

convinced that more attention should be given to the building of workshops and factories, in which large numbers of skilled workmen could find employment. During the summer the Council Bluffs Agricultural Works were organized and went into operation. The principal stockholders were Shugart & Lininger, Blanchard & Waite, E. R. Paige, S. Farnsworth, and one or two other gentlemen. They located their manufactory on Main street, and have gradually enlarged and extended its operations in subsequent years. The two first named firms, together with J. Fenelon & Co and T. J. Hurford & Bro., were large dealers in agricultural implements, their sales aggregating during the year nearly one million dollars.

REPORT OF CAMPAIGN AGAINST MAJOR GENERAL STERLING
PRICE, IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 1864.

[Continued from page 226, Vol. X., No. 3.]

THE fighting lasted nearly six hours, the enemy's firing ceasing about four o'clock P. M., when he refused to advance against my last line of battle, formed on the east side of Independence. At five o'clock the command moved in column to the main camp of the militia on the Big Blue, where defensive works had been constructed, arriving there about eight o'clock P. M.

The fourth brigade, under command of Col. James H. Ford, Second Colorado cavalry, consisting of the Second Colorado cavalry, Sixteenth Kansas cavalry, and First Colorado battery, which had been detached from the third brigade, by order of the commanding general, reported to me for orders on the morning of the battle of the Little

Blue, and participated in all the operations of the day, and to Col. Ford and his command is due great credit for their coolness and gallantry.

To Col. Thomas Moonlight and the Eleventh Kansas cavalry, for their gallantry displayed in resisting the advance of the enemy on the morning of the 21st, until reinforcements arrived, as also their gallant conduct in covering the retreat at Lexington, on the 19th, special commendation is due; nor can I omit to make special mention of Major R. H. Hunt, of the staff of the commanding general, for the gallant service he rendered with the Howitzer battery, of the general's escort.

Early on the morning of the 22d I directed the first brigade, under Col. Jemison, to proceed up the Big Blue, a distance of four miles, to Byrom's ford, to defend the crossing at that point; and for the same purpose sent the second brigade, under Col. Moonlight, to Hinkle's ford, about two miles above the main crossing.

At about nine o'clock, A. M., a small force of the enemy advanced, on the main road from Independence to Kansas City, which proved to be only a feint to divert attention from the movements on our right flank, in the direction of Byrom's ford. At one o'clock I heard artillery firing on my extreme right, from which I inferred that Col. Jemison's command had been attacked, and immediately dispatched a courier to Col. Moonlight to reinforce him with the second brigade, but before Col. Moonlight had time to arrive on the ground, Col. Jemison was forced to retire, and the enemy had flanked our position on the Big Blue, and was crossing that stream in force. The first and second brigades kept upon their flank, and when near the state line attacked the right of their column, turned his flank, and punished him quite severely, the fighting continuing until dark. Finding the position of our army on the Big Blue flanked by the enemy, and in the absence of superior authority, I directed Major General Deitzler, in command of the Kansas state militia, to withdraw his command to

Kansas City, and dispatched orders to Colonels Jemison, Moonlight, and Ford to remain with their commands in front of the enemy, in the vicinity of Westport.

All of the night of the 22d was occupied in getting ammunition and subsistence to my command, with the view of commencing the attack upon the enemy at daylight the next morning.

Daylight on the morning of the 23d revealed the enemy in force on the open prairie, directly south of Westport, and about two miles distant. Col. C. W. Blair's brigade of state militia was ordered out from Kansas City at three o'clock, A. M., and at daylight my whole command was in motion, moving in column through Westport and across Brush creek, and soon after sunrise the first, second, and fourth brigades were deployed into line of battle on the south side of the timber skirting Brush creek, where Shelby's division of Price's army were advancing upon my line. Skirmishers were thrown forward, and the engagement with small arms and artillery soon became general. My advance line being hard pressed, I ordered Col. C. W. Blair to advance with the sixth and tenth regiments of state militia to support the right of my line and guard my right flank, which order was executed with great promptness. Time being required to get the militia arriving from Kansas City dismantled and in position, and the contest in front being severe and unequal, I directed my advance line to fall back to the north side of Brush creek. The enemy advanced a short distance, but did not attempt to attack my second line, with the exception of a small force that approached through the timber to attack my left flank. This force was promptly repulsed by the fifth and nineteenth regiments of state militia, under Colonels Colton and Hogan.

The militia having all arrived on the field, I ordered a general advance of my entire line, which was promptly executed. The engagement now became earnest and spirited, the artillery of my division being served with excellent effect, punishing the enemy severely.

At twelve o'clock the center of their line gave way, and what then commenced as a retreat of the rebel forces soon became a complete rout, their broken lines flying in disorder, with my cavalry and artillery in rapid pursuit. After the rout and pursuit had continued for nearly two miles, I came in sight of the forces of General Pleasanton on my left, with his line formed at a right angle with mine, and a portion of Price's command, whom he had been engaging during the day, were still confronting him.

When within about eight hundred yards of the left of the rebel line, and when they were about to charge General Pleasanton's line, twenty pieces of artillery of my command poured a raking fire into their flank, which threw them into confusion and stampeded them with the main column of the retreating enemy. The cavalry of my division continued to press closely upon their rear until dark, followed by the cavalry of General Pleasanton's command.

The 2d brigade bivouaced, on the night of the 23d, at Aubrey, while the remainder of the division halted at Little Sante Fe.

