

September 20.—One brigade, the Second of the division, was engaged upon the right of the army at Chickamauga, under the immediate command of the general. The First Brigade was upon the left of the army. During the latter portion of the month the division was stationed near Washington, Tenn., guarding the fords between Chattanooga and Loudon.

No. 228.



*Report of Col. Robert H. G. Minty, Fourth Michigan Cavalry,
commanding First Brigade.*

HDQRS. FIRST BRIGADE, SECOND CAVALRY DIVISION,
Smith's Cross-Roads, Tennessee Valley, August 26, 1863.

SIR: At 2 a. m., on 17th instant, in accordance with orders from Major-General Rosecrans, through Brigadier-General Van Cleve, I marched for Pikeville, via Sparta.

I sent my artillery and wagons direct with the infantry train. At 2 p. m. my advance struck General Dibrell's pickets 2 miles from Sparta.

I sent the Seventh Pennsylvania and Fourth Michigan up the east side of Calfkiller Creek to Sperry's Mill, where they found Dibrell's brigade and quickly drove it across the creek. With the Third Indiana and Fourth Regulars, I moved up the west side of the creek with the intention of cutting off their retreat, but the nature of the ground was so much in the enemy's favor that they had no difficulty in escaping.

I followed them to within a short distance of Yankeetown, and then moved back toward Sparta, for the purpose of going into camp for the night.

About 4 miles above Sparta the road runs close to the creek with a high bluff (thickly wooded) on the opposite side.

Here about 200 men lay in ambush, and as the head of the column was passing they poured in a volley, wounding Lieutenant Vale, the brigade inspector, and 2 of my orderlies.

Part of the Fourth Michigan and one squadron of the Fourth Regulars were quickly dismounted and engaged the enemy across the creek.

In an attempt to cross the creek a little higher up, the Fourth Regulars lost 1 man drowned and a few wounded. The Seventh Pennsylvania and Third Indiana crossed lower down, and, with slight loss, succeeded in dislodging the rebels.

It being now after 8 o'clock, and quite dark, I bivouacked for the night. In the morning I could not find any trace of the enemy, except a couple of them dead, which the citizens were ordered to inter.

The enemy's force was estimated by the citizens at 1,500. I placed it at 1,200, but every foot of the ground over which we fought was familiar to them. It was wooded, hilly, broken, and intersected by half a dozen branches or creeks, with plenty of good positions, all of which they were able to take advantage of.

My force numbered about 1,400, and the country was to us *terra incognita*, notwithstanding which we drove them at a gallop.

I had 1 man drowned, and 15 wounded, including 3 commissioned

officers. I took 23 prisoners, including 1 lieutenant, and representing four regiments.

The enemy's loss in killed and wounded I have no means of ascertaining. I know of only 2 who were killed. A few badly wounded were left at the houses of citizens.

I will send in regular report of casualties in a day or two.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

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

Capt. R. P. KENNEDY,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HDQRS. FIRST BRIGADE, SECOND CAVALRY DIVISION,
Pikeville, Tenn., August 20, 1863.

SIR: I left McMinnville at 2 a. m. on 17th instant, and arrived at Sparta at 2 p. m. General Dibrell had his own regiment and Starnes' and one other. The citizens said from 1,200 to 1,500 men. I fought them until after dark, driving them steadily. Camped near Yankee-town. In the morning rebels had disappeared. Cannot say what their loss was; saw only 2 dead, but a good many wounded; a few by sabers.

Took 1 lieutenant and 13 privates prisoners; our loss pretty heavy.

Regiments.	Men killed.	Wounded.		Total.	
		Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.
Brigade headquarters		1	1	1	1
4th Michigan			3		3
7th Pennsylvania		2	5	2	5
4th United States	a 1		3		4
3d Indiana					
Total	1	3	12	3	13

a Drowned.

I march in about half an hour for Morganstown, &c.; will send in regular report when I return.

I left about 200 men in McMinnville for want of horses.

Third Indiana are at Rock Island. I wish I could get them back, as I can turn out only about 1,200 men.

Yours, in haste,

ROBT. H. G. MINTY,
Colonel.

Major SINCLAIR,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Cavalry.

[P. S.]—My roan mare was hit twice.

MURFREESBOROUGH, TENN.,
December 26, 1863.

SIR: I beg to hand you the following report of the operations of the First Brigade, Second Cavalry Division, from the 13th September to and including the battle of Chickamauga:

September 13.—With the Fourth U. S. Cavalry, Fourth Michigan

Cavalry, Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry, and one section of the Chicago Board of Trade Battery, I marched from Chattanooga to Gordon's Mills and reported to Major-General Crittenden, commanding the Twenty-first Army Corps.

