

No. 282.

Reports of General Robert E. Lee, U. S. Army, commanding Armies of the Confederate States, of operations February 19-March 21.

HEADQUARTERS,
Petersburg, February 19, 1865.

SIR: The accounts received to-day from South and North Carolina are unfavorable. General Beauregard reports from Winnsborough that four corps of the enemy are advancing on that place, tearing up the Charlotte railroad, and that they will probably reach Charlotte by the 24th, and before he can concentrate his troops there. He states General Sherman will doubtless move thence on Greensborough, Danville, and Petersburg, or unite with General Schofield at Raleigh or Weldon.

General Bragg reports that General Schofield is now preparing to advance from New Berne to Goldsborough, and that a strong expedition is moving against the Weldon railroad at Rocky Mount. He says that little or no assistance can be received from the State of North Carolina; that exemptions and reorganizations under late laws have disbanded the State forces, and that they will not be ready for the field for some time. I do not see how Sherman can make the march anticipated by General Beauregard; but he seems to have everything his own way, which is calculated to cause apprehension. General Beauregard does not say what he proposes or what he can do. I do not know where his troops are, or on what lines they are moving. His dispatches only give movements of the enemy. He has a difficult task to perform under present circumstances, and one of his best officers (General Hardee) is incapacitated by sickness. I have also heard that his own health is indifferent, though he has never so stated. Should his strength give way there is no one on duty in the department that could replace him, nor have I anyone to send there. General J. E. Johnston is the only officer whom I know who has the confidence of the army and people, and if he was ordered to report to me I would place him there on duty. It is necessary to bring out all our strength, and, I fear, to unite our armies, as separately they do not seem able to make head against the enemy. Everything should be destroyed that cannot be removed out of the reach of Generals Sherman and Schofield. Provisions must be accumulated in Virginia, and every man in all the States must be brought out. I fear it may be necessary to abandon all our cities, and preparation should be made for this contingency.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

R. E. LEE,
General.

His Excellency J. C. BRECKINRIDGE,
Secretary of War, Richmond, Va.

HEADQUARTERS,
March 1, 1865.

General Johnston reports that Hardee's infantry, without artillery or wagons, has reached Cheraw. No information of progress of Stewart or Cheatham. The enemy has been stationary for a few days. Our cavalry on their right think he is moving upon Florence or Cheraw; that on his left suppose he is advancing on Cheraw or Charlotte.

R. E. LEE.

Hon. J. C. BRECKINRIDGE, Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS,

March 3, 1865. (Received 9.45 a. m.)

General Johnston reports skirmishing at Cheraw on afternoon of 28th and morning of 1st with Seventeenth Corps; Fifteenth Corps in vicinity. Reports from General Hampton indicate a general movement of enemy, but could not understand whether upon Cheraw or Florence.

R. E. LEE.

General J. C. BRECKINRIDGE.

HEADQUARTERS,

March 9, 1865.

General Bragg reports that he attacked the enemy yesterday four miles in front of Kinston and drove him from his position. He disputed the ground obstinately, and took a new line three miles from his first. We captured 3 pieces of artillery and 1,500 prisoners. The number of enemy's dead and wounded left on the field is large; ours comparatively small. The troops behaved most handsomely, and Major-Generals Hill and Hoke exhibited their accustomed zeal and gallantry.

R. E. LEE.

Hon. J. C. BRECKINRIDGE,
Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS,

March 10, 1865. (Received 7.30 p. m.)

General Hampton attacked General Kilpatrick at daylight this morning and drove him from his camp, taking his guns, wagons, many horses, several hundred prisoners, and releasing a great number of our own men who had been captured. The guns and wagons could not be brought off for want of horses. Many of the enemy were killed and wounded. Our loss not heavy. Lieut. Col. J. S. King, killed; Brigadier-General Humes, Colonels Hagan and Harrison, and Majors Lewis, Ferguson, and others wounded.

R. E. LEE.

Hon. J. C. BRECKINRIDGE,
Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES,

March 11, 1865. (Received 12 m.)

General Bragg reports that enemy intrenched himself in the position to which he was driven on the 8th, and therefore had not been dislodged; also that a heavy force was moving from Wilmington on his right and rear, which would oblige him to return. General Hardee reports Sherman's army seven miles from Fayetteville, and that he and Hampton would cross Cape Fear River to-night. General Fitz Lee states main force of Sheridan is at Columbia. A small party crossed the James in a flat-boat, but returned.

