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THE
WAR OF THE REBELLION:

A COMPILATION OF THE
OFFICIAL RECORDS

OF THE
UNION AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
The Hon. REDFIELD PROCTOR, Secretary of War,

BY
MAJ. GEORGE B. DAVIS, U. S. A.,
MR. LESLIE J. PERRY,
MR. JOSEPH W. KIRKLEY,
Board of Publication.

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1891.

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VI. Your great commander, General Johnston, fully appreciates the valuable services you have rendered, and relies with confidence upon you to maintain the high reputation your noble conduct has won, and to accomplish whatever task he may call upon you to undertake.

JOSEPH WHEELER,
Major-General.

—
HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
Near Spring Place, August 16, 1864.

GENERAL: Colonel Thompson destroyed railroad near Big Shanty for one mile on Friday night. Colonel Hannon, commanding brigade, destroyed the railroad near Calhoun on Saturday night, capturing 1,020 beef-cattle and a few wagons. Allen's brigade and Humes' and Kelly's divisions destroyed the railroad for several miles between Resaca and Tunnel Hill, and Kelly's and parts of Humes' commands captured Dalton Sunday evening with a considerable amount of stores, three trains of cars, and 200 fine mules. The train and part of the stores were destroyed and the remainder appropriated.

Prisoners report re-enforcements at Chattanooga, said to be part of A. J. Smith's troops. On Monday morning we were attacked by General Steedman with about 4,000 infantry, and obliged to leave Dalton. Our entire loss up to this time about 30, most of them still with the command.

The most violent rains have embarrassed me very much, and made some of the roads very bad. The large force sent from Chattanooga prevented our working at the tunnel. I have several parties still working at the railroad.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOS. WHEELER,
Major-General.

General F. A. SHOUP,
Chief of Staff.

—
HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
October 9, 1864.

COLONEL: I have the honor to submit the following brief report of the operations of my command from the date General Hood assumed command of the Army of Tennessee to the present time:

My command consisted of two divisions of cavalry, under Generals Kelly and Iverson, and one small brigade, under General Williams, in all. General Kelly with his entire command had been detached to guard the Augusta railroad, and General Williams had also been detached and was reporting direct to Major-General Cheatham. With the remainder of my command, numbering about 1,600 men, re-enforced by Ferguson's brigade, I was engaged during the 17th and 18th of July opposing the advance of General Thomas, and during the 19th and 20th of July in opposing the advance of General McPherson's entire army, consisting of three army corps. During this time we fought behind successive lines of breast-works, inflicting heavy losses upon the enemy, and repulsing several assaults of his skirmish lines, which were almost dense enough to make them

lines of battle, and were always supported by strong lines of battle. On the 19th and 20th I was so heavily pressed as to be obliged to call for re-enforcements, but none could be sent me. About 4 o'clock the enemy charged my line with a heavy line of battle. General Ferguson, who was on the right, gave way, but on reaching his position I re-established his line on ground equally as favorable, and maintained the line thus established until night.

About daylight the following morning General Cleburne with his division of infantry came, pursuant to General Hood's orders, to relieve me, while I was ordered to extend my line to the right. General Cleburne placed his troops so closely together that only a little more than half my line was occupied by General Cleburne's troops. While changing position, and before my troops had faced toward the enemy, a general attack was made on my own and General Cleburne's front. General Ferguson, who was on the right, reported a force turning his right flank, when, at the same moment, a general assault of several lines of battle was made by the enemy. Ferguson gave way in some confusion, which exposed the right of Allen's brigade, which, with the Georgia brigade, nevertheless, fought brilliantly, repulsing a desperate assault and killing the enemy in hand-to-hand conflicts. On the enemy's second assault both the Georgia and Alabama brigades, with the right brigade of Cleburne's division, were forced from their works by an overwhelming force. After falling back a short distance the Georgia and part of the Alabama brigades, rallied, charged the enemy, and retook the works, with 2 officers and 20 privates, beside a number of the enemy's dead and wounded, some of whom were killed in our rifle-pits. This was a most brilliant feat, and the Georgia brigade deserves great credit for its conduct upon that day.

Our loss in killed and wounded was not severe, and we did not lose any prisoners. The loss of the enemy was severe. I then established my line and maintained my position until relieved late in the day by Cheatham's division.

On the night of the 21st, pursuant to orders from General Hood, I moved around to the enemy's rear to attack him in conjunction with Lieutenant-General Hardee, who also moved upon their flank for the same purpose. My orders from General Hardee were to attack Decatur at 1 p. m., which was the enemy's extreme left, and, owing to the curvature of his line, was far in his rear. General Hardee supposed the place to be occupied only by cavalry, but on reconnoitering the position in person about 12 o'clock I found that a division of infantry, strongly intrenched, occupied the town. Having communicated this fact to General Hardee, I dismounted my command and moved upon the enemy at the appointed hour. Just as I was moving my line the enemy commenced to throw out two regiments of infantry to meet my approach. These were overthrown, a number of prisoners captured, and the remainder driven in confusion into the enemy's works, from which we received a most galling fire from both infantry and artillery. Seeing the strength of the position in front, I threw a force upon his right flank and rear and formed my main line so as to bear obliquely upon the enemy's right, with the right of my line covering and engaging the enemy's front. From these positions simultaneous charges were made upon the enemy, the troops bearing upon the enemy's right being somewhat the most advanced. At first the galling fire made the most exposed portion of my line waver, but, quickly rallying, the onset

