



James Barnett

A MILITARY RECORD

OF

BATTERY D

FIRST OHIO VETERAN VOLUNTEERS

Light Artillery

BY

A COMMITTEE

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BATTLE OF MURFREESBORO.

ing been accomplished, the command moved back on.

The section moved out on the LaVergne pike on the 27th. When ten miles from Nashville the pickets met a sharp skirmish ensued with considerable loss on both sides. The section was brought into action supported by the Fourth Michigan, dismounted. Good service was rendered here by the section in a fight lasting an hour. A rebel battery opposing was silenced. The whole command advanced and the brigade bivouacked for the night on the ground held by them South of LaVergne. It was in this time that Fred T. Coffin was killed. Coffin was a private, was one of the original 3 years men, and was the first to reach Camp Dennison, O. He performed his duty with a matter of principle, and in a soldierly manner.

BATTLE OF MURFREESBORO, DEC. 27th, 1862.

Advanced with the Second Brigade under Col. James W. Adams, First Wisconsin Cavalry, across the fields up the river. Owing to the heavy rains of the night the command was obliged to go back to the Pike, as it was impossible to move the guns and caissons through the fields over the river. About six miles from LaVergne another rebel skirmish occurred and another artillery duel took place. The command was ordered at this point by Gen. George H. Thomas'

that they were transferred to the right flank of the command in order to keep, if possible, rebel cavalry from getting into the rear of the army. We were ordered further out on the 29th. About 3 o'clock rebel Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, in passing the right flank of the cavalry wagon train on the Jefferson Pike. This was held in check for a time by Col. Enos, of the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry, in Mechanics and Engineer Regiment, who formed the command in a hollow square with his wagons and caissons, and for a further protection the Col. placed the caissons and sacks of oats in such a way as to form a barrier behind them. Wheeler made several attempts to force the command to surrender. Col. Minty moved rapidly

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after Wheeler and drove him back until after dark. (30th) The Battery camped at the bridge, the cavalry being a part of a line to stop stragglers coming from the front. The stragglers were formed into companies and sent again to the front.

On the 31st they were ordered back to within a short distance of Nashville to guard the ammunition and provision train through the river to the front. We had two sharp skirmishes with rebel cavalry on our way back to the front.

On Jan. 1st, 1863, after Wheeler had been repulsed and defeated in his raid on the rear of our lines, our command was again ordered to the right flank and in the rear of Van Cleve's troops ready to support him. The troops named were opposed by the Confederate Divisions of Polk and Breckenridge. These Divisions were driven back with great loss. Our command followed the retreating Confederates until night, protecting still our right flank when we went into camp. Jan. 2d, 3rd and 4th, while performing these duties much of interest had taken place, but the latter date found Bragg's whole army on the retreat towards Duck River. The cavalry followed the retreating Confederates to and across Duck River to Tullahoma, on the road to Chattanooga. This finished our part in the Stone river fight, commenced Dec. 26 and ended Jan. 5th. We fired our first shot on Dec. 26th at LaVergne, and our last one in this fight at Tullahoma, Jan. 5th. Making a continuous line of service lasting ten days.

It was in this ten days of service when the section received its greatest compliment—viz: "of always being at the right place at the right time, and never wasting any ammunition"—in a military and practical sense—it was of great merit and at no time in the ensuing year that they were with the cavalry did they forfeit in any respect, their well-earned reputation.

During the balance of the month of January the section men with the cavalry were scouting day and night, tearing up railroads, destroying bridges and rebel property. Scarcely a day passed without a skirmish with rebel cavalry.

On Feb. 1st A column consisting of a Division of Infantry—Jeff. C. Davis—The First and Third Brigades of Cavalry (Minty) and the Newell Section of Artillery were ordered to move and intercept Forrest and Wheeler, who had Fort Donaldson their ob-

ject of attack. The attack was made with a loss of three hundred men in killed, wounded and captured of Forrest's Cavalry. The movement was made first to Versailles. From thence part of the command was sent by Minty to attack Middleton, Unionville and Rover, Tenn.

The rebels were now in line of battle near Rover. A cavalry charge by the Seventh Pennsylvania was made, the Confederate Cavalry was routed, fifty-five officers and men were captured, and forty-three were killed and wounded. This was done in less than ten minutes after their pickets were driven in. This cavalry raid continued on through Peytonville on the Harpeth river. Finding the bridges destroyed they moved to within three miles of Franklin, moving to Triune they reached Franklin the next day.

On the 5th another capture of officers was made belonging to Forrest's staff, and twenty-two of his body guard. The Forrest Cavalry were driven through Centerville and escaped to Columbia, Tenn.

On the 12th inst. the Infantry returned via Triune to Murfreesboro and the next day the cavalry came in. The cavalry had moved without tents or baggage, and the suffering from the cold had been intense. The Newell section had a hard fight at Woodbury, Tenn., Feb. 7th, in connection with the cavalry. Ten miles below Woodbury some factories were burned, a train of cars were captured, and one hundred prisoners. The train was loaded with many wagon loads of the provisions captured from their trains.

