

TENNESSEANS
IN
THE CIVIL WAR

*A Military History
of Confederate and Union Units
with
Available Rosters of Personnel*

In Two Parts

Part I

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when Brigadier General Joseph Wheeler, Chief of Cavalry at LaVergne, Tennessee was advised: "Major Davis' Battalion will report as soon as relieved by Lieutenant General E. Kirby Smith." On November 30, an order was issued: "Major Davis' Battalion, now on duty at McMinnville, will, on being relieved by a battalion from Smith's Corps, report to Brigadier General Wheeler at LaVergne, for duty with Brigadier General Wharton." On December 7, it was reported: "Major Davis' Battalion of Cavalry is relieved at McMinnville, and will report at once to Brigadier General Wharton."

On December 12, General Wharton advised: "The enemy attacked Franklin this morning just before daylight. Colonel Baxter Smith, who was there with 400 men, engaged them, but was forced to retire. ***General Cleburne is now moving on Franklin on the Triune and Franklin dirt road, and I have sent Colonel Thomas Harrison with his

DOUGLASS' TENNESSEE PARTISAN RANGER BATTALION

Organized October 1862; companies never lettered; the companies were variously assigned to other organizations, and four remaining companies were consolidated February 25, 1863 with Holman's Partisan Ranger Battalion, to form 11th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment.

No muster rolls of the battalion were found, and the information given below was taken from the records of the organizations to which the companies were later assigned.

FIELD OFFICER

Major—DeWitt Clinton Douglass
CAPTAINS—John Lytle. Organized October 4, 1862 at Salem, Rutherford County. Became Company "D", 11th Regiment.

Chatham Coffee. Organized September 15, 1862 from Coffee and Warren Counties. Became Company "H", 11th Regiment.

Thomas F. Perkins. Organized August 10, 1862 at Franklin, Williamson County. Some men from Davidson County. Became Company "I", 11th Regiment.

O. F. Bruster or Brewster. Organized July 28, 1862 at McMinnville, Warren County. Became Company "L", 11th Regiment.

T. C. H. Miller. Organized October 28, 1862 at Chapel Hill, Marshall County. Operated with, but not a member of the battalion.

Rangers, and John R. Davis' Battalion of Cavalry on the Franklin and Nashville Pike, to hold the enemy in check until the arrival of General Cleburne's forces."

In the Battle of Murfreesboro, December 31, 1862, Davis's Battalion was in Brigadier General John A. Wharton's Brigade, of General Wheeler's Cavalry Corps. About a month later, on January 27, 1863, at Shelbyville, Tennessee the battalion was merged into Colonel Baxter Smith's Regiment which was usually called the 4th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment, but officially designated the 8th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment.

On March 21, 1863, the battalion was reported in a force under the command of Brigadier General John H. Morgan which attacked Federal troops at Milton, Tennessee. Of course, by this time, the battalion was officially in the 8th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment.

James B. Harvey. Organized May, 1862. Became Company "F", 2nd (Woodward's) Kentucky Cavalry Regiment.

Nathan W. Carter. Organized September, 1862 at LaVergne, Tennessee with men from Davidson and Rutherford Counties. Became Captain Carter's Company Independent Scouts; later Company "A", 21st Tennessee Cavalry Regiment.

Richard McCann. Organized September, 1862. Became Company "K", 9th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment. McCann was from Nashville, and the company was probably from Davidson County. It was attached to the battalion for only a very short time.

Felix H. Blackman. Men from Davidson County. Became Company "I", 9th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment. It was attached to the battalion for a very short time.

No muster rolls were found for McCann's or Blackman's Companies.

The battalion was organized by Major Douglass, who had formerly been a captain in the 7th Tennessee Infantry Regiment. It should not be confused with the Douglass Battalion which was ordered by Major General Sam Jones, at Chattanooga, on September 16, 1862, to form part of an escort under General Maxey for arms to be sent to Kentucky over the route traveled by General E.

Kirby Smith. This battalion was commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel Douglass, initials not given, who was probably Lieutenant Colonel Marcellus Douglass of the 13th Georgia Infantry Regiment. Also the *Official Records* indicate that Douglass' Battalion was sometimes called McCann's Battalion, and a number of the companies mentioned in connection with McCann's Battalion were in this battalion. Captain McCann was appointed Major of the 9th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment on December 23, 1862, but McCann seems to have continued to operate independently until after the Battle of Murfreesboro.

Brigadier General Joseph Wheeler, in his report of the operations of his Corps just before, and during the Battle of Murfreesboro, commended "Captain" McCann, whom he described as being in command of a detachment, but did not say of what the detachment consisted.

A report from Captain Lytle stated that the battalion was organized by Major Douglass on authority from the War Department; that he completed the enrollment of his company on October 4, 1862 and reported to Major Douglass on October 8, his company being the third to report, but that the battalion was increased to nine companies during the month of October.