September 14.—Under orders from Major-General Crittenden, I crossed Missionary Ridge into Lookout Valley.

September 15.—Marched back to Gordon's Mills where General Crittenden ordered me to proceed to Pea Vine Valley and encamp at or near Leet's Cross-Roads. I crossed the Chickamauga at Reed's Bridge, and shortly before dark encamped on Pea Vine Creek, near Peeler's Mill, and sent out scouts toward Graysville, Ringgold, Leet's, and Rock Spring. Same night I reported to Major-General Crittenden the information brought in by these parties, and in answer received a letter from Captain Oldershaw, assistant adjutant-general, Twenty-first Army Corps, of which the following is an extract :

The major-general commanding directs me to acknowledge the receipt of your report of this date informing him that Forrest is at Ringgold, Longstreet at Dalton, Pegram at Leet's, and Buckner at Rock Spring ; all this would indicate infantry, which the major-general commanding cannot believe.

September 16.—Strong scouting parties from toward Ringgold and Leet's advanced on me ; they were promptly met, driven, and followed. The pickets on the La Fayette and Harrison road, which lies between Pea Vine Ridge and Chickamauga, were attacked from toward La Fayette and my rear threatened. I fell back to the west side of the ridge, thus covering Reed's Bridge, but at same time held all the roads in Pea Vine Valley by strong pickets. The force which followed the rebel scout to Leet's crossed the line of march of a column of infantry moving from toward Rock Spring to Ringgold and lost 1 man shot through the head. On being reported to General Crittenden, he answered that " it could be nothing but dismounted cavalry."

September 17.—Slight skirmishing between my scouts and those of the enemy. The scout to Graysville reported that General Steedman's brigade had passed through there on a reconnaissance toward Ringgold. The courier to Gordon's Mills reported that Colonel Wilder's brigade of mounted infantry was encamped on the west side of Chickamauga Creek, at Alexander's Bridge, about 2 miles above me.

September 18.—At 6 a. m., I sent 100 men, Fourth United States, toward Leet's, and 100 from Fourth Michigan and Seventh Pennsylvania toward Ringgold. About 7 a. m. couriers arrived from both parties with the information that the enemy was advancing in force. I strengthened my pickets on the La Fayette road and moved forward with the Fourth Michigan, one battalion of the Fourth Regulars, and the section of artillery, and took position on the eastern slope of Pea Vine Ridge. I dispatched couriers to Major-General Granger, at Rossville ; Colonel Wilder, at Alexander's Bridge ; General Wood, at Gordon's Mills, and Major-General Crittenden, at Crawfish Spring. The enemy—infantry in force—advanced steadily, driving my skirmishers before them. The head of a column getting into good range, I opened on them with the artillery, when they immediately deployed, and also strengthened their skirmish line. At this moment I observed a heavy column of dust moving from the direction of Graysville toward Dyer's Ford. I wrote to Colonel Wilder asking him to send a force to hold the ford and to cover my left flank. As the force from Graysville advanced, I fell back until I arrived on the ground which I had occupied in the morning. Here Colonel Miller,

with two regiments and two mountain howitzers from Colonel Wilder's brigade, reported to me. I directed Colonel Miller to take possession of the ford, and again advanced and drove the rebel skirmish line over the ridge and back on their line of battle in the valley, where a force was now visible which I estimated at 7,000 men. The rebel line advanced and I was steadily driven back across the ridge.

My only means of crossing the creek was Reed's Bridge, a narrow, frail structure, which was planked with loose boards and fence-rails, and a bad ford about 300 yards higher up. I masked my artillery behind some shrubs near the ford, leaving one battalion of the Fourth Regulars to support it, and ordered the remainder of that regiment to cross the bridge, holding the Seventh Pennsylvania and Fourth Michigan in line to cover the movement. Before the first squadron had time to cross, the head of a rebel column, carrying their arms at right shoulder shift, and moving at the double-quick as steadily as if at drill, came through the gap not 500 yards from the bridge. The artillery opening on them from an unexpected quarter evidently took them by surprise and immediately checked their advance, causing them to again deploy. The Fourth Michigan followed the Fourth Regulars and the Seventh Pennsylvania the Fourth Michigan, one squadron of the Fourth Regulars, under Lieutenant Davis, most gallantly covering the passage of the Seventh.

One squadron of the Fourth Michigan, under Lieutenant Simpson, on picket on the Harrison road, was cut off by the rapid advance of the rebels. They made a gallant resistance and eventually swam the creek without the loss of a man.

