

THE
WAR OF THE REBELLION:

A COMPILATION OF THE
OFFICIAL RECORDS

OF THE
UNION AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES.

PREPARED, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR, BY
The late Lieut. Col. ROBERT N. SCOTT, Third U. S. Artillery.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF
Lieut. Col. HENRY M. LAZELLE, Twenty-third U. S. Infantry

PURSUANT TO ACTS OF CONGRESS.

SERIES I—VOLUME XX—IN TWO PARTS.
PART I—REPORTS.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1887.

No. 3.

Report of General Braxton Bragg, U. 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 reinforcing. 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, U. 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 Lebanou, 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.

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.

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. Hughes.
 Lieut. Col. Samuel Davis.
 37th Tennessee:
 Col. M. White.
 Maj. J. T. McReynolds.
 Capt. C. G. Jarnagin.
 44th Tennessee, Col. John S. Fulton.
 Jefferson (Miss.) Artillery, Capt. Put Darden.

Fourth Brigade.

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

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

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.

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

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

*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.

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 B-igade.*

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.

of wagons parked on the plains; captured 36 wagons laden with ammunition, commissary and quartermaster's stores, which were burned; the teams of mules and horses attached to them, 8 or 10 wagons, and 50 prisoners. After which they proceeded to Nolensville, and, with other commands of this brigade, captured 20 wagons, 50 prisoners, the teams of horses and mules, late in the afternoon of that day. From thence they proceeded in a westerly direction for 6 or 8 miles and bivouacked for the night.

Before daylight on Wednesday morning, the 31st, we were ordered to march, and at 2 o'clock on that day, on the Wilkinson pike, engaged in skirmishing with the infantry of the enemy's right in front of Murfreesborough. The engagement was kept up until nightfall.

In this engagement Lieutenant-Colonel Webb was struck on the forehead by a fragment of a shell; 1 private of Company A wounded; 4 privates of Company B wounded; Company D, 1 private wounded; Company H, 1 private; Company F, 3 privates; Company E, 1 private.

Again on January 1, 1863, we engaged the enemy at La Vergne, on the left of the pike, facing toward Murfreesborough, for nearly one hour. They were well posted on an eminence behind houses, a train of wagons parked, and fences. The contest for the time was very warm. We captured some 15 or 20 prisoners, 5 or 6 wagons, destroyed some 8 or 10 wagons laden with army stores, and carried off the teams of mules. We held our position until we were ordered to retire.

The casualties were—Company C, 1 sergeant wounded; Company D, 1 private; Company E, 2 privates; Company F, 1 private; Company G, 1 private; Company H, 2 privates; Company I, 1 private; Company K, 1 private killed and 2 wounded. We returned to a place on the Nashville and Shelbyville dirt road, and at 2 o'clock in the morning halted to rest.

Friday morning, the 2d, we were ordered to march, and proceeded to the point on the Wilkinson pike where we engaged the enemy on the afternoon of the 31st. We remained drawn up in line of battle until after sunset that evening, when we were ordered to proceed down the Wilkinson pike several miles, and, turning on a dirt road, marched until a late hour in the night. We were halted and ordered to rest.

At daylight the next morning (the 3d) we were ordered to remount, and proceeded to Antioch Church. At that point we were ordered to proceed to the Nashville and Murfreesborough pike, at or near Blood's, which is within 8 miles of Nashville. We reached the point designated about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and soon became engaged in a skirmish with the enemy, which was kept up for half an hour, when orders were received from General Wheeler to withdraw and return by Antioch Church and join him. We did so, and after a toilsome march we halted at the place from which we moved on Friday evening, and bivouacked until morning.

