

TENNESSEANS
IN
THE CIVIL WAR

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

In Two Parts

Part I

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on November 24, 1863 was at Charleston, Tennessee with Colonel John C. Carter's 38th Tennessee Infantry Regiment. Colonel Carter highly commended Captain Van Dyke and his 44 men for the part they played in helping his forces to evacuate Charleston without being captured. Captain Van Dyke's Company later rejoined the regiment, and Van Dyke became major, but it is not known whether or not Swearingen's Company was ever reunited with the rest of the regiment.

On April 16, 1864, the regiment was transferred to Vaughn's Brigade, of Brigadier General J. C. Vaughn's Division, and reported 248 men present. It remained in this brigade until the end of the war. As part of Vaughn's Brigade, the regiment moved into Virginia in

2nd (ASHBY'S) TENNESSEE CAVALRY REGIMENT

Reported as First Tennessee Cavalry Regiment until December, 1862. Organized May 24, 1862 by consolidation of 4th (Branner's) and 5th (McLellan's) Battalions; last reported April 9, 1865 in General Joseph E. Johnston's Army.

This regiment is not to be confused with another 2nd Tennessee Cavalry Regiment commanded by Colonel E. S. Smith, nor with Barteau's 22nd Regiment which was sometimes mustered as the 2nd Tennessee Cavalry Regiment.

FIELD OFFICERS

Colonel—Henry M. Ashby

Lieutenant Colonel—Henry C. Gillespie

Major—Pharaoh A. Cobb

Captain John H. Kuhn was later major, and then lieutenant colonel. Captain William M. Smith later became major.

CAPTAINS—John H. Kuhn, Co. "A", formerly "H", 5th Battalion.

Henry C. Gillespie (to lieutenant colonel). John R. Rogers, John H. Burke, Co. "B", formerly "C", 5th Battalion.

William F. Ford, James Ford, Co. "C", formerly "D", 5th Battalion.

William P. Owen, Co. "D", formerly "C", 4th Battalion.

William M. Smith, Co. "E", formerly "D", 4th Battalion.

Spencer C. Stone, Co. "F", formerly "F", 4th Battalion.

or New Hope Church, and in the subsequent campaign in the Valley of Virginia under General Early. On August 22, 1864, Major General Ransom recommended the consolidation of the 12th and 16th Tennessee Cavalry Battalions with the 1st Tennessee Regiment under Colonel Carter, whom he called "a fine officer." This recommendation was not accepted and these units continued in the same brigade, as separate organizations.

The last record of the regiment on February 28, 1865, showed it still in Vaughn's Brigade, with Brigadier General John Echols in command of the Department. Echols disbanded his forces upon learning of the surrender of General Lee at Appomattox Courthouse.

William L. Clark, Co. "G", formerly "B", 4th Battalion.

Clark Rhodes, Co. "H", formerly "A", 4th Battalion.

N. C. Langford, Co. "I", formerly "E", 4th Battalion.

Will Wallace Gillespie, Co. "K", formerly "E", 5th Battalion.

For date and place of organization of these companies see the histories of the 4th and 5th Tennessee Cavalry Battalions.

The regiment was placed in the 1st Cavalry Brigade, Major General E. Kirby Smith's Department of East Tennessee. The brigade was commanded by Colonel Ben Allston. The other member of the brigade was listed as 2nd Tennessee Cavalry, commanded by Colonel J. B. McLin. On June 12, Captain Owen's company was ordered to Maynardsville, to observe and report on crossings of the Clinch River. On June 20, Colonel Ashby took command of Allston's Brigade, and was instructed to have his cavalry to give information to Headquarters at Knoxville of everything of importance that transpired on his front.

On July 3, 1862, Colonel Benjamin Allston was again in command of the brigade, which was reported in Brigadier General Henry Heth's Division, and was composed of the 1st Georgia Regiment, 1st Tennessee (Ashby), 2nd Tennessee (McLin), 3rd Tennessee (Starnes) and Huwald's Battery. On July 5,

instructions were issued that "Captain Owen's Company, constituting the escort of the Commanding General, must be withdrawn from Maynardsville, and be replaced by other troops."