I directed Col. Moonlight to move, on the morning of the 24th, on the flank of the enemy, to protect the border of Kansas from raiding parties that might be detached from Price's main column, and with the remainder of the division, in pursuance of orders, moved on the line road, on the trail of the retreating rebels.

At six o'clock p. m., reached Westport, when it became evident that the enemy had gone in the direction of Fort Scott, and being near four miles in advance of General Pleasanton's command, I halted to enable him to close up.

The garrison at Fort Scott being weak, and a large amount of public property endangered, I dispatched a courier to Col. Moonlight, to pass around the enemy's flank with his command during the night, and proceed to that post for its protection. At eight o'clock my scouts that I had sent to ascertain the position of the enemy, reported to me that he was encamped at the trading post at the crossing of the

Osage, and soon after I was ordered to let General Pleasanton's command take the advance, and in this order the march was continued until near midnight, when the rear guard of the enemy was overtaken.

In the battle of the 25th, my command, excepting three squadrons of the Second Colorado cavalry, were prevented from taking part, in consequence of the order of march being changed the night previous.

One brigade of Pleasanton's division occupying the ford at the Osage, I was unable to effect a crossing until late in the day. At dark on the evening of that day I came up with the brigade of General McNeil, of General Pleasanton's division, which was at a halt on the prairie about three miles northeast from Fort Scott.

General McNeil, with his brigade, had just repulsed the enemy in their last attempt to make a stand, and they had retreated under cover of the night to the timber of the Manaton. I there learned that General Pleasanton, with the remainder of his command, had marched to Fort Scott.

My command needing subsistence and forage, I made a detour to the right, passing through Fort Scott for the purpose of supplying them, and to be in readiness to follow the pursuit the next morning.

Early in the morning of the 26th, in pursuance of orders, I marched with the first, second, and fourth brigades of my division in pursuit of the retreating enemy, striking his trail near Shanghai, Barton county, Mo. Moving by way of Lamar, Carthage, and Granby, I came up with the enemy at Newtonia at 2 o'clock P. M., of the 28th. The rebel forces had encamped in the timber south of the town on the Pineville road, with the view of remaining there until the following day, thinking that the pursuit of our forces had been abandoned, but on discovering my advance coming in view on the high ground overlooking the town of Newtonia from the northwest, they hastily broke camp and attempted to move off. To cover this movement they deployed a force of about two thousand men upon the prairie to protect their

rear. Being convinced of their intention to avoid a fight if possible, I determined to attack them at once. The first and fourth brigades were with me in the advance. I had directed the second brigade to halt early in the day to procure forage for their horses, to enable me to put them in the advance to press the pursuit at night, consequently I did not rely upon them to participate in the early part of the engagement. I had supposed that General McNeil's brigade of General Pleasanton's division was close up in my rear, and sent back to hurry it forward, while the first and fourth brigades of the first division were quickly deployed in line, and under the cover of the fire of the First Colorado battery posted upon the bluff, they swept across the plain at a gallop until within musket range of the enemy's line. Skirmishers were rapidly deployed, and but a few moments elapsed until the engagement became general. I now ordered forward the First Colorado battery, which, with a section of howitzers attached to the Fifteenth Kansas cavalry, and under command of Sergeant Patterson, of the Fourteenth Kansas cavalry, poured a destructive fire into the enemy's ranks. It soon became evident that I was engaging all the available force of Price's army, which outnumbered me more than eight to one. Their superiority of numbers enabling them to press upon my flanks with a large force, compelled me to fall back about five hundred yards from my first line, which was done in good order, and the line re-formed in the face of a terrific fire. The enemy pressed forward their center, but were promptly checked by the canister from the First Colorado battery. It was now near sundown, and my command had been engaged nearly two hours, and their ammunition was nearly exhausted, while a large force of the enemy were passing, under cover of a cornfield, around my left flank, and my force being too small to extend my line in that direction, I was about to direct my line to fall back and take position on the bluff, when, very unexpectedly, the brigade of General Sanborn, of General Pleasanton's command, came up. I im-

mediately placed them in position on my left, directing General Sanborn to dismount his men and advance through the cornfield, which was promptly executed, repulsing the flanking column of the enemy, who now abandoned the field and retreated rapidly under cover of the night in the direction of Pineville, leaving their dead and wounded in our hands.

In this engagement (battle of Newtonia) the disparity in numbers made the contest unequal, and the fighting on the part of my command was the most heroic I ever witnessed. Nearly one-eighth of my force engaged were killed and wounded, while the enemy's loss was at least three times greater than ours.

To Col. Ford, commanding the fourth brigade of the first division, and Lieut. Col. Hoyt, commanding the first brigade (in the absence of Col. Jemison), great credit is due for their coolness and courage, and the excellent manner in which they handled their troops on the field. Also, those coming under my personal observation as deserving of special mention for their gallantry, were Major James Ketner, of the Sixteenth Kansas cavalry; Captain W. D. McLain, of the First Colorado battery; Captain J. B. Pond, commanding a battalion of the Third Wisconsin cavalry; and Sergeant George Patterson, of the Fourteenth Kansas cavalry, commanding a section of howitzers.

Having cared for my command, and in pursuance of orders, my command was in readiness to move again at three o'clock A. M. of the 29th, in pursuit of the retreating enemy, when I was notified by the general commanding that, in consequence of General Rosecrans withdrawing all the troops belonging to his department, the pursuit would be abandoned.

