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Samuel Merrill

COL. SAMUEL MERRILL

ANNALS OF IOWA.

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THE ARMY OF THE SOUTH-WEST, AND THE FIRST CAMPAIGN IN ARKANSAS.

BY SAM'L PRENTIS CURTIS,

BREVET CAPTAIN AND AID-DE-CAMP TO MAJOR GENERAL CURTIS.

CHAPTER EIGHTH.

(Continued from page 933.)

VANDEVER.

“HEADQUARTERS, 2D BRIGADE, 4TH DIVISION, }
CAMP STEVENS, ARKANSAS, MARCH 13TH, 1862. }

COL. E. A. CARR, *Commanding 4th Division.*

COLONEL—On the morning of the 4th inst. I left Camp Halleck, at Cross Hollows, in command of an expedition in the direction of Huntsville. The forces consisted of three hundred and fifty of the Iowa 9th Infantry, one hundred and fifty from Col. Phelps' Missouri Regiment, one Battalion of the 3d Illinois Cavalry, one section of the Dubuque Light Artillery, and one section of Bowen's Mountain Howitzers. We prosecuted the march and arrived at Huntsville at noon on the 5th, without incident. A portion of the enemy's stores were captured at their camp three miles beyond Huntsville, and several prisoners taken. From the prisoners I obtained information that the enemy were advancing in the direction of our lines for the purpose of attack, which information I immediately transmitted to headquarters, and then prepared to retrace my steps. On the same evening I moved out of Huntsville and camped three miles distant. At 2 o'clock in the morning I received your order to return and rejoin the main body at Sugar Creek, and at 3½ o'clock resumed my line of march, and at dusk the same evening arrived in camp, having accomplished a forced march of forty miles in a single day. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon officers and men for energy and perseverance in surmounting the difficulties of their long and painful march.

On the morning of the seventh being aroused by the sound of firing in the direction of Elk Horn Tavern, in obedience to your order, I moved up my brigade, consisting of the 9th regiment of Iowa Volunteers, Col. Phelps' regiment of Missouri Volunteers, and the Dubuque Light Artillery; the 3d Illinois Cavalry

having already been ordered to observe the enemy. Upon arriving at the Elk-Horn Tavern, the artillery immediately took position near the main road and opened a brisk fire, the infantry forming mainly on the left, Col. Dodge's Brigade being to the right. Soon after, my whole line of infantry was briskly engaged with the enemy, who fell back, we pushing forward and driving them until met by an overpowering force. The infantry then resumed the position in advance of the Elk-Horn Tavern, where the enemy was first encountered, and retained it during most of the day against greatly superior odds, a part of the time being supported by a battalion of the 8th Indiana under Lieut. Col. Shunk, which however, was soon withdrawn and sent to the support of Col. Dodge. Toward evening the enemy having concentrated a heavy fire of artillery and infantry upon our position, and to avoid the chance of being flanked during the night, I fell back to a line of timber and formed on the right of the main road. Here Lieut. Col. Shunk again joined me, and we remained in line resting upon our arms until near morning, when I again moved to the road and formed on the left of Col. Dodge's brigade.

Soon after sunrise the fire of our artillery again opened upon the enemy, and he replied with vigor. At this point, finding ourselves exposed to a raking fire from one of the enemy's batteries on our right, we changed direction to the east. About this time the 1st division coming into position on our left, we joined in the general advance upon the enemy, the whole cavalry force participating, and the artillery co-operating. The enemy here broke into disorder and the fortune of the day was decided in our favor.

I cannot close this account without bearing testimony to the coolness, bravery and steadiness of all the troops under my command. Col. Phelps was especially active in leading his command, and inspired them by his own example to deeds of bravery. Of Lieut. Col. Herron commanding the 9th Iowa, too much cannot be said. He was foremost in leading his men, and with coolness and bravery never excelled, rallied them to repeated acts of daring and bravery. Unfortunately at the close of the day on the seventh, his horse was killed under him, and he being disabled by the fall, was captured by the enemy. Major Coyl also of the 9th Iowa, acted with distinguished bravery until disabled by a painful wound, when he was compelled reluctantly to leave the field.