Federal reports indicate that four companies of the 1st Georgia, with one company of Ashby's Regiment surprised a force at Lead Mines Bend on the Powell River on June 30, capturing a number of prisoners. Again on August 17, a Federal force at Cumberland Ford reported the loss of 60 men as the result of an attack by Ashby's Cavalry, 600 strong. On August 29, Captain Rhodes' Company was surprised at Rogers' Gap, and suffered the loss of six killed, six or eight wounded, and 19 taken prisoner, including Captain Rhodes.

On October 22, Major General John P. McCown, at Cumberland Gap, was instructed to send Smith's Legion, together with the commands of Colonel Ashby and Major Slaughter to Flat Lick, Kentucky. On October 31, Ashby's Regiment, together with Carter's 1st, Starnes' 3rd, the 3rd Confederate Regiment, and Huwald's and Kain's Artillery were reported in Brigadier General John Pegram's Cavalry Brigade of Heth's Division. Heth's Division was reported at Cumberland and Big Creek Gaps, and along the line of railroad on November 20, 1862, but shortly thereafter Pegram's Brigade moved to join the Army of Tennessee at Murfreesboro.

Here Ashby's Regiment was detached to Brigadier General John A. Wharton's Brigade of General Joseph Wheeler's Cavalry Corps. As part of Wharton's Brigade it operated in the rear of the Federal Army, and participated in an attack upon Federal cavalry along the Nashville pike, Tuesday, December 30, 1862, capturing a wagon train and several pieces of artillery as a result of the charge. Ashby's Regiment was then ordered to report to General Pegram "early Thursday morning." On February 20, 1863, Pegram's Brigade was reported as consisting of the 1st Georgia, 1st Louisiana, 1st Tennessee (Carter's), 2nd Tennessee (Ashby's), 16th Tennessee Battalion, Huwald's Battery, and Captain N. C. Langford's Company of the 2nd acting as Escort. As part of the brigade it moved in March on a raid into Kentucky to gather cattle and supplies, and participated in a raid through the streets of Danville on March 22,

and in an engagement near Stanford on March 29. Colonel Ashby was commended by General Pegram for his conduct in this action.

On April 25, Colonel J. J. Morrison was in command of a brigade with headquarters at Albany, Kentucky, composed of the 1st Georgia, 1st (Carter's) Tennessee, 2nd (Ashby's) Tennessee Regiments, and the 12th and 16th Tennessee Cavalry Battalions. The Brigade was at Travisville, Fentress County, Kentucky on May 2nd.

Shortly thereafter, the regiment was transferred to Colonel John S. Scott's Brigade, composed of the 10th Confederate, 1st Louisiana, 2nd (Ashby's), 5th (McKenzie's) Tennessee Regiments, 5th North Carolina Battalion, and Marshall's Battery. As part of this brigade it took part in a raid into Eastern Kentucky from July 25 to August 6, 1863. The raid started from Big Creek Gap, and reached Irvine, Richmond, and Winchester.

At Chickamauga, September 19-20, 1863, Scott's Brigade was in General Pegram's Cavalry Division. The regiment suffered 19 casualties, including Captain Ford and Lieutenant Crozier, who were killed.

On November 20, the regiment was reported in Wheeler's Corps, Major General John A. Wharton's Division, Brigadier General H. B. Davidson's Brigade. The brigade was composed of the 1st (Carter's), 2nd (Ashby's), 4th (McLemore's), 6th (Wheeler's) and 11th (Holman's) Tennessee Cavalry Regiments. Certainly not all of the 1st (Carter's) Regiment was in the brigade, although it is possible that one company was. On January 20, 1864, the 5th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment had been added, and 11th was no longer included. The 2nd at this time was commanded by Captain William M. Smith. On April 30, the brigade, commanded by Colonel James T. Wheeler, was reported as Humes' Brigade, of Brigadier General W. Y. C. Humes' Division. At this time it was reported as composed of the 1st (or 6th), 2nd, 5th (McKenzie's) Tennessee Cavalry Regiments, and the 9th Tennessee Cavalry Battalion. Captain Kuhn was in command of the 2nd.