The division moved during the day to Neosho, when orders were received at one o'clock A. M. of the 30th to resume the pursuit. Two days march was here lost when close upon the rear of the enemy, in consequence of the order of General Rosecrans withdrawing his troops.

Nothing worthy of special note occurred during the march to Pea Ridge, Fayetteville, Cane Hill, and thence to the Arkansas river, where, after one of the most extraordinary marches, we arrived at eleven o'clock A. M. of November 8th, and about three hours after the crossing of Price's army at this point. The Army of the Border being disbanded, the first division returned to their own department in detachments, to enable them the better to procure forage and subsistence.

During this brief but eventful campaign the troops of my command evinced the greatest degree of heroism, and endured all the hardships and privations without murmur or complaint. Many acts of personal gallantry occurred, which will be appropriately noticed in reports of subordinate commanders, but I cannot omit, among others already noticed, to mention the name of Lieut. Col. Samuel Walker, of the Sixteenth Kansas cavalry, as deserving of special commendation for distinguished gallantry.

To the Kansas state militia I desire to express my thanks for the promptness with which they rallied to the call of the general commanding the department, and for the valuable assistance which they rendered me during the campaign.

The fifth, sixth, and tenth regiments of state militia, respectively commanded by Cols. Colton, Montgomery, and Pennock, were the only part of the state forces over which I assumed command. They were organized into a brigade, under command of Col. C. W. Blair, of the Fourteenth Kansas cavalry, and their operations a portion of the time came under my personal observation, and it is but justice to say that their conduct was uniformly that of the true soldier and patriot, and worthy of emulation by their commander-in-chief and other superiors in the militia organization.

To Col. Blair too much praise cannot be accorded for his distinguished gallantry as commander of the third brigade, and also for his participation in the battles of Mine Creek and the Osage on the 25th of October, as a volunteer aid on the staff of Major General Curtis while his command was

detained at the crossing of the Osage, and unable to get to the front.

Other regiments of the state militia reported to me at Westport on the morning of the battle of the 23d, and although not regularly assigned, received orders from me during the day, among which I desire to call special attention as having taken part in the operation of the day, and discharging their duty nobly, was the nineteenth regiment, commanded by Col. Hogan, and the twelfth regiment, commanded by Col. Teat. The eleventh regiment, commanded by Col. Mitchell, which joined Col. Moonlight's command at Cold Water Grove on the morning of the 24th, is deserving of credit for efficient service rendered in protecting the border from incursions of the enemy from that point to Fort Scott.

To my assistant adjutant general, Captain George S. Hampton, I am greatly indebted for valuable services, he having, upon all occasions, acquitted himself as an efficient and gallant officer.

Surgeon S. B. Davis, my medical director, is deserving of great praise for his indefatigable labors in providing for the care and comfort of the wounded, not only of my own command but also of the command of General Pleasanton, upon the battlefield and elsewhere.

To Captain B. F. Simpson, of the Fifteenth Kansas cavalry, acting assistant quartermaster; Captain R. J. Hinton, Second Kansas colored, A. D. C.; and Captain George J. Clark, Fourteenth Kansas cavalry, acting ordnance officer of my regular staff; and to Col. John T. Burris, late of the Tenth Kansas volunteer infantry; Major R. G. Ward, of the First Kansas colored; Major Thomas H. Penny, late of the Thirty-fifth Missouri volunteers; Captain T. E. Milhoan, late of the Tenth Kansas volunteers, and Captain A. J. Shannon, provost marshal of the district of South Kansas, as volunteer aids, I am also greatly indebted for their valuable services during the campaign. I also desire to tender my thanks to Major T. J. McKenny and Major C. S. Char-

lot, of the staff of the commanding general, the former for the valuable assistance he rendered me during the night of the 22d of October, preceding the battle at Westport, and the latter for gallant services as aid during the battle of Newtonia on the 28th of October.

To Hon. James H. Lane, Col. W. F. Cloud, and Col. S. J. Crawford, of the volunteer staff of the general commanding, I am under many obligations for valuable services rendered on different occasions.

I also desire to express my thanks to Company "E," of the Fourteenth Kansas cavalry, commanded by Lieut. W. B. Clark — acting as my escort — for their uniform soldierly conduct and their gallantry displayed at the battles of Westport and Newtonia.

I am, Major, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JAS. G. BLUNT, *Major General.*

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS, }
FORT LEAVENWORTH, Nov. 29, 1864. }

General:— I have the honor to present the following report of staff duty, performed by me, under your order, dated October 16, 1864, assigning me to duty at headquarters, Army of the Border, as acting assistant adjutant general, in charge of returns :

Immediately upon the receipt of the aforesaid order I visited or communicated directly with all commanders of divisions, brigades, and detachments within my reach, and by the 20th of October had succeeded in procuring returns from the following commands, viz : A division of K. S. M., under command of Major General Deitzler ; K. S. M., the third brigade of the first division ; a brigade of volunteers and militia, commanded by Col. James H. Ford ; Second Colorado cavalry ; and a brigade of E. M. M. and home guards at Kansas City, Missouri, commanded by Col. Coates. The returns of these commands, and the detachments which habitually accompanied headquarters, form an

imperfect army return, bearing date the 20th of October, 1864.