was renewed, and with a triumphant shout the entire line of works was carried. Some 225 prisoners, a large number of small-arms, 1 12-pounder gun, 1 forge, 1 battery wagon, 1 caisson, and 6 wagons and teams, together with the captain of the battery and most of his men, were captured and brought off. We also captured his camp equipage, stores, and hospitals. Just as I was pursuing the enemy beyond the town three of General Hardee's staff officers came to me in rapid succession, directing that I should re-enforce General Hardee as quickly as possible. The pursuit was stopped and all my available troops moved at a gallop to General Hardee's position. The forces under my command fought warmly until the pressure upon him had ceased, and night coming on we bivouacked for the night. Just before the troops were formed for the attack I reported to General Hardee that a large raiding force of the enemy had moved toward Covington, but he directed that it should not be followed, as he thought the attack about to be made would cause the raiders to return.

The following day at 12 m. I was relieved from my position with a portion of my troops and ordered to pursue the enemy. My troops were in motion in ten minutes after I received the order, and by midnight I had traveled forty miles, only to find that the enemy's cavalry had returned to his main army before I had received orders to pursue. On returning I took my place on the right of the army, skirmishing with the enemy until the 27th. At daylight on that morning, pursuant to orders, I relieved General Hardee's entire line with my cavalry. While doing so I discovered that the enemy had abandoned their strong position in my front and fallen back to his position north of the railroad. At the same time I discovered that a large raiding party of the enemy, under Major-General Stoneman, had moved toward our line of communications. This was reported to the general commanding, and after being relieved I was ordered to pursue, but not to continue the pursuit in person unless it was absolutely necessary to take the greater portion of my command.

By daylight the following morning I had got ahead of the enemy and driven the advance of Garrard's division, which was marching for Jonesborough, across Flat Creek. He, finding himself so strongly opposed, retreated rapidly toward the left of the enemy's main army. We pursued a few miles, capturing a few horses and arms, and caused him to abandon three wagons.

About this time I discovered that General Stoneman, with 2,200 men, had moved early that morning on toward Covington with the intention, according to statements of prisoners, of continuing his march toward Macon. I felt unauthorized with my orders to pursue Stoneman's force of 2,200 men in person, particularly as I had received a dispatch from General Shoup, chief of staff, that the left of the army was also threatened by a raid. I, therefore, ordered General Iverson, with his own, General Allen's, and Colonel Breckinridge's brigades, to follow Stoneman rapidly and attack him wherever found. While this order was being executed I received additional dispatches from General Shoup stating that a large cavalry force, estimated at over 3,000, had crossed the Chattahoochee near Campbellton, and was making its way toward the Macon railroad. General Shoup further stated that he feared Brigadier-General Jackson could not check its movements, and that General Hood desired me to move immediately to oppose this force with such troops as could be spared. I immediately ordered Ashby's brigade, under

General Humes, which was then on the march to join me, to move rapidly to Jonesborough. I ordered General Kelly to remain and hold Garrard's division in check with Dibrell's brigade, and to send Anderson's brigade after me on the Jonesborough road. By riding rapidly I arrived at 4 o'clock at Jonesborough with Ashby's brigade, 500 strong, which I had overtaken on the march. I here learned that the enemy had struck the railroad some six miles south of that point. I arrived at that point about dark and found the enemy had moved off on the Fayetteville road. A courier with a dispatch, and a staff officer whom I had sent to communicate with General Jackson, met me with a message from General Jackson to the effect that if I would press the enemy's rear he would gain their front and thus secure his capture. I immediately replied to General Jackson, agreeing to the proposition.

My scouts now reported that the enemy had taken the road crossing Flint River at ——— bridge. Feeling confident the enemy would destroy the bridge, I sent a staff officer to ascertain, and also sent scouts to ascertain if any of the enemy went toward Griffin. Finding that the bridge had been destroyed and that all of the enemy had moved toward Fayetteville, I changed my course and followed them rapidly. Upon the road I received the following dispatch from General Jackson :

TWO MILES AND A HALF FROM FAYETTEVILLE,

July 29, 1864—10 p. m.

GENERAL: The latest reports represent the enemy moving toward Fayetteville. I am quite certain they are moving back to cross the Chattahoochee. I have Harrison's brigade in their front at Fayetteville, and am moving now with Ross' brigade to that place. Should enemy attempt to pass around the place I will gain their front or flank about Newnan. If you can follow and push them in rear it would be well.

Very respectfully,

W. H. JACKSON,
Brigadier-General.

Upon arriving at Fayetteville about midnight I learned that the enemy had passed through that place without meeting any opposition whatever, and was then not more than an hour in advance of me. I pressed on rapidly and overtook his rear at Line Creek. The enemy had destroyed the bridge and were holding the opposite side with troops in strong barricades. With great difficulty the enemy was dislodged and driven from the bank. After an hour's hard labor a bridge was constructed and my command passed over. I had with me at this time but 400 men, having traveled so rapidly that a number of my horses had been absolutely unable to keep up with the column, and General Anderson, whom I had ordered to follow me, had not, on account of the rapidity of my march, been heard from. After crossing the bridge I pressed on rapidly, in the extreme darkness encountering barricades every few hundred yards, the first intimation of the enemy being a volley from their small-arms. At daylight I received the following dispatch from General Jackson :

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY DIVISION,

Three miles and a half from Fayetteville, July 30, 1864—3 a. m.