I deem it but just to add that every officer of my command was prompt and ready in the discharge of duty throughout the action, inspiring their men by example to acts of determined bravery. Lieut. Asher Riley, my acting Assistant Adjutant General, deserves particular mention. Upon the fall of Capt. Dripps and Lieut. Kelsey of Company A, 9th regiment, both distinguished for their bravery, Lieut. Riley gallantly took command of the company, and remained with it to the end of the action. Capt. Carpenter and Lieut. Jones of Co. "B," distinguished themselves by leading their company into the face of an overpowering force of the enemy, and recapturing one of our guns and a caisson. Lieut. Tisdale of Company "F," deserves especial mention for his gallantry while in command of the company after the fall of Capt. Towner and Lieut. Neff, both of whom acted with distinguished bravery until disabled by painful wounds. Capt. Bull of Company "C," was particularly distinguished for his coolness and bravery; also Lieut. Baker of Company "E" and Capt. Washburn and Lieut.

Beebe of Company "G," Lieuts. Crane and McGee of Company "D," Capt. Moore and Lieut. McKenzie of Company "H," Capt. Carscaddon and Lieut. Claflin of Company "K," were conspicuous for bravery. Capt. Drips of Company "A" and Capt. Bevins of Company "E," fell mortally wounded while gallantly leading and cheering their men. Company "I" was commanded by Lieut. Fellows, whose conduct is deserving of great praise. Many instances of special gallantry occurred among non-commissioned officers and men. Where all did their duty so nobly and so well, distinction would be invidious.

I desire also, to call your especial attention to the Dubuque Light Artillery, under command of Capt. M. M. Hayden, whose report is appended. Capt. Hoyden and every officer of this battery acquitted themselves with the highest credit. They bore the hottest fire of the enemy with coolness and intrepidity; the men under the skilful lead of Capt. Hayden, performing duty with cheerfulness and alacrity, and never faltering. He mentions special instances of bravery in his report hereto appended, to which I would call special attention.

Numerous instances of individual bravery occurred during the trying events of the battle, which I cannot mention. I can only say that I feel deeply indebted to every officer and man of my command for the heroic manner in which they have acquitted themselves. They did their duty nobly.

I am Colonel, very respectfully, your ob't servant,
WM. VANDEVER, of 9th Iowa Vols.,
Commanding 2d Brigade, 4th Division."

BUSSEY.

"HEADQUARTERS 3D IOWA CAVALRY, }
PEA RIDGE, ARKANSAS, MARCH 14TH, 1862. }

MAJ. GEN. SAMUEL R. CURTIS, Comd'g Army of the South-West,

SIR—I have to report in compliance with orders received from you. I, on the morning of the 7th inst. proceeded with Companies "A," "B," "C," "D" and "M," of the 3d Iowa Cavalry, under command of Lieut. Col. Trimble, numbering 235 men and officers: the Benton Hussars under command of Col. Nemett; four companies of the 1st Missouri Cavalry, under command of Col. Ellis; two companies of the Fremont Hussars, under command of Lieut. Howe, and three guns of Capt. Elbert's Battery, from your camp towards Leetown, to attack the advancing column of the enemy; myself and the force under my command, acting in connection with the infantry and artillery of Gen. Osterhaus' brigade, and subject to his command.

My column left camp in advance of the other force of Gen. Osterhaus at about half-past nine o'clock A. M., and proceeded cautiously west about a mile and a half to a large open field beyond Leetown, and which was about one-fourth of a mile wide from east to west, and running south about two miles, but which was intersected by fences dividing it into small fields. The field first entered by my force was surrounded on the east, north and west, by a thick woods of small oaks and underbrush.

Here I sent two companies of the 1st Missouri Cavalry to reconnoitre the woods surrounding this field. At about the same time, about two miles to the

south the wagon train of the enemy could be seen moving in the direction of Bentonville.