The first and second brigades of the first division left their camp at Hickman's Mill, Missouri, on the evening of the same day on which I was assigned to this duty, and before I was able to reach that place; and although I made every effort possible, I was unable to obtain any returns from them within the time mentioned. From the 21st to the 27th of October the army was constantly in motion, and almost constantly in action, and, with your permission, I devoted my time to duty, in the capacity of a signal officer, under the direction of my chief captain, Meeker. On the 28th of October I resumed the effort to procure returns, and succeeded in getting memoranda of the strength present of the brigades comprising the first division, which are consolidated upon a return, bearing date the 28th of October, 1864. The brigades from the department of the Missouri, commanded by Generals McNeil and Sanborn, were at that time operating with the army, but, though returns from both were promised me, none were ever received. On the 1st of November the brigade from the department of Missouri, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Benteen, joined the army, and a return, bearing date the same day, shows the accession.

On the 4th of November the army reached Fayetteville, Arkansas, and on marching from that post was further strengthened by the greater part of its garrison, under command of Col. Harrison, First Arkansas cavalry. A return, dated the 8th of November, 1864, shows the strength of the army, including Col. Harrison's command, at the close of its existence.

The information upon which these later returns were based was mostly obtained verbally, on personal application to commanding and staff officers of brigades, regiments, and sometimes of companies. Very few commanders had come into the field prepared or expecting to make returns of any kind during the active operations of the

campaign, and furthermore their time and thoughts were engrossed by to them more important matters. These, and other difficulties under which I labored, and which it would occupy too much time and space to particularize here, together with my own inexperience in the duties to which I was assigned, must be my excuse for the incompleteness of these returns, and the imperfect manner in which those duties were performed.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOSIAH M. HUBBARD,

First Lieut. Eleventh K. V. C., Acting Signal Officer, and late Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

✓ MAJOR GENERAL S. R. CURTIS, *U. S. Volunteers, Commanding Department of Kansas.*

LEAVENWORTH CITY, KANSAS, Nov. 20, 1864.

MAJOR C. S. CHARLOT, *Ass't Adj. Gen'l, Dep't of Kansas :*

Major :—In obedience to orders No. — I have the honor to report as to the duties performed, and engagements participated in by myself, as A. D. C., and a battalion of the Second Kansas cavalry, commanded by Major H. Hopkins, Captain Pat. Cosgrove, and Lieutenants Barney, Mitchell, and Watts, in the campaign of the Army of the Border.

Arriving at General Curtis's headquarters at Kansas City, on the 19th of October, I was placed upon duty as A. D. C., and as such proceeded to Fort Leavenworth for horses, arms, &c., for my detachment, and reported again at army headquarters on the morning of the 22d, the position of the army being upon the Big Blue. I had the honor to convey orders to the various positions during the day, and in obedience to orders arranged the places of defence of Westport at night, by and with the consent of Colonel Ford, Second Colorado, and Colonel Walker and Major Ketner, Sixteenth Kansas, after which I passed the night at headquarters, Kansas City.

On the morning of the 23d, at the request of Major General Blunt, I reported to him for duty, and was sent with a detachment of the Second Kansas cavalry to watch the extreme right of our lines at Westport, and to ascertain the position and movement of the enemy who were engaging our forces. Having performed that duty and reported, I was ordered to our extreme left for the same purpose, and there observing that General Pleasanton was engaging the enemy far to our left, I again reported to Generals Curtis and Blunt, and joined in the advance of our entire lines then taking place, keeping the road and assisting in bringing up, placing, and working the artillery, and carrying orders to the various parts of the line.

When the lines of General Pleasanton joined to ours, I engaged in the pursuit of the rebels as far as Little Sante Fe, which was a chase of mine, nine miles, and in which our part of the line was advanced many miles beyond the rebels, who were leisurely falling back before Pleasanton. In fact, the long column of the rebels were taken by myself, Colonels Crawford, and Ritchie, who were with me, for the forces of General Pleasanton, as they came so far from our rear, and passed within a mile of us upon the prairie.

Remaining at Sante Fe with the army until the morning of the 24th, I reported to General Curtis, and engaged in the pursuit of the enemy during that day and night, and as the general moved upon the enemy at the leading post at early daylight of the 25th, I was temporarily detained by General Blunt until our forces had crossed the Osage, or Marias-des-Cygnés, and was only able to join the advance of Pleasanton's troops just as they came in sight of the enemy, drawn up in line, at Mine creek. Here, reporting to General Pleasanton, I was sent by that officer to an adjoining farm house to ascertain the road to Fort Scott, &c., and having obtained the information I returned to our lines just as they were formed and now moving upon the enemy. Accompanied by a small detachment of the Sec-

ond Kansas cavalry, commanded by Sergeant Peck, I moved forward in the space between our extreme right and the left, giving such orders and encouragement as seemed necessary. In this order we came to a rebel battery, the men of which had ceased to fight, from fear, at which a rebel, Colonel Jeffins, surrendered to me, claiming protection for himself and men. Giving such directions as seemed proper for the guarding of provisions, I moved to another part of the field, assisting in arresting prisoners, and securing several pieces of artillery, abandoned by the rebels in their retreat through the brush and creek. Seeing General Pleasanton upon the field, near a section of artillery, I moved forward and reported facts as directed, and then, observing that he was directing the fire of our artillery upon a detachment of our own troops, I so informed him, but was rebuked. Still persisting in my statement, I had them confirmed by an officer from the detachment under fire, whose assurances, united with my own, prevailed upon the same to give the order to cease firing, saying, at the same time, "You should carry your colors upon the battle field."