GENERAL: Since arrival of your courier I received notice from Colonel Harrison that he is opposite the enemy at Shakerag, three miles from here. The enemy has gone into camp there. I move at once with Ross' brigade. I forward Colonel James' [D. W. Jones'] report.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. H. JACKSON,
Brigadier-General.

Finding him so far in my rear I pushed on and in a few moments struck enemy's line of battle. I immediately attacked and drove him from his position, routing the entire line and capturing 200 prisoners with their horses, equipments, and arms. In this engagement and the running fight which ensued more than 40 of the enemy were left dead on the field. My entire force, including my reserves, which were not engaged, did not exceed 500 men. I pushed on, continually engaging the enemy's rear guard, until about 9 a. m., when they succeeded by a rapid movement in gaining some two miles upon my advance. Upon reaching a point two miles from Newnan I again overtook him, and captured 20 prisoners in the engagement which ensued. My command had up to this time traveled about seventy miles without having halted.

About this time Colonel Cook, with a portion of his regiment, and General Ross, with two small regiments, each about 100 strong, reported to me, increasing my force to about 700 men. I here found that on the head of McCook's column approaching town he had observed Confederate troops in the town, and without engaging them turned off, leaving the town to the right. Feeling certain he would attempt to come into the La Grange road below the town, I ordered Colonel Ashby to move through Newnan and down the La Grange road to gain his front if possible. I then sent scouts and pickets out upon all roads by which the enemy could approach the town, and moved with the remainder of my command, now less than 300 men, down between the railroad and the main La Grange road in the hope that I might strike the enemy's flank. After marching about three miles I discovered the enemy in a dense wood forming a line, the right flank of which was scarcely fifty yards in my front. Almost at the same moment I received a dispatch from Colonel Ashby informing me that he had struck the head of the enemy's column just as it was entering the main La Grange road, three miles and a half below Newnan, and that the enemy was forming a line of battle dismounted. Feeling that I was upon the flanks of the force to which he referred, I determined to attack immediately, notwithstanding the great disparity of numbers, the enemy having fully ten times my force. I immediately sent orders to Colonel Ashby to engage the enemy in front, while with the remainder of my troops I attacked with great vigor. I met with a strong resistance at first, but in a few moments the enemy gave way, when with a shout and a gallant charge, the entire line was thrown into confusion and commenced a disorderly retreat. We pursued rapidly, captured a great number of prisoners, and divided the enemy's forces.

While pursuing the enemy, I heard firing in my rear, when I was surprised to learn that General Ross had left his horses where he had first dismounted. Feeling convinced that they were being attacked, I immediately recalled the line, returned, and drove off the enemy, capturing a number of prisoners and horses, and recovering all of General Ross' horses. Immediately after this success, and before I had re-established my lines, the enemy made a most determined charge, driving back a portion of my line and throwing the whole of it into temporary confusion. In a moment my troops were rallied and the enemy repulsed. The fight had now lasted two hours. We had driven the enemy from every position and captured 400 prisoners, including 3 brigade commanders, one of whom lay wounded upon the field. At this moment General Anderson came up with

his brigade, 400 strong, which was thrown into position. While doing so, General Anderson was wounded, and the brigade left under command of Colonel Bird.

Upon advancing my line, I ascertained that the enemy had fallen back and taken a strong position in the edge of a wood, with a large field in front, and a deep ravine, only passable at certain points, intervening between my troops and the enemy's position. The enemy had thrown up strong barricades and was using his artillery freely. General Roddey, who had been in the town, and had not been engaged, came up with about 600 men, and was placed in position on my left. He advised strongly against attacking the position. I immediately moved my troops to the right and pressed down upon the enemy's left flank. Upon discovering this movement, the enemy commenced retreating. I pressed rapidly down the road upon their flank, cutting off nearly two entire regiments, which surrendered in a body with all their artillery, wagons, and ambulances. The entire column was thrown into disorder, and a number of prisoners, arms, horses, and 2 stand of colors were captured in the pursuit which ensued. Some 300 prisoners, mostly quartermasters, commissaries, and other non-combatants whom the enemy had captured the previous day, were also recaptured by our troops. General Roddey, on account of the fatigued condition of his men, had been authorized by me to retire to Newnan before this movement commenced. After pursuing about four miles I found the enemy had become very much scattered through the woods and fields, and that the only party claiming organization had been severed nearly equally. One column, estimated at about 400 men, under General McCook in person, had moved at a gallop toward the mouth of New River, and the other party, under Colonel Brownlow, had moved on by roads toward the Chattahoochee River, near Franklin. I ordered Colonel Bird, commanding Anderson's brigade, to pursue the party with McCook vigorously. In anticipation that the enemy would take the direction pursued by the other party, I had some time previously sent Colonel McKenzie, with his own and the Third Arkansas Regiment, to gain the front of the enemy moving toward Franklin.

