

THE
WAR OF THE REBELLION:

A COMPILATION OF THE
OFFICIAL RECORDS
OF THE
UNION AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES.

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

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

PURSUANT TO ACTS OF CONGRESS.

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PART II—CORRESPONDENCE, ETC.

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DECEMBER 11-12, 1862.—Reconnaissance from Nashville to Franklin, Tenn., and skirmishes on the Wilson Creek pike (11th) and at Franklin (12th).

REPORTS.

- No. 1.—Brig. Gen. David S. Stanley, U. S. Army, commanding cavalry.
 No. 2.—Col. Edward M. McCook, Second Indiana Cavalry, commanding brigade.
 No. 3.—Brig. Gen. John A. Wharton, C. S. Army, commanding cavalry brigade.

No. 1.

Report of Brig. Gen. David S. Stanley, U. S. Army, commanding cavalry.

HDQRS. CAV., 14TH A. C., ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND,
 Near Nashville, December 13, 1862.

COLONEL: I have the honor to submit an account of a scout I made from this place on Thursday. I started at daylight, moved down the Franklin pike to Brentwood. At that point I took the Wilson pike, with the design of striking the road from Franklin to Murfreesborough, expecting to destroy the supply trains I had learned were moving on that road. We had not, however, passed Brentwood but 2 miles when our advance guard engaged the enemy's pickets, and soon encountered a full regiment. The enemy fled south, and, at a point on the pike due west from Triune, turned off toward that place. I designed to pass on after driving the enemy 2 miles from the road, but they grew bold, and dismounted to fight our men on foot. Upon my endeavoring to close in on them, they again fled. This delay caused me to change my plan, and I took the old Liberty road to Franklin. Night came on when we had reached the Widow Waters' plantation, and I bivouacked at 9 o'clock. One of the enemy's pickets fired upon mine, wounding, probably mortally, a private in Captain Julian's company, First Middle Tennessee Cavalry. At midnight they again fired upon my pickets.

Leaving at 4 o'clock next morning, I reached Franklin a little after day-break. The enemy's pickets were met $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of the place. Upon getting up to the town, I found the enemy in considerable force on the bank of the Harpeth, and in the mill and houses. The Fourth Michigan, Colonel Minty, and the Seventh Pennsylvania, Major Wynkoop, were dismounted, and were soon sharply engaged with the enemy. The latter soon fled, and before I could get Colonel McCook's brigade behind them. We killed 4 of the enemy, including 1 officer; wounded some 8 or 9, and took 11 prisoners. I intended to burn the mill, which has been turning out 100 barrels of flour daily for the rebel army, but I found that to do so would destroy part of the town; I had the machinery and burrs of the mill entirely destroyed. My loss is 1 man mortally wounded and 4 horses killed. I captured 10 horses, 4 wagons loaded with flour, and destroyed one wagon-load of brandy and whisky on its way to the rebel army. I am happy to be able to report that my men behaved well. The officers and men of the Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry, who did the fighting principally, are brave and good troops. Reports from division and brigade commanders will be sent in.

Respectfully submitted.

D. S. STANLEY,
 Brigadier-General, Commanding Cavalry.

Colonel GABESCHÉ.

No. 2.

Report of Col. Edward M. McCook, Second Indiana Cavalry, commanding brigade.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST CAVALRY BRIGADE,
 Camp Rosecrans, December 13, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to report that, in pursuance to orders, I moved with my command, consisting of the Third Kentucky, Seventh Pennsylvania, and Fourth Michigan Cavalry, at daylight on the morning of the 11th instant, taking the advance of the division and moving on the Wilson Creek pike. My advance guard, consisting of two companies of the Seventh Pennsylvania, found the enemy's pickets about 6 or 7 miles south of Brentwood, and drove them back on to a squad of about 50 of the enemy's cavalry. After some skirmishing, the enemy ran off over the hill. Lieut. Frederick H. Geety, Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry, was wounded in the left shoulder.

We turned off on a by-road and bivouacked for the night. The next morning we moved upon Franklin, my brigade still having the advance. The advance guard struck the enemy's pickets 2 miles from the town and drove them in. The enemy had formed their line of battle to the left of the mill and near the creek. I was ordered by General Stanley to take two of my regiments and form in the field on the left of the road. I ordered Major Wynkoop to take his command and attack them, which he did, advancing to the top of the bluff and opening fire, which the enemy returned with spirit. He had but 50 men with him, the rest of his command constituting the advance, and being on the right with the artillery. The firing continued about fifteen minutes, when the enemy broke and ran.