The battle being over and our lines reformed for the continuation of the pursuit, I requested and obtained permission to take my command to the extreme front, and reported to General Sanborn, who gave me the extreme right of his line. In this manner we moved several miles across the prairie, until we reached the timber of the Little Osage, in which the rebels had placed another line of defence. At the order of General Sanborn, the Second Kansas cavalry was moved forward as skirmishers, some mounted, and some dismounted, and drove the enemy out of the woods and across the river. Here the enemy had another line formed, and our troops were ordered forward, the Second Kansas remaining in its position on the right, and in this order, pressing forward, we reached from right to left, in the form of a crescent, which placed me in the advance of the center. When the rebels retreated from our steadily advancing army, my command had the advance, from the

advantageous formation of the ground, and leading in this manner pursued the enemy for the distance of three miles, in a continuous charge, until compelled to halt, from the sheer exhaustion of the horses, many of them falling under their riders. Here, permitting the fresher troops which came up to take the advance, and as the rebels had turned into Missouri, abandoning their movement against Fort Scott, my command and myself rested our horses, and engaged in repairing the telegraph, which had been destroyed by the rebels, and at night, which soon came, we moved to Fort Scott.

On the morning of the 26th we moved again in the pursuit, and continued the same to Lamar, Missouri, from which place, in obedience to orders, my command returned to Fort Scott, to prepare to escort a train to Fort Smith.

I have the honor to transmit herewith the report of Major General Hopkins, commanding detail Second Kansas cavalry.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. F. CLOUD, *Col. Second Kansas Cavalry.*

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS, }
FORT LEAVENWORTH. }

MAJOR C. S. CHARLOT, *Ass't Adj. Gen'l, Dep't of Kansas:*

Major:—In compliance with the general field order issued at Camp Arkansas, November 8, 1864, I submit for the information of the general commanding the following report of my actions in connection with the recent campaign:

On the 7th of October, I proceeded to Glasgow, Missouri, in charge of the steamer Benton, conveying a part of Colonel Harding's command; from whence I returned to headquarters on the 16th. The events connected with that expedition have been already made known to you by my report of October —.

On the morning of the 17th of October, I left Wyandotte with the steamer Benton, for the purpose of transporting supplies from Fort Leavenworth to the army in the vicinity

of Kansas City. We arrived at Fort Leavenworth about two o'clock P. M., loaded that afternoon, and started the next morning at daylight for Kansas City, where we arrived about noon of the same day, finding headquarters at Camp Charlot, near Kansas City.

By order of the general, I returned to Fort Leavenworth on the 18th, with instructions to send forward all troops that could be gathered together. I found that there was but a small garrison at the post of Fort Leavenworth; Colonel McFarland's and Captain Zerch's battery of Kansas state militia, in Leavenworth city; and Colonel Frank Tracy's and another regiment of militia, both under command of Brigadier General Byron Sherry, Kansas state militia, at Atchison. The battery at Leavenworth city was immediately ordered to the front, and left at daylight the next morning on the steamer Benton. Endeavors were made, also, by myself and the other members of the staff at Fort Leavenworth (Colonel Stark, Major Heath, Major Weed, and Captain Williams), to get the two regiments of militia at Atchison forward, but, owing to the low stage of water in the river and the scarcity of land transportation, they did not reach Fort Leavenworth until about noon of the 21st of October.

News of the advance of Price from Lexington having been received, we immediately commenced preparations to send them forward, one regiment going by boat and the other in wagons. The same night, it being deemed advisable, we ordered Colonel McFarland's regiment of Kansas state militia also to the front.

Every facility was afforded by Captain Hodges, depot quartermaster, and Captain Carpenter, post quartermaster, and two regiments left in wagons on the morning of the 22d, the other regiment having left on the steamer Benton on the evening of the 21st. I went in person with the regiment on the boat, and Major Weed accompanied the two regiments which went by land. Both bodies of troops arrived at Kansas City about noon of the 22d. I ordered the

troops on the boat to the shore, with instructions there to await orders, and instructed the captain of the boat to report to Captain Seelye, acting quartermaster, at Kansas City, and then proceeded in search of headquarters, and overtook the general and staff in the saddle, just entering the town of Westport.

Arriving at Westport, reports were received that the enemy was driving Colonel Jennison at Byron's Ford, and I was sent back to hurry up re-enforcements that had been ordered from General Blunt, who was farther to the left. I met them close at hand, but the enemy having already forced the passage of the Ford by dint of overwhelming numbers, it gradually became evident that the position could not be held, and the troops were ordered to fall back on Kansas City for the night. As we went back, I was ordered to see about placing the troops in camp in the outskirts of the town, on the Westport road. I placed one section of the Colorado battery in the road, on a commanding elevation, with Colonel Tracy's regiment of infantry, K. S. M., to support it, and one regiment of cavalry, K. S. M., on the right of it, and two on the left, which connected with General Blunt's command on the east and south-east of the city. They thus bivouaced for the night in line of battle and expectation of an attack. I was engaged until ten or eleven o'clock p. m. in this duty, after which I repaired to headquarters, at the Gillis House, where I remained for the night.

The next morning I started with the general for Westport, being preceded by most or all of General Blunt's division. When we arrived at Westport, artillery firing had already commenced to the south-east of town, and from the top of the hotel the enemy could be seen on the other side of the Big Blue, and moving rapidly in a southwesterly direction.

