles which fell into our hands amounted to nearly 200 stand. The camp equipage was all destroyed and burned. This, sir, was accomplished in one hour's time, and without the loss of a man killed or wounded.

The fight occurred in such close proximity to a second camp of the enemy's cavalry, estimated by the prisoners at 600 strong, as to cause the assailed party to seek protection in their lines, hotly pursued by our men.

I take occasion, with much pleasure, to compliment Captains Buchanan and Coffman, and Lieutenants Kerr and Taylor, of Munday's cavalry; Captains Rogers, Nute, and Gray, and Lieutenants Thompson, Caldwell, Trumbo, Bierbower, and Taber, of the Tenth Kentucky Cavalry, for their gallantry and cool bearing displayed on this occasion. Great praise is due the men for their bravery, and they deserve alike to share the glory.

I am, sir, with much respect, your obedient servant,
JAMES L. FOLEY,

Major Tenth Kentucky Cavalry, Commanding Battalion.

Capt. B. H. POLK,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

DECEMBER 25, 1862.—Skirmish on the Wilson Creek pike, between Brentwood and Petersburg, Tenn.

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Col. P. Sidney Post, Fifty-ninth Illinois Infantry, commanding brigade.
No. 2.—Brig. Gen. John A. Wharton, C. S. Army, commanding cavalry brigade.

No. 1.

Report of Col. P. Sidney Post, Fifty-ninth Illinois Infantry, commanding brigade.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE, FIRST DIVISION,
December 25, 1862.

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to report that, in obedience to orders from Brigadier-General Davis, commanding First Division, I started at daylight this morning, with the First Brigade, First Division, and the Fifteenth Regiment Wisconsin Infantry, from the Second Brigade, and the train, reported to me as consisting of more than 200 wagons. We

General Breckinridge's division, and was engaged in the action that day. Total loss, 3 men wounded, 4 horses killed, and several more wounded. The stock was very much exhausted, not having been unharnessed in six days.

The officers and men all bore themselves well and with coolness. Sergt. A. A. Blake especially displayed much gallantry.

Respectfully submitted.

J. H. WIGGINS,
Captain.

Colonel [W. B.] WADE.

No. 305.

Report of Brig. Gen. John A. Wharton, C. S. Army, commanding Cavalry Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS WHARTON'S CAVALRY BRIGADE,
Shelbyville Pike, Tenn., January 22, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the brigade acting under my orders during the battles before Murfreesborough, commencing December 31, 1862, and ending Saturday, January 3, 1863:

The brigade was composed of the following commands.† * * *

I received my orders from Lieut. Gen. W. J. Hardee in person. They were as follows: I was informed that at daylight on the morning of the 31st [ultimo] our left wing would attack the enemy's right. Being drawn up on the extreme left, I was ordered to reach the enemy's rear as soon as possible, and to do them all the damage I could. My command was formed before daylight. I had divided my brigade into three commands in order that it might be better wielded: Texas Rangers, Third Confederate, and Second Georgia, under Colonel Harrison; the First Confederate, Davis Battalion, Malone's battalion, and Murray's regiment, under Colonel Cox, and the remainder of the command acting as a support to the battery and as a reserve. I moved the command promptly at daylight. So vigorous was the attack of our left upon the enemy's right, proceeding first at a trot and then at a gallop, I had to travel a distance of 2½ miles before I reached the enemy's rear. I succeeded in getting into position near the Wilkinson pike, with the enemy in my front; caused Colonel Cox to form his command for a charge; directed Captain White to open on the enemy with his battery. After a brisk fire from the artillery, I ordered Colonel Cox to charge, which he did in gallant style, as evidenced by his capturing the Seventy-fifth Regiment Illinois Infantry.

About this time Captain [S. P.] Christian [Company K, Eighth Texas Cavalry], with four companies of Texas Rangers, charged a four-gun battery and captured it, including horses, drivers, harness, and everything pertaining to it.

Up to this time we had taken about 1,500 prisoners, which, with the artillery and one piece found without horses about a mile in the enemy's rear, were sent to the proper officer in Murfreesborough.

