

## CHAPTER FOURTH.

## OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE BATTLE OF PEA RIDGE—THE PRELIMINARY REPORT OF GENERAL CURTIS.

"HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE SOUTH-WEST, }  
PEA RIDGE, ARK., March 9. }

[By Telegraph from Springfield, Mo. March 10, to Major General H. W. Halleck,]

*General*.—On Thursday the 6th instant, the enemy commenced an attack on my right, assailing and following the rear guard of the detachment under General Sigel to my main lines on Sugar Creek Hollow; but he ceased firing when he met my reinforcements about four P. M.

During the night I became convinced he had moved on so as to attack my right or rear; therefore, early on the 7th, I ordered a change of front to the rear, on my right, which thus becoming my left, still rested on Sugar Creek Hollow. This brought my line across Pea Ridge, with my new right resting on the head of Cross Timber Hollow, which is the head of Big Sugar Creek. I also ordered an immediate advance of cavalry and light artillery under Col. Osterhaus, with orders to attack and break what I supposed would be a reinforced line of the enemy. This movement was in progress, when the enemy, at eleven A. M. commenced an attack on my right. The fight continued mainly at these points during the day; the enemy having gained a point, hotly contested by Col. Carr, at the Cross Timber Hollow; but entirely repulsed, with the fall of the commander, Gen. McCulloch, in the centre, by our forces under Col. Davis. The plan of attack on the centre was gallantly carried forward by Col. Osterhaus, who was immediately sustained and superceded by Col. Davis' entire division, supported also by Gen. Sigel's command, which had remained till near the close of the day on the left. Colonel Carr's division held the right under a galling and continuous fire all day. In the evening, the firing having entirely ceased in the centre, and there having been none on the left, I re-inforced the right by a portion of the second division, under General Asboth.

Before the day closed I was convinced the enemy had concentrated his main force on my right. I therefore commenced another change of my front forward, so as to face the enemy where he had deployed on my right flank in strong position. The change had been only partially effected, but was fully in progress, when at sunrise on the 8th, my right and centre renewed the firing, which was immediately answered by the enemy with renewed energy along the whole extent of line. My left, under General Sigel, moved close to the hills occupied by the enemy, driving him from the heights, and advancing steadily towards the head of the hollows. I immediately ordered the centre and right wing forward, the right turning the left of the enemy, and cross firing on his centre. This final position enclosed the enemy in an arc of a circle. A charge of infantry extending throughout the whole line completely routed the whole rebel force, which retired in great confusion, but rather safely, through the deep impassable defiles of Cross Timber. Our loss is heavy. The enemy's can never be ascertained, for the dead are scattered over a large field, and their wounded too, may many of them be lost and

perish. The foe is scattered in all directions, but I think his main force has returned to Boston mountains. General Sigel followed towards Keitsville, while my cavalry is pursuing him towards the mountains, scouring the country, bringing in prisoners, and trying to find the rebel Maj. Gen. Van Dorn, who had command of the entire force at this battle of Pea Ridge. I have not as yet the statements of dead and wounded so as to justify a report, but I will refer you to a dispatch I will forward very soon. The officers and soldiers in this command have displayed such unusual gallantry, I hardly dare to make distinctions. I must, however, name all of my commanders of divisions. General Sigel, who gallantly carried the heights and drove back the left wing of the enemy; Brig. General Asboth, who is wounded in the arm, in his gallant effort to reinforce the right; Colonel and acting Brig. General Davis, who commanded the centre where McCulloch fell on the 7th, and pressed forward the centre on the 8th; Colonel and acting Brig. Gen. E. A. Carr, who is also wounded in the arm and was under continuous fire of the enemy during the two hardest days of the struggle. Also commanders of brigades, Cols. Dodge, Osterhaus, Vandever, White, Schaffer, and Greusel, distinguished for their gallantry. For that of others, I must refer you to reports of division commanders. I must also tender my thanks to my staff officers, Capt. T. I. McKenny A. A. A. General; Captain W. H. Stark, and Capt. John Ahlefeldt, and Lieut. J. M. Adams, and — Stitt, all acting aids, and Lieut. A. Hoepfner my only engineer officer. All the staff officers did gallant service in carrying orders and aiding in their prompt execution.