About ten o'clock, I was ordered to take a squadron of the second Colorado, under command of Captain Kingsbury, and proceed, *via* Independence, to General Pleasanton's

command, and inform him of the position and operations of General Curtis. I went within one and a half miles of Independence, when, finding I was far in the rear of General Pleasanton's command, I turned south, and, striking the Independence and Hickman Mill road, I followed it until I came up with General McNeil's brigade, which I found drawn up in line of battle on a ridge, with a number of dismounted men in the valley in front of them. On the opposite ridge, to the south, about three-fourths of a mile distant, the enemy were deployed and still deploying. Some artillery firing was progressing when I came up, which continued for several minutes thereafter; but, as the enemy continued to deploy troops, and was endeavoring to flank us on both sides, General McNeil ordered the command to fall back about half a mile. I could hear nothing from General McNeil of General Pleasanton's whereabouts, and concluded that he must have passed between me and the Big Blue. As I had rode hard for about fifteen miles, and the squadron with me showed some signs of fatigue, I rested there for about two hours, and then struck almost due west on a by-road, which brought me to the Big Blue at the Westport ford, where there were signs of very severe fighting that day. Broken wagons, cannon balls, shells, and dead bodies were scattered along the road for two miles. The dead seemed to be nearly all of the Kansas militia and the rebels. I saw but one white man, who appeared to have been a federal soldier, and two negroes. As we rode over the field, I had the men look carefully to see if any of the bodies were mutilated, but they found none that were.

I came to General Sanborn's camp shortly after dark, and there first learned the particulars of the battle of the day, and also that General Pleasanton had effected a junction with General Curtis, and that both were probably encamped several miles to the west. I then pushed forward with my squadron, and reached headquarters, at Little Santa Fe, about ten o'clock p. m., having traveled about forty miles

during the day. The second Colorado cavalry being in camp near headquarters, I ordered Captain Kingsbury with his squadron to join his regiment.

The next day (October 24th) I accompanied the general all day. About dark, General Pleasanton took the advance for a night's march. During the night I remained near General Curtis, and also in the morning, until General Pleasanton sent back word that he had captured one gun, when I pushed forward. I overtook General Pleasanton, and rode with him for some distance. When about three miles from the Marias des Cygnes, we commenced to hear firing at the front, and General Pleasanton sent orders back for McNeil and Sanborn to hurry forward with all practicable dispatch, while we pushed forward at a trot and canter. When we first heard the firing, Benteen's brigade was on a parallel road to the one we were on, and to our right. He immediately put his command on the gallop, and we fell to the rear of his column, as the roads soon came together.

Benteen's brigade broke into regimental columns as they approached the battle-field, and, as they came up on the left of Phillips' brigade, went forward into line and right on into the charge. The enemy were cannonading Phillips' brigade when we came in sight, but the musketry firing had mostly ceased. General Pleasanton requested me to take his escort company and support a section of a battery which just then came up. General Pleasanton went forward, and I directed the lieutenant to post his guns on a small elevation and shell the enemy's right, where their artillery was posted. But two shots were fired, when I heard the yells raised by Benteen's brigade, and saw the enemy's line breaking. I immediately ordered the guns forward to a better position, and had just got them in position when General Sanborn rode up and directed the lieutenant to fire at some troops on the south side of Mine Creek and on our extreme left. I felt doubtful as to whether they were rebels or our own troops, but a second's thought made me conclude they were rebels. Four shots were fired at them,

when I saw, by their falling back to our lines, that they must be our own men. I rode forward to the guns to stop their firing, when Generals Sanborn and Pleasanton both rode up and ordered them to cease. At this time the enemy's cannonading on our right had not yet ceased. The enemy by this time being in full retreat, with the exception of their extreme left, which could scarcely be reached with artillery from where we were without danger to our own command, and directly in front of us our troops were immediately on the heels of the retreating rebels. I told the lieutenant in charge of the guns to follow as fast as he could, while I, with the escort company, pushed forward to rejoin General Pleasanton. A short distance before reaching the creek, I found Major Weed, who told me of the capture of General Marmaduke. I pushed forward and told General Pleasanton, and just as I did so General Cabell was brought up a prisoner. At this time we could see a second rebel line forming on top of the hill ahead of us, and our troops being scattered in pursuit, General Pleasanton sent orders for them to halt and re-form. I assisted in re-forming the line and sending prisoners to the rear until General Pleasanton again ordered an advance, when I advanced with him. I waited on the hill until General Curtis came up, and rode with him to the banks of the next stream, when I rode up to the summit of the hill to the right of the road, to obtain, if possible, a view of the charge being made by McNeil's brigade, which had taken the advance, through the timber on the Little Osage. Here, waiting for the general to come up, I fell asleep, and missed the rest of the fighting of the day, as I did not overtake the general and staff until about three o'clock P. M. About four o'clock I was ordered to hurry forward and find out what a movement of troops to the right meant. I overtook General Pleasanton on the prairie at the point where the movement to the right had commenced, and he informed me that he had ordered McNeil to follow the enemy, and supposed General Blunt's division would also follow, and that he,

with the balance of his command, were going to Fort Scott, which he said he understood to be but two and a half miles distant, for food and forage. I saw Lieutenant Ehle, of the third division, who had come from Fort Scott, and he said it was only about two and a half miles. About this time General Curtis came up, and expostulated with General Pleasanton on this course, the enemy being deployed in full view. General Pleasanton, however, insisted that his command were used up by their battles and long marches, and went to Fort Scott. I was ordered to hasten to Fort Scott, and get provisions and forage started out for Generals Blunt and McNeil's command as soon as possible. I started immediately, and found Fort Scott to be about seven miles distant, instead of two and a half. I reached Fort Scott about an hour after dark, and found that Major McKenny was there with the same object which I had in view. Nearly all the public property had been removed, but by pressing teams we succeeded in getting about twelve loads of subsistence and forage started about twelve o'clock at night. They, however, met General Blunt and his command coming into the town, and were by him ordered to return, which they did. In consequence of the return of this train, General McNeil's command was left without subsistence that night, and they did not get any until the morning of the 27th, when I found this same train with the command, and almost untouched.