As my immediate command was proceeding across this field in a westerly course, Gen. Osterhaus in person overtook us, and immediately ordered the three guns to the front, they having up to this time been in rear of the 1st Missouri and 3d Iowa Cavalry. We advanced in this new order across the field and entered the woods on the west side by a narrow road going west. Following this road about one-fourth of a mile, we came upon a small prairie extending three hundred yards west and about one hundred and fifty yards wide to the north. On the south open fields under fence, extending for one-fourth of a mile to the west. This prairie was surrounded on the north and west by timber and low brush. At this point we came in full view of the enemy's cavalry passing along about one-half mile distant to the north.

No other force being discovered, the three guns were immediately advanced by Gen. Osterhaus, who was present and in command, about two hundred yards, and immediately opened fire on the cavalry of the enemy on the road to the north-west. One company of the 1st Missouri Cavalry was in line of battle on the left of the guns, and one company of the same troop on the right. The companies of the 3d Iowa Cavalry were formed in line of battle in rear of the guns parallel with the road, and facing to the north. While forming the Benton Hussars in line on the right of the 3d Iowa Cavalry, and facing the west, I was ordered by Gen. Osterhaus to send two companies of the 3d Iowa Cavalry down the road to the west, to charge the enemy's line at a point supposed to be about a half mile distant. This order was communicated by me to Lieut. Col. Trimble, who immediately advanced with columns of fours, which was necessary, the road leading along a fence on the south, and thick brush and woods being on the north.

The Benton Hussars were now in line of battle about one hundred yards to the right and rear of the battery of three guns, and the Fremont Hussars were yet in columns of fours at the edge of the prairie, having just arrived on the ground. The 3d Iowa Cavalry galloped down the road and going beyond the edge of the woods or timber on the west side of the prairie, they unexpectedly found themselves in front of several lines of infantry, heretofore unseen, and who were drawn up in line to the front, and right of our men at short musket range. This large force, I afterwards learned from rebel officers who were taken prisoners, was the Division of McCulloch, McIntosh and Pike, and consisted of several regiments of Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas troops, who were concentrating there evidently intending to attack your camp from the direction of Leetown. The companies of the 3d Iowa Cavalry were immediately wheeled into line facing the enemy, it being impossible for them to advance in column further, when they at once received a deadly fire from the rear, from overwhelming numbers of the foe, who were also partly concealed and protected by the woods and brush. A large number of my men and horses were here killed and wounded, and Lieut. Col. Trimble at the head of the column was severely wounded in the head. This fire was returned by the 3d Iowa Cavalry from their revolvers, with considerable effect.

Just at this moment a large force of the enemy's cavalry charged from the north upon different portions of our cavalry line, and passing through the line went into the fields in our rear. The 3d Iowa Cavalry now charged this cavalry force, and an exciting running cavalry fight ensued between these forces, the enemy fleeing and being pursued by my men to the south. The enemy was followed in this direction by the 3d Iowa Cavalry alone to the brush on the other side of the large open fields. The loss of the enemy in this running fight was very heavy, and estimated by me from the most reliable information I have been able to obtain, at eighty-two.

In this same charge of the enemy's cavalry, a portion of them came in the direction of the three guns, and the companies of the 1st Missouri Cavalry being compelled to give way, I ordered the Benton Hussars to charge, which they failed to do, but fell back. The Fremont Hussars being in rear and not in position, were compelled to give way. The guns were thus left unsupported and were taken by the enemy and burned.

These cavalry forces failing to rally, fell back through the woods to the large open field through which we had just marched, when they met the infantry and artillery of Gen. Osterhaus, in line of battle. Being left on the field of the first action without any force, the cavalry in reserve having failed to obey my orders, I followed to the open field, where I found two companies of the 1st Missouri cavalry being formed in line by Maj. Hubbard. After seeing the cavalry mentioned in line, I sent Adj. Noble, who had remained with me on the field during the whole time, to bring up the companies of the 3d Iowa Cavalry to our new position, they having pursued the enemy through the fields as above stated, and not yet made their appearance. He soon returned with all the companies, having met them coming in perfect order to the place desired, the companies having returned towards the camping ground. Maj. Perry being in command, Lieut. Col. Trimble having been wounded early in the engagement, as heretofore mentioned.