4th, The Newell Section marched with the Minty Cavalry to assist in driving back the enemy who were establishing their cavalry to the north of Duck River. The rebel cavalry were driven back to within a short distance of Shelbyville and took refuge behind a division of Polk's corps. In this charge they had some sharp fighting.

At Moore's Ford on the 11th inst. the Newell Section was engaged in driving back Forrest's cavalry, who were upon the opposite side of the creek and succeeded in driving them to the hills south of the creek. The Minty Cavalry, under cover of the Artillery, crossed the creek and formed in line of battle. Another sabre charge here drove the enemy in great confusion.

The creek from which the enemy were driven was Rutherford's Creek.

The command reached Franklin, Tenn., the 12th, and Triune, on the 13th, and back to camp at Murfreesboro on the 14th. The results being in killed, wounded and captured, seven hundred and seventy-five. See Minty's reports.

The balance of the month the Section was engaged in scouting with the Cavalry. On the 21st they had a fight at Columbus, Tenn., and again at Shelbyville, or near there, at the Seven Mile House on the Shelbyville Pike. The section moved again on the Liberty Pike April 2d with the cavalry, found the enemy in force near Auburn driving them back to Prosperity Church. The artillery opened fire on them with shell and drove them off.

We followed the enemy to Liberty from which place they retreated to Snow's Hill. April 3rd, at this place we had a hard fight with the enemy's cavalry and artillery. We were opposed by Morgan's Cavalry which, on the night following, fled. Morgan's forces had six pieces of artillery. He retreated to Sparta. Nearly two weeks were spent in this march when we moved back to Murfreesboro. On the 19th inst. the cavalry moved and led the advance of the Fifth Division of the Fourteenth Army Corps in an expedition against McMinnville, Tenn., reaching Readyville that night and camping there. (20th) Col. Minty commanding the Second Cavalry Division, camped at Woodbury that night. At 2 o'clock on the 21st Col. Long was sent by way of Jackson to seize the Manchester and McMinnville railroad, near Morrisons. This was done. The railroad station, a train of cars and a large quantity of commissary stores were captured. Another column started for McMinnville. The Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry charged into the town, dispersing their cavalry and capturing their provost guard. Major Dick McCann was captured here, and a large quantity of quartermaster's stores burned. Moved to Snow Hill the 22d, and to Liberty and Alexandria on the 23rd. The 24th the rebel cavalry retreated toward Lancaster and took shelter behind the infantry lines at Manchester. April 25th we marched to Murfreesboro.

The Newell Section were sent out June 3rd to assist in repelling an attack by the rebels on the Wartrace road. They were driven back by the cavalry across Stone River toward the Shelby-

EXTRACTS FROM REPORT OF LIEUT. COL. J. B. PARK,
COMDG. FIRST CAVALRY BRIGADE.

"April 27, 1863, Lieut. Col. Park, Fourth Michigan Cavalry, reports assuming command of First Cavalry Brigade. Moved out from camp on the Woodbury pike. The command consisted of detachments of First Middle Tennessee, Lieut. Col. Galbraith, Fourth Michigan; Major F. W. Mix, Seventh Pennsylvania, Capt. W. H. Jennings; one section First Ohio Artillery, Battery D, Lieut. Newell. I proceeded to Readyville and went into camp. April 21st, at 3 a. m. moved out the Brigade in the direction of McMinnville via Jacksonboro. Reached McMinnville after the column of cavalry had charged through the village. Having no orders to proceed farther, and hearing that a force of 200 of the enemy were engaging a much inferior force of my own command near the railroad bridge two miles on the railroad toward Morrison I proceeded thence on a gallop and found that two squadrons of the Seventh Pennsylvania had arrived at the bridge just a moment before, and just after the departure of a train for Manchester. The detachment of the Seventh Pennsylvania had already taken the guard stationed at the bridge, prisoners, and recaptured 15 of our own men, who were there awaiting transportation to Tullahoma. I directed Lieut. Col. Galbraith with his command and Lieut. Mackey, of the Fourth Michigan, to move across the creek, and a short distance down the road. They soon returned having found near the railroad a quantity of commissary stores, mostly bacon. Lieut. Mackey brought in also 8 prisoners. We have captured 2 wagons, about 8,000 pounds of bacon, 6 Enfield rifles, 1 chest of carpenter's tools, 5 bell and 4 wall tents and some other camp and garrison equipage, all of which I ordered to be burned with the exception of a wagon with which I was able to transport two wall tents and the chest of tools, proceeded to Morrison and later returned. The brigade in all captured 82 prisoners."

COL. ROBT. H. G. MINTY'S REPORT TO CAPT. W. B. CURTIS,
ASST. ADJ. GEN. SECOND CAVALRY DIVISION.

Headquarters First Brigade, Second Cavalry Division,

Camp near Murfreesboro, Tenn., June 5, 1863.