On June 30, the brigade was reported as Ashby's Brigade, and was so known during the rest of the war, with Colonel H. M. Ashby in command. At this time, the 4th was no longer listed as a member of the brigade, but

Wheeler's 1st (or 6th) 2nd (Ashby's), 5th (McKenzie's) and the 9th Battalion remained together for the duration.

The brigade took an active part in the fighting from Dalton to Atlanta and Major General Wheeler, in commending the brigade for its excellent record, mentioned among other exploits, the Texas Rangers and the 2nd Tennessee for "marked brilliancy" in the affair at Cass Station.

No records were found on the brigade from September 20, 1864 to December 25, 1864, on which date Brigadier General Robert H. Anderson, at Headquarters, Cavalry Division at Smith's House, South Carolina wrote: "General Wheeler told me verbally two days ago that he wished me to take charge and picket the line between Union Creek and New River

2nd (SMITH'S) TENNESSEE CAVALRY REGIMENT Originally 10th (also called 11th) Tennessee Cavalry Battalion

Organized as a battalion February 1862; increased to regiment April 1862; disbanded May, 1862.

FIELD OFFICERS

Colonel—E. S. Smith

Lieutenant Colonel—Zachariah Thomason

This regiment had a short life, and little is known of it. It appears to have been organized as a battalion at Camp Cheatham with eight companies which had been mustered into Confederate Service between November, 1861, and January, 1862. A ninth company was added March 13, 1862, and it was constituted as a regiment in April, 1862. The original companies were as follows:
CAPTAINS—Peter T. Rankin. Mustered into Confederate Service at Camp Cheatham, January 1, 1862. From Marion County. Became Co. "H", 4th (Starnes's) Tennessee Cavalry Regiment.

Samuel P. Thompson. Mustered into Confederate Service at Camp Cheatham January 3, 1862. From Wilson and Smith Counties. Muster roll bears note that this company was ordered away from Camp Weakley, Nashville, before enrollment was completed. Became Co. "C", 4th (Starnes's) Tennessee Cavalry Regiment.

Allen Lea. "The Lookout Rangers." Mustered into Confederate Service at Nashville, November 1, 1861. Men from Marion County. Captain Lea and some of his men later served

Bridge, and that he would send me in addition to my present force 400 Cavalry to perform the duty. Colonel Pointer's Regiment of Allen's Brigade has reported to me, but not the 2nd Tennessee."

On January 31, 1865, the brigade was reported in the Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, under Lieutenant General William J. Hardee, with the same members. The 2nd at this time was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel John H. Kuhn. The last record dated April 9, 1865, in the final reorganization of General Joseph E. Johnston's Army in South Carolina, showed the brigade in the Cavalry Corps of Lieutenant General Wade Hampton, which was surrendered at Durham, North Carolina.

in the 2nd Alabama Cavalry Battalion, of which Lea was first captain and later major.

John F. Thomason. Mustered into Confederate Service at Camp Trousdale, November 4, 1861. Men from Marion County. Roll bears a note "arrived at rendezvous October 25, 1861." Most men re-enlisted in Co. "C", 11th Alabama Cavalry Battalion.

Robert C. Bass. Mustered into Confederate Service at Camp Cheatham December 13, 1861. Roll bears a note that the company was ordered away from Camp Weakley before enrollment was completed.

Samuel Y. Barkley. Mustered into Confederate Service at Camp Cheatham January 2, 1862. Roll bears note that the company was ordered away from Camp Weakley before enrollment was completed.

John D. Wheeler. Mustered into Confederate Service at Camp Cheatham December 23, 1861.

Thomas P. Kinney. No Muster roll. Organized January 16, 1862. A letter was found requesting that the company be transferred to Colonel Bennett's Battalion.

Malone. No muster roll. Organized March 13, 1862. Possibly formed by division of Captain Lea's Company, as there was a 1st Lieutenant Richard T. Malone in that Company.