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio and Missouri may proudly share the honor of victory which their gallant heroes won, over the combined force of Van Dorn, Price and McCulloch at Pea Ridge, in the Ozark mountains of Arkansas.

I have the honor to be, General,

Your obedient servant

SAMUEL R. CURTIS,

Brigadier General.

#### THE FINAL REPORT OF GENERAL CURTIS, COMMANDING THE ARMY.

*Captain.*—The brief telegraphic report which I gave on the 9th inst. is not sufficient to present even the general outline of the battle of Pea Ridge, and, with the reports of my commanders of divisions, I now submit a more general detail.

My pursuit of General Price brought me to Fayetteville, Arkansas. The entire winter campaign from the 26th January to this time, including the march from Rolla to the Boston mountains 240 miles, was attended with continual exhibitions of toil, privations, conflict and gallantry, some of which I have telegraphed to headquarters, and may hereafter deserve more full development. After reaching Arkansas the forces of General Price were rapidly reinforced by regiments which had been stationed in Arkansas and the Indian territory. I therefore expected these combined forces would return upon us to give us battle, and in conformity with the orders of the General [Halleck] of the 22d February, I selected Sugar Creek as the strongest of several strong places taken from the enemy, to make a stand against any and all odds.

I reported my force to you on the 12th February, after Colonel Davis' division had joined me, at 12,095 men, and 50 pieces of artillery, including 4 mountain

howitzers. My long line of communications required garrisons at Marshfield, Springfield, Cassville and Keitsville, besides a constant moving force to guard my train. My force in Arkansas on the 7th inst., was therefore not more than 10,500 cavalry and infantry, with 49 pieces of artillery including the mountain howitzers, one piece having been sent out into Missouri and thus prevented from joining us in the battle.

The scarcity of forage and other supplies made it necessary for me to spread out my troops over considerable country, always trying to keep it within supporting distance, convenient to rally on the positions selected for battle.

On the 4th of March this force was located as follows: The 1st and 2nd Divisions under Generals Sigel and Asboth were four miles south-west of Bentonville at Cooper's [McKreissick's] farm, under general orders to move round to Sugar Creek about 14 miles east. The 3d Division under Col. Jefferson C. Davis, acting Brigadier General, had moved and taken position at Sugar Creek under orders to make some preparatory arrangements and examinations for a stand against the enemy. The 4th Division was at Cross Hollows under command of Col. E. A. Carr, acting Brigadier General; my own headquarters were also at this place, which is about 12 miles from Sugar Creek on the main telegraph road from Springfield to Fayetteville.

Large detachments had been sent out from these several camps for forage and information, one from Cross Hollows to Huntsville under command of Col. Van-dever, and three from Cooper's [McKreissick's] farm to Maysville and Pineville.

One of these under Major Conrad with one piece of artillery and about 250 men did not reach us till after the battle. All the others came in safe and joined in the engagement.

The enemy had taken position in the Boston Mountains, a high range that divides the waters of White River from the Arkansas.

General Price had rallied the forces that had fought at Carthage, Wilson's Creek, and Lexington, augmented by his exertions to recruit in Missouri during the winter. On his arrival from Springfield in Arkansas, he reported to Governor Rector that between four and five thousand of these had joined the Confederate service, previous to his leaving Springfield. The circulation of all manner of extravagant falsehoods on his way, induced the whole country to leave their homes, and for fear we would kill them thousands joined his ranks.

General McCulloch brought at least eleven regiments to the field, and General Pike five.

Besides these regularly organized Confederate troops which General Price met in Arkansas, there were many companies and regiments of Arkansas volunteers, most of the country people being required to take up arms. From this data and the general opinion of the country, I estimate the force of the enemy to have been at least fifty or forty thousand. This was the force in and near Boston mountains, rallying to drive us from Arkansas and Missouri.

The two armies thus constituted and located were within hearing of each other's cannon, about 30 miles apart. I submit an accompanying map showing some of the topographic features of the country on the roads which we travelled.

Our troops were weary and somewhat exhausted in their long forced marches,

and frequent conflicts. Our cavalry had specially suffered in the breaking down and loss of horses. But our troops were generally well armed, drilled, and anxious to encounter the enemy at any reasonable hazard. They were all intelligent, ardent, flushed with our repeated successes in many encounters on our way, and all conscious of the righteousness of their country's cause.

