

THE  
WAR OF THE REBELLION:

A COMPILATION OF THE  
OFFICIAL RECORDS

OF THE  
UNION AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES.

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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

PURBUANT TO ACTS OF CONGRESS.

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

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WASHINGTON:  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.  
1887.

## 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 Brigade.*

Brig. Gen. JOHN A. WHARTON.

14th Alabama Battalion, Lieut. Col. James  
 C. Malone.  
 1st Confederate, Col. John T. Cox.  
 3d Confederate, Lieut. Col. William N.  
 Estes.  
 2d Georgia :  
   Lieut. Col. J. E. Dunlop.  
   Maj. F. M. Ison.  
 3d Georgia (detachment), Maj. R.  
 Thompson.  
 2d Tennessee, Col. H. M. Ashby.  
 4th Tennessee, Col. Baxter Smith.  
 — Tennessee Battalion, Maj. John R.  
 Davis.  
 8th Texas, Col. Thomas Harrison.  
 Murray's (Tennessee) regiment, Maj. W. S.  
 Bledsoe.  
 Escort company, Capt. Paul F. Anderson.  
 McCown's escort company, Capt. L. T.  
 Hardy.  
 White's (Tennessee) battery, Capt. B. F.  
 White, jr.

## ARTILLERY.‡

Baxter's (Tennessee) battery.  
 Byrne's (Kentucky) battery.  
 Gibson's (Georgia) battery.

No. 190.

*Reports of General Braxton Bragg, C. S. Army, commanding Army of  
 Tennessee, with congratulatory orders, &c.*

MURFREESBOROUGH, TENN., *December 30, 1862.*  
 (Received at Richmond, Va., January 1, 1863.)

Artillery firing at intervals and heavy skirmishing of light troops  
 all day. Enemy very cautious, and declining a general engagement.  
 Armies are in line of battle within sight.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

General S. COOPER.

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

† Probably incomplete.

‡ Byrne's battery mentioned in Breckenridge's report. The others do not appear to have been engaged in the campaign. Baxter's battery reported as at Shelbyville, December 31, and Gibson's was ordered, December 1, 1862, to Chattanooga, Tenn., to be fitted for the field.

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

400 prisoners, 327 beef cattle, and a goodly number of mules cut from the wagons.

In this engagement the enemy suffered severely, losing many officers and men, both killed and captured. Among the former was Col. Minor Milliken, who was killed by Private John Bowers, of Company K, Texas Rangers, in single combat.

My loss was about 150 killed, wounded, and missing.

Captain [R. J. C.] Gailbreath, of Murray's regiment; Lieutenant [William] Ellis, Company G, Texas Rangers, and Lieutenant [W. H.] Sharp, Company B, same regiment, were wounded and left upon the field. Adj. N. D. Rothrock, of Third Confederate Regiment, was killed. My assistant inspector-general, Walker, was also wounded, and has since died of his wounds.

To Capt. Paul [F.] Anderson and his gallant company (my escort) I am indebted for the capture and safe delivery of 327 beeves and the guard accompanying them.

Having placed the booty within our lines, I again returned to the rear of the enemy and to the vicinity of the Nashville pike, and continued to engage the enemy until the middle of the afternoon. At dusk I stationed the command upon the left of our infantry and picketed for its protection. All soldiers in the command who were armed with shot or other indifferent guns exchanged them for those of a more approved character.

When it is borne in mind that the operations of this brigade were entirely in rear of the enemy, and not a mile from his line of battle; when it is likewise borne in mind that it successfully engaged all arms of the service—infantry, artillery, and cavalry—and captured and sent to the rear more prisoners than the command numbered, I think it will be cheerfully conceded that they performed meritorious and important services and are entitled to the commendation due from the commanding general to gallant soldiers.

On Thursday morning, the enemy being reputed to be in full retreat, I was directed by the commanding general to attack them at any point deemed practicable on the Nashville and Murfreesborough pike. I moved my command, in connection with Generals Wheeler and Buford, around to La Vergne, reaching that place about 4 p. m. A large train of wagons and some artillery were seen moving along the pike with a strong escort of cavalry in the direction of Nashville. General Wheeler moved across the country and attacked the train a mile below La Vergne. I attacked the enemy in front, in La Vergne, having dismounted a portion of my command. We captured about 100 wagons, 150 prisoners, 300 mules, and 1 piece of artillery. Ten of the wagons, the piece of artillery, and the mules were brought away and delivered to the proper officer. The remaining wagons, with the quartermaster's commissary, and ordnance stores contained in them, were burned. A regiment of infantry under Col. ——— Dennis was stationed in a cedar brake and fortifications near this point. I caused the battery under Lieutenant [Arthur] Pue [jr.], who acted with great gallantry, to open on it. The fire at a range of not more than 400 yards was kept up for more than an hour, and must have resulted in great damage to the enemy. I caused the enemy to be charged on three sides at the same time by Colonels Cox and Smith and Lieutenant-Colonel [James C.] Malone, and the charge was repeated four times, but the enemy was so strongly posted that it was found impossible to dislodge him.