Sir: At about 1:30 p. m., on the 3rd inst., a corporal of the Seventh Pennsylvania, who had been on picket on the Manchester Pike, came in and reported that the picket had been attacked and driven in, and he feared that many of them had been cap-

tured, and that the rebels were crossing in considerable force toward the Wartrace road, with the evident intention of cutting off the picket stationed there. I immediately had the Seventh Pennsylvania, Fourth Michigan and Third Indiana saddle up, and within five minutes, Major Mix with 100 men of the Fourth Michigan, was moving out to the support of the picket on the Wartrace road, and I had reported to the general commanding the division. A few moments later Lieut. F. H. Geety, Seventh Pennsylvania, came in with his picket from the Manchester road, having been relieved by Lieut. Hedges, Fourth U. S. Cavalry. He reported that he had been skirmishing with the enemy from 9 a. m., until he was relieved, and that a few shots had been exchanged between the rebels and pickets of the Fourth Cavalry. A little after 2 p. m., I received orders from General Turchin to take three regiments on the Bradyville pike to the point occupied by our pickets. Arriving on the Bradyville pike, I met Gen. Turchin, (who was witnessing the review of Gen. Negley's division), and also Lieut. Webster, Fourth U. S. Cavalry, who was coming in with his picket, which had been relieved.

Lieut. Webster reported that the enemy had not appeared on that pike. Gen. Turchin ordered me to take the three regiments out on the Manchester pike, but on my representing to him that Major Mix was engaged on the Wartrace road with a superior force, and that by going out on that road I could support him, and also take the attacking force on the Manchester road in flank and rear, he allowed me to take the Wartrace road, and directed me to send the Fourth U. S. Cavalry on the Manchester pike. When arriving at the infantry pickets, a courier from Major Mix reported that the enemy had opened fire with three pieces of artillery. I therefore directed Lieut. Newell to bring up his section as quickly as possible. On arriving at the front, I found that Major Mix had driven the rebels across Stone's River, where they were strongly posted on the hill near Col. Norman's house, their sharpshooters being well covered by the corncribs and outbuildings on the side of the hill. I pushed the skirmishers of the Fourth Michigan well down to the river, and Lieut. Newell, arriving on the ground immediately after, I had one of his guns brought into position, and a few shells dispersed the enemy. When I ordered the Fourth Michigan to cross the river, and directed Col. Park to push his regiment well to the front and then to burn the outbuildings on Col. Norman's property, but to spare the house. I also ordered that the mill near the old bridge should be burned, as it was also used by the enemy. When this duty was performed, I returned to camp, sending the Seventh Pennsylvania around by the Manchester road. The negroes at Col. Norman's stated that a brigade of rebel cavalry and mounted infantry, with seven pieces of artillery, was in position in rear of the house when my artillery opened on them. The rebels carried away four of their men. My only casualty was Private

(Martin) Cloonan, Fourth Michigan, slightly wounded in the hand by a piece of shell.

Inclosed I hand you Maj. Mix's report.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. H. G. MINTY,

Col. Commanding First Brigade, Second Cavalry Division.
CAPT. W. B. CURTISS, Asst. Adj. Gen. Second Division.

REPORT OF LIEUT. COL. WM. B. SIPES, COMDG. SEVENTH
PENN. CAVALRY, TO CAPT. R. K. BURNES, ACTG.
ASST. ADJ. GEN. 1ST BRIGADE SECOND
DIVISION CAVALRY.

Headquarters Seventh Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry,
June 5th, 1863.

Sir: I have the honor to report that in obedience to orders, I yesterday marched with the Seventh Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry, 227 men, exclusive of officers, and one piece of artillery, under command of Lieut. Newell. I proceeded out the Shelbyville turnpike about 3 miles, and was there stopped by Brig. Gen. Jeff C. Davis, commanding a division. The Thirty-ninth Indiana Mounted Infantry, with which I had been ordered to co-operate, was there with Gen. Davis' force, and finding that regiment employed by him, I did not deliver the order to its commanding officer with which I had been intrusted. Gen. Davis desired me to hold my column in rear of his infantry, on the Shelbyville road, until such time as his skirmishers, operating to the right and left, should engage the enemy, posted with artillery about 3 miles to our front. I remained as directed for a short time, during which Major Gen. McCook came forward, but did not apparently assume command. The enemy having moved from the road before our skirmishers reached them, I was ordered to advance. Proceeding about two miles down the road, and passing the deployed infantry, my advance, consisting of Captain Davis' and Captain Newcomer's squadrons, came within musket range of the enemy, and was briskly fired upon.

I immediately ordered the command to halt, deploying portions of it to the right and left, under cover, leaving two squadrons with the artillery in the road, screened from the enemy's view by a small elevation in their front. At this time Gen. Davis came forward and I informed him that I could not advance upon the enemy unsupported; that I had three times requested the commanding officer of the infantry skirmishers to advance and take possession of a wood which covered our left flank, but they had failed to do so, and at that time were falling still further back.