The battalion was at Camp Cheatham on February 14, 1862, as evidenced by a requisition for sabres, belts, and shotguns, signed by Lieutenant Colonel E. S. Smith.

It was next reported as being near Chattanooga on March 14, 1862. A report from a Federal scout dated April 6, 1862, placed Rankin's Company, 80 men, on the south side of the Tennessee River, opposite Bridgeport, Alabama.

The last record found was in instructions sent by Major General E. Kirby Smith to Brigadier General D. Leadbetter, commanding at Chattanooga, dated April 28, 1862:

3rd (FORREST'S OLD) TENNESSEE CAVALRY REGIMENT Also called 18th Battalion, 26th Battalion, Balch's Battalion and McDonald's Battalion

Organized as a battalion at Memphis, October, 1861; increased to regiment January, 1862; divided into two battalions April, 1862; four Alabama companies transferred to 4th (Russell's) Alabama Cavalry Regiment in November, 1862; 18th Battalion first known as Balch's Battalion; then as McDonald's Battalion; finally as 26th Battalion; reorganized as regiment latter part of 1864; consolidated with 12th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment in February 1865; surrendered and paroled at Gainesville, Alabama, May 1865.

FIELD OFFICERS

Battalion Organization:

Lieutenant Colonel—Nathan Bedford Forrest

Major—D. C. Kelley

First Regimental Organization:

Colonel—Nathan Bedford Forrest

Lieutenant Colonel—D. C. Kelley

Major—R. M. Balch

18th Battalion:

Major (later

Lieutenant Colonel)—R. M. Balch

McDonald's Battalion:

Lieutenant Colonel—J. M. Crews (appointed, but not confirmed)

Majors—Charles McDonald, P. T. Allin

26th Battalion:

Lieutenant Colonel—D. C. Kelley

Major—P. T. Allin

Reorganized Regiment:

Colonel—D. C. Kelley

Lieutenant Colonel—P. T. Allin

Major—William H. Forrest

This regiment had a very complex history,

"Colonel Smith should be arrested on the first pretext, and his regiment placed under the command of an efficient officer. If this cannot be done, select the best companies and organize them into a battalion, and report the remaining ones that they may be dismounted or some other disposition made of them."

The regiment was disbanded, two of the companies were transferred to the 4th (Starnes's) Tennessee Cavalry Regiment. A number of individuals from other companies later served in Alabama organizations.

some 20 to 25 companies being at one time or another attached to it, with numerous changes in company letters.

CAPTAINS—J. F. Overton, John Crutcher, Co. "A". "The Boone Rangers." Men from Bradcnburg, Kentucky. Became Co. "F", 18th Battalion; finally "E", 2nd (Woodward's) Kentucky Cavalry.

W. C. Bacot, Co. "B". Organized September 14, 1861 at Montgomery, Alabama. Became Co. "A", 4th (Russell's) Alabama Cavalry.

Charles May, Jeffrey E. Forrest, Augustus Larrantree, John C. Blanton, Co. "C". "The Forrest Rangers." Organized September 21, 1861 at Memphis, Tennessee. Also served as Co. "B", 18th Battalion, "C", 26th Battalion, "D", McDonald's Battalion.

N. C. Gould, Co. "D". A Texas company; surrendered at Fort Donelson, later became Co. "K", 23rd Texas Cavalry Regiment.

A. S. Truitt, Thomas W. Hampton, Co. "E". Organized August 16, 1861 at Gadsden, Alabama. Became Co. "B", 4th (Russell's) Alabama Regiment.

David C. Kelley (to lieutenant colonel), James M. Hambrick, Co. "F". "Pope Walker Troopers." "Kelley Troopers." "Madison Cavalry." Organized August 26, 1861 at New Market, Alabama. Became Co. "K", 4th (Russell's) Alabama.

M. D. Logan, Co. "G". Organized August 30, 1861 at Memphis, Tennessee. Men from Harrodsburg, Kentucky. Became 2nd Co. "I", 7th Kentucky Cavalry. "The Kentucky Rebels."

Henry Milner, Co. "H". An Alabama com-