On Monday morning, the 4th, about sunrise, we crossed Stone's River and proceeded on the Manchester pike 3 miles. We halted and remained there until the next morning, when we were again ordered to march. We advanced on that pike for 4 miles farther, where we halted until the afternoon, when we [were] ordered to return on the pike some 3 miles. We were ordered to dismount to fight, and formed on the right of the pike facing Murfreesborough, and soon became engaged with the enemy's cavalry, who advanced under cover of their artillery, firing grape and shell. We checked their advance and kept up a brisk engagement until artillery retired on the pike, before a greatly superior force, with the following casualties: Company B, 1 private wounded; Company C, 2

wounded; Company E, 1 wounded; Company G, 1, mortally; Company H, 1 wounded; Company K, 1 killed. That night we bivouacked on the Manchester pike, 8 miles from Murfreesborough.

On the morning of the 6th, we moved slowly down the pike to Beech Grove, where we remained, and bivouacked until Friday, the 9th, at which time we set out on the march for the Cumberland River.

On each of the occasions mentioned the officers and men behaved with such coolness and bravery as to show that they could be relied on in an hour of danger or peril—not to be dismayed by unequal numbers and superior equipments.

I regret the absence of Colonel Morgan in making this report, as I had not expected to be called on to do so, and kept no memorandum from which to prepare a more accurate account or detailed report. The surgeon of the regiment has provided the list of the casualties mentioned.

Respectfully submitted.

J. D. WEBB,

Lieut. Col., Comdg. Fifty-first Alabama Regt. Partisan Rangers.

No. 304.

Report of Capt. J. H. Wiggins, Arkansas battery, including skirmishes at La Vergne December 26-27.

FEBRUARY 19, 1863.

In compliance with General Orders, No. 6, I have the honor to submit the following report of the part borne by Wiggins' battery in the fights before Murfreesborough:

On the evening of December 26, [1862,] the enemy advanced upon La Vergne, and one section of the battery was advanced, under Lieutenant [J. W.] Calloway, to engage the enemy. During the engagement that evening we lost 3 horses and had 2 men wounded. That night the section under Lieutenant Calloway retired about a mile, and one section under Lieutenant [J. P.] Bryant was left in La Vergne on picket.

On the morning of the 27th; Lieutenant Calloway, with his section, was ordered to the front to engage the enemy again, while Lieutenant Bryant, with his section, was posted on a hill to the left of the pike and in rear of La Vergne, to relieve the retreat of Lieutenant Calloway. The battery retired to Stewart's Creek that evening, engaging the enemy by sections alternately. Loss that day, one horse. One section, under Lieutenant Bryant, was left on picket at Stewart's Creek until Monday morning, the rest of the battery retiring farther to the rear.

On Monday, the 29th, we retired to our lines in front of Murfreesborough, firing in the same manner as at Stewart's Creek, and moved with the command to the right and encamped until midnight, when, in compliance with orders from General Wheeler, took Lieutenant Calloway with a section of guns and moved with the command on the Lebanon pike and north of Old Jefferson, where a camp of the enemy was attacked, and the battery fired about a dozen rounds; then moved on with the command by way of La Vergne and Nolensville, but had no other engagement until Wednesday evening, when the enemy was attacked and the battery engaged two hours. Lost 1 man wounded, 1 horse killed, and several horses wounded.

On Wednesday (31st), one piece of the section which was left behind was taken out by Lieutenant Bryant, by order of General Bragg, with

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

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

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

formed our first line this a. m., 4 miles from Murfreesborough. The cavalry we kept back with the greatest ease, but finally they brought up several regiments of infantry in line of battle, colors flying, with cavalry on the flanks and artillery placed in a favorable position. By this means they succeeded in driving us 2 miles. The last attack was 5 miles from Murfreesborough, the shock of which was sufficiently great to prevent them from making any farther advance to-night. We must have killed and wounded a great many of them. Our loss, 6 or 7 wounded, including my aide, Lieutenant Wailes. My adjutant, Lieutenant Burford, was slightly wounded yesterday by a shell. I shall have no difficulty in keeping back the enemy from Bellbuckle for several days, if General Wharton succeeds in keeping them back on the Shelbyville pike. Of course, it will take more time to reach Wartrace and Shelbyville.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOS. WHEELER,

Brigadier-General and Chief of Cavalry.

Lieutenant-General POLK.

—
HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY,
Near Foster ville, Tenn., January 26, 1863.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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