R. E. LEE.

Hon. J. C. BRECKINRIDGE,
Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS,

March 18, 1865. (Received 8.45 a. m.)

General Johnston reports that on the 16th General Hardee was repeatedly attacked by four divisions of the enemy a few miles south of Averasborough, but always repulsed them. The enemy was reported at night to have crossed Black River to the east at various points with the rest of the army. General Hardee is moving to a point twelve miles from Smithfield. Schofield's troops are reported at Kinston repairing railroad. Cheatham's amount of rolling-stock only conveys about 500 men a day.

R. E. LEE.

Hon. J. C. BRECKINRIDGE,

Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES,

March 21, 1865. (Received 5.30 p. m.)

General Vaughn reports this morning that Thomas is at Knoxville; that three regiments and some negro troops are repairing the East Tennessee Railroad, and that enemy have commenced their advance.

General J. E. Johnston, at 9.20 a. m., at Bentonville, reports that he is removing his wounded to Smithfield. The enemy's intrenched position and greatly superior numbers, Sherman's army being [in] our front, make further offensive movements impracticable.

R. E. LEE.

Hon. J. C. BRECKINRIDGE,

Secretary of War.

No. 283.

Reports of General G. T. Beauregard, C. S. Army, of operations January 29-March 6.

MONTGOMERY, *January 29, 1865.**(Received 10.40.)*

General Hardee reports two columns of enemy moving from Savannah on Augusta. I will leave in the morning for latter place.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,

General.

General S. COOPER,

*Adjutant and Inspector General.*AUGUSTA, *February 4, 1865.**(Received 4.10.)*

Telegrams from Generals Hardee and McLaws report enemy crossed Broxton's and Rivers' Bridges, over the Salkehatchie, forcing General McLaws back toward Branchville. He was flanked on both sides. Fighting was sharp at Rivers' Bridge. General Hardee has made dispositions to hold railroad as long as possible, but says will not be able to hold it much longer.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,

General.

General S. COOPER,

Adjutant and Inspector General.

AUGUSTA, February 4, 1865.

Reports from Generals Wheeler and Iverson of yesterday indicate that the Fourteenth and Twentieth Corps have passed the Savannah River at Sister's Ferry, but that portions of them are still this side, as Iverson, in a skirmish on the 2d instant, took prisoners from the Sixth [Fourteenth?] Corps. Prisoners were taken who claim to belong to the Twenty-third Corps (Schofield). They report one division of that corps present. Sheridan with the Nineteenth reported to have arrived at Savannah, and General Meagher with the stragglers of Sherman's army.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,
*General.*General S. COOPER,
*Adjutant and Inspector General.*AUGUSTA, February 8, 1865.
(Received 8.40 a. m. 9th.)

Enemy cut railroad to Charleston yesterday morning near Blackville. Lee's corps is in position on the South Fork of the Edisto, protecting the approaches to Columbia. Head of Cheatham's corps arrived here last night. McLaws' division is at and about Branchville. I shall leave here to-morrow for Columbia.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,
*General.*General S. COOPER,
*Adjutant and Inspector General.*COLUMBIA, February 11, 1865.
(Received 10.40.)

General Hardee reports that the enemy landed yesterday on James Island. Force not developed. General Stevenson was forced back gradually on the 10th to the line of the North Branch of the Edisto, which he now holds. The enemy having marched also in some force against Aiken, Major-General Wheeler marched to that point with his available force.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

General S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General.

COLUMBIA, February 11, 1865—8 a. m.

I arrived here yesterday evening. General Hardee reports from Charleston, same afternoon, that the enemy crossed the South Branch of the Edisto, at Binnaker's Bridge, forcing back General Stevenson to North Branch, where Stevenson is concentrating to oppose him. General Wheeler reports that General Allen having informed him that the enemy is moving on Augusta, he is going with all his available force to Aiken to meet him. Enemy's gun-boats left Tugaloo yesterday. General Wright repulsed attack on his lines. Enemy crossed in some force from Dixon, Horse, and Battery Island to James Island yesterday morning.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,
*General.*General S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General.

COLUMBIA, *February 12, 1865.*

(Received 1 p. m. 13th.)