I do not conceive it to be necessary that I should recount the daily incidents of the march to the Arkansas river and return to Fort Scott, though it is replete with interesting items of hardships and endurance. There are no battles to record, save that at Newtonia, in which it was not my fortune to participate. At the Arkansas river, I was one of those who crossed in pursuit of the enemy.

This campaign will ever be remembered by me, not only for its many eventful and important incidents, but also for those minor incidents, which show the noble material of which men are made, the existence of which is seldom fully

shown in the ordinary routine of life. For the uniform kindness and courtesy extended to me by the general commanding, associate staff officers, and the division, brigade, and regimental commanders, I desire to return my sincere thanks.

I have the honor to be, Major,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed.)

S. S. CURTIS,

Major 2d Colorado Cavalry, A. D. C.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS, }
FORT LEAVENWORTH, Dec. 15, 1864. }

Sir: — Deeming it my duty, I most respectfully submit the following report: —

On the 22d of October, during the afternoon, when Colonel C. R. Jennison's command was attacked at Byron's crossing of the Big Blue, you ordered me, at Westport, Missouri, to go to Hickman's Mill, Missouri, and order all the forces that might be there to immediately re-enforce Colonel Jennison. Arriving at the Mills, I found Major John M. Laing in command of a part of the fifteenth Kansas volunteer cavalry, and delivered him your order. His command was feeding. I also saw the twenty-first regiment of Kansas state militia, which was just ready to mount. I delivered your order to the colonel (Lowe) commanding, and his regiment immediately moved forward at a "trot." I again went to Major Laing, as I did not see him preparing to march, and insisted upon his hurrying forward. Upon this, he ordered his command to prepare to march, and I left him to follow. I then rode forward, and caught up to Colonel Lowe. When we arrived on the brink of the hill descending to the Big Blue, we saw, right ahead of us, and as far as the eye could reach, clouds of dust along the road, and knew it must be the main column of the enemy advancing. In a very few minutes (perhaps five), the twenty-first Kansas state militia had dismounted, and formed in line of battle along the brink of the hill. The horses were led a

little way to the rear. Before the line was formed, the advance of the enemy was coming up the road through a narrow defile at the foot of the hill. Those of the twenty-first regiment who could see the enemy, commenced firing. Their advance immediately fell back out of sight and formed in a body, but in a few minutes came forward with a yell. The twenty-first fired a volley into them, and they fell back out of sight. While this was going on, Major Laing's command came up where the horses were held, but instead of rendering the militia assistance, they turned immediately back, leaving the twenty-first Kansas state militia to get out the best way they could. Several militia to the rear followed, but Colonel Lowe, Lieutenant Colonel Robinson, and myself drew our weapons, and kept the militia (who were giving away) to the front. The enemy appeared very much demoralized, and did not seem to want to give us battle after this. Holding our position for twenty or thirty minutes without another attack (the skirmishing constantly going on), we concluded best to mount and pass around the enemy to the west, and, if possible, join you. It was getting late, and darkness came on before we had gone one mile. On our way through Little Santa Fe, we inquired and found out that Major Laing and his command had passed through, *en route* to Kansas. I have heard that the officers and men with Major Laing did not wish to turn back, but were eager to assist, and thought it very strange that he did not help the militia. Believing that the conduct of Major John M. Laing should not go unnoticed, is my reason for making this statement to you.

I have the honor to state that Colonel Lowe and Lieutenant Colonel Robinson behaved gallantly, showing much bravery, although not accustomed to such heavy fire. Every suggestion that I made to them was immediately carried out.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

CYRUS M. ROBERTS,

First Lieutenant, Acting A. D. C.

To Major General S. R. CURTIS, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

STEAMER BENTON, }
October 16th, 1864. }

Major :— I have the honor to report, for the information of the general commanding, the following circumstances connected with the recent trip of the steamer Benton to Glasgow:—

Pursuant to instructions from General Curtis, on the morning of the 7th inst. I proceeded to Leavenworth city from Fort Leavenworth, and took possession of the steamer Benton for government service, taking charge of her myself. She was already loaded with three companies of the forty-third Missouri infantry, under command of Major Davis, and the West Wind had three more companies of the same regiment on board—all being under the command of Colonel Chester Harding, jr. Both boats started almost immediately for Jefferson City. We were very much delayed by the low stage of water in the river and head winds, and did not reach Brunswick until about ten o'clock A. M. of the 11th inst. We found the town occupied by Captain Kennedy, of Price's army, with about eighty men, most of whom he had raised in the place the preceding day. A guerilla named Ryder had been there the previous day, but had left the same evening. We landed, and drove the enemy from the town, they fleeing at the first fire. Colonel Harding immediately seized all the serviceable horses to be found, and mounted a detachment of about eighty-nine men, and sent them in pursuit. They returned during the night, and reported having come up with the enemy, but they again fled without showing fight.