The enemy immediately advanced to the western edge of the field in which our new position was taken, when a general engagement ensued. At this time I ordered the 1st Missouri Cavalry to take position on the extreme left in the woods which was on the East of our main position. A force of the enemy made their appearance here evidently attempting to turn our left flank. I sent the 3d Iowa Cavalry to support Col. Ellis. When our force appeared the enemy withdrew, and were followed by Col. Ellis about two miles and did not again show themselves in this quarter. The Benton Hussars and Fremont Hussars having reformed, remained on the field to the left of the batteries until the close of the engagement; having, however, been several times sent to ascertain the position of the enemy. This duty they performed satisfactorily.

The 3d Iowa Cavalry were then formed in line of battle immediately in rear of the artillery, and maintained their position until the close of the action, when they were ordered to conduct a battery to reinforce Gen. Carr, who was still engaged on the right. I went with them, leaving the remainder of the cavalry force under command of Gen. Osterhaus. This was at 5 o'clock P. M.

The accompanying report of the killed, missing and wounded of the 3d Iowa

Cavalry, is hereby referred to as a part of this report. The loss of the other forces will be reported to you by their immediate commanders.

The three guns after falling into the hands of the enemy were not spiked nor taken from the field, and have been recovered, except the carriages, which had been burned as heretofore mentioned.

On reporting to Gen. Carr in pursuance of the order requiring me to do so, my companies took position on the right in rear of our batteries, where we remained until after the darkness of the night closed the action of the seventh.

On the morning of the 8th pursuant to orders, I went with my command, now being the five companies of the 3d Iowa Cavalry, into the field on the road leading to the Elk-Horn Tavern, and was there ordered to take position on the right flank, where the enemy was expected to attack. This position was held by my command with other cavalry forces, until the retreat of the enemy after the middle of the day.

In pursuance of your direct order, my command at 2 o'clock P. M., started in pursuit of the enemy towards Keetsville, on the road leading east, and continued to be thus engaged until night. I took fifty-nine prisoners with some horses and arms on this expedition. Among the prisoners was Maj. Rucker, 1st Missouri Volunteers, who was slightly wounded.

On the morning of the 9th, I proceeded in command of the 3d Iowa Cavalry companies, Bowen's Cavalry, with four pieces of mountain howitzers, and one battalion of 1st Missouri Cavalry, under command of Maj. Hubbard, on the road to Bentonville. After advancing on the Bentonville road about six miles, I found where the enemy had encamped the night before, in large force. We followed on until I reached Bentonville, near which place we overtook a party of the cavalry of the enemy, who fired upon us and fled. My advanced guard pursued, killing one man. We reached Bentonville at 2 o'clock P. M., and entered the town. Seeing a small party of cavalry at some distance beyond the town in the brush, I ordered Maj. Bowen to fire on them with the howitzers. Two shots were fired, the enemy retreating in great haste. Here we learned the enemy in force had left the town a few hours before our arrival, taking the road leading to Elm Springs. The horses of my command having been for three days without anything to eat, it was not possible to pursue the enemy further, therefore having seen to the wounded who had been left in the town, and remained a short time, I returned to camp.

There was taken on this expedition about fifty prisoners, with some horses and arms. This march, close upon the heels of a force largely superior in number to our own, was not unattended with great risk, and I have to express my admiration for the promptness with which my commands were obeyed by all the troops, and for their general good soldierly conduct.

In conclusion, I beg leave to express my satisfaction with the conduct of my own men, who, in their first action having been the first and most directly of the cavalry forces engaged with the enemy, and suffered a severe loss from a near and unexpected fire, yet evinced great coolness and courage in their attack upon the foe. And although the loss of my command is greater in proportion to my force than perhaps any other engaged, being twenty-four killed, seventeen

ed, and nine missing out of two hundred and thirty-five men and officers, was retaliated upon the rebels by a loss to them of double the number. will perceive eight of my men were scalped. That their brave comrades in support of our national banner, the emblem of all that is good and in the present civilization of the world, should thus be butchered and led by rebel savages, has excited among my men an indignation that will, ere you, exhibit itself on every field where they may in future be allowed to engage the enemy in a relentless determination to put down the flag that calls for support bands of rapacious and murdering Indian mercenaries. I have to acknowledge valuable assistance rendered me on the 7th by Adjutant John W. Noble, who acted that day as my aid, and of the officers who were under my notice, I mention Capt. T. I. McKenny, Asst. Adj. General of the staff, whose conduct was that of a General, and a brave one, and whose valuable service contributed in my opinion much to the success of our arms at the battle of Leetown.