The arrival of Major General Van Dorn on the 2d of March, in the camp of the enemy, was the occasion of great rejoicing and the firing of 40 guns. The rebel force was harangued by their chiefs with boastful and passionate appeals, assuring them of their superior numbers and the certainty of an easy victory. Despatches were published falsely announcing a great battle at Columbus Ky., in which we had lost three gun boats and twenty thousand men; and thus the rebel hordes were assured the occasion was now opened to drive the invaders from the soil of Arkansas, and give a final and successful blow for a Southern Confederacy.

The fifth of March was cold and blustering. The snow fell so as to cover the ground. No immediate attack was apprehended, and I was engaged writing. About two o'clock P. M., scouts and fugitive citizens came informing me of the rapid approach of the enemy to give me battle. His cavalry would be at Elm Spring some twelve miles distant that night, and his artillery had already passed Fayetteville. Satisfied of the truth of the report, I immediately sent couriers to General Sigel and Colonel Vandever, and ordered them to move immediately to Sugar Creek, where I also ordered Colonel Carr to move with his Division.

I also sent you a despatch which may have been lost with other mail matter which I have since learned was captured by the enemy. I told you I would give them the best reception possible.

All my messengers were successful in delivering their orders. Col. Carr's Division moved about 6 P. M. Col. Vandever had intelligence of the movement of the enemy before my messenger reached him, and made immediate changes in his march so that with great exertions he arrived on the 6th. General Sigel deferred his march from Cooper's [McKreiskick's] farm till two o'clock in the morning of the 6th, and at Bentonville tarried himself with a regiment and battery till he was attacked about 9 A. M. I arrived at Sugar Creek at 2 o'clock A. M. on the 6th, and immediately detailed parties for early morning work in felling timbers to obstruct certain roads to prevent the enemy from having too many approaches, and to build works to increase the strength of my forces. Col. Davis and Col. Carr, early in the day, took their positions on the high projecting hills commanding the valley of the creek leaving the right of the line to be occupied by the 1st and 2nd Divisions, which were anxiously expected.

The valley of the creek is low and from a quarter to a half a mile wide. The hills are high on both sides, and the main road from Fayetteville by Cross Hollows to Keitsville is quite a detour, but it also comes up the Sugar Creek valley; a branch however takes off and runs nearly parallel to the main telegraph road some three miles from it. The Sugar Creek valley therefore intercepts all these roads.

The 3d and 4th Divisions had, before noon of the 6th, deployed their lines, and cut down a great number of trees which thoroughly blockaded the roads on the left. Later in the day I directed some of the same work to be done on the

right. This work was in charge of Col. Dodge who felled trees on the road which ran parallel to the main road to which I have before referred. This proved of great advantage as it retarded the enemy some two hours in their flank movement. Breast works of considerable strength were erected by the troops on the headlands of Sugar Creek as if by magic, and a battery near the road crossing was completely shielded by an extensive earth work erected under the direction of Col. Davis by a pioneer company commanded by Capt. Snyder. About two o'clock P. M. General Asboth and Col. Osterhaus reported the arrival of the 1st and 2d Divisions.

This good news was followed immediately by another report that Gen. Sigel, who had remained behind with a detachment, had been attacked near Bentonville and was quite surrounded by the enemy's advance forces. I immediately directed some of the troops to return to his relief. In the mean time he had advanced with his gallant little band fighting its way within three or four miles of our main forces. The two Divisions [1st and 2d] turned back in double quick, and a large cavalry force also started, all being anxious to join in a rescue of their comrades in peril.

Part of the 1st Division, under Col. Osterhaus, soon met the retreating detachment and immediately opened fire with artillery and infantry, which checked the further advance and terminated the action for the day. In the retreat and final repulse, which occupied several hours, our loss was some twenty killed and wounded.

The enemy must have suffered more, as our artillery had telling effect along the road and the rebel graves in considerable numbers bore witness of the enemy's loss.