I omitted to state that a short time before dark General Jackson arrived, but his troops, numbering only about 300 men, remained in rear and did not come up to engage the enemy. After dark I ordered General Jackson to take his entire command to the battle-field and take charge of all the prisoners which had not been sent to the rear, to gather up the arms, wagons, horses, artillery, and all other public property, and take them to Newnan and await my orders. The balance of my command left with me I ordered to search the woods and gather together the straggling parties of the enemy who had been cut off and were scattered over the country. Colonel McKenzie was very fortunate in his movement and succeeded in capturing between 200 and 300 prisoners. Colonel Bird was not so successful. His instructions from me were to press on rapidly after the enemy, and to report by courier to me his progress and the force he found himself following. It was full daylight before I heard from him at all, and then I learned that he had fallen asleep and allowed the demoralized mass to escape to the river.

On my arrival at that point in the morning I found that some 400 of the enemy had succeeded in crossing after abandoning some 200 horses and equipments, throwing away most of their arms. These

were still pursued on the other side of the river and a number captured, thus completing the entire destruction of the entire command. This proved to be a picked body of cavalry, and its destruction destroyed the flower of General Sherman's vast cavalry organization. General Iverson had been equally successful in his pursuit of General Stoneman, whom he met, defeated, and captured, with 500 of his command, some twenty miles from Macon. The remainder of Stoneman's command was much demoralized and scattered. Colonel Breckinridge pursued and, in successive engagements, defeated and captured the only organized party which attempted escape.

Thus ended in most ignominious defeat and destruction the most stupendous cavalry operation of the war. As was acknowledged by the brigade commanders captured, their plan was to unite these columns on the railroad north of Macon, destroy the railroad, then move rapidly upon and release the 30,000 prisoners of war we held at Andersonville. In this he was thoroughly thwarted at the cost of about 5,000 men, with their horses, arms, equipments, colors, cannon, &c. The force which was sent on this expedition numbered as follows, all picked cavalry:

Garrard's division	4,000
McCook's division.....	3,200
Stoneman's division.....	2,200
Total.....	9,400

Garrard returned to the army without sustaining much damage except the morale of defeat. McCook, according to the enemy's own accounts, only succeeded in returning with 500 men, most of whom were dismounted and unarmed, while none but a few stragglers from Stoneman's column ever returned, making their entire loss over 5,000 men. Of these I am informed 3,200 were lodged in prison, and the remainder killed, wounded, or scattered through the country. McCook's column was a picked body of men selected from his own division and a division a short time previously brought from Tennessee by Major-General Rousseau. All this was accomplished by a force of cavalry not exceeding an aggregate of 3,800 men.

On my return to the army I was ordered by General Hood to move upon the enemy's line of communications, destroy them at various points between Marietta and Chattanooga; then cross the Tennessee River, break the line of communication on the two roads running from Nashville to the army; to then leave 1,200 men to continue their operations on those roads; to then return again striking the railroad south of Chattanooga, and join the main army.

My command was much worn from the rapid marching and scarcity of forage for my horses. I nevertheless started promptly [August 10] with a force of 4,000 men, first tore up the railroad a few miles above Marietta, next near Cassville, and next near Calhoun. At Calhoun Hannon's brigade captured 1,700 head of beef-cattle, several wagons, a number of prisoners, and several horses. These he brought safely to Ellijay, and pursuant to my orders returned with them to the army, where he arrived safely with the greater part of the captured property, although pursued by a superior body of the enemy's cavalry. For this service Colonel Hannon and his command deserve the highest commendation.

On August 14 Humes' and Kelly's commands attacked and captured Dalton with a large amount of stores and Government prop-

erty, their trains, 200 horses and mules, and 200 prisoners, the balance of the garrison on being driven from the town retreating to a small but strong fortification near the town. We also captured and destroyed a block-house and water-tank some two miles below the town. General Martin had been ordered by me to capture a small force of the enemy and destroy the railroad from Tilton up toward Dalton, while I was to meet him by working down from Dalton. Though I had ten miles farther to travel than General Martin, he failed to comply with my order, and embarrassed me by placing his command where I could not hear from him, which caused me to fear he had met with disaster or been prevented from joining me by some force of the enemy interposing between him and myself, all of which gave me much uneasiness. Humes' and Allen's commands destroyed the railroad for several miles. The stores captured in the town were either appropriated or destroyed. Unfortunately we captured but little corn, and none could be obtained in the neighborhood.

While moving out of the town the following day I was attacked by a large force of infantry and cavalry under Major-General Steedman. My loss was trifling, that of the enemy more severe, and including, according to their own accounts, 1 colonel killed and General Steedman slightly wounded. After leaving the town I found General Martin had been within seven miles of me behind a bend in the river, but had not even informed me of his position, much less marched to my assistance, in compliance with his orders. This and other circumstances convincing me I could not expect any help from him, I as soon as possible placed him in arrest and sent him back to the army.