Very Respectfully, your ob't servant,

CYRUS BUSSEY, Col. 3d Iowa Cavalry.

The loss of the 3d Cavalry Iowa Volunteers, in action, 235; killed, 24; (eight scalped); wounded, 17; missing, 9; total, 50

The killed were buried on Saturday after the battle was over, and the pursuit ended. Hearing it reported by our men that several of the killed had been scalped, I had the dead exhumed, and on personal examination of the bones, I found that it was a fact beyond dispute, that eight of the killed of my command, had been scalped, and the bodies of many of them showed unmistakable evidence that the men had been murdered after they were wounded; that at having fallen in the charge from bullet wounds, they were afterwards pierced through the heart and neck with knives by a savage and relentless foe. I then had the bodies reburied, each in a separate grave, properly marked.

By order of

CYRUS BUSSEY, Colonel.

J. W. NOBLE, Adjutant."

CHAPTER NINTH.

REPORTS OF REGIMENTAL AND OTHER OFFICERS.

WESTON.

"PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL OF THE ARMY, }
HEADQUARTERS, LYON LEGION, 24TH MO. VOLS. }

Adj. Gen. S. R. CURTIS, Comd'g Army in the field :

I have the honor to transmit the following report of the part taken by my command in the late action of the 7th and 8th instants.

We were encamped at what is known as the Elk-Horn Tavern. On the evening previous to the conflict I had placed cavalry pickets on the Huntsville and on the cross road leading into the Springfield and Bentonville road, supported by infantry. I should here remark that I had two companies of cavalry attached to my command, to-wit: "Co. G," commanded by Capt. Barber Lewis of the 1st Missouri Cavalry, and "Co. M," commanded by Capt. Jas. H. O'Connor of the

3d Illinois Cavalry. About 3 o'clock the morning of the engagement, P. Welch of "Co. M," 3d Illinois Cavalry, while on duty near the Benton road, was captured by a party of rebel cavalry. While on the road to the camp, he suddenly turned into a by-road and fortunately escaped minus his horse. In the meantime my pickets reported a force moving around us on our left flank. I immediately ordered "Co. F" of my battalion commanded by Capt. S. Barnes, together with my two companies of cavalry to go out on the cross-roads and reconnoitre the enemy and ascertain if possible their strength. They proceeded to do as ordered, and on arriving near our picket ground they discovered a small force of rebel cavalry, who, upon their approach fell back through the field and copse of timber. Capt. Barnes dividing his company sent Lieut. Hart to the right and went to the left himself, the cavalry keeping up the centre, they followed them a short distance, gave them one or two volleys which caused them to disperse and disappear. The whole then returned to camp. I soon learned of a force approaching on the Cassville road. I immediately sent "Co. B," commanded by Capt. R. W. Fyan, down the road with instructions to take them in, supposing them to be the same scouting party before alluded to at the cross-roads, and arriving near the Tavern. Capt. Fyan discovering the force to be larger than before anticipated, sent back to be reinforced. I immediately sent him "Cos. I and H," under command of Lieut. Lyons of "Co. H," to his assistance; at the same time ordering out the two remaining "Cos. A and F," to be in readiness, and sent "Co. K," Capt. J. R. Van Sant, with my train and forty prisoners then in charge, to the extreme rear. At this time receiving information that the enemy were on our left and steadily moving round to our right I deployed the second platoon together with "Co. A" on the high hill to the left, and the first platoon together with "Co. F," to the right, as skirmishers. My entire command being now engaged, I waited patiently for the result of which was yet to be. After waiting anxiously for an hour or more, I was somewhat relieved by the appearance of Acting Brigadier General Carr and his Division. I then drew in my companies of infantry that were deployed as skirmishers on the right, and took a position on the extreme left of the Division, bordering the base of the hill, and "Co. F" down the ravine, making down from the house, holding this position for two hours or more. My men being in range of the enemy's battery, their ranks gradually being thinned and the infantry of the enemy slowly closing in upon them with greatly superior numbers, I ordered them to my main lines. I then took a position in line of battle on the brow of the hill, and deployed Lieut. Hart and twenty men to the cone of the hill. This position I held until forced to retire with the 9th Iowa, under a raking fire of a vastly superior number of the enemy's fresh troops.