He directed me to continue engaged with the enemy in front, and, if possible, draw them on, as he had forces operating on both their flanks. I failed during the evening to see or hear of these forces, but I obeyed my instructions. The enemy, having opened fire upon us from two pieces, I suggested that Lieut. Newell's one piece be brought into action. The general assented, and Lieut. Newell at once opened fire. His second shell caused the enemy's artillery to fall back and cease firing. The gun was then advanced to a more commanding position, and made ready for action, but the enemy had retired to the right and could not be seen in any considerable force. Dismounted skirmishers from my regiment were then thrown through the woods to the left already referred to and Lieutenant Dixon's squadron was deployed to the extreme right. In this position we remained until the Thirty-ninth Indiana came up, when I concentrated my command on the right of the road, the Thirty-ninth Indiana taking the left, and the artillery the road, and in this order, covered by a line of skirmishers, we advanced to the house of a Mr. Lytle, where the enemy had been posted. Here we learned that the forces in our front consisted of Gen. Cheatham's division of Bragg's army, numbering 9,000; that the force with which we were engaged consisted of about 1,000 cavalry and mounted infantry, with four pieces of artillery. Orders were here issued for the entire command to return to Murfreesboro, and at dusk we moved backward, my regiment being in the rear. We arrived in camp at 9:30 p. m.

Sergeant (James A.) Crinnian, of Company I, was shot in the shoulder, inflicting a painful, but not dangerous wound. I have no other casualties to report. My entire command behaved gallantly and coolly, executing their manoeuvres under fire as steadily as on parade. Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. B. SIPES,

Lieut. Col. Commanding Seventh Pennsylvania Vol. Cav.

REPORT OF E. M. MCCOOK COL. COMDG. AT ANDERSON'S
CROSS ROADS.

Pursuant to orders to observe the movements of the enemy and prevent his crossing in that vicinity, the Third Brigade was at Bellefonte, except the Fifth Kentucky, which was at Kelly's Ferry. I immediately moved with the three regiments and section of artillery of the Second Brigade, above named, in the direction of Anderson's Cross Roads, at the same time dispatching orders to Col. Campbell to move his command with all possible haste and join me at Jasper, giving directions to Col. Watkins, commanding Third Brigade, to move up to Caperton's. I moved at 1 p. m., expecting to reach Anderson's by daylight, but owing to a heavy and incessant fall of rain, which contin-

only three regiments, I determined to await orders from the general commanding, lest further movement on my part might cause disarrangement in his plans.

Col. Campbell, with the First Brigade, did not overtake me until the afternoon of the 3rd, twenty-four hours later than he was expected to arrive. The delay was unfortunate, and a matter of extreme regret to me, as had the additional force of this command been at my disposal when I encountered the enemy, results of much more importance and benefit might have been secured.

On the extreme right, fought with the steadiness of veterans, driving superior numbers of the enemy from every position they attempted to hold, the First Wisconsin, Second Michigan, Second Indiana, and Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiments, nobly sustained their old reputation.

The fact that so small a force drove two divisions of the enemy from the field makes me feel renewed pride and confidence in the efficiency and gallantry of my division. Among the other brave men, whose loss we are called upon to mourn, are Capt. Cannon and Lieut. Cox, First East Tennessee Cavalry, who fell leading a charge at the head of their soldiers.

To Captain Pratt, assistant adjutant general; Captain Porter, Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry, acting assistant inspector general; Captain Hancock, Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry, provost marshal; Captain Mitchell, Second Indiana Cavalry, acting aide-de-camp; Lieutenant Gannett, Seventh Kansas Cavalry, ordnance officer; Lieut. Miller, Third Ohio Cavalry, assistant commissary of musters; Lieutenant Cunningham, Fourth Indiana Cavalry; commanding escort, members of the division staff, I am much indebted for the assistance rendered me on the field.

I desire to mention the services rendered by Surgeon Robbins, Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry, and division medical director, who was indefatigable in his efforts to care for our wounded, and those of the enemy remaining in our hands. I enclose herewith copies of reports of brigade and battery commanders, received since making this report.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWARD M. McCOOK,
Colonel Commanding.

LIEUT. W. L. SHAW, Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BATTERY, COLUMBUS, OHIO.

During the latter part of January, 1863, our exchange was effected and Capt. Konkle issued an order for all of the men belonging to Battery D to report immediately at Camp Chase, Ohio.

It is a fact that many of the men, in fact most of them, were at their homes.

There was no delay on the part of the men in reporting for duty. The battery remained at Camp Chase until Feb. 7th, when it went into camp at the Fair Grounds, two miles east of the city. The men were quartered in tents, and the stalls and sheds belonging to the grounds were used for the horses. It was a fine camp and the reorganization of the battery went on rapidly.

An entire new equipment was furnished, consisting of six three-inch Rodman guns and caissons with battery-wagon and forge. On the 10th of February horses were furnished and mounted drill was a part of our daily duties as well as drill at the manual of the piece, and target shooting was practiced twice each week.