The Third Kentucky came up and formed on the right of the Seventh Pennsylvania, but had no opportunity to engage. The Fourth Michigan was still farther to the right, under the immediate supervision of General Stanley or Colonel Kennett; consequently I cannot report the part taken by them in the engagement.

By order of General Stanley, I moved over on to the Murfreesborough road, in order to intercept the enemy's retreat after they broke. When they saw my column approaching, part of their force went off on some little road on the other side of the river. We had to make a circuit in order to cross, and by the time we got over they were out of the reach of pursuit.

I saw 3 of the enemy dead and 1 wounded. My loss was nothing. The Seventh Pennsylvania had 4 horses killed. I saw 6 prisoners with the Fourth Michigan.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 EDWARD M. MCCOOK,
 Colonel, Commanding Brigade.

Lieut. M. B. CHAMBERLAIN,
 A. A. G., First Cav. Div., Fourteenth Army Corps.

No. 3.

Reports of Brig. Gen. John A. Wharton, C. S. Army, commanding cavalry brigade.

HEADQUARTERS WHARTON'S CAVALRY BRIGADE,
 Nolensville, Tenn., December 12, 1862—3.30 p. m.

GENERAL: The enemy attacked Franklin this morning just before

daylight. Colonel [Baxter] Smith, who was there with 400 men, engaged them. The enemy forced him to retire, with a loss of 3 men killed and 6 wounded. Colonel Smith lost one of his most valuable officers. Colonel Smith reports the enemy's force to be two regiments of cavalry and one of infantry. The colonel is still near Franklin. I had put a force of 400 men there instead of 200, as I was ordered. I had also ordered one more regiment to his assistance, which did not reach him in time. General Cleburne is now moving on Franklin, on the Triune and Franklin dirt road, and I have sent Colonel [Thomas] Harrison, with his 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 force. I advised General Wheeler last evening of the movements of the enemy; also this morning that I thought the enemy designed moving on that place.

I have the honor to be, yours, respectfully,

JNO. A. WHARTON,

Brigadier-General, Commanding Cavalry Brigade.

Lieut. Gen. LEONIDAS POLK,

Comdg. Polk's Corps d'Armée, Army of Tennessee.

HEADQUARTERS WHARTON'S BRIGADE,
POLK'S CORPS D'ARMÉE, ARMY OF TENNESSEE,
Nolensville, Tenn., December 12, 1862—7.30 p. m.

GENERAL: I dispatched you this morning, advising [you of] the occupation of Franklin by the enemy, who, after breaking the stones and destroying the machinery of the mill, left, via the Nashville pike, about 11 o'clock. Colonel Smith has returned to Franklin and reoccupied the place. The force of the enemy engaged this morning was 2,000 cavalry and two pieces of artillery, being five times as much as Colonel Smith's force. Their loss was 3 killed and 6 wounded. General [Colonel John] Kennett was in command. The infantry sent over there has been recalled, but the cavalry are in pursuit of the enemy. I have learned that the infantry now in my rear will soon be recalled, and I beg to call your attention to the exposed condition of my left and rear which will result therefrom. For this reason I would like to recall the force from Franklin, so as to have my forces more concentrated. The mill being destroyed, the only object to be attained would be to prevent illicit communication with the enemy, which could be done by having my forces this side.

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

JNO. A. WHARTON,

Brigadier-General, Commanding Cavalry Brigade.

Lieutenant-General POLK,

Commanding Corps d'Armée, Army of Tennessee.

DECEMBER 14, 1862.—Attack on forage train and skirmish on the Franklin pike, near Nashville, Tenn.

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Col. Joseph R. Scott, Nineteenth Illinois Infantry.

No. 2.—Lieut. Sylvanus H. Stevens, Stokes' (Chicago Board of Trade) Illinois battery.

No. 1.

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

HDQRS. NINETEENTH REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY,
Camp near Nashville, Tenn., December 15, 1862.