After falling back some distance, I again formed my battalion, and the officers of the 9th Iowa Volunteers, all being absent or wounded, (Col. Vandever commanding a Brigade,) I assisted in forming them. Col. Vandever then coming up took command of the Brigade and moved the Brigade by the right flank to the right of the road. I here halted my battalion in support of a battery, there stationed in the open field. This position I held until the close of the day; when I then returned to camp, where were the remainder of my Pro

Guard. My two cavalry companies Capt. O'Connor and Lewis were doing very efficient service during the day, scouting and skirmishing, ascertaining movements of the enemy, &c. They executed all my orders promptly, and with a zeal and gallantry highly praiseworthy; and I would be glad had I time and space to give particulars of some of their daring exploits.

I must not omit to mention that quite early in the morning I sent out my Quartermaster Lieut. L. G. Fritz with one of my own and one each of the cavalry companies' wagons foraging, with a guard under Lieut Moore of "Co. G," 1st Missouri Cavalry. I regret to say that although Lieuts. Fritz and Moore and one or two of the guard escaped, that the wagons loaded with forage also the teams with several of the guard were captured by the enemy's cavalry; however they did not succeed in getting all the wagons away, as on the evening of the 8th, I found one of my wagons minus the team (four mules) in a ravine to the right of the road below the blacksmith-shop. On the evening of the 8th inst., receiving no special orders to repair to the battle-field, and having a large number of prisoners in charge, I remained with my command in camp in charge of the prisoners.

There are several officers and men whom I desire to mention, particularly for the gallant deeds of skill and bravery. Capt. T. A. Reed of "Co. A," exhibited great bravery and coolness, maintaining his position assigned him in the morning two or three hours, with but few men against great odds. Capt. R. W. Fyan also, displayed the greatest skill and courage as an officer, executing all orders with calmness and precision. Capt. Barnes and Lieut. Hart of "Co. G," were of great service to me indeed as skirmishers, and their part could not have been acted better by the most veteran soldier. Lieut. Lyon, commanding "Cos. I and H," held his companies to their post under a raking fire of the enemy, and was among the last to retire from his position. Lieut. Lyon is a gallant young officer, and acted his part nobly. Lieut. Robeson of "Co. A," conducted himself bravely, and displayed great coolness and ardor for a contest with the enemy. I am also highly pleased with Capt. Van Sant, for his service of taking charge of the prisoners and my train. I desire to mention Sergt. Maj. A. A. Harrison, as showing much bravery, and private Collins of "Co. F," and would be glad if I had time and space to mention others.

I desire to take this opportunity of speaking of Adjutant J. C. S. Colby, and to tender him my thanks for his efficient services in carrying orders from point to point, which he did with alacrity and with the least possible concern for his personal safety. In short, my whole command behaved with remarkable coolness, and obeyed my orders promptly and to the letter.

Our loss sustained is as follows, viz: 4 killed, 13 badly wounded, 3 slightly, 10 missing; for particulars of which, I refer you to company commanders reports, which I herewith transmit.

ELI W. WESTON,

Major Comdg. 24th Mo. Vols., Provost Marshal General S. W. D.

BOWEN—COMMANDING CURTIS' BODY GUARD.

HEADQUARTERS BOWEN'S BATTALION CAVALRY, }
PEA RIDGE, ARK., March 10th, 1862. }

GENERAL—In pursuance of General Orders, dated Headquarters Rolla, Mo., Jan. 25th, 1862, this command with four mountain howitzers attached, under charge of Capt. Stevens, "Co. B," acting as body guard to Brig. Gen. Curtis, took up the line of march for Lebanon, Mo., which point was reached without any incident worthy of comment on the 29th inst., where the command encamped.