On Feb. 22d a salute of one hundred (100) guns was fired from the east front of the State House grounds. It was a very creditable salute. The occasion was in honor of Govs. Morton, of Indiana, Johnson, of Tennessee, and Gov. Brough, of Ohio. This was the first time the Battery had had an occasion to try the new horses standing at an action front. There was not room in the State House grounds to place the gun limbers a proper distance to the rear and have room for the caissons, the result was a bad mixup of gun and caisson teams, as might be expected of horses under fire for the first time.

At this camp there were several non-commissioned officers appointed and they commenced their new duties at once. See roster showing the appointments and duties. February was passed in much the same way as has been described, also the early part of March. When on the 12th the citizens contiguous to the Fair Grounds presented the Battery with a nice silk flag, and a fine dinner, which was served in one of the halls upon the Fair Grounds. The Battery was paraded and the citizens, with their wives and daughters were the ones who did the reviewing this time. In the presentation of the flag and in its acceptance, there was no display of oratory by either party, Captain Konkle, remarking for the Battery that it was a time for acts rather than for words, and that as long as the Battery had an existence, this flag and the government which it represented would be its sole object of protection. We were under orders to move again to the field. March 13th, This morning early the Battery moved

Wheeler's cavalry. 10th, marched to and through Pulaski, Tenn. 11th, to Athens, Ala. 12th, were still on forced marches after Wheeler's stragglers. 13th, came to Huntsville, Ala. 14th, to Calhoun. 15th, to Manchester, Tenn., where we lay in camp until Oct. 23rd.

Oct. 24th the Section went to Dechard Station, Tenn., and remained there until the 31st inst. Nov. 1st to 15th, lay in camp at Winchester, Tenn. 15th, marched through Somerset. 16th, crossed the mountains and camped at Battle Creek. 17th, marched to Bridgeport, Ala., and camped until the 22d. 23rd, marched to Jasper, Tenn. 24th, were fighting all day on Waldren's Ridge. 25th, camped at foot of Baldwin Mountain, heavy fighting at the front all day. Nov. 26th, arrived at Chattanooga, and at this place lay in camp until the 30th.

Dec. 1st, marched to Bridgeport, Ala., and was encamped there until the 5th. Then we loaded our guns and caissons on the cars and started for Nashville, Tenn. Reached there the 6th. 7th, went into camp about a mile from the city and remained in this camp until Dec. 31st.

At this camp the section was practically disbanded. Lieut. Newell had been promoted to a First Lieut. in Battery G, First Ohio Volunteer Light Artillery. Most of the Battery D men had re-enlisted for a further term of three years. The men that re-enlisted were sent to their homes in Ohio upon a thirty-day furlough, and upon their return to duty after the expiration of their furlough were sent to the Battery, which was then in camp at Knoxville, Tenn. Of the Battery G men we shall speak no further, as they were now with their own Battery, from which they had been so long separated. It has seldom been the lot of any command to be placed in such a position as was this section of artillery. Their opportunities for active service were great. Their skill as artillerists was equally great. In short, they improved their every opportunity. They made themselves a necessity in the Cavalry Brigades. It was often very tersely said of the Newell Section, "They were always at the right place at the right time, and never wasted any ammunition." It is not the province of our committee to eulogize our services. We leave that to abler pens than ours. Our commanding officers who saw and appreciated our services, did not neglect us in

making their reports. Those reports have gone into history. We attach those reports as a part of the history of the Newell Section. We attach a roster of the Newell Section men:

REPORT OF LIEUT. NEWELL, BATTERY D, FIRST OHIO
LIGHT ARTILLERY, OF SKIRMISHES, NEAR
LAVERGNE AND STEWART'S CREEK,
DEC. 26 TO JAN 1, 1863.

Headquarters Battery D, First Ohio Artillery,

Camp near Murfreesboro, Tenn., Jan. 12th, 1863.

Lieutenant: December 26th, 1862, Col. Kennett ordered me to move with the First Brigade, Col. Minty, from camp near Nashville, on Murfreesboro Pike, toward Lavergne. Two miles from Lavergne we came upon a body of Confederate Cavalry, and went into action, dispersing them after firing four rounds. We then moved forward a mile; we there took position on the pike and opened fire on a section of rebel artillery, distant about a mile. I fired 60 rounds, losing, during the action one man killed—Private F. T. Coffin—and one horse disabled. I then moved into a field on the right of the Pike and opened fire. The enemy retired from their position to the left and rear. I then moved to the left of the pike, and took position near a small church, from which position we fired until dark, silencing the enemy after a few rounds. That night I encamped with the brigade on the right of the pike and one mile back. From the night of December 26th to the morning of Jan. 1st, I occupied different positions in and around Lavergne and Stewart's Creek. On Jan. 1, moved from Stewart's Creek to Lavergne with Colonel Dickenson, of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry, to re-enforce Col. Innes, of the First Michigan Engineers and Mechanics, stationed near Lavergne. About one mile from that place I found Wheeler's rebel cavalry on the left of the pike. I went into action and drove them from the field, and then joined Col. Innes' command, with whom I remained until the 9th inst. On the 9th inst. received orders to report to General Stanley, chief of cavalry, and by him was ordered to report to Col. Kennett, and am now in camp on Manchester Pike, near First Cavalry Brigade.