Williams' brigade destroyed the road at various points between Tunnel Hill and Graysville, and by making demonstrations at various other points the enemy were prevented from any attempt to repair the railroad until after the 20th, when we left its immediate vicinity with the main body of my command to carry out the rest of my orders. This work was accomplished under the most disadvantageous circumstances, the heavy rains having so completely saturated the ties and all other wood as to make it almost impossible to burn them. Before leaving I detached 200 selected men, with orders to strike the railroad every night at some five or six designated points. These parties were very successful in their efforts, succeeding in running off some twenty trains during my absence in Tennessee. The interruption of railroad communication by the destruction of the road was for fourteen days, commencing on the 9th, the day the road was first struck near Marietta. This does not include interruptions caused by the detachments of 200 men sent back by me upon leaving Dalton. My horses were in a suffering condition, having during the march subsisted upon an insufficient supply of green corn, scarcely more than half matured, and so soft as to be easily crushed by a slight pressure of the hand. This alone made it impossible for me to remain on the railroad any longer, and compelled me to seek the rich soil on the Ocoee and Hiwassee to save my command from becoming dismounted.

I had intended to cross the Tennessee River at Cotton Port, but the continuous rains which had fallen since I left the army had raised the Tennessee River some ten feet, making it impossible to ford any point below Kingston. After maturely considering the matter I concluded to move above said point, and by crossing Little

Tennessee and Clinch to accomplish the desired object. I here learned that the enemy had made extensive arrangements to procure forage for their army from the country along the line of railroad from Cleveland to Loudon. Feeling that it was important to stop this source of supply, I made a demonstration upon Cleveland, and with hard labor destroyed the railroad from Cleveland to Charleston. I then crossed the Hiwassee and captured Athens with a large quantity of valuable supplies, and destroyed the railroad almost completely from Charleston to Loudon, during which we were almost continuously menaced by the enemy's cavalry, who were, however, repulsed in every attack. This was accomplished with hard labor on the part of our troops.

At Stewart's Landing we attacked and captured a garrison of about 100 men, and captured some 30 wagons and between 200 and 300 horses and mules, besides stores of the troops.

We crossed Little Tennessee River with but little difficulty, when, to our disappointment, we found the Holston River had risen too high to be crossed, which compelled me to move still farther up and cross it and the French Broad above Knoxville. The crossings of the Holston were guarded by the enemy, which caused us some embarrassment, but we succeeded in crossing and captured or drove off the enemy. While crossing we were warmly attacked by a column of cavalry from Knoxville. The attack was quickly repulsed. We then charged the enemy and drove them back at full speed to the city with a loss of over 100 in killed, wounded, and prisoners, all of whom fell into our hands.

Before crossing the river General Williams urgently requested permission to be allowed to take two brigades, including his own and half my artillery, with which he promised to capture the garrison and destroy the bridge at Strawberry Plains. I at first objected to the movement upon the ground that it might cause delay, while rapidity of movement was of the first importance. Upon his further urging the matter, and promising to overtake me that night by traveling by moonlight, I consented. General Williams failed to take the garrison or to touch the bridge. I then ordered General Williams to follow on rapidly and join me soon as possible. This he failed to do, and left me with the balance of my command to carry out the principal part of the expedition with the embarrassment of making numerous delays in endeavoring to bring the troops under General Williams to my assistance.

After crossing the river and mountain I destroyed the railroad at various points between Chattanooga and Nashville, captured 2 trains of cars and a number of small depots of stores, including McMinnville, and caused the abandonment of several posts, all of the public property connected therewith being destroyed. We captured several stockades or block-houses, and destroyed bridges and the railroad to such an extent as to completely stop communication for fifteen days. When near Nashville I was attacked by General Rousseau with a superior force of infantry and cavalry. The attack was repulsed. Harrison's brigade charged the enemy and drove him rapidly for two miles, capturing 3 stand of colors, a number of prisoners, arms, &c. Near this place we also captured some 30 wagons and teams and a number of prisoners.

After spending two days upon the Chattanooga railroad I moved over to the Nashville and Decatur road, which I most thoroughly

destroyed at various points for several miles from Nashville to Decatur. This road was never completely repaired by the enemy. We also destroyed several loaded trains. During these movements Major-Generals Rousseau and Steedman and Brigadier-Generals Croxton and Granger had concentrated their forces and had attacked me at Franklin, Lynnville, Campbellville, and other points. In every instance they were repulsed, although their troops outnumbered mine fourfold.

On reaching the Alabama border, and having determined to await General Williams' arrival (I having sent him several peremptory orders to march on and join me), I sent a dispatch to Corinth, and from there I telegraphed the commanding general the progress of my operations, at the same time recommending that the work be continued upon the railroad. To my disappointment I learned that General Williams had returned to East Tennessee and carried with him three large regiments, which I had sent on detached service, and which by chance met him.

In reply to my telegram to the commanding general I was ordered to return to the Army of Tennessee again, striking the railroad south of Chattanooga. General Forrest having arrived, to move into Tennessee, I ordered the 1,200 men (now increased by recruits to 1,600) whom I had left in Tennessee, pursuant to General Hood's orders, to report to him, and moved with the balance of my command to the railroad near Dalton, captured and destroyed a train of cars, and destroyed the railroad to such an extent that, with the additional effect of a heavy rain, no train passed over the road for a period of thirteen days. I here received an order to return immediately to the army, which I joined near Cedartown.

My entire loss on the entire expedition was about 150 men killed, wounded, and missing, while I brought out more than 2,000 recruits for my own and other commands, and brought out at least 800 absentees from the army, who were returned to their proper commands. During the expedition I was behind the enemy's lines, compelled continually to engage superior forces of the enemy. In all of this work my troops acted well, fought well, and worked well.