The enemy's immense wagon trains, guarded by a heavy force of cavalry, could be seen moving near and in the rear of the enemy in the direction of the Nashville pike. I determined to move across the country, give the cavalry battle, and to attempt to capture the train. Our infantry

by this time had succeeded in driving the enemy across the Wilkinson pike. In reaching a point about three-quarters of a mile distant from the Nashville pike, I discovered the wagon train of the enemy, together with some artillery, moving along the pike. A heavy body of cavalry was drawn up near and parallel to the pike, facing me, and a considerable body was drawn up nearer me to give battle. The battery was placed in position. Ashby's regiment and L. T. Hardy's company formed in front of the enemy. Harrison's command formed on his right flank. The battery opened with considerable effect. It was ordered to cease firing and Ashby and Hardy ordered to charge, which they promptly did. They were met by a counter-charge of the enemy, supposed to be the Fourth Regulars, with drawn sabers. At the same time Harrison's command was ordered to charge, which they did in the most gallant and handsome manner. The Rangers, in advance, met the enemy, and completely routed them, relieving Ashby's command, which was hard pressed. Availing myself of the confusion caused by the rout of the enemy's advanced cavalry, the entire brigade was ordered to charge the enemy's whole cavalry force, drawn up in line half a mile in rear of their main line of battle, protecting their wagon train. The order was responded to in the most chivalrous manner, and 2,000 horsemen were hurled on the foe. The ground was exceedingly favorable for cavalry operations, and after a short hand-to-hand conflict, in which the revolver was used with deadly effect, the enemy fled from the field in the wildest confusion and dismay, and were pursued to Overall's Creek, a distance of 2 miles. After they had crossed Overall's Creek, the enemy reformed out of range of our guns.

The wagon train—consisting of several hundred wagons—many pieces of artillery, and about 1,000 infantry, who were either guarding the wagons or were fugitives from the field, were ours. The trains were turned round, and started back on the pike toward Murfreesborough.

I had proceeded but a short distance in the charge when I was informed that a heavy cavalry force immediately in my rear was about to charge my battery, which, being unable to keep up with the cavalry in a charge, was some distance behind. Knowing that it would be impossible to withdraw my men from the pursuit, and having no disposition to do so, I immediately returned in person with two of my staff—Lieutenants [D. S.] Terry, jr., and [G. W.] McNeal—and found the battery with no support save Colonel Smith and 20 of his men, the balance, with too much zeal, having engaged in the pursuit of the fleeing enemy. My arrival was most opportune. About 300 of the enemy's cavalry, not over 400 yards distant, were bearing down upon the battery with a speed that evinced a determination to take it at all hazards. A few men, with Colonel Smith, were promptly formed, and the battery unlimbered and ordered to fire upon the approaching enemy. Several shells were exploded in their ranks and they retired in confusion. The command that had captured the wagons, thinking that they had driven the entire force of the enemy's cavalry across Overall's Creek, and apprehending danger alone from that quarter, were prepared to meet it only from that direction. Besides, many were scattered along the entire length of the wagon train, directing its movements and guarding the numerous prisoners taken. In this condition they were attacked by the same party of cavalry from the direction of Murfreesborough that I had repulsed with the artillery, the enemy's cavalry that we had driven across Overall's Creek being in condition likewise to attack them in the rear. Owing to this and to my being detained to defend the battery, we were able only to bring off a portion of the wagons, 5 or 6 pieces of artillery, about

† See Organization of the Army of Tennessee, No. 189, p. 661.

400 prisoners, 327 beef cattle, and a goodly number of mules cut from the wagons.

In this engagement the enemy suffered severely, losing many officers and men, both killed and captured. Among the former was Col. Minor Milliken, who was killed by Private John Bowers, of Company K, Texas Rangers, in single combat.

My loss was about 150 killed, wounded, and missing.