Very respectfully,

N. M. NEWELL,

Lieut. Commanding Battery D, First Ohio Artillery.

Lieut. M. B. Chamberlain, Acting Assistant Adjutant General First Cavalry Division.

REPORT OF COL. ROBT. G. MINTY, OF THE SKIRMISHING
AT LAVERGNE AND STEWART'S CREEK.

Col. Robert H. G. Minty, Fourth Michigan Cavalry, Comdg. First Brigade, reporting of the same action, says: "As the enemy had us most perfectly in range, after some sharp skirmishing, I moved under cover of a slight eminence on which Lieut. Newell, of Battery D, First Ohio, had his section planted, leaving two companies of the Fourth Michigan, dismounted and in ambush, behind a fence to support the battery. I must here mention that Lieut. Newell did splendid service with his two 3-inch Rodmans. Every shot was well planted, and he nobly fought the four guns of the enemy for over half an hour, when a battery from General Palmer's Division moved up to his assistance. One of the gunners was killed by a shell from the enemy while serving his gun. Wednesday, Dec. 31st, under orders from Major General Rosecrans, I reported to Brig. Gen. Stanley. Under orders from Gen. Stanley, we moved rapidly across the country toward the right of Gen. McCook's position (leaving Lieut. Col. Dickinson, Fourth Mich. Cavalry, with 120 men to support Lieut. Newell's section of artillery at the cross roads northwest of Stewart's Creek) the enemy's cavalry falling back rapidly before us."

Headquarters First Cavalry Brigade,

Camp near Murfreesboro, Feb. 14th, 1863.

Captain: At 7 a. m., Jan. 31st, I reported to Brig. Gen. Jeff. C. Davis with the First and Third Brigades of Cavalry consisting of:

First Brigade—		
Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry.....	175	
Fourth Michigan Cavalry.....	270	
Third Kentucky Cavalry.....	143	
Section Battery D, First Ohio Artillery.....	100	688
Third Brigade—		
Fourth U. S. Cavalry.....	400	
Second Tennessee Cavalry.....	200	
Third Tennessee Cavalry.....	40	640
Total		1,328

Headquarters First Cavalry Brigade,

Camp near Murfreesboro, March 14, 1863.

Sir: On the morning of the 4th inst. I reported to Gen. Sheridan, on the Salem Pike, with 863 men, being parts of the First, Second and Third Cavalry Brigades, two companies of the Fourth Regular Cavalry and Lieutenant Newell's Section of Artillery. The general ordered me to drive the enemy out of Rover. A mile

and a half from that place I met their pickets, and drove them in sharply. At Rover I found about 400 men, who appeared determined to make a stand. I detached the Fourth Michigan Cavalry with orders to gain the (Shelbyville) Pike, between them and Unionville. The enemy, perceiving my design, commenced a retreat. I followed closely with the Seventh Pennsylvania and Fourth U. S. Cavalry, and, finding that the Fourth Michigan had failed in cutting them off, I gave the order to draw sabres and charge. At Unionville I found a regular camp, and about 600 rebel cavalry, whom we drove before us at a gallop to within five miles of Shelbyville, where we ran into the infantry pickets, five of whom were captured. The Seventh Pennsylvania had the good fortune to be in the advance, and were the only men engaged with the exception of the Fourth Michigan. We captured 51 prisoners (13 of whom were severely wounded, having received sabre cuts about their heads), 17 wagons, 42 mules, 31 Sibley tents, two wagon-loads of bacon, meal, etc. Our only casualty was one man of the Seventh Pennsylvania, slightly wounded in the foot. I fell back to Eagleville, taking the captured property with me and was there joined by General Sheridan next morning. March 5th heavy firing was heard south of Franklin all day. I sent Col. Long with the Third Ohio and Seventh Pennsylvania, toward Chapel Hill to open communication with Gen. Steadmen and smaller scouts in various directions, to gain information of the whereabouts of the enemy. March 6th, moved to within a few miles of Triune. 7th, marched toward Unionville for the purpose of feeling the enemy. When four miles beyond Eagleville, I received orders from Gen. Sheridan to return to Triune forthwith. On my arrival there, the General ordered me to proceed to Franklin, without unnecessary delay. I camped within nine miles of Franklin same night. 8th, marched to Franklin and reported to Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger. 9th, under orders from Gen. Granger, marched at daybreak on Carter Creek Pike, to make a circuit through the country and form a junction with General Green Clay Smith, at Thompson's Station, he having marched for that place the previous night. Six miles out I met the enemy's pickets, which were rapidly driven in by the Fourth Cavalry. A mile and a half from Thompson's Station I found a force of about 600 rebel cavalry (Armstrong's Brigade) in position. My column was at this time very much scattered by a rapid march over a bad dirt road. After some delay in forming my men, I advanced toward the enemy, who declined fight by retreating rapidly. They were closely pressed by the Fourth Cavalry, to whose support I sent a part of the Seventh Pennsylvania. At Thompson's Station the rebels (Twenty-eighth Mississippi, or Third, (Fourth) Mississippi Cavalry), were re-enforced by Stearn's regiment (Third and Fourth) Tennessee Cavalry; but after a short and sharp skirmish, the whole brigade (Armstrong's) was driven from the field by two companies of