The firing having ceased I sent back other troops that had joined the movement and designated the positions on the right which were promptly occupied by the 1st and 2d Divisions. Our men rested on their arms confident of hard work before them on the coming day. The accompanying map of the battle ground will fully illustrate the positions then and subsequently assumed. In my front was the deep broad valley of Sugar Creek forming the probable approach of the enemy, our troops extending for miles and generally occupying the summits of headlands on Sugar Creek. In my rear was a broken plateau called "Pea Ridge," and still further in my rear the deep valley of Big Sugar Creek or "Cross Timbers." My own headquarters and those of Generals Sigel, Asboth and other commanders of Divisions, were near Pratt's house, the lines "A." "B." and "C." show the different fronts assumed during the progress of the battle.

The approach by Bentonville brought the enemy to my extreme right, and during the night of the 6th and 7th, he began a movement round my flank by the road before mentioned which crosses Pea Ridge some three miles north-west of the main telegraph road.

I ascertained in the morning this flank movement of the enemy, which I perceived was designed to attack my right flank and rear. I therefore immediately called my commanders of Divisions together at Gen. Asboth's tent, and directed a change of front to the rear, so as to face the road upon which the enemy was still moving. At the same time I directed the organization of a detachment of

cavalry and light artillery supported by infantry to open the battle by an attack from my new centre on the probable centre of the enemy, before he could fully form. I selected Col. Osterhaus to lead this central column, an officer who displayed great skill, energy and gallantry each day of the battle.

The change of front thus directed, reversed the order of the troops, placing the 1st and 2nd Divisions on the left, their left still resting on Sugar Creek, Osterhaus and the 3d Division in the centre, and the 4th Division became the extreme right; while I was explaining the proposed movement to commanders, and Col. Osterhaus was beginning to rally and move forward his attacking column, a messenger brought me intelligence that my picket, commanded by Major Weston, of the 24th Missouri, had been attacked by infantry. This was at Elk Horn tavern where the new right was to rest; Col. Carr being present, he was ordered to move into position and to support the Major as soon as possible.

This was the commencement of the second day's fight. It was about half past ten o'clock, and the officers separated to direct their several commands.

The fire increased rapidly on the right and very soon opened in the centre. After visiting the right where I perceived the enemy was making a vigorous attack, and finding Col. Carr under a brisk fire of shot and shell coolly locating and directing the deployment, I returned to my central position near Pratt's house and sent orders to Col. Davis to move near to Col. Carr to support him. In the mean time Col. Osterhaus had attacked the enemy and divided his forces, but he was soon pressed with greatly superior numbers that drove back our cavalry and took one flying battery which had advanced with it. The Colonel however was well supported by his infantry, and soon checked a movement that threatened to interrupt the deployment of other forces. I considered the affair so imminent, I changed my order to Col. Davis and directed him to move to the support of the centre which was his proper place according to my order for the change of front. My new line was thus formed under the enemy's fire, the troops generally moving in good order and gallant bearing. Thus formed the line was not continuous but extended entirely across Pea Ridge, the Divisions in numerical order from left to right, Col. Osterhaus remaining in command of a detachment and operating with Col. Davis in resisting McCulloch and McIntosh who commanded the enemy's force in the centre. I did not err in sending Col. Davis to this point, although Col. Carr on the right also needed reinforcements. The battle raged in the centre with terrible fury. Col. Davis held the position against fearful numbers, and our brave troops nobly stood or charged in steady lines. The fate of the battle depended on success against this flank movement of the enemy, and here, near Lee Town, was the place to break it down. The fall of Generals McCulloch, McIntosh, and other officers of the enemy who fell early in the day, aided us in our final success at this most critical point, and the steady courage of officers and men in our lines chilled the ardor and broke down the hordes of Indians, cavalry, and infantry, that were arrayed against us.

While the battle thus raged in the centre the right wing was sorely pressed, and the dead and wounded were scattered over the field. Col. Carr sent for reinforcements, and I sent a few cavalry and my body guard with the little mountain howitzers under Major Bowen. These did good service at a most critical peri-

od. I urged Col. Carr to stand firm, that more force could be expected soon. Subsequently Col. Carr sent me word that he could not hold his position much longer. I could then only reply by sending him the order to "Persevere." He did persevere, and the sad havoc in the 9th and 4th Iowa and Phelps' Missouri regiment, and Major Weston's 24th Missouri, and all the troops in that Division. will show how earnest and continuous was their perseverance. Seeing no sign of approaching foes by the telegraph road, I sent him three pieces of artillery and a battalion of infantry of Col. Benton's command (part of the third Division) which had been located at Sugar Creek to guard the approach. Each small accession to the 4th Division seemed to compensate an over-powering force. As to the left, I was repeatedly informed it stood safe and firm although threatened by the foe. About 2 P. M. my aid Capt. Adams, who had communicated with that wing, informed me he had just seen Gen. Sigel and Asboth on Sugar Creek and there was still no attack in that quarter and no appearance of an enemy. About this time the enemy's forces melted away in the brushy centre and the fire gradually ceased.