SIR: I respectfully report having taken command of the division forage train yesterday, in accordance with orders from brigade headquarters. The Nineteenth Illinois, Sixty-ninth Ohio, and a section of artillery, Fourth Kentucky Battery, detailed as escort, proceeded on Franklin pike some 7 miles, securing the desired amount of forage. I placed the artillery in position to command forage train and the approaches thereto. Being apprised of the immediate presence of the enemy, I sent the Sixty-ninth Ohio and one piece of artillery to the junction of a road leading into the pike to my rear, with the intention of holding that point until my train was formed. Shortly after my command had started for camp, firing was heard about half a mile to the left and rear. I immediately ordered back the Nineteenth Illinois and one piece of artillery, and found that the firing had been caused by a party of rebel cavalry, numbering about 20, attacking a forage party, consisting of 3 wagons, with an escort, consisting of 10 men, under command of Lieutenant Stevens, of the Chicago Board of Trade Battery. The rebels succeeded in capturing 5 men and 4 horses from one of the teams. The lieutenant and the balance of the men escaped. Our loss was 1 man wounded, 5 taken prisoners, 2 horses killed, and 4 captured. Having no cavalry with me, I could not pursue the enemy to advantage.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOS. R. SCOTT,

Colonel, Commanding Nineteenth Illinois Infantry.

Col. A. V. SCHRADER,

Chief of Staff, Eighth Division.

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS TWENTY-NINTH BRIGADE,
Camp Hamilton, December 15, 1862.

Respectfully forwarded. The attack mentioned was not upon any part of the train under Colonel Scott's command, but an independent party, and the loss mentioned was of that party, not of Colonel Scott's. Colonel Scott brought in his train and men all right. There was a delay in starting, owing to wagons of Seventh Brigade and Division not reporting in time. Very few of the teams had any men detailed to load, except my brigade.

T. R. STANLEY,

Colonel, Commanding.

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.
 { Maj. W. F. Douglass.
 8th Arkansas:
 Col. John H. Kelly.
 Lieut. Col. G. F. Baucum.
 Swett's (Mississippi) battery, Lieut. H. Shannon.

McCOWN'S DIVISION.*

Maj. Gen. J. P. McCOWN.

First Brigade.†

Brig. Gen. M. D. ECTOR.

10th Texas Cavalry, Col. M. F. Locke.
 11th Texas Cavalry:
 Col. J. C. Burka.
 Lieut. Col. J. M. Bounds.
 14th Texas Cavalry, Col. J. L. Camp.
 15th Texas Cavalry, Col. J. A. Andrews.
 Texas Battery, Capt. J. P. Douglas.

*Third Brigade.*Brig. Gen. EVANDER McNAIR.
Col. R. W. HARPER.

1st Arkansas Mounted Rifles: ‡
 Col. R. W. Harper.
 Maj. L. M. Ramsaur.
 2d Arkansas Mounted Rifles, † Lieut. Col. J. A. Williamson.
 4th Arkansas, Col. H. G. Bunn.
 30th Arkansas:
 Maj. J. J. Franklin.
 Capt. W. A. Cotter.
 4th Arkansas Battalion, Maj. J. A. Ross.
 Arkansas Battery, Capt. J. T. Humphreys.

* Of Smith's corps, serving with Hardee.

† The regiments of this brigade serving as infantry.

‡ Serving as infantry.

Third Brigade.

Brig. Gen. BUSHROD R. JOHNSON.

17th Tennessee:
 Col. A. S. Marks.
 Lieut. Col. W. W. Floyd.
 23d Tennessee, Lieut. Col. R. H. Keeble
 25th Tennessee:
 Col. J. M. 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 Adama.
 3d Confederate, Maj. J. F. Cameron.
 45th Mississippi, Lieut. Col. R. Charlton.
 15th Mississippi Battalion Sharpshooters,
 Capt. A. T. Hawkins.
 Alabama Battery, Capt. Henry C. Semple.

CAVALRY.*

Brig. Gen. JOSEPH WHEELER.

Wheeler's Brigade.

Brig. Gen. JOSEPH WHEELER.

1st Alabama, Col. W. W. Allen.
 3d Alabama:
 Maj. F. Y. Gaines.
 Capt. T. H. Mauldin.
 51st Alabama:
 Col. John T. Morgan.
 Lieut. Col. J. D. Webb.
 8th Confederate, Col. W. B. Wade.
 1st Tennessee, Col. James E. Carter.
 — Tennessee Battalion, DeWitt C. Douglass.
 — Tennessee Battalion, Maj. D. W. Holman.
 Arkansas Battery, Capt. J. H. Wiggins.

Buford's Brigade.

Brig. Gen. A. BUFORD.

3d Kentucky, Col. J. R. Butler.
 5th Kentucky, Col. D. H. Smith.
 6th Kentucky, Col. J. W. Grigsby.

Pegram's Brigade.†

Brig. Gen. JOHN PEGRAM.

1st Georgia.
 1st Louisiana.

Wharton's 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.

General S. COOPER.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

* Forrest's and Morgan's commands on detached service

† Probably incomplete.

‡ Byrne's battery mentioned in Breckensridge'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.

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