The artillery crossed the road in safety, and I placed them in position to dispute the passage of the bridge, from which Lieutenant Davis' men had thrown part of the planking. Here I was soon hotly engaged, and was holding the rebels in check, when I received a note from the officer in charge of my wagon train, which I had sent back to Gordon's Mills, stating that—

Colonel Wilder has fallen back from Alexander's Bridge to Gordon's Mills and the enemy are crossing at all points in force.

I sent an order to Colonel Miller to join me without delay, and on his arrival I fell back to Gordon's Mills, skirmishing with the enemy, who followed me closely.

With 973 men, the First Brigade had disputed the advance of 7,000 rebels from 7 o'clock in the morning until 5 in the evening, and at the end of that time had fallen back only 5 miles.

On arriving at Gordon's Mills my men were dismounted, and, together with Colonel Wilder's brigade and a brigade from General Van Cleve's division, repulsed a heavy attack at about 8 p. m.

We lay in position all night, and were without fires, although the night was bitterly cold. At break of day Major-General Palmer's division relieved us. I then moved to the rear and procured forage for the horses and rations for the men, who had been entirely without since early the previous morning.

September 19.—Moved along the rear to the left, to protect the trains going into Chattanooga, and camped near Rossville for the night.

September 20.—Under orders from Major-General Granger, I proceeded to the ford at Missionary Mills, and sent strong patrols to Chickamauga Station and Graysville without meeting the enemy.

Toward the afternoon I received orders from General Granger to take possession of the position then occupied by him on the Rossville and Ringgold road.

On arriving on the ground I found that General Granger had already marched to the assistance of General Thomas. Being anxious to know what was in front of me, I pushed forward toward Red House Bridge, and found Scott's brigade of cavalry and mounted infantry, about 1,500 strong, moving into position on our side of the creek. I immediately attacked them. After a spirited skirmish of about an hour's duration, drove them across the creek with considerable loss.

September 21.—During the night, General Thomas fell back to the heights of Missionary Ridge at Rossville, and this morning I found myself about 2 miles directly in front of the center of his line of battle.

The rebels advanced in three columns from the direction of Missionary Mills, Red House Bridge, and Dyer's Ford. I skirmished with their advance for a couple of hours and then fell back to Rossville, with the loss of 1 officer and 9 men killed, and 1 officer and 13 men wounded. I was then ordered to the left to watch the movements of the enemy.

September 22.—Under orders from Major-General Thomas, the Fourth Regulars moved during the night to Rossville and took possession of the gap vacated by our retiring infantry.

At 6 a. m. I heard firing in the direction of Rossville. Leaving strong pickets in the passes over the ridge, I marched with the Seventh Pennsylvania and Fourth Michigan to support the Fourth Regulars, but found that Captain McIntyre had judiciously fallen back, the enemy having turned his flank by advancing on the road from Gordon's Mills. I retreated to Chattanooga, skirmishing sharply.

September 23.—With the Fourth Michigan and Seventh Pennsylvania, I worked in the trenches all night, and at 5 a. m. crossed the Tennessee with the brigade. I camped on Opossum Creek, and from thence picketed the Tennessee River from Washington to Sandy Shoals.

The loss in my brigade from the day on which I was detached from the division until I recrossed the Tennessee River, on the 24th, was under 100 men, of whom only 15 were reported missing. Of these 15, 9 are known to be either killed or wounded. In that time I have taken 439 prisoners from the enemy.

Herewith I hand you report of officers and men deserving special mention.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. H. G. MINTY,

Col. 4th Mich. Cav., late Comdg. 1st Brig., 2d Cav. Div.

Major SINCLAIR,

Assistant Adjutant-General.

[Inclosure.]

MURFREESBOROUGH, TENN., *December 26, 1863.*

Major SINCLAIR,

Assistant Adjutant-General:

SIR: I have the honor to call the attention of the major-general commanding to the following officers, whom I consider entitled to

special mention for their gallant conduct during the battle of Chickamauga:

Second Lieut. Wirt Davis, Fourth U. S. Cavalry, commanded the squadron of his regiment which covered the retreat of the Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry over Reed's Bridge, on the afternoon of the 18th September. This officer has invariably performed his duties in the most satisfactory and gallant manner.

Second Lieut. J. H. Simpson, Fourth Michigan Cavalry, commanded a squadron of his regiment on picket duty on the Harrison road, on the 18th September, and was cut off by the rapid advance of the enemy. After fighting as long as possible, he swam the Chickamauga, and brought in his squadron with no casualties but 1 man and 1 horse slightly wounded.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. H. G. MINTY,

Col. 4th Mich. Cav., late Comdg. 1st Brig., 2d Cav. Div.