On February 5, 1863, General Wheeler instructed Douglass to organize his companies as a regiment, and this was done with the election of Douglass as colonel, Coffee as lieutenant colonel, and Lytle as major. The returns were sent to General Wheeler for approval, but no answer was received, and in a few days his company, and six others were ordered to report to General Forrest. Two companies refused to obey the order, and the other companies were distributed to various regiments, breaking up the organization. Forrest appointed James H. Edmondson, former captain of infantry, as colonel to take command of seven companies from Douglass' Battalion, Major Holman's Partisan Ranger Battalion, and two independent companies and form a regiment. Both officers and men protested against the consolidation and claimed the right to elect their own field officers, with the result that Forrest had the officers arrested and confined for several days. Edmondson took command but found so

much dissatisfaction he asked to be relieved, and Major Holman assumed command as lieutenant colonel, afterwards as colonel, with no other field officers "in which condition we are at the present time, having been debarred the rights and privileges of free men and Volunteer Tennesseans." By way of extenuation, Colonel Holman stated that Major Douglass had been captured at Middleton, Tennessee on January 31, 1863, and was a prisoner of war; and that he (Holman) had been seriously wounded at Dover on February 3, and was reported by the surgeons as perhaps mortally wounded; and that Forrest no doubt intended by his course to give the regiment an efficiency not crippled by officers who were unable to assume immediate command.

General Forrest, in reporting on the action on the outskirts of Nashville, stated that on November 4, 1862, Starnes' and Dibrell's Regiments, Major Douglass' Battalion and Freeman's and Roberts' Batteries were on the left of the Murfreesboro Pike, coming down the Nolensville, Mill Creek and Franklin Pikes.

On November 27, a Federal report listed Wheeler's command as consisting of six regiments; 1st and 3rd Alabama, Robertson's Battalion, Faulkner's Battalion, Douglass' Battalion, and Hagan's Battalion. Brigadier General Wheeler, in his report of the Cavalry actions of his command from December 26 to 31, 1862, listed Douglass' and Holman's Battalions in Wheeler's Brigade. As such, they participated in Wheeler's sweep around the rear of the Federal Army before Murfreesboro. These are the only references found as to the activity of the battalion as such.

The date of assignment of Captains McCann's and Blackman's Companies to the 9th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment is not known, but McCann was appointed Major on December 23, 1862. On February 19, 1863 General Wheeler assigned Captain Harvey's Company to the 2nd (Woodward's) Kentucky Cavalry Regiment, and detached Captain Carter's Company as Independent Scouts. Captain T. C. H. Miller's Company became Company "C" of the 11th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment, and the remaining four companies, in spite of their protests, became permanent members of the 11th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment on February 25, 1863.

Felix H. Blackman, in a letter dated September 25, 1902, stated he had first served in the 1st (McNairy's) Battalion, and when that battalion was merged into the 22nd, usually called 2nd, (Barteau's) Cavalry Regiment, "I gave way, and obtained a commission from General Price, and came back to Tennessee and recruited a company, and we, with Major

Dick McCann did service until after the Battle of Murfreesboro as McCann's Squadron. McCann's commission having been obtained from General Morgan (John Hunt), we were ordered to report to him and was with him on his Ohio raid. I was surrendered with General Morgan when he surrendered and was not released until June, 1865."

HAMILTON'S TENNESSEE CAVALRY BATTALION

Also called 4th Tennessee Cavalry Battalion: 4th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment
Later known as Shaw's Tennessee Cavalry Battalion

Organized in Jackson County December, 1862; Confederate Service April 11, 1863; consolidated with Allison's Squadron July, 1864.

FIELD OFFICERS

Lieutenant Colonel—Oliver P. Hamilton
Major—Jo Shaw

CAPTAINS—D. J. Shaw, Richard N. Coffey (or Coffee), W. B. Carlen, Thomas L. Dodd, Winton B. Harris, A. W. Norris, William Hutchison, Ed Cullom, Jo Coffee, R. V. Wright, R. B. Rease, George W. Stephens, Thomas L. Bransford, R. J. C. Gailbreath, Benjamin H. Ford.

The only muster roll of the battalion which was found was that of Captain O. P. Hamilton's Company, dated December 21, 1861, which was organized in Jackson County. Prisoner of war records make reference to eight companies, "A" through "H", but from them it is not possible to identify the captains with the various companies. Captain Richard M. Coffey, from Overton County, was listed as captain of Company "F". Practically all the men covered by the prisoner of war records were from either Overton or Jackson County.

The Adjutant General's Office, State of Tennessee, advised Adjutant General S. Cooper, Richmond, Virginia April 18, 1863: "Hamilton's Company was mustered into service for the local defense of the border counties lying up the line of Tennessee where the counties and mountains strike the Kentucky line pursuant to an order from General Johnston authorizing the muster of companies for that purpose. This company has done good service, and is now organized, and has been, and is now, in general service."

Information available indicates Hamilton

was first elected Major of the battalion, and was promoted to lieutenant colonel on July 1, 1863, at which time Captain Jo Shaw was elected major. Hamilton was captured at Celina, Tennessee on March 4, 1864, and his prisoner of war records list him as lieutenant colonel 4th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment, but there was nothing found to indicate that he was ever connected with any of the regiments that were known by that number. He was charged by the Federal officials with being a guerrilla, and was being forwarded to Lexington, Kentucky for trial, when he was killed by his guard, circumstances not known.