I desire particularly to thank Generals Humes and Allen for their gallantry and good conduct through the entire expedition. I am satisfied these officers and their commands did all that brave and devoted men could do.

I brought off all my wounded who could bear transportation, and also brought out nearly 100 wagons, which had been captured on the expedition.

All expeditions to the rear of an enemy are attended with great difficulties. This was particularly so. The jaded condition of my horses was one cause of embarrassment, which was increased by the great scarcity and unwholesome character of the forage which we were compelled to subsist upon the first ten days. The heavy rains which fell during the same time caused small rivers to swell beyond fording, and made the roads almost impassable for artillery.

The results of the expedition were as follows:

First. Causing the enemy to send to their rear to re-enforce their garrisons, troops several times as strong as my force.

Second. The destruction of the enemy's line of communication for a longer period than any cavalry expedition, however large, has done.

Third. The capture, destruction, or appropriation of stores.

Fourth. Breaking up depots and fortified posts in Tennessee and Georgia.

Fifth. Capture of 1,000 horses and mules, 200 wagons, 600 prisoners, and 1,700 head of beef-cattle.

Sixth. Capture and destruction of over 20 trains of cars loaded with supplies.

Seventh. Bringing into the service of the Confederate States over 3,000 recruits.

All this was accomplished behind the enemy's line with a loss of but 150 men killed, wounded, and missing. In every engagement with the enemy's cavalry we were in all respects victorious, capturing prisoners, colors, and arms.

During the time embraced in this report my command has averaged twenty-five miles a day in direct marching, either swam or forded twenty-seven rivers, and has captured, killed, or wounded three times the greatest effective strength it has ever been able to carry into action. Besides this it has captured and turned over to the Government an amount of property of more value than the entire expense my command has been to the Confederate States.

This report is necessarily brief and imperfect. The capture and destruction of property on the raid in Tennessee, and the great success and large captures in the victories during the enemy's [raid] in the latter part of July, reflect the highest credit upon my officers and men. I cannot commend them too highly.

I desire to return my special thanks to Generals Humes, Allen, Dibrell, Robertson, and Anderson, and to Colonels Breckinridge, McLemore, Wheeler, Harrison, Crews, Hagan, and Hobson, all of whom were brave and faithful. General Anderson was wounded in our brilliant victory at Newnan and has since been absent. Colonel Hobson was also badly wounded at Franklin, Tenn.

To my brave division commander, General Kelly, who gave up his life at Franklin, Tenn., while gallantly fighting at the head of his division, I ask his country to award its gratitude. No honors bestowed to his memory could more than repay his devotion.

Lieutenants Warren, Staples, and Lowery, of my staff, were killed while gallantly discharging their appropriate duties. Their gallantry and devotion were highly appreciated by me.

To Lieutenant Hudson, my aide-de-camp, [and] Major Wailes, my assistant adjutant-general, who were wounded by my side, and Lieutenant Bellinger, signal officer, also severely wounded, I desire to express my appreciation of their gallantry and devotion.

Respectfully, colonel, your obedient servant,

JOS. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Col. A. P. MASON,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Army of Tennessee.

P. S.—During the period embraced in this report, which records such brilliant and continued successes, and such large captures of prisoners, cannon, colors, arms, and all kinds of materials, on no occasion did my command, as far as I could learn, have a single man or any material whatever captured by the enemy in any action.

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from Brigadier-General Morgan informing me that the enemy were advancing upon the town, and requesting me to move at once to aid in its defense. My command was promptly in motion. Arrived in Rome, I found Major-General French there in command, and reporting to him for orders, was directed to move at once to the front and learn, if possible, the strength of the advancing foe. Dismounting my men, I advanced them on foot, drove in the enemy's line of skirmishers, and attacked vigorously his main force, which proved to be General Davis' division of infantry, and pressed back his center near a mile, charging and driving it from two positions. Finding the enemy's force so far superior to my own in numbers, and being almost enveloped by the wings of his line, which had not fallen back as the center was driven, I deemed it prudent to withdraw my command from its advanced position, and therefore directed it to fall back half a mile. This was effected without confusion and in most perfect order. The enemy did not follow, however, nor make any effort during the day to recover the ground from which he had been driven. Late in the evening I moved back within our works, having accomplished the object for which I had been sent out.

The loss of my command during the engagement was 50 killed and wounded.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
L. S. ROSS,
Brigadier-General.

Capt. D. W. SANDERS,
Assistant Adjutant-General, French's Division.

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HDQRS. ROSS' BRIGADE, JACKSON'S CAVALRY DIVISION,
In the Field, Ga., August 1, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that at 4 p. m., July 28, I received the order of General Jackson directing me to withdraw my command from its position near Lick Skillet and move to Owl Rock Church, on the Campbellton and Atlanta road, which I did without delay, and at the church designated received your dispatch of 7 p. m., urging me forward to the support of Colonel Harrison, then engaging the enemy near Campbellton. At 9.15 p. m. I came up with Colonel Harrison's command and notified the brigadier-general commanding of my presence; while waiting further instructions my men were allowed to dismount in the road and rest bridle in hand. At daylight we were again ordered forward.

