

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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Captain L. G. Mead was first reported on August 15, 1862, in command of Partisan Rangers, when Major General E. Kirby Smith ordered him to operate in North Alabama and Southern Tennessee, reporting to the general in command nearest to him. Federal reports from that time until the end of the war make frequent references to Mead's guerrillas, or bushwhackers, operating in North Alabama and Middle Tennessee. One such report dated May 27, 1864, said Mead's Regiment of Partisan Rangers, attached to General Roddey's command, was in Franklin County, Tennessee with 500 well mounted men, many

5th TENNESSEE PARTISAN RANGERS BATTALION Also called Black's Battalion, Forrest's Cavalry

A muster roll of a Detachment of Exchanged Prisoners at Camp Lee, Virginia, dated July 15, 1863 showed a number of men as belonging to Company "A", 5th Battalion Partisan Rangers. No muster rolls or record of organization of the battalion were found. This may have been one of the skeletal commands raised in West Tennessee within the enemy lines, under authority granted to Colonel Robert V. Richardson, which commands were broken up by casualties, or by failure of the men to come within the Confederate lines. It would appear that the 5th Partisan Rangers Battalion existed only on paper, and that the men were subsequently distributed among other commands in Forrest's Division.

The arrival rolls at Alton Military Prison during May, 1863 showed a number of the same, or similar names, as being captured in

BURROW'S TENNESSEE CAVALRY BATTALION (State Troops)

Colonel R. V. Richardson stated that this command was raised in West Tennessee in the Summer of 1862. Five or six companies had been raised and others were in process of being recruited when Lieutenant Colonel Aaron Burrow was killed in August or September, 1862. About October, 1862, five companies had been organized as Partisan Rangers, and the command was raised to a regiment on February 14, 1863, under Colonel

of whom had enlisted since the regiment entered Tennessee. It is probable that some of the Tennessee companies were enlisted at this time.

No record was found of what happened to the battalion after it was organized except for the fact that J. P. Henley was paroled at Chattanooga May 16, 1865 as lieutenant colonel of the 28th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment. From this it would appear that either Captain Henley's Company never reported to the battalion, or that it was later transferred to the 28th Regiment of which Captain Henley became lieutenant colonel.

Gibson County, Tennessee, during the month of April, 1863. These prisoner-of-war records show 15 men enlisted at Newbern and Eaton, West Tennessee by a "Captain" Parks, some of whom listed themselves in Cotter's Company, some in Forrest's Cavalry. If it is assumed that "Black" was the commander of the battalion, and "Cotter" captain of the company and that the Battalion was part of the forces under Forrest, this discrepancy would be accounted for.

The prisoner-of-war lists mentioned above contain a total of 26 names. One individual reports himself as having been an orderly sergeant, Forrest's Cavalry, the others are reported as being privates, Forrest's Cavalry, Conscripts, Forrest's Cavalry or recruits, Forrest's Cavalry, with some reporting themselves as from Cotter's Company.

Robert V. Richardson. It was known as the 1st, also the 12th Tennessee Partisan Ranger Regiment, and became the 12th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment.

No battalion muster rolls were found, but the names of some of the captains were reported as Reuben Burrow, John U. Green, James H. Murray, Ed Daly, and James H. Hazlewood.

COX'S TENNESSEE CAVALRY BATTALION

Organized October 1862 as a battalion of Partisan Rangers; mustered into Confederate service December, 1862; consolidated with Napier's Battalion February 25, 1863 to form the 10th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment.

FIELD OFFICER

Major—Nicholas N. Cox

CAPTAINS—W. H. Bass, Co. "A". Became 1st Company "A", 10th Cavalry Regiment. Organized April 9, 1862 at Waverly, Humphreys County, with men from Perry and Humphreys Counties.

W. H. Lewis, Co. "B". Became Company "B", 10th Regiment. Organized October 8, 1862 at Linden, Perry County.

Elisha S. Stevens, Co. "C". Became Company "C", 10th Regiment. Organized October 8, 1862 at Linden, Perry County, with men from Decatur and Hickman Counties.

B. C. Rickman, Co. "D". Became Company "H", 10th Regiment. Organized December 11, 1862 at Linden, Perry County.

J. B. Herron, Co. "E". Became 1st Company "K", 10th Regiment. Organized October and November 1862 with men from Humphreys and Perry Counties.

This battalion should not be confused with the 2nd (Biffle's) Battalion, of which Nicholas N. Cox was also Major. When Biffle's Battalion was merged into the 6th, also called 1st (Wheeler's) Cavalry Regiment, Major Cox was left without a command, and was authorized by Governor Harris to organize a battalion of Partisan Rangers. No muster rolls

of the battalion were found and the information given above comes from the muster rolls of the 10th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment, and from personal papers of Major Cox. The battalion operated along the East bank of the Tennessee River, between the mouth of Duck River, and Savannah, Tennessee, making raids across the river when opportunity presented. The most important of these was the capture of an Illinois Company at Henderson Station, on the Mississippi and Ohio Railroad on November 25, 1862.

When General N. B. Forrest organized his first raid into West Tennessee in December 1862, Cox's Battalion was ordered to cross the river and join him, which it did. Just prior to the action near Jackson, Tennessee, the battalion was assigned to the duty of destroying the bridges and culverts on the railroad from Jackson to Bolivar. Two days later, on December 20, General Forrest, with his escort and Cox's Battalion, charged into Trenton, Tennessee, and with the help of some artillery support, captured the town, and some 800 Federal prisoners.

Near the end of the raid, at the Battle of Parker's Cross Roads, on December 28, 1862, Major Cox and nearly 300 of his men were captured. On February 25, 1863, by order of General Forrest, Cox's Battalion was consolidated with Napier's Battalion to form the 10th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment, of which Major Cox became the first colonel, assuming command after he had been exchanged.

DAVIS'S TENNESSEE CAVALRY BATTALION

Organized as a battalion in Confederate service at Bardstown, Kentucky, September 27, 1862; merged into 8th, also called 4th, (Baxter Smith's) Tennessee Cavalry Regiment at Shelbyville, Tennessee January 27, 1863. This battalion was composed of four companies which had been organized in June and July, 1862, as follows:

FIELD OFFICER

Major—John R. Davis

CAPTAINS—J. M. Phillips' Company. Organized June 25, 1862. Men from DeKalb and Wilson County. Became "D", 8th or 4th, (Baxter Smith's) Regiment.

H. A. Wiley's Company. Organized July

28, 1862. Men from Cannon County. Became "E", 8th or 4th (Baxter Smith's) Regiment.

James R. Lester's Company. Organized June 25, 1862. Men from Wilson County. Became "F", 8th or 4th (Baxter Smith's) Regiment.

Jonathan W. Nichol's Company. Organized June 25, 1862. Men from Cannon and Rutherford Counties. Became "G", 8th or 4th (Baxter Smith's) Regiment.

No muster rolls of the battalion were found, and the place of organization of these companies is not known.

The first mention of the battalion in the *Official Records* was November 27, 1862,

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

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

DOUGLASS' TENNESSEE PARTISAN RANGER BATTALION

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

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

FIELD OFFICER

Major—DeWitt Clinton Douglass

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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