Captain [R. J. C.] Gailbreath, of Murray's regiment; Lieutenant [William] Ellis, Company G, Texas Rangers, and Lieutenant [W. H.] Sharp, Company B, same regiment, were wounded and left upon the field. Adj. N. D. Rothrock, of Third Confederate Regiment, was killed. My assistant inspector-general, Walker, was also wounded, and has since died of his wounds.

To Capt. Paul [F.] Anderson and his gallant company (my escort) I am indebted for the capture and safe delivery of 327 beeves and the guard accompanying them.

Having placed the booty within our lines, I again returned to the rear of the enemy and to the vicinity of the Nashville pike, and continued to engage the enemy until the middle of the afternoon. At dusk I stationed the command upon the left of our infantry and picketed for its protection. All soldiers in the command who were armed with shot or other indifferent guns exchanged them for those of a more approved character.

When it is borne in mind that the operations of this brigade were entirely in rear of the enemy, and not a mile from his line of battle; when it is likewise borne in mind that it successfully engaged all arms of the service—infantry, artillery, and cavalry—and captured and sent to the rear more prisoners than the command numbered, I think it will be cheerfully conceded that they performed meritorious and important services and are entitled to the commendation due from the commanding general to gallant soldiers.

On Thursday morning, the enemy being reputed to be in full retreat, I was directed by the commanding general to attack them at any point deemed practicable on the Nashville and Murfreesborough pike. I moved my command, in connection with Generals Wheeler and Buford, around to La Vergne, reaching that place about 4 p. m. A large train of wagons and some artillery were seen moving along the pike with a strong escort of cavalry in the direction of Nashville. General Wheeler moved across the country and attacked the train a mile below La Vergne. I attacked the enemy in front, in La Vergne, having dismounted a portion of my command. We captured about 100 wagons, 150 prisoners, 300 mules, and 1 piece of artillery. Ten of the wagons, the piece of artillery, and the mules were brought away and delivered to the proper officer. The remaining wagons, with the quartermaster's commissary, and ordnance stores contained in them, were burned. A regiment of infantry under Col. ——— Dennis was stationed in a cedar brake and fortifications near this point. I caused the battery under Lieutenant [Arthur] Pue [jr.], who acted with great gallantry, to open on it. The fire at a range of not more than 400 yards was kept up for more than an hour, and must have resulted in great damage to the enemy. I caused the enemy to be charged on three sides at the same time by Colonels Cox and Smith and Lieutenant-Colonel [James C.] Malone, and the charge was repeated four times, but the enemy was so strongly posted that it was found impossible to dislodge him.

Colonels Cox and Smith and Lieutenant-Colonel Malone and their commands behaved with the utmost gallantry. To Capt. Fergus Kyle, of

the Texas Rangers, I am indebted for the capture and safe delivery of many of the mules taken. Major Bledsoe, of Murray's regiment, was prompt and efficient in burning the wagons which could not be removed. Lieut. G. W. McNeal, of my staff, and Private Copeland, of Third Confederate Regiment, burned several wagons under very heavy fire from the enemy. The wagons were riddled with bullets during the firing.

Night coming on, I started for Murfreesborough, which place I reached at 1 a. m. next morning, after a march of 40 miles and four hours' fighting. My loss in Murray's, Smith's, and Cox's regiments and Malone's battalion in officers and men was very considerable. The command encamped the remainder of the night on the left of our line of battle.

Upon Friday I was ordered by General Bragg to the right. When Breckinridge's division attacked the enemy's left on Friday afternoon, having received no intimation that such an attack was contemplated, I accompanied Pegram's battery to the front and right with Companies D and K, of the Texas Rangers, and my escort company. Capt. Paul [F.] Anderson not being able to induce General Pegram to open with his battery (he being fearful of firing into our own troops), I took charge of the battery, placing it upon a commanding hill, and opened fire upon a heavy column of the enemy advancing from their extreme left to turn Breckinridge's right. The fire was so effective (the range not being over 500 yards) as to shoot down their standard and throw them into confusion. The fire was continued until my horse was shot. I was thrown in his struggles, and when I succeeded in getting another horse the battery had been run off without any occasion whatever. Shortly after this, Breckinridge's division gave way. I sent an order back for my command to dismount and to advance to cover our retreating forces. I rode across the field and joined General Preston, whom I found at the head of the remnants of his brigade, going to where my men were formed on foot. The command remained in saddle all night in rear and as the support of a battery on our extreme right.