On the 10th of February, 1862, in pursuance of general orders dated Headquarters Army of the South-West, Lebanon, Mo., this command moved toward Springfield. On the 12th inst. our advance saw and fired on the enemy's pickets. My command was ordered to the front, which was rapidly gained, where I immediately opened with the howitzers on a heavy picket of the enemy, concealed partially from view by the thick brush. After two rounds the rebels disappeared. At 8 P. M., the camp was alarmed by heavy firing in the front; my command was rapidly pushed forward to the scene of action, but the rebels were already repulsed.

On the 14th, whilst in advance, came suddenly upon the rebel camp; threw ten shells in the camp, killing fifteen and wounded 9. Finding the enemy were trying to outflank us and being so far from the main army, we fell back to camp. To-day took thirty prisoners, amongst them the notorious Col. Freeman.

On the 16th about 3 A. M., sent out ten men under command of Lieut. Ballou, "Co. C," and Sergt. Maj. Evans, to reconnoitre the position of the rebels; they found that the whole force had retreated some time before. About 12 M., came up with the enemy's rear guard concealed by the brush in the cross timbers. Commenced throwing shells amongst them, then advanced our battery to within two hundred yards of their position and threw cannister into their ranks, when they fled. The prisoners taken at this place, state that their loss was heavy from our shell and cannister.

On the 17th, came up to the enemy's reinforcements, opened fire with the howitzers from the valley, when the cavalry were ordered to advance. We formed the centre of the column, moved up with the guns to within two hundred yards of the enemy's battery; after firing a few rounds we retired, together with the cavalry; advanced again and maintained the position till our place was filled by one of the heavy batteries. Two guns only were used, the other two being in the rear.

On the 22d, detached two mountain howitzers under command of Lieut. Madison and "Co. B," cavalry, Capt. Ing, to join an expedition under Col. Vandever, to Huntsville, Ark. Detachment returned to camp on the evening of the 6th.

On the 7th, formed my command for battle at 12 M., according to orders, took two guns under Lieut. Madison and "Co. C," Capt. Benteen; reported to Acting Brig. Carr, who instructed me to take position on the road between the 9th Iowa and the 24th Missouri. After firing twenty-four rounds my pack caissons were exhausted and I fell back. Having re-supplied myself with ammuni-

tion, took post about three hundred yards to the left of my former position, and threw spherical case shot into the ranks of the enemy, until finding their heavy guns had our range, we fell back. The ensuing day Capt. Williams with "Co. D," pursued the enemy some four miles, taking ten prisoners and capturing a wagon and a number of horses.

On the 9th according to orders from Gen. Curtis, this command reported to Col. Bussey. The 3d Iowa Cavalry proceeded to Bentonville, attacked the rear of the enemy, threw two shells into their force, captured several horses and took a number of prisoners. The command returned to camp about 8 P. M.

I have the honor to enclose herewith, a list of the killed, wounded and missing of this command since 26th January, 1862.

Respectfully,

WM. D. BOWEN, Comdg. Bat. Cavalry.

To GEN. CURTIS, Comdg. Army of the South-West.

CONRAD'S EXPEDITION.

HEADQUARTERS 1ST BATTALION 3D REGT. MO. VOLTS. }
CAMP WELFLEY, ARK., March 13th, 1862. }

TO BRIG. GEN. FRANZ SIGEL, Comd. 1st and 2d Divisions:

GENERAL—Pursuant to your orders dated Camp M'Kreisick, March 3d, 1862, I left camp on the morning of the 4th, my command consisting of two companies of the 17th, one of the 12th, one of the 3d, one of the 15th Missouri Volunteers, and one company of the 36th Illinois Volunteers, one section of Capt. Welfley's Howitzers, and thirty Fremont and thirty Benton Hussars. Proceeding in a south-western direction, I marched along Flint Creek until within three miles of Lindsey's Prairie, where I camped the night of the fourth. Starting at 7 o'clock A. M. on the 5th, I still continued in the same direction until striking the State Line road, whence I turned north towards Maysville, sending my adj. Lademan ahead with eight Fremont Hussars to arrest Mr. Ginter, a notorious secessionist. He met with seven discharged soldiers of Gen. Price's army, and charging upon them, he captured five after a long chase. My guides notwithstanding well acquainted with that section of country, I marched some ten miles out of my way, arriving at Camp Walker towards evening, where I met Capt. Kielmansegge of your staff, who had the order that my command should either proceed to Pineville or return to camp. The infantry being very tired, we camped at night in the building of the Vegetarian Society one mile east of Camp Walker.

In the night at 12 o'clock Capt. Kielmansegge proceeded to Pineville, his command consisting of my cavalry, one piece of artillery, and twenty men of infantry hauled on a wagon.

At 7 o'clock in the morning of the 6th, I received the order to immediately return to camp as the enemy was approaching. I instantly moved forward on the Maysville and Bentonville road, and at 11 o'clock A. M. about twelve miles from Bentonville I received your orders, dated Bentonville, March 6th, 10 o'clock A. M. informing me to march to Miser's farm and Water's mill, and from there

proceed to Putson's Hill. I marched on about six miles and then turned to the left, the guide knowing a nearer road to Miser's farm. I had proceeded only about four miles when I heard the report of cannons in the direction of Bentonville, and afterwards was rejoined by the six Benton Hussars that had fetched to me your latest orders. It was then 3 o'clock P. M. They had passed Water's mill and got to Sugar Creek Hollow, when they met two of the enemy and disarmed them. They had only proceeded a short distance, when suddenly they beheld two thousand of the enemy's cavalry. They immediately turned round and reported the circumstances to me, being obliged to leave the prisoners behind. I went across the hills and struck Pineville road endeavoring to go round the enemy and join you at Potson Hill if possible. I followed that road up to McCulloch's Hoilow, where I turned to the right and marched along the State Line. I could only proceed two miles in that direction because there was the only water, and the men were too fatigued to go any further, having marched thirty miles that day.

I started again at 2 o'clock on the morning of the 7th, gaining Pea Ridge and turning off to the left, I arrived at Shell's mill at 9 o'clock A. M.; at 12 o'clock I got to a little creek four miles from Keetsville on the Keetsville and Pineville road, where I had to halt, the exhaustion of the men not permitting any further marching.

From there I proceeded in company with Lieut Clever, Doctor Brunswick, and some eight cavalry to the Fayetteville road to reconnoitre. We had proceeded as far as the tanyard, where the road to Bentonville turns off to the right. There we suddenly came upon the enemy's pickets, taking them prisoners, when presently I beheld large numbers of the enemy coming down the Bentonville road. I at once turned round to retrace my way to the camp, being eagerly pursued by the enemy's cavalry. I now knew that I was in the rear of the enemy, and knowing also the distance between the tanyard and Potson's Hill, I saw that it was impossible for my worn-out men to force a passage. I therefore concluded to retreat upon the nearest post, to give my men rest, and reinforce the garrison, and at 5 o'clock P. M. I again moved forward to Keetsville, and from there to Cassville. In Keetsville I halted an hour waiting to escort a train of nine wagons that had endeavored to join Col. Davis' command, and was greatly harrassed by the enemy. I arrived in Cassville at 11 o'clock P. M., remaining there on the 8th, I received three days provisions, only having three days rations along when I started.

On Sunday the 9th, I again moved forward under command of Col. C. Wright, 6th Missouri Cavalry, the whole force consisting of my command, one hundred and fifty of Col. Wright's Cavalry, and some three hundred infantry, that got in from Springfield the night previous with a train. That morning I rejoined your command at Keetsville.

In four days my command marched a distance of one hundred and twenty-five miles. The following is my loss: 7 privates of 12th Missouri, 8 of "Co. A," 17 Missouri, and 13 of "Co. B," 15th Missouri Volunteers; these men not being able or willing to stay with the command, were picked up by the pursuing enemy.

I remain yours respectfully,

JOSEPH CONRAD,
Major commanding expedition.

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