the Fourth Cavalry, and about 50 men of the Seventh Pennsylvania, with a loss of 5 killed and 13 taken prisoners; but I regret to say that three gallant fellows of the Fourth Cavalry were killed and wounded. I sent a courier to Gen. Smith, who was about three miles from Thompson's Station, toward Franklin and awaited his arrival. Camped at Spring Hill shortly before dark. March 10th, about 9 a. m., advanced toward Columbia. Found General Smith's command halted about one mile north of Rutherford Creek, the bridge over which had been destroyed. Was ordered by General Sheridan to try if the ford one and one-half miles above was practicable. Found the water very deep and rapid. While making the examination we were under fire of a rebel force posted behind stone walls close to the bank of the creek. The Fourth Indiana had two men killed and three severely wounded. Camped at Moore's Ford, one mile higher up the creek. 11th, General Forrest, with 500 men, advanced to the opposite side of the creek, when a sharp fire was opened on him by the Fourth Michigan, causing him some loss. Having about this time received orders to cross the creek, if I found the ford practicable, Lieutenant Newell opened on them with his guns, and soon drove them to the woods. I then crossed, the Fourth Michigan in advance. As I formed on the south bank, the enemy appeared in line in the distance, and, dismounting, advanced on foot, with their battle-flag flying. I sent the Fourth Michigan to the right, and requested Gen. Smith, who was now crossing his force, to send a regiment to the left for the purpose of getting in the enemy's rear. Perceiving our object, they remounted or fell back. I pursued them about 5 miles in the direction of the Lewisburg Pike, and then marched for the Columbia Pike, followed by Gen. Smith. When one and one-half miles from Columbia, I halted, it being now after dark, and sent Col. Long with the Third Ohio, to feel for the enemy's pickets. He arrived at Duck River without having met them, and there found that the entire force of Van Dorn's army had crossed during the day on a pontoon bridge, and by the ferry-boat. I returned to our camp of the previous night. 12th, returned to Franklin. 13th, camped two miles west of Triune. 14th, returned to Murfreesboro, arriving in camp at 3:30 p. m.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. H. G. MINTY,
Colonel Commanding Brigade.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR,
Assistant Adjutant General Cavalry Corps.

REPORT OF COL. ROBT. H. G. MINTY, COLONEL FOURTH
MICHIGAN CAVALRY COMDG. FIRST CAVALRY
BRIGADE, TO CAPT. W. H. SINCLAIR,
ASST. ADJ. GEN. OF CAVALRY.

Headquarters First Cavalry Brigade,
Camp near Murfreesboro, April 8th, 1863.

Sir: On the morning of the 2d inst., I marched with my brigade, consisting of Lieut. Newell's Section, 1 officer and 38 men; Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry, Lieut. Col. Sipes, 18 officers and 238 men; Fourth Michigan Cavalry, Lieut. Col. Park, 11 officers and 210 men; First Middle Tennessee Cavalry, Lieut. Col. Galbraith, 9 officers and 130 men; Tenth Ohio Cavalry, Col. Smith, 24 officers and 398 men; brigade staff and provost guard, 5 officers and 23 men; total 68 officers and 1,037 men. Taking the advance on the Liberty Pike, I met the enemy's pickets near Auburn, and drove them to Prosperity Church, where I found the enemy in force, and showing a bold front. I directed Col. Paramore with the Second Brigade, to cross Smith's Creek and meet a force that was moving up the left bank of that creek to attack our flank, and directed him to throw his left well forward, and to move down the creek until he arrived in line with my advance on the right flank. I dismounted one company of the Fourth Michigan, and directed them to dislodge the enemy's sharpshooters from the woods in our front, which duty was performed in good style by Capt. (J. C.) Hathaway.

Major Gen. Stanley, having now come up, ordered the artillery to the front, and the enemy fell back. April 3rd, advanced on Liberty, the First Brigade again in advance; drove a small force from near Prosperity Church to Liberty, where the enemy was discovered in force, and holding a strong position on the opposite side of the river, with the hill back of Liberty covered with sharpshooters. The Second Brigade having been sent across the river higher up, effectually turned the enemy's flank, and caused them to retreat rapidly in the direction of Snow Hill. I followed closely. When about three-quarters of a mile from the base of the hill they took position, and attempted to make a stand, opening on us with four pieces of artillery. I pushed forward to the attack, the Seventh Pennsylvania directly up the road, the Fourth Michigan through the fields to the right, the artillery (Newell Section), Tenth Ohio and First Middle Tennessee following the Seventh Pennsylvania. I dismounted the Fourth Michigan and placed them in the woods, on a rough hillside, close to the rebel position, on which they opened fire with telling effect. I now directed the Seventh Pennsylvania to charge. The enemy fired a volley and retreated on the run. The enemy had now fallen back to their stronghold on Snow Hill, and the General