During Saturday nothing of importance occurred, the command being held upon the extreme right to prevent the enemy from turning that flank.

In obedience to orders from Lieutenant-General Polk, I moved the command before daylight Sunday morning into Murfreesborough. I left three regiments to burn a bridge, and fell back slowly before the enemy, and sent the remainder 6 miles on the Shelbyville pike to feed, since which time I have been at this point picketing and protecting the front of our army.

It is considered proper to state that on Monday, the 29th, we were engaged the entire day between the Franklin dirt road and the Wilkinson pike with a large force of the enemy's cavalry, and that the Texas Rangers acted with even more than their usual gallantry in a dashing charge, saving one regiment of the brigade from a complete rout by the enemy's forces.

I take pleasure in reporting the conduct of the entire command in the different engagements as characterized by intrepidity and a determination to conquer at all hazards. The Rangers, being armed with revolvers, are better prepared to meet the enemy's cavalry than other regiments in the brigade. The battle of Wednesday was fought at great disadvantage on our part, the enemy's cavalry being much more efficiently armed and equipped. The proper weapon for cavalry has proven to be the revolver.

It affords me great pleasure to commend in the highest terms both officers and soldiers. Colonels Cox, Harrison, and Smith, Lieutenant-

proceeded to Brentwood, and from thence on the Wilson pike, near where we drove in the enemy's pickets. Two miles farther we came to a cross-road leading to Nolensville, on which the enemy were encamped about a mile distant, and at another point about 2 miles distant. The small cavalry force occupying the nearest camp abandoned it, and I stationed the Fifty-ninth Regiment Illinois Infantry and one section of the Fifth Wisconsin Battery in a position to command this road, and prevent the enemy from Nolensville, which was 5 miles distant, establishing themselves in our rear. I then proceeded 2 miles farther with the train, placing the Fifteenth Regiment Wisconsin Infantry and one section of the battery on the right, and commanding a road coming from Franklin, and the Twenty-second Regiment Indiana Infantry, the Seventy-fourth Regiment Illinois Infantry, and one section of the battery in front. Our advance was attended with considerable skirmishing. Two of the enemy were killed, and some wounded were seen being carried off. A few shells from Captain Pinney's battery cooled the Confederate ardor until all the wagons were completely loaded. The wagons of the enemy were hurried out of the field without being loaded, though, I regret to say, their presence was not discerned in time to effect their capture. The captain of one of the skirmishing parties caused some neighborhood negroes to bury the enemy's dead, and we returned to camp without any mishap whatever.

I beg leave to observe in this report that foraging in such a country as this in our front, and so great a distance from camp, while the enemy are so near and from every hill-top estimate the number of the escort and the value of the train, is attended with considerable risk. Our train could not be made to move in a less space than 4 miles, and if it were not possible to throw a superior force in rear of foraging expeditions it would not be difficult to suddenly attack so long a train and destroy some portion of it, especially while threatening it in the rear, as they did much of the way in to-day, unless the escort were very large.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
P. SIDNEY POST,
Colonel, Commanding Brigade.

Lieut. T. W. MORRISON,
Actg. Asst. Adjt. Gen., First Division, Right Wing.

No. 2.

Report of Brig. Gen. John A. Wharton, U. S. Army, commanding cavalry brigade.

HEADQUARTERS WHARTON'S CAVALRY BRIGADE,
Nolensville, Tenn., December 25, 1862—9.30 p. m.

GENERAL: We have been fighting the enemy from sunrise until dark. The forage now lies to the left of this pike, in between this and Wilkerson pike. To-day the enemy came out in large force and a heavy supporting force. With what cavalry could be used without disturbing the pickets, we engaged the enemy. The country is very hilly and covered with cedar brakes, which renders it totally unfit for cavalry, and the infantry here has orders to risk nothing. I had 3 men wounded; killed 6 and wounded 14 of the enemy. They thus paid for their forage.