Believing the left and centre no longer menaced, and the enemy was concentrating on the right, I again sent word to Col. Carr that he would soon be reinforced. I had now resolved to bring up the left and centre to meet the gathering hordes near Elk Horn Tavern. To inform myself of the condition of the extreme left, I went in person to that point. On my way I ordered forward the remainder of Col. Benton's command, three pieces and a battalion which had remained guarding the crossing of the main telegraph road.

I found Generals Sigel and Asboth with the troops on the hill near the extreme left, where all was quiet, and the men, not having been under fire, fresh and anxious to participate in the fight.

It was now safe to make a new change of front so as to face Big Sugar Creek. I thereupon ordered this force forward. Gen. Asboth moved by the direct road to Elk Horn Tavern, and Gen. Sigel went by Lee Town to reinforce Davis if need be; but to press on to re-inforce Carr if not needed, in the centre. Both Generals moved promptly. I accompanied General Asboth, collecting and moving forward some straggling commands that I found by the way. It must have been near five o'clock when I brought this force to the aid of Col. Carr. He had received three or four shots, one a severe wound in the arm, many of his field officers had fallen, and the dead and wounded had gradually reduced his force. He had been gradually forced back near half a mile, and had been about seven hours under constant fire. His troops were still fiercely contesting every inch of ground. As I came up the fourth Iowa were falling back for cartridges, in line, dressing on their colors in perfect order. Supposing with my reinforcements I could easily recover our lost ground, I ordered the regiment to halt and face about. Col. Dodge came up explaining the want of cartridges, but informed of my purpose, I ordered a bayonet charge, and they moved again with steady nerve to their former position when the gallant 9th [Iowa] was ready to support them. These two regiments have won imperishable honors. Gen. Asboth had planted his artillery in the road and opened a tremendous fire on the enemy at short range. The 2d Missouri infantry also deployed and earnestly engaged the ene-

my. About this time the shades of night began to gather around us, but the fire on both sides seemed to grow fiercer and more deadly. One of my body guard fell dead, my orderly received a shot and Gen. Asboth was severely wounded in the arm. A messenger came from Gen. Sigel saying he was close on the left and would soon open fire. The battery of Gen. Asboth ran out of ammunition and fell back. This caused another battery that I had located on the right of the road to follow this latter fearing a want of support. The infantry however stood firm or fell back in good order, and the batteries were soon restored, but the caissons got quite out of reach. The artillery firing was renewed however and kept up till dark, the enemy firing the last shot, for I could not find another cartridge to give them a final round. Even the little howitzers responded "no cartridges." The enemy ceased firing and I hurried men after the caissons and more ammunition. Meantime I arranged the infantry in the edge of the timber with fields in front, where they lay on their arms and held the position for the night. I directed a detail from each company to bring water and provisions, and thus without a murmur these weary soldiers lay, and many of them slept within a few yards of the foe, with their dead and wounded comrades scattered around them.

Darkness, silence and fatigue soon secured to the weary, broken slumber and gloomy repose.

The day had closed with some reverses on the right, but the left had been unassailed, and the centre had driven the foe from the field.

My only anxiety for the fate of the next day was the new front which it was necessary to form by my weary troops. I directed Col. Davis to withdraw all the remainder of his Division from the centre and move forward so as to occupy the ground on Carr's immediate left. Although his troops had been fighting hard most of the day and displayed great zeal, energy and courage, at 12 o'clock at night they commenced their movement to the new position on the battlefield, and they too, soon rested on their arms. Nothing further had been heard from Gen. Sigel's command, after the message at dark, that he was on or near the left. His detour carried him round a brushy portion of the battlefield that could not be explored in the night. About two o'clock he reported at my headquarters with his troops, who he said were going to their former camp for provisions. The distance of his camp, some two miles further, was so great I apprehended tardiness in the morning, and urged the General to rest the troops where they were at my headquarters and send for provisions as the other troops. This he readily concurred in, and those troops bivouaced also for the night.