General Hardee reports yesterday from Charleston enemy is still in force on James Island, but movement believed to be a feint. There is an increase of eighteen steamers off the bar. A barge attack on Battery Simkins was repulsed. General Stevenson reports from Orangeburg to-day that the enemy skirmished heavily at Shilling's Bridge, on the North Branch of the Edisto. He expects to retire to-night on this place or Kingsville. General Wheeler reports from Aiken that Kilpatrick attacked him yesterday, but was repulsed with loss and pursued five miles beyond that town.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,
General.

General R. E. LEE.

COLUMBIA, S. C., *February 16, 1865—2 p. m.*

I returned last evening from Charleston. I shall assume command to-day of all forces in South Carolina. The present military situation is thus: Our forces, about 20,000 effective infantry and artillery, more or less demoralized, occupy a circumference of about 240 miles from Charleston to Augusta. The enemy, well organized and disciplined, and flushed with success, numbering nearly double our force, is concentrated upon one point (Columbia) of that circumference. Unless I can concentrate rapidly here, or in my rear, all available troops, the result cannot be long doubtful. General Hardee still hesitates to abandon Charleston, notwithstanding I have repeatedly urged him to do so, thereby losing several days of vital importance to future operations.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

General R. E. LEE, *Richmond, Va.*

COLUMBIA, S. C., *February 16, 1865—2.30 p. m.*

Enemy commenced shelling city this morning. He is apparently moving up toward Saluda River. Our forces occupy south bank of that stream and Congaree.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

General R. E. LEE, *Richmond, Va.*

COLUMBIA, S. C., *February 16, 1865—5 p. m.*

Enemy has forced a passage across the Saluda River above Columbia. I will endeavor to prevent him from crossing the Broad, but my forces here are so small it is doubtful whether I can prevent it. Columbia will soon have to be evacuated.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,
General.

General R. E. LEE, *Richmond, Va.*

(Copy to General W. J. Hardee.)

WHITE OAK, S. C., *February 19, 1865—10 p. m.*

(Received 8.30 p. m. 20th.)

After close examination, and exerting every means in my power, I find it impossible for the troops now in Charleston to form a junction with me this side of Greensborough. Believing it best, from information just received from Governor Vance and General Bragg, to transport the troops by rail to that point, I have directed General McLaws to move them by rail as rapidly as possible. I am also of the opinion that Cheatham, at Newberry this morning with 2,000 men, and Stewart, eighteen hours behind him, with 1,200 men, cannot form a junction with me except by moving across via Statesburg and Manchester, and thence by rail to Greensborough. This movement will require some days, owing to difficulties of crossing the Broad and Wateree Rivers. The enemy has advanced to-day to near Winsborough in force, and is still moving along the railroad, keeping between this place and Broad River, thus cutting off Cheatham and Stewart.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,

General.

General R. E. LEE.

CHESTER, S. C., *February 20, 1865.*

General McLaws reports from Monk's Corner that Charleston was successfully evacuated on the night of the 17th instant. Enemy reported by General Wheeler to be advancing on this place, being six miles north of Monticello.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,

General.

General R. E. LEE.

CHARLOTTE, *March 5, 1865.*

General Hampton reports from near White's Store at 9 p. m. yesterday that Fourteenth Corps is moving on Wadesborough, and Twentieth Corps on a road to its right. Prisoners say they expect to reach Wadesborough to night.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

General JOHNSTON.

CHARLOTTE, *March 5, 1865.*

Three brigades of Stewart's corps left Chesterville to-day. The rest of his and Cheatham's will arrive there to-day in time to follow movement of [Stevenson's corps] from here.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

General J. E. JOHNSTON.

CHARLOTTE, *March 6, 1865.*

Have just received copy of telegram to you from Hardee, saying he is moving on Greensborough. He has not received instructions of 24th ultimo. He should be recalled at once to Fayetteville or Raleigh. Shall troops from here be sent to Smithfield or Raleigh?

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

General J. E. JOHNSTON.