I cannot get the five companies to complete Smith's and Murray's reg-

iments, though they have long been promised me. The service that I am required to perform here is too much for my force, and it will soon be unfit for service. Other cavalry commanders are drilling daily, and I assure you that every day for the past ten days I have engaged the enemy. My force in camp has to be moved forward every day to sustain the pickets, and never return until dark, so, whether on picket or off, they have no rest.

I ordered Colonel Smith to leave a portion of his command at Franklin, and to move last night on a scout on the Hillsborough pike. The result of the expedition is not yet known.

I take great pride in this brigade, and do not intend that it shall be used up without advising you of it. I intend to write to General Wheeler, and ask him to come over and see for himself the amount of labor I have to perform. The enemy were followed beyond our lines, and our pickets are at their usual stands. The enemy will be out early in the morning, and to-morrow will be, as usual, a day for us to fight and not to rest. I have nothing new as to the several movements of the enemy.

Most respectfully, general, your obedient servant,
JNO. A. WHARTON,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General LEONIDAS POLK,
Commanding, &c.

DECEMBER 25, 1862.—Skirmish at Prim's blacksmith shop, Edmondson pike, Tenn.

Report of Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Wood, U. S. Army.*

[HEADQUARTERS FIRST DIVISION, LEFT WING,]
December 25, 1862.

The brigade (Colonel Harker's) which went out this morning for forage is coming in. Colonel Harker reports having filled his wagons with corn, but had to fight for it. He was attacked in front and on the flanks, and lost 1 man killed outright and 2 wounded; one seriously, the other slightly. The casualties all occurred in the Fifty-first Indiana Volunteers. Colonel Harker estimates the enemy at 600, and says he was attacked by mounted men and men on foot, but does not know whether the latter were infantry or dismounted troopers. If we should move to-morrow, I beg to be distinctly informed what amount of baggage it is expected we will take. If all is not taken, which, I presume, will hardly be done, what arrangements will be made with the remainder? Will it be ordered to follow, or sent to Nashville? Please be explicit, as it will save much embarrassment. Further, is it expected any forage will be taken? I understand the forage is exhausted on the Murfreesborough road to La Vergue; and if it were there to forage for, scattering our troops so, where the enemy are, would be hazardous. On the other hand, to haul the bulky forage provided from the country will make an immense train. I beg you will furnish the necessary information at your earliest convenience.

TH. J. WOOD,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

* See also Wharton's report, p. 164.

near, which I accordingly did, and remained in the rear until, when I received an order from Colonel Kennett (Cavalry division) to bring my command upon the Murfreesborough, where a portion of the cavalry were engaging the rebels. The rebels were thrown upon the front, and were for some time repulsed from the enemy under cover. The officers and men behaved with great coolness, and deserve much credit.

My command, under command of Captain Jennings, returned to the rear with General Stanley and Colonel Minty. Moving to the right and front, it took up position on the extreme right flank, meeting the advance of the rebels, and finally repulsing and reforming, the First Battalion took up a new position to the rest of the cavalry. After a half hour's more fighting, a cessation of the fighting.

My command was 2 killed, 4 wounded, and 4 taken prisoners. On the 1st, I was ordered with my entire command upon the movements of the enemy, who was continually attacking our flank; considerable firing between the skirmishers, several men being killed and wounded. This day my regiment was burned by the enemy while en route for Nashville, and all our regimental books, papers, company property, camp equipage, &c.

My command was placed on the right to watch that flank. Much fighting. No casualties to-day. This evening went on picket duty.

My command on picket all day. On the 4th, relieved from picket. At 2 p. m. was ordered to march to Wilkinson's Cross-Roads.

My command on the 5th, ordered to move in rear of brigade toward Murfreesborough, 3 miles on Manchester Road. My command was ordered to the front. The position was on the left, where we immediately commenced engaging the rebels. It lasted with considerable severity for about one hour, and we were driven from the ground they occupied to a belt of wood, where we were driven. I had 1 sergeant wounded severely.