Colonels Cox and Smith and Lieutenant-Colonel Malone and their commands behaved with the utmost gallantry. To Capt. Fergus Kyle, of

the Texas Rangers, I am indebted for the capture and safe delivery of many of the mules taken. Major Bledsoe, of Murray's regiment, was prompt and efficient in burning the wagons which could not be removed. Lieut. G. W. McNeal, of my staff, and Private Copeland, of Third Confederate Regiment, burned several wagons under very heavy fire from the enemy. The wagons were riddled with bullets during the firing.

Night coming on, I started for Murfreesborough, which place I reached at 1 a. m. next morning, after a march of 40 miles and four hours' fighting. My loss in Murray's, Smith's, and Cox's regiments and **Malone's battalion** in officers and men was very considerable. The command encamped the remainder of the night on the left of our line of battle.

Upon Friday I was ordered by General Bragg to the right. When Breckinridge's division attacked the enemy's left on Friday afternoon, having received no intimation that such an attack was contemplated, I accompanied Pegram's battery to the front and right with Companies D and K, of the Texas Rangers, and my escort company. Capt. Paul [F.] Anderson not being able to induce General Pegram to open with his battery (he being fearful of firing into our own troops), I took charge of the battery, placing it upon a commanding hill, and opened fire upon a heavy column of the enemy advancing from their extreme left to turn Breckinridge's right. The fire was so effective (the range not being over 500 yards) as to shoot down their standard and throw them into confusion. The fire was continued until my horse was shot. I was thrown in his struggles, and when I succeeded in getting another horse the battery had been run off without any occasion whatever. Shortly after this, Breckinridge's division gave way. I sent an order back for my command to dismount and to advance to cover our retreating forces. I rode across the field and joined General Prestor, whom I found at the head of the remnants of his brigade, going to where my men were formed on foot. The command remained in saddle all night in rear and as the support of a battery on our extreme right.

During Saturday nothing of importance occurred, the command being held upon the extreme right to prevent the enemy from turning that flank.

In obedience to orders from Lieutenant-General Polk, I moved the command before daylight Sunday morning into Murfreesborough. I left three regiments to burn a bridge, and fell back slowly before the enemy, and sent the remainder 6 miles on the Shelbyville pike to feed, since which time I have been at this point picketing and protecting the front of our army.

It is considered proper to state that on Monday, the 29th, we were engaged the entire day between the Franklin dirt road and the Wilkinson pike with a large force of the enemy's cavalry, and that the Texas Rangers acted with even more than their usual gallantry in a dashing charge, saving one regiment of the brigade from a complete rout by the enemy's forces.

I take pleasure in reporting the conduct of the entire command in the different engagements as characterized by intrepidity and a determination to conquer at all hazards. The Rangers, being armed with revolvers, are better prepared to meet the enemy's cavalry than other regiments in the brigade. The battle of Wednesday was fought at great disadvantage on our part, the enemy's cavalry being much more efficiently armed and equipped. The proper weapon for cavalry has proven to be the revolver.

It affords me great pleasure to commend in the highest terms both officers and soldiers. Colonels Cox, Harrison, and Smith, Lieutenant-

Colonels Malone and Estes, Captains [G.] Cook and [S. P.] Christian, of Texas Rangers, and Captain [L. T.] Hardy, of General McCown's escort, behaved with the utmost gallantry and judgment. Maj. F. M. Ison commanded the Second Georgia during Wednesday's fight. The members of my staff were prompt and efficient, and reckless of danger.

The loss of the brigade was 108 killed and wounded, and 107 captured; 150 horses killed. A detailed account of the casualties has been sent to General Bragg.

Captain [B. F.] White, jr., of my battery, whose gallantry upon this and every other field was most conspicuous, was taken so violently ill upon Wednesday night as to render it entirely impossible for him to be removed upon our evacuation of Murfreesborough.

Colonel Ashby was ordered to report early Thursday morning to General Pegram with his regiment, and was not in my brigade afterward. The entire strength of the brigade was about 2,000.

I have the honor to remain, your most obedient servant,

JNO. A. WHARTON,  
*Brigadier-General of Cavalry.*

Maj. T. B. Roy,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 306.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Abraham Buford, C. S. Army, commanding Cavalry Brigade, including skirmishes December 31—January 3.*

HEADQUARTERS BUFORD'S CAVALRY BRIGADE,  
*Camp near Beech Grove, Tenn., January 11, 1863.*

GENERAL: I have the honor herewith to forward report of my brigade during the battle of Murfreesborough, [Tenn.]