We left Brunswick the next day; saw a few of the enemy at Cambridge, but did not stop, and arrived at Glasgow on the 13th. We found Captain Mayor, of (I believe) the ninth Missouri state militia, in command of the post, with about three hundred cavalry and as many more armed citizens. They had already commenced throwing up entrenchments, intending to hold the place as long as possible. We here learned that General Price was at Boonville, twenty miles

below, with a force variously estimated at from fifteen to thirty thousand men — probably about twenty thousand — and twenty pieces of artillery. Detachments of his command were scouting the country in every direction on both sides of the river, conscripting every man fit for military duty. He had possession of the steam ferry-boat at Boonville, which was in serviceable condition.

In view of these circumstances, Colonel Harding concluded to remain at Glasgow, and, as I believed that the steamer Benton would be wanted in the vicinity of Leavenworth, and in view of the fact that Price had possession of the ferry-boat, and could at any time throw a sufficient force on the north side of the river to capture Glasgow, I concluded to return with the boat, and as I did not consider the garrison very strong, to do so without a guard. I felt safe in doing this, as I felt confident that the boat could not be taken with small arms, and I could not hear of any enemy with artillery to the west of us. We had about twenty guns on board, and barricaded the pilot house as well as we could, and built very serviceable breast-works of cord-wood around the boiler and main decks.

We left Glasgow on the morning of the 14th, and saw nothing of the enemy until we reached Brunswick, which was again occupied by the enemy, but they did not fire on us, as I presume they supposed there were troops on board. We were fired on that evening, however, from Miama City, and again, after dark, from Plains City. The night being cloudy, we anchored in the middle of the stream, and started again about daylight. We had gone but a few rods when we were fired at, one shot slightly wounding the mate of the boat in the leg. We returned the fire briskly. At Waverly we saw about fifty of the enemy, but as the channel here is a long way from the town, they did not fire on us, but we saw them start up the river, and, as we expected, they attacked us about five miles from Waverly, at a point where the channel runs very close to the south side of the river. In endeavoring to keep as far as possible from the

shore, we grounded, and for about half an hour a brisk fire was kept up on both sides.

Just before reaching Lexington on the same day a woman informed us that there were about two hundred bushwhackers at that place. As we approached it we could see them scattered through the town in every direction, and an officer appeared on the hill and shouted to us to stop and come to shore, or we would be fired into. We pushed ahead, and firing commenced on both sides, but at such long range as not to be very effective. As we came to the bend in the river, the wind blowing directly down stream took us on the starboard and carried us to the shore. We were still under fire, but the men gallantly shoved her bow out, and after two or three efforts we got started. We must have been aground for ten minutes, during which time we were very liable to capture, but fortunately escaped. As we left we could see a large body of men move up the river, and about six miles above we received a very heavy fire from the bank, only about fifty feet distant. The shot fell thick and fast, and some of them came with great force, going clear through the chimneys. Their aim seemed to be mostly at the pilot house, which received about seventy-five shots, none which, however, did any material damage. Besides the above-named places, we were fired into repeatedly by small parties. The boat was struck by about six hundred shots, and I presume three or four thousand more were fired at her.

We had no further trouble, and arrived at Kansas City about four o'clock this afternoon, when I learned that General Curtis was at Wyandotte City, to which place I immediately proceeded and reported the substance of this communication. Though the bringing of the boat was regarded by all as hazardous, yet, the capture of Glasgow the next day by Price's forces has proven that it was much better than remaining there.

I have the honor to be, Major, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

S. S. CURTIS,

Major Second Colorado Cav., A. D. C.

Major C. S. CHARLOT, A. A. General, Dept. of Kansas.

DEPOT QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE,
FORT SCOTT, KANSAS, December 1st, 1864. }

MAJOR C. S. CHARLOT, *A. A. General Department of Kansas,*
Fort Leavenworth : —

MAJOR : — In compliance with General Field Order dated Headquarters Army of the Border, Camp Arkansas, November 8th, 1864, I have the honor to submit the following report : —

At the time the general commanding took the field against the rebel army under General Price, I was attending to the duties of depot quartermaster at this post. In obedience to orders from the general commanding, and in consequence of the imminent danger of an attack upon this post by the enemy under command of the rebel General Price, in his retreat southward after his defeats in the vicinity of Westport, Mo., all the public stores were loaded into wagons and transported into the interior of the state, beyond the reach of the enemy, under my direction, though in the immediate charge of citizens, employes of the quartermaster's department. The trains were absent from October 24th to November 3d, 1864. As soon as it could be done with safety, they were returned to the post. The vast amount of public property thus suddenly and unexpectedly thrown upon my hands for security when no assistance could be rendered me, except such as was obtained from a limited number of employes of my department, was safely placed beyond the reach of the enemy, even though he had taken the post, and safely returned again with but trifling loss of stores. After the great and decisive battle of Osage, in October, where our troops gained such imperishable honors, they encamped at this post and were supplied by me with forage, &c. I was instructed by the general commanding on October 26th to send on half-loads as rapidly as possible to his command, then following up the retreating rebel army, of supplies as follows, viz: 50,000 rations of commissary stores, and 50,000 rations of old corn.

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