My command since leaving Nashville to the present time. Killed, 2; wounded, 9; prisoners and missing, 50.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. E. WYNKOOP,

Major, Commanding Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry.

W. W. WOOLLEY,
Adjutant-General.

No. 175.

Lewis Zahm, Third Ohio Cavalry, commanding Second Cavalry Brigade, in skirmishes at Franklin, December 26-27, Wilkinson's Cross-Roads, December 29, Overall's Creek, December 31, La Vergne, Tennessee, January 3, and on Shelbyville pike, January 5.

2D CAV. BRIG., IN CAMP ON WILSON'S PIKE,
Near Nolensville Crossing, December 27, 1862.

In compliance with orders received, I moved from our old camp yesterday morning at 8 o'clock with the First, Third,

and Fourth [Ohio] Cavalry Regiments, 950 strong in all. I crossed over on the Franklin pike, south of General Thomas' headquarters, as I afterward learned. I passed the immense trains and troops on the Franklin pike, beyond Brentwood. I halted my command, as I had not seen General Thomas yet. I supposed he was on the move with the troops in front. I kept inquiring along the column, and was told that he was in the advance. I proceeded myself on the Wilson Creek pike some 2 miles, almost to the head of the column, but then learning from General Rousseau that General Thomas was in the rear, I immediately started back some 6 miles; there ascertaining that General Thomas had cut across the country on to the Nolensville pike, I thought further pursuit would be useless. I started back to join my command and to carry out the remainder of my instructions. I proceeded to Franklin; encountered the enemy's pickets 2½ miles out; drove them in. Skirmishing continued until within half a mile of Franklin, when a sharp skirmish ensued, we driving the rebels. They then made another halt in town. I dismounted some six companies to act as skirmishers on foot; came round on both flanks with mounted skirmishers, and their reserves finally charged through the river into town, where some considerable firing ensued; drove the rebels out; drove them some 2 miles beyond town; the lateness of the day prevented further pursuit, for by this time it began to be dark. The enemy was taken by surprise; could not get their forces together before we were upon them; therefore made it rather an easy task to drive them, as they were in several directions, formed several lines, but as we advanced and fired they invariably fled. We took 10 prisoners, one of them a lieutenant of General Bragg's escort, who was there on business with 16 men. We captured a private of the same escort. We captured that number of horses, several mules, some shot-guns and carbines, broke up their camps, and burned several tents for them. From the best information received, I made out the force to have been about 900, consisting of Colonel Smith's regiment and an independent battalion. I shall send the prisoners to Nashville this morning.

I learned that quite a force of infantry and artillery were 9 miles out of Franklin, on the road leading to Murfreesborough. I arrived in camp here at nearly 9 o'clock last evening; reported to General Rousseau, in the absence of General Thomas. We learned that the enemy had quite a force at Triune, some 10 miles south of this. General Rousseau and myself came to the conclusion to use my brigade to-day in reconnoitering the front and right, until further orders could be received from you. I shall therefore send some 500 men toward Petersburg and Triune to reconnoiter; shall likewise send a smaller force over toward Franklin, to ascertain whether the enemy has come back again or not. My force will be back in camp toward evening; will remain here and picket Wilson's Creek pike, as instructed, until your further orders are received.

I forgot to mention that we killed 3 of the enemy; could not ascertain the number of wounded; must have wounded some in proportion to the killed. My command behaved nobly, both officers and men.

The Third [Ohio] Cavalry had the advance, and did the principal part of the fighting; there was no flinch to them; they moved steadily onward, and finally made the charge through town.

I am, general, your obedient servant,

LEWIS ZAHM,

Colonel, Commanding Second Cavalry Brigade.

General STANLEY,
Commanding Cavalry.

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.
 8th Arkansas, { Maj. W. F. Douglass.
 Col. John H. Kelly.
 Lieut. Col. G. F. Baucom.
 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. E. W. Harper.
 Maj. L. M. Ramsaur.
 2d Arkansas Mounted Rifles, † Lieut. Col. J. A. Williams.
 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.

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.