The arrangement thus completed to bring all four of my Divisions to face a position which had been held in check all the previous day by one, I rested certain of the final success on the coming day.

The sun rose above the horizon before our troops were all in position, and yet the enemy had not renewed the attack. I was hardly ready to open fire upon him as the 1st and 2d Divisions had not yet moved into position.

Our troops that rested on their arms in the face of the enemy, seeing him in motion could not brook delay, and the centre under Colonel Davis opened fire. The enemy replied with terrible energy from new batteries and lines which had been prepared for us during the night. To avoid raking batteries, the right wing



fell back in good order but kept up a continuous fire from the new position immediately taken. The 1st and 2d Divisions soon got under way and moved with great celerity to their position on the left. This completed the formation of my third line of battle. It was directly to the rear of the first, and was quite continuous, much of it on open ground. We then had our foe before us, where we all knew our ground.

The broken defiles occupied by him would not admit of easy evolutions to repel such as could be made by us on the open plain. Victory was inevitable. As soon as the left wing extended so as to command the mountain, and rest safely upon it, I ordered the right wing to move forward so as to take position where I placed it the night previous. I repaired myself to the extreme right and found an elevated position considerably in advance, which commanded the enemy's centre and left. Here I located the Dubuque battery and directed the right wing to move its right forward so as to support it and give direction to the advance of the centre right wing. Capt. Hayden soon opened a fire which proved most galling to the foe and a marker for our line to move upon. Returning to the centre I directed the first Iowa battery under Captain David to take position in an open field where he could also direct a fire on the central point of the enemy. Mean time the powerful battery of Captain Welfley and many men were bearing on the cliff, pouring heavy balls through the timber near the centre, splintering great trees and scattering death and destruction with tempestuous fury.

At one time a battery was opened in front of Haydens battery, on the extreme right, so near us that I could not tell whether it was the enemy or an advance of Hayden, but riding nearer I soon perceived its true character, and directed the 1st Iowa and the Peoria battery, Captain Davidson, to cross fire on it, which soon drove it back to the common hiding place, the deep ravines of Cross Timber Hollows.

While the artillery was thus taking position and advancing upon the enemy, the infantry moved steadily forward. The left wing advancing rapidly soon began to ascend the mountain cliff from which the artillery had driven most of the rebel forces. The upward movement of the gallant 36th Illinois, with its dark blue line of men and gleaming bayonets, steadily rose from base to summit, when it dashed forward into the forest driving and scattering the rebels from these commanding heights. The 12th Missouri, far in advance of others, rushed into the enemy's lines bearing off a flag and two pieces of artillery. Everywhere our line moved forward and the foe as gradually withdrew. The roar of cannon and small arms was continuous and no force could then have withstood the converging line and concentrated cross fire of our gallant troops. The enemy was out-flanked on both wings and his centre overpowered. Our guns continued some time after the rebel fire had ceased, and the rebels had gone down into the deep caverns through which they had begun their precipitate flight.

Finally our firing ceased. The enemy had suddenly vanished. Following down the main road which enters a deep canon, I saw some straggling teams and men running in great trepidation through the gorges of the mountains. I directed a battery to move forward, which threw a few shots at them, followed by a pursuit of cavalry comprised of the Benton Hussars and my escort from Bow-

en's Battalion which was all the cavalry convenient at the time. General Sigel also followed in this pursuit towards Keitsville, while I returned trying to check a movement which led my force north, where I was confident a frightened foe was not likely to go. I soon found the rebel force had divided and gone in every direction, but it was several hours before I learned that the main force after entering the canon had turned short to the right, following obscure ravines which led into the Huntsville road in a due south direction.

General Sigel followed some miles north towards Keitsville firing on the retreating force that ran that way. Col. Bussey with cavalry and the little howitzers followed beyond Bentonville.

I camped on the field and made provisions for burying the dead, and care of the wounded.

The loss in the several divisions was as follows:

	Commissioned Officers.			Private volunteers.			
	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.	Total.
First Division		4	2	11	89	38	144
Second Division	3	3		17	60	36	119
Third Division	4	18		42	256	9	329
Fourth Division	6	29	2	95	491	78	701
Third Iowa Cavalry		1		24	18	9	59
Bowens Battalion		1		1	2	2	2
	13	56	4	190	916	172	1351

This sad reckoning shows where the long continued fire was borne, and where the public sympathies should be most directed. The loss of the enemy was much greater, but their scattered battalions can never furnish a correct report.