ordered up the infantry. As soon as they had taken position, he directed me to move about one and one-half miles up Dry Creek. Shortly after this the enemy fell back from the hill, and a little before dark I marched back to Liberty and went into camp for the night. April 4th, marched to Alexandria, my brigade taking the rear. Bivouacked at Cherry Valley for the night. April 5th, the Fourth Michigan and Seventh Pennsylvania crossed the country towards Statesville, and joined me near Baird's Mills the same night. With First Middle Tennessee, Tenth Ohio and artillery, I took the advance, and, when within a few miles of Lebanon, heard that there was a small force at that place; went forward at a gallop, and captured 7 of Morgan's men. Camped for the night near Baird's Mills. The Seventh Pennsylvania and Fourth Michigan brought in 10 prisoners. April 6th, returned to camp, arriving at 8 p. m. My casualties were 1 enlisted man of the Seventh Pennsylvania, killed, and 1 wounded, and 1 enlisted man of the Fourth Michigan taken prisoner.

I am respectfully your obedient servant,

ROBT. H. G. MINTY,
Colonel Commanding Brigade.

CAPT. W. H. SINCLAIR,
Asst. Adj. Gen. of Cavalry.

MAJOR GENERAL D. S. STANLEY'S REPORT.

Headquarters Chief of Cavalry, Dept. of the Cumberland.
Murfreesboro, April 16, 1863.

General: Upon the 9th day of this month I marched a cavalry force of 1,600 men, composed of the Fourth U. S. Cavalry, Captain McIntyre; part of the First Brigade, the Fourth Michigan, Seventh Pennsylvania and two companies of the First Middle Tennessee, Colonel Sipes; the Second East Tennessee, Colonel Ray; three companies of the Third Indiana, Colonel Klein, and two pieces of artillery, Lieutenant Newell, to scout the country to Triune, and thence to Franklin, to give General Granger such assistance as he might require in his operations against Van Dorn. The Second Brigade took the direct Franklin road; the remainder of the command the Bole Jack road. Our camp was made this night near Petersburg. Our pickets pushed down to the Harpeth. At 10 o'clock on the succeeding morning I reached Franklin, camping my troops on the Murfreesboro road, at the brick church, four miles east of Franklin. At about 2:30 o'clock a continuous fire to the front of Franklin, on the Columbia pike, indicated that the enemy was making an attack in force. It was some time after the firing commenced before General Granger could believe that the enemy would have the temerity to attack, but this was soon decided by the enemy boldly charging into the town. The

regiment on duty in the place (the Fortieth Ohio) fought well, and killed nearly all the enemy that came into the village. As soon as I saw that the attack was in force, I immediately ordered a counter attack by the way of the ford at Hughes' Mill and the Lewisburg pike. The road after crossing the ford, divides, one fork, the right one reaching the pike about 1 mile from the ford; the other, the left, 1½ miles from the same point. The Second Brigade was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Robie, and supported by the Second East Tennessee, Colonel Ray, and a detachment of the Third Indiana, Lieutenant Colonel Klein, supporting. On the left hand road the Fourth Regular Cavalry moved. This last column soon became engaged, and, charging promptly, dispersed a great part of Forrest's division, taking his battery of six pieces and some 300 prisoners. Just at this moment a contraband came to me, and told me he had just escaped from the enemy on the Columbia road, and that Van Dorn was moving between myself and Franklin with 4,000 men. This could not be allowed, and I sent the Fourth Kentucky, which had come to my support, and Colonel Sipes, with two pieces of artillery, to watch Ewing's Ford, where Van Dorn proposed crossing. The enemy were already attempting the ford, but were soon driven. At this juncture I sent the Fourth Michigan to support Captain McIntyre, but after holding the captured battery for one hour, he was obliged to cut the spokes and cripple the battery as best he could, and retire to the ford, being surrounded and attacked on all sides. He brought off a good part of his prisoners. In the meantime the force on the right hand road was severely engaged, and drove the enemy back in three charges they made to gain the ford. Night was now upon us, and General Granger sending me word he could support me, I again advanced, but fearing our columns firing into each other in the darkness, remained on the ground until morning. The enemy's loss in killed, wounded, and missing, on the flank the cavalry attacked upon, was not less than 150; among these some of their best officers. Not keeping their battery was much to be regretted, but the limbers and caissons were run off and the cavalry had no means of moving the guns. On the 11th we cared for our wounded. On the 12th returned to this place, where all the officers and men behaved well, I find it difficult to name the deserving. To do so would be simply to recount the names of all the officers of my staff, of commanders of brigades and regiments and they in turn the subordinates of their commands. From the circumstances, the Fourth U. S. Cavalry did the most gallant service. The report of Captain McIntyre is called to the attention of the general commanding. Two gallant officers, old soldiers, were dangerously wounded in this regiment, leading their companies, Lieutenants Healy and Simson, the former it is feared mortally. Enclosed please find list of casualties and sketch of ground.

D. S. STANLEY,
Major General.