It was now become generally circulated that we were in pursuit of a party of raiders who, having crossed the Chattahoochee River at Campbellton, were moving toward the railroad, and the utmost eagerness and enthusiasm prevailed among men and officers. About noon we came upon the trail of the foe clearly defined by smoking ashes of burned wagons and the sad havoc and destruction of property everywhere visible, and the eagerness of all to overtake and chastise the insolent despoiler was increased two fold. At about 4 p. m. the wish was gratified. We came in sight of the Yankees on the Fayetteville and Jonesborough road, one mile and a half from Lovejoy's Station, and without halting to form the order to charge was immediately given. At the word, the Ninth Texas, led by its gallant colonel, D. W. Jones, dashed forward with a shout and was in a moment

engaged in a hand-to-hand struggle. The enemy at first had considerably the advantage in numbers, and it must be admitted, boldly met the charge at half distance. For awhile the issue appeared doubtful. The men of the Ninth Texas having discharged their guns, and not being provided with sabers or pistols, began to waver before the successive onslaughts of their better armed opponents, when the charge of General Jackson's escort and the opportune arrival of the Sixth Texas Regiment, under its brave lieutenant-colonel, P. F. Ross, restored confidence and forced the enemy from the field. In the mean time the remaining regiments of my command (the Third and Twenty-seventh Texas Regiments) having come up, dismounted and formed several hundred yards in rear of the Sixth and Ninth, and when the enemy, immediately after his failure on horseback, began advancing his forces on foot, these last-named regiments were withdrawn and took position in line with the others. This disposition being made we waited further instructions from the brigadier-general commanding, who being present in person had control of the operations of the day. Toward evening the firing of Colonel Harrison's brigade on the right indicated that the enemy were moving off in that direction, and very soon we were ordered to our horses. The enemy retired, passing round the flank of Colonel Harrison, and took the direction of Newnan, leaving 20 dead and wounded and 50 prisoners in our possession.

Colonel Jones was ordered to pursue and harass his rear while the rest of my command turned back through Fayetteville. Of the chase to Newnan, where the raiders were again overtaken and severely chastised, it is not considered necessary to give particulars. General Wheeler, with a portion of his cavalry from the right of our army, had come up and joined in the pursuit, following immediately in rear of the retreating raiders. I was directed to cross rapidly to the road upon which the enemy was moving and strike his column in flank, or intercept his rear guard, but was unsuccessful. His rear had passed before we could reach his line of march. We then became joined with General Wheeler in pursuit, and continued so to the end of the chase. Near Newnan, after much trouble and delay, the raiders were overtaken and promptly engaged by General Wheeler's advance. The enemy fought with desperation and were evidently gaining ground when my brigade dismounted, charged, and drove them from the woods across an open field. At this moment a large force which had not been engaged charged around our left, and succeeded in getting between us and our horses. Without halting to consider, the command to "bout face" and move back was promptly given, and as promptly obeyed. The struggle was a desperate one, and only after an hour's hard fighting were our efforts crowned with success, the enemy again repulsed, and our horses recaptured and saved. In this affair my men and officers exhibited that coolness and daring which is almost always sure of success. Many instances of individual heroism were evinced. The fighting occurred in thick woods, the underbrush concealing the combatants until within a few paces of each other. Friends and foes were mixed up in the struggle, without regard to order or organization, and frequent hand-to-hand encounters were the consequence. Many instances of capture and recaptures occurred during the day, the victor one moment becoming a captive to his prisoner the next. Colonel Hawkins and Lieutenant-Colonel Boggess, with their respective commands, for awhile became separated from the

other part of the brigade, but on other portions of the field continued to render most valuable and efficient service. Having recovered possession of our horses and remounted, I received orders to move to the left and get in rear of the enemy, and had no sooner done so than a considerable force (including the Eighth Iowa Regiment) signified by flag of truce their willingness to surrender. The remaining and by much the larger portion of the enemy, however, began moving off on the Decatur road, in a direction opposite our position, which fact, as soon as reported to me, was promptly transmitted to division headquarters for the information of the brigadier-general commanding.

I now proceeded to take possession of the prisoners and captured property, and, this done, bivouacked on the field during the night. Next morning, summing up the fruits of the victory, I found my command had captured 587 prisoners, including 2 brigade commanders, with their staffs, several field and a number of company officers, 2 stand of colors (the Eighth Iowa and Second Indiana Regiments), 2 pieces of artillery, 11 ambulances, and a large number of horses and horse equipments and small-arms. We also recaptured the colors of the Second Regiment Dismounted Arkansas Cavalry, and those of another regiment, number not known.

Our casualties in the affair of the 29th, near Lovejoy's Station, was 16 wounded. Near Newnan on the 30th the loss was 5 killed and 11 wounded. Total loss during the expedition, 5 killed and 27 wounded.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
L. S. ROSS,
Brigadier-General, &c.

Capt. E. T. SYKES,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Jackson's Cavalry Div.