A communication from Lieutenant Colonel Hamilton, dated July 25, 1863, reported that the battalion, with six companies, was mustered into Confederate Service April 11, 1863. On April 20, 1863, Federal General E. H. Hobson reported that troops of his command had attacked Hamilton's command at Celina, Tennessee, destroying his camp and killing seven of his men. On the next day, they took possession of the town, killing 30, and reported the rebels in full retreat and in perfect disorder.

On June 9, another Federal report described the total rout of Hamilton's command at Kettle Creek, with 40 killed, 36 captured, and the capture of two howitzers and the entire wagon train and equipment. At this time, Hamilton's command was a part of Brigadier General John H. Morgan's forces, who, in reporting the disaster, stated; "Major Hamilton had been ordered to report to Colonel R. C. Morgan, but refused."

At Chickamauga, September 19-20, Shaw's Battalion, O. P. Hamilton's Battalion, and Allison's Squadron, all under the command of Major Joseph Shaw, were reported in the

brigade commanded by Colonel George G. Dibrell, in Brigadier General F. C. Armstrong's Division, of Brigadier General N. B. Forrest's Cavalry Corps. On October 31, and again on November 10, Hamilton's Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel O. P. Hamilton, was reported in Brigadier General J. H. Kelly's Division, of Major General Joseph Wheeler's Corps, in the brigade commanded by Colonel J. Warren Grigsby.

On November 24, 1863, Colonel John C. Carter, 38th Tennessee Infantry Regiment, in command at Charleston, Tennessee, made mention of a detachment of 17 cavalrymen under Major Shaw as being there with him. Hamilton's Battalion continued to be reported in Grigsby's Brigade through December 31, 1863, but in the report for January 20, 1864, Hamilton's Battalion was reported to be with Lieutenant General Longstreet in East Tennessee. A Federal report told of a skirmish with "Hamilton's Marauders" at Flynn's Lick, Tennessee, on January 31, and their pursuit in the direction of Livingston, Tennessee. As already mentioned, Hamilton was captured at Celina, Tennessee on March 4, 1864, and from this time on the battalion was reported under the command of Major Shaw.

On April 30, it was reported in Grigsby's

Brigade, Brigadier General W. Y. C. Humes' Division, Wheeler's Corps. On June 30, it was reported in Brigadier General John S. Williams' Brigade, Humes' Division, but on July 10, Williams' Brigade was reported in Kelly's Division again. On July 31, it was back in Humes' Division, with Allison's Squadron and Hamilton's Battalion consolidated into a field unit under Major Shaw. An isolated report from the battalion showed it stationed near Marietta, Georgia on June 30, 1864. Major Shaw was killed near Savannah, Georgia, in the Savannah Campaign later in 1864.

On January 31, 1865, Colonel George G. Dibrell, at Grahamsville, South Carolina, in reporting on the distribution of his troops listed Shaw's Battalion as being at Grahamsville. On January 31, Dibrell's Brigade of Humes' Division was reported as composed of 4th (McLemore's), 13th (Dibrell's) Regiments and Shaw's Battalion under Captain R. V. Wright. On April 8, Dibrell's Brigade was reported in General Joseph E. Johnston's Army, and as such was included in the convention which Johnston made with General Sherman at Greensboro, North Carolina April 26. No specific record of the parole of Shaw's Battalion was found.

HOLMAN'S TENNESSEE PARTISAN RANGER BATTALION

Organized October 13, 1862; consolidated February 25, 1863 with Douglass's Battalion and three other companies to form the 11th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment.

FIELD OFFICER

Major—Daniel W. Holman

Holman's Battalion had an organized life of only a little over four months. It was composed of four companies:

CAPTAINS—M. M. Swaim, Co. "A". Organized September 8, 1862 at Chapel Hill, Marshall County. Became Company "B", 11th Regiment.

Jacob T. Martin, Co. "B". Organized August 16, 1862 at Thompson Station, Williamson County. Became Company "G", 11th Regiment.

Andrew R. Gordon, Co. "C". Organized September 10, 1862. Men from Cornersville, then Giles, now Marshall County, and Lewisburg, Marshall County. Became Company "E", 11th Regiment.

James W. Rivers, Co. "D". Organized October 13, 1862 at Pulaski, Giles County.

Major Holman had previously served as major of the 1st (Turney's) Tennessee Infantry Regiment, Provisional Army, Confederate States.

About the 1st of December, the battalion reported for duty to Brigadier General Joseph Wheeler, who was encamped near LaVergne, Tennessee. Major Holman reported on December 4, that the previous night, starting from their camp on Stone's River, near LaVergne, a detachment from his battalion surprised and put to flight a Federal force at Stewart's Ferry, on Stewart's Creek.

The battalion took part in the fighting prior to, and in the Battle of Murfreesboro, December 31, 1862, as part of Brigadier General Wheeler's Brigade. General Wheeler reported that on December 26, his force was encamped on Stewart's Creek, was engaged on that day, and also on the 28th and 29th. On