My brigade, composed of Colonel Smith's regiment, assigned for duty with Colonel Grigsby, numbering 220 effective men, Colonel Grigsby's regiment, 230, and Colonel Butler, 180 men, in all 631 effective men, in accordance with orders from the general commanding, moved to Rover, 18 miles southwest of Murfreesborough, on the Shelbyville and Nashville pike, where I remained until Wednesday, 31st [ultimo].

Having received an order from General Bragg to move upon the enemy's flank and be ready for a vigorous pursuit, delivered at 12 m. Tuesday night (30th), I moved at daylight Wednesday morning (31st), and reached the battle-field at 12 m., taking position on the extreme left. I there joined General Wheeler, and, in concert with him, moved rapidly along the enemy's flank, my brigade being in advance, until we encountered a force of the enemy, consisting of artillery, cavalry, and infantry, escorting a large wagon train, the enemy occupying quite a strong position on a hill near Miller's. I immediately disposed my command for an attack, threw forward Captain [T. H.] Shanks' company, of Colonel Grigsby's regiment, as skirmishers, and formed the brigade in line of battle, Colonel Butler on the right, threatening the enemy's flank, and Colonel Grigsby on the left, in front of the enemy's lines. The attack was opened by our skirmishers, the enemy replying with artillery. After firing a few rounds, I received an order from General Wheeler to withdraw my brigade.

In this skirmish I lost 1 man (private of Colonel Butler's regiment) killed and 3 wounded; 2 horses killed and 2 disabled. We captured some 30 prisoners, who were paroled on the field.

Having withdrawn my force in good order, and acting in conjunction with General Wheeler, I moved back on the right toward and on the Wilkinson pike, on the left bank of Overall's Creek, near Mrs. Washington's. Here we found the enemy posted on the right bank of the creek, under cover of the woods. General Wheeler, on the right bank, attacked them, and I immediately drew up Colonel Grigsby's regiment (holding Colonel Butler's in reserve) on the right flank of the enemy, crossed the creek, charged the enemy, and drove him back with severe loss upon the lines of his heavy infantry.

My loss was here 2 commissioned officers (Major Chenoweth and Capt. William Campbell) and 6 privates wounded. We captured some 10 or 15 prisoners, who were paroled on the field.

Night coming on, my brigade was withdrawn from the field, receiving orders to move the next day (Thursday), in conjunction with Generals Wheeler and Wharton, to the rear of the enemy. Uniting my brigade with theirs, I marched to La Vergne, co-operating with them in capturing and destroying a large number of wagons laden with commissary and quartermaster's stores, taking a large number of prisoners. Ninety-five of the Twenty-second Indiana Infantry came out and voluntarily surrendered to Lieut. D. E. Myers, who was alone a short distance in front of his command.

I returned the next morning (Friday) to my original position on the left of our line of battle, near Mrs. Washington's, and remained there during the day, with no material results. At 9 p. m. I was ordered again to co-operate with General Wheeler in rear of the enemy, and moved at once. We encountered the enemy near Cox's Hill, about 8 miles from Nashville, on the Nashville and Murfreesborough pike. My brigade being in the rear, found on arriving that General Wheeler had already engaged the enemy, who was drawn up along the pike, his cavalry opposite the right wing of my brigade, which I had moved into a corn-field adjoining the pike. Receiving an order from General Wheeler to move back to the woodland skirting the field, I did so, to support the attack in which he was engaged. I drew up the brigade, dismounted them to act as skirmishers, preparatory to an attack on the enemy's left. Before engaging, I was ordered by General Wheeler to withdraw my command, as he had been ordered to return immediately to Murfreesborough.

I returned that (Saturday) night to my original position on the left of our line of battle, near Mrs. Washington's, and remained there until sunrise Sunday morning, when a dispatch from General Wheeler informed me that the army had commenced a retreat. I fell back to Murfreesborough, and retired on the Shelbyville pike in rear of the army.

I take pleasure in calling the attention of the commanding general to the good conduct and military bearing of most of the officers and men of my command, and particularly the gallant conduct of Maj. J. Q. Chenoweth, of Colonel Butler's regiment, who was on duty as a member of my staff, and Capt. G. M. Tilford and Lieut. D. E. Myers, of Colonel Smith's regiment, who were on duty with Col. J. Warren Grigsby's regiment during the engagement of Wednesday evening.

My thanks are due to the officers acting on my staff for the efficient aid rendered me during the engagement.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

A. BUFORD,  
*Brigadier-General, Provisional Army.*

GENERAL COMMANDING ARMY,  
*(Through George William Brent, Assistant Adjutant-General.)*