

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.

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PART I—REPORTS.

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No. 3.

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

KNOXVILLE, TENN., November 9, 1862.

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

BRAXTON BRAGG.

General S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General.

No. 4.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

After this engagement I moved back to La Vergne.

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

All of which is respectfully submitted.

N. B. FORREST,
Brigadier-General.

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

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

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

HEADQUARTERS CAMP FINNELL,
November 10, 1862.

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

Your obedient servant,

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

General HORATIO G. WRIGHT.

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 bush-whackers. 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

force of the enemy, reported to be at La Vergne, I dispatched Col. E. N. Kirk, Thirty-fourth Illinois, commanding Fifth Brigade, to make a reconnaissance in that direction. His report is herewith inclosed.* Quite a heavy firing was kept up on both sides. There was also heavy firing on the Nolensville road, which occurred during a reconnaissance, made by a portion of Sheridan's command. Being averse to unnecessary expenditure of ammunition, and feeling sure that it might create alarm in the city, I particularly enjoined on Colonel Kirk not to fire at all if he could avoid it. I think there was entirely too great a waste of ammunition. The reconnaissance developed the presence of cavalry at La Vergne, probably the same which has occupied that place for some time under Wheeler. One of the prisoners states that on Stewart's Creek, some 5 miles beyond La Vergne, there has been an encampment of infantry; what force he does not know; thinks a brigade. Another prisoner states that, while the skirmish was going on, he saw a cavalryman of his company, who had just come from Stewart's Creek, and reported that their infantry was moving, and was within 2 miles of La Vergne. This is all I know of the approach of the enemy rumored in the city. The 3 prisoners will be sent you early in the morning. One of the prisoners states that Wheeler commands six regiments, viz, the First and Third Alabama, Robertson's battalion, Faulkner's battalion, Douglass' battalion, Hagan's battalion.

In my letter of yesterday I referred to the great length of my picket line. It requires the best part of a day to make the circuit. My left is picketed quite close to camp; the front line extends to join Sheridan's line. Behind me, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, I understand that Crittenden's three divisions are posted, on Mill Creek, with another picket line. The total length of it does not, I suppose, equal that of my single division. I respectfully urge the location of this division to the right of the present position, nearer to Sheridan's; unless it be expected that we should meet the enemy on this road, when I would advise the selection of other ground farther to the front. I am not sufficiently conversant with the ground in front to venture an opinion as to where we could go with more advantage. It seems to me, however, that, in view of a certain contingency, some change ought to be made.

Before closing, I desire to be acquainted with the construction which I should place on that part of General Orders, No. 21, Headquarters Fourteenth Corps, limiting the supply train of a division to 50 wagons. My quartermaster seems to think that the 50 wagons include the ammunition train. Now, as my ammunition train numbers 35 wagons, I should have 15 wagons left for supply train. Is there not a mistake on his part?

In case a change of location is to be made, I would like to know it early, so that the movement can be commenced by sunrise.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. W. SILL,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Maj. Gen. A. McD. McCook,
Commanding Right Wing.

* Not found.

No. 2.

Report of Lieut. Col. Peter B. Housum, Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania Infantry.

HDQRS. SEVENTY-SEVENTH REGT. PENNSYLVANIA VOLS.,
In Camp, November 27, 1862.

CAPTAIN: In reply to Special Orders, No. —, of this date, asking why the detachments sent out on the left of La Vergne did not move up rapidly and charge the rebel battery, as ordered, I give you a statement of the operations of the Twenty-ninth Indiana Regiment, Major Collins, and Seventy-seventh Regiment, both under my command, until the detachment under Colonel Dodge, Thirtieth Indiana, joined me.

After receiving orders to join the Seventy-seventh to the Twenty-ninth and assume command, I proceeded, as ordered, to take and hold the grove on the left of the Murfreesborough road, and keep the right a specified distance from the road. When in the grove, and in line of battle, the skirmishers thrown in advance from the Twenty-ninth Indiana Regiment became engaged in front and on the left. I at once ordered Company B, of Seventy-seventh, Captain Rose, forward on the left of the line already deployed, with orders to advance as rapidly as circumstances would permit. As soon as deployed, he became engaged with the enemy, when I ordered the whole line forward to the bed of the stream, and immediately crossed, when it became necessary to march the line by the left flank to get under cover of the woods, and also to cross a ravine which was in front. As soon as a sufficient distance had been taken to the left to cover the troops, I ordered an advance, with the injunction from Captain Wagner not to advance too rapidly on the woods, or too close on the line of skirmishers. After advancing some distance, I was ordered to again move by the left flank to what I thought would be a point opposite the battery, and advance on it. After marching by the flank what I supposed a sufficient distance, I again resumed the march by the front, and advanced steadily, under a severe fire, when I observed the enemy moving to our left, and supposing the object might be to outflank us on our left, their line in front already exceeding our line in length or front, I ordered a halt, and sent Lieutenant Walker, of the staff, to the left, to notify the cavalry to keep a strict watch to prevent any attempt to flank us on the left, at the same time notifying Colonel Kirk that probably an attempt would be made to outflank us. Lieutenant Walker returning, I immediately ordered the men forward, when, from the maneuvering of the enemy in front, I ordered two additional companies forward on the line of skirmishers. At this moment Colonel Dodge joined me on the right, when he also threw one company forward on the line of skirmishers; thus re-enforced, and the skirmish line strengthened, I ordered a rapid advance, clearing the woods of the enemy. Colonel Dodge now came to me, and, as my superior officer, he assumed command and ordered me to change front forward on the left company. When the whole line was thrown forward in the new direction, he ordered an advance to the edge of the woods. At this point he ordered the Twenty-ninth Regiment forward, supported by the Seventy-seventh and Thirtieth, to charge the battery, while moving forward as rapidly as the ground would admit of, and obstructed, as it was, by a number of fences, which had to be torn down as they advanced, and also under a severe fire from the rebel battery on the hill in front. About the time the advance was tearing

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 Illinois; 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.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

General S. COOPER.

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.*

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.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

General S. COOPER.

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.

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. 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. Hughs.
 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. Pat. 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.

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.

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 Fosterville, Tenn., January 26, 1863.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Very respectfully, colonel, your obedient servant,

JOS. WHEELER,

Major-General and Chief of Cavalry.

Col. GEORGE WILLIAM BRENT,

Assistant Adjutant-General.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully, colonel, your obedient servant,

JOS. WHEELER,

Major-General.

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

No. 302.

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

FOSTERVILLE, TENN.,
February 19, 1863.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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