The reports of Division and other officers of their killed and wounded of my command are all submitted, with such details as were seen or understood by local commanders. They give interesting incidents and notice many deserving heroes. I mentioned in my telegraph report of the 9th March and I now repeat the names of those who have done distinguished service. These are my commanders of Divisions, Generals Sigel and Asboth, Col. and acting Brigadier Gen. Davis, and Colonel and acting Brigadier General Carr. They commanded the four Divisions. I also again present commanders of Brigades, Cols. Dodge, Osterhaus, Vandever, White, Schaffer, Pattison and Greusel. The three first named I expressly commend. I also renew the just thanks due to my staff officers: Capt. T. I. McKenny, A. A. A. General, Capt. W. H. Stark, Captain John Ahlefeldt, Lieut. J. M. Adams, and Lieut. Stitt, all acting aids. Also Lieut. A. Hoepfner my only engineer. To these I must now add Major Bowen who commanded my body guard and with the mountain howitzers did gallant service in every battlefield, in the pursuit, and especially at "Pea Ridge." Captain Stephens, Lieut. Madison and Lieut. Crabtree, of this battalion, also deserve honorable mention. Major Weston of the 24th Mo., Provost Marshal in camp and in battle, did gallant service. Lieut. David, Ordnance Officer on my staff, took charge of the first Iowa Battery after Captain Jones was wounded and did

signal service. I must also thank my commanders of Posts who supported my line of operation and deserve like consideration as their duties were more arduous; Col. Boyd at Rolla; Col. Waring at Lebanon; Col. Mills at Springfield, and Lieut. Col. Holland at Cassville.

To do justice to all I would spread before you the most of the rolls of this army, for I can bear testimony to the almost universal good conduct of officers and men who have shared with me the long march, the many conflicts by the way, and final struggle with the combined forces of Price, McCulloch, McIntosh and Pike under Major General Van Dorn at the battle of Pea Ridge.

I have the honor to be very Respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

SAMUEL R. CURTIS,

Major General."

Capt. N. H. McLEAN,

Assistant Adjutant General.

#### CHAPTER FIFTH.

### THE REPORT OF GENERAL FRANZ SIGEL.

"HEADQUARTERS 1st AND 2d DIVISIONS,  
CAMP PEA RIDGE, ARKANSAS, March 15, 1862. }

"General:—I have the honor to lay before you the following reports in regard to the actions of the 1st and 2d Divisions from the third to the 9th day of this month.

1st. Expedition to Pineville on the 5th of March. On the evening of the 5th the main body of the two Divisions was encamped near McKreisick's farm three and a half miles south-ward of Bentonville, and one mile from the fork of the roads leading west to Maysville, and north-east to Pineville, Missouri. The 2d Missouri under Col. Schaffer and one company of cavalry were stationed at Osage mills, (otherwise called Smith's mills) five and a half miles south east of McKreisick's farm, whilst our pickets guarded all the other avenues to the camp.

For the purpose of reconnoitering the country towards the Indian territory, and to detain the rebels of south-west Missouri to follow Price's army by the state line road, Major Conrad with five select companies of infantry, sixty men of cavalry, and two pieces of Welfley's battery, was ordered to proceed on the first day to Lindsays Prairie, where he arrived in the evening, sixteen miles south-west of McKreisick's farm, on the scout (the 5th) to Maysville, and to return on the 3d day to our camp.

Such was our position on the 5th when I received orders from you to send a detachment of cavalry to Pineville where there were said to be two or three hundred rebels who disturbed and endangered the Union people of McDonald county. I directed Major Meszaros with eighty men to march at 10 o'clock P. M. on the north-western road to Pineville whilst Capt. Keilmanssegge was sent to Maj. Conrad at Maysville to lead his sixty men of cavalry with one piece of artillery and twenty infantry, at 10 o'clock in the night, from Maysville to Rutledge and Pineville, and to act in concert with Major Meszaros. A home guard company stationed between Pineville and Keitsville was ordered to occupy at night the

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.