A D D E N D A.

*Itinerary of the First Brigade, Second Cavalry Division, commanded by Col. Robert H. G. Minty, Fourth Michigan Cavalry, for September, 1863.**

September 1 to 5.—The brigade remained at Smith's Cross-Roads, in the Tennessee Valley, picketing and guarding different fords and ferries on the Tennessee River.

September 6.—Moved to McDonald's Mill, on Sale Creek, 6 miles down the river toward Chattanooga, where we remained until the 11th.

September 11.—Moved to within 2 miles of Chattanooga.

September 12.—Crossed the Tennessee River at Friar's Ford and encamped at Chattanooga.

September 13.—Marched to Gordon's Mills, Ga.

September 14.—Moved to McLemore's Cove with the command of General Crittenden.

September 15.—Marched back by Gordon's Mills to near Reed's Bridge, over Chickamauga River, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Ringgold.

September 16 and 17.—Remained at Reed's Bridge, sending scouting parties toward Ringgold and La Fayette, who reported large bodies of the enemy on our front.

September 18.—At 8 a. m. the enemy drove in two of our scouting parties and our pickets. The brigade, consisting of the Fourth United States, Fourth Michigan, and Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry, the Third Indiana being temporarily in Chattanooga, skirmished with the rebels at Pea Vine Ridge, but were compelled to fall back across the Chickamauga, disputing every foot of the ground, when we were re-enforced by two regiments of Colonel Wilder's brigade. From there we were driven back slowly to Gordon's Mills, where we arrived at dark.

September 19.—Remained at Gordon's Mills until noon, when we were ordered to report to General Granger, at Rossville. Did so that p. m., and bivouacked.

September 20.—At 5 a. m., by General Granger's order, went to Missionary Mills, on Missionary Ridge, to watch the left flank of the army. About 3 p. m. moved from Missionary Ridge down the road

* From return for September.

toward Ringgold, where we met and drove Scott's rebel cavalry 2 miles across the West Chickamauga Creek.

September 21.—About 9 a. m. the enemy advanced and drove the brigade, after a sharp skirmish, through the gap in front of Rossville, where our infantry was stationed. After passing through, the brigade moved back to Missionary Ridge and rested until night. Then, when the main army was withdrawn to Chattanooga, the First Brigade guarded the gap at and above Rossville.

September 22.—The enemy advanced early in the morning and gradually drove us back from Missionary Ridge to Chattanooga. Loss of the brigade from September 18 to 22, 1 officer killed and 2 wounded; 10 men killed and 39 wounded; missing, 4.

September 23.—Remained at Chattanooga. The Seventh Pennsylvania and Fourth Michigan Regiments were put into the intrenchments to throw up breastworks.

September 24.—Moved across the Tennessee River and encamped up the valley about 10 miles from Chattanooga.

September 25.—Marched to Sale Creek, where we remained until September 28, when we marched to near Washington, Rhea County. There remained during the 29th.

September 30.—The rebel cavalry under Wheeler crossed the Tennessee River, the Fourth Michigan and one battalion of the Fourth U. S. Cavalry disputing his passage. After he had crossed, the command was gathered together and moved to Smith's Cross-Roads.

No. 229.

Report of Col. Eli Long, Fourth Ohio Cavalry, commanding Second Brigade.

HDQRS. SECOND BRIGADE, SECOND CAVALRY DIVISION,
Camp near Bridgeport, Ala., September 1, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit to you the following report:

On the morning of August 29, 1863, after leaving you, I accompanied the Second Regiment Kentucky Cavalry on the march in the direction of Caperton's Ferry. After proceeding about 2 miles, the advance guard captured a courier with dispatches for Colonel Estes, C. S. Army. From the dispatches we learned that there was a company of about 50 rebels at [or] near the ferry. We continued on at a gallop, hoping to capture these men, but upon arriving at the river we met some infantry troops belonging to Brigadier-General Davis' division.

We then commenced the ascent of Raccoon Mountain. The road going up the mountain is very bad, but upon arriving at the summit, we found the face of the country to be level, and the road very fair. On the mountain the advance captured 4 prisoners, 3 of them belonging to the Third Confederate Cavalry, the other had been engaged in collecting niter for the C. S. Government. We met with no opposition on the march whatever, and rejoined you near Price's place on the mountain, having marched since morning between 25 and 30 miles.

The country over which we marched had not been much cultivated, and forage is very scarce.

. Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ELI LONG,

Colonel, Commanding Second Cavalry Brigade.

Capt. R. P. KENNEDY,

Assistant Adjutant-General, Second Division.