No. 716.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Philip D. Roddey, C. S. Army, of operations
May 27-29.*

MOULTON, ALA., *May 29, 1864.*

GENERAL: On the 27th a large force, consisting of infantry, cavalry, and artillery, crossed Flint River at Red Bank, near Somerville, with a very large train of wagons. On the 28th another large force, consisting of two regiments cavalry, several regiments infantry, with a large number of wagons, was traveling in the direction of Somerville from Decatur. On the 27th six regiments of cavalry and four regiments infantry, with four of artillery, advanced from Decatur in the direction of Courtland. I impeded their advance as much as possible as far as Courtland. The next morning they retired, the cavalry in the direction of Moulton and infantry toward Decatur. Last night I moved my command to this place and attacked at daylight this morning, the fight lasting about three hours. The force I engaged estimated at 3,000. I withdrew three miles south for position. The enemy did not pursue, and is going in the direction of Somerville. The movement on Courtland was evidently intended to withdraw attention from their movements. I am satis-

within which you were operating, I was invited to and participated in your councils. I had every opportunity of knowing what was going on. Your plans were fully explained to your lieutenant-generals, your chief of artillery, chief engineer, and myself. Opinions and views were called for, and then specific orders were given. I have never known one of them to express dissent to any plan of yours that was attempted to be executed, never a doubt expressed as to the meaning and intent of your orders, nor a suggestion made by them of a plan they supposed would be better than that you ordered. If they are not now unanimous there is but one, if any, who dissents from the opinion expressed above, viz : Sherman would have been beaten had your orders been obeyed on the 20th and 22d of July, or 30th of August. Whatever the press or the people may say, the militia of Georgia are more than satisfied with you as their Confederate general, and when they again enter that service in defense of their homes will be glad to hail you as their Confederate chief.

G. W. SMITH,
Major-General.

General J. B. HOOD,
Comdg. Army of Tennessee, near Lovejoy's Station.

No. 723.

Report of Maj. Gen. Howell Cobb, C. S. Army, of operations July 30 and 31 (Stoneman's raid).

MACON, GA., August 1, 1864.

(Received 2d.)

General Stoneman, with a cavalry force estimated at 2,800, with artillery, was met two miles from this city by our forces, composed of Georgia reserves, citizens, local companies, and the militia, which Governor Brown is organizing here. The enemy's assault was repulsed and his force held in check along our entire line all day. Retiring toward Clinton, he was attacked the next morning by General Iverson, who, having routed the main body, captured General Stoneman and 500 prisoners. His men are still capturing stragglers.

HOWELL COBB,
Major-General.

General S. COOPER.

No. 724.

Report of Lieut. John A. Vaughan, Eighth Confederate Cavalry, commanding scouts, of operations July 27-31 (McCook's raid).

W. B. WOOD'S FARM-HOUSE,
Fourteen miles southeast of Wedowee, Ala.,
July 31, 1864.

The raid made by General McCook on the Macon and Atlanta Railroad has been driven across the Chattahoochee River, with the loss of one-third of his command. Colonel Harrison's brigade (Yan-

kee) crossed at Philpot's Ferry. Some 300 mules and horses were captured by General Anderson's brigade, with some prisoners. Colonel Harrison's brigade now numbers about 500 men. A good many are without arms, and are at present without horses, but the enemy are mounting their men on horses stolen from citizens. The enemy are inquiring the way to Rome, Ga., and also the way to Oxford, Ala. With a small effective force I believe the enemy can be captured. At Brown's Mills they abandoned their artillery, ambulances, hospital stores, and all their wounded. Colonel Harrison, Lieutenant-Colonel Torrey, commanding Federal brigades, were captured, and Torrey severely wounded. I have got twelve men with me from the Eighth Confederate Cavalry Regiment, and a few from Harrison's Texas brigade, making twenty-four men. I think citizens will rally to assist me in picking up all stragglers from the enemy's ranks. We have captured 8 of the enemy.

I am, with sentiments of high regard, your obedient servant,

J. A. VAUGHAN,

Lieutenant, Commanding Scouts.

General J. H. CLANTON.

No. 725.

Report of Capt. Thomas H. Francis, Fourth Tennessee Infantry, of affairs at Auburn, Ala., July 18-September 15.

HEADQUARTERS POST,

Auburn, Ala., September 15, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor respectfully to make the following semi-monthly report of events transpired since my assignment to duty here:

In obedience to Special Field Orders, No. 41, headquarters Army of Tennessee, I took command of this post 16th July, 1864.

On 18th July the Yankee raid, under Rousseau, passed through the town, burning depots and warehouses containing Government property, and railroad from Notasulga to Opelika. As before stated, I took command but two days previous and had no provost guard or force of any sort with which to defend the post. In the emergency I got a few convalescents from the Texas hospital and such of the militia as could be collected, amounting in all to about eighteen men, mounting them on horses impressed from the neighboring citizens. I also telegraphed to Columbus for arms or re-enforcements, but received neither. With this little force, armed with shotguns, I proceeded to reconnoiter the enemy, and skirmished with him, keeping him out of the town for about twenty hours; but finding his force to be about 2,500 men, I ordered my command to disperse and seek safety separately. The raid entered town about 2 p. m., and left next morning, 19th July. During this occupation the negroes owned by citizens in the town and surrounding country broke into stores and carried off everything movable. There were no white persons present while this was going on, and consequently the negroes carrying off plunder could not be subsequently identified. I have since made every effort to recover stolen property, but so far with but little success.