RALEIGH, *March 11, 1865.*

GENERAL: Lieutenant-General Hardee, then at Fayetteville, informed by telegraph last night that General Sherman's army was within seven miles of the place; that he would cross the river during the night, and Lieutenant-General Hampton this morning. The closing of the telegraph office has indicated the evacuation of the place. General Bragg reported at the same time that he had not dislodged the enemy from the position which he took after the action of the 8th, the strength of the intrenched position and re-enforcements to the enemy making it impracticable. A strong body of troops was also marching by the coast road to join Cox's command. He is, therefore, falling back, instructed to halt at Goldsborough. It seems to me probable that General Sherman intends to unite the troops near Kinston with his own army. If he moves toward Goldsborough for this object, I hope to be able to concentrate our forces there to attack Cox. By the slow working of the railroad the Tennessee troops are not all up yet, although the movement commenced eight days ago. Should the Federal army move upon Raleigh from Fayetteville, the course of the Cape Fear might conceal his movements to within thirty miles of the place, and prevent my meeting it near the river, where its columns are most likely to be separated. Generals Holmes and Gatlin tell me that the country between Raleigh and Clarksville will sustain no considerable body of troops, and that to reach the Roanoke it would be necessary to direct our march at least as low on the river as Gaston. The chief commissary, however, reports the country along most of the route to Clarksville abundant. I think that my course ought to depend much upon your situation. In a battle with Sherman on equal ground the chances would be decidedly against us. Hardee's troops have seen little real service, and have among the superior officers few who have shown themselves competent to their grades. Their present organization is new, made when Charleston was evacuated.

The Army of Tennessee is represented to be in great need of reorganization. Their best general officers were lost at Franklin and Nashville. Lieutenant-General Hardee's force at Cheraw was, including 1,000 South Carolina reserves and militia, about 10,000. There have been many deserters since. General Bragg estimated his at about 7,000. His loss was about 500 in the recent engagement. General Beauregard estimated the effective total of the Army of Tennessee at 6,700. Our cavalry is better and more numerous than that of the enemy, and is under a much abler commander. The Federal army is supposed by our officers to amount to 45,000. I have no other means of estimating its strength. Under such circumstances I will not give battle to Sherman's united army unless your situation may require such a course; but will if I can find it divided. Of this please advise me. I need not say that your opinions will have a control equal to that of your official authority. Should Sherman and Cox unite, their march into Virginia cannot be prevented by me. In that event, if I understand your letter of February 23, you will meet us at the southern edge of Virginia to give battle. Would it be practicable, instead, to hold one of the inner lines of Richmond with one part of your army, and meet Sherman with the other, returning to Richmond after fighting? I should be glad to know as much as you think it prudent to communicate of the effect upon your position of the interruption by the Federal army of the railroad by Raleigh. If the possession of the road by Raleigh is necessary for the subsistence of your army, unless it is improper to ask, I should be glad to be informed. I beg

you to inform me of everything in your affairs which is connected with my operations, such as may be dependent on them, that I may do my utmost to aid you. I shall also be grateful for any instructions you may have time to give me.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. E. JOHNSTON,

General.

General R. E. LEE,
General-in-Chief.

HEADQUARTERS,
SMITHFIELD, March 17, 1865—10.30 a. m.

General Hardee was yesterday five miles south of Averagesborough. He was repeatedly attacked during the day by four divisions of the enemy, but always repulsed him. The enemy was reported at night to have crossed Black River to the east at various points with the rest of the army. General Hardee is moving to a point twelve miles from Smithfield. Schofield's troops are reported at Kinston, repairing the railroad bridge. Cheatham's corps not yet up. This railroad, with its enormous amount of rolling-stock, has brought us only about 500 men a day.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

General R. E. LEE.

SMITHFIELD, March 18, 1865.

The troops will be united to-day, except two divisions of Cheatham's corps not yet arrived. Effective totals, infantry and artillery: Bragg, 6,500; Hardee, 7,500; Army of Tennessee, 4,000. Should Sherman move by Weldon would you prefer my turning to Clarksville? Lieutenant-General Hardee's loss on 16th was 450. Prisoners taken the next day report the enemy's about 3,300.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

General R. E. LEE.

BENTONVILLE, March 20, 1865.

Our cavalry reporting that the Fourteenth and Twentieth Corps were moving by the Averagesborough and Goldsborough road, and the Fifteenth and Seventeenth by that from Fayetteville, I concentrated our troops here yesterday morning and attacked the enemy about 3 p. m.; routed him, capturing three guns; but a mile in rear he rallied upon fresh troops. We were able to press all back slowly until 6, when receiving fresh troops, apparently, he attempted the offensive, which we resisted without difficulty until dark. This morning he is intrenched. Our loss was small. The troops behaved extremely well. Dense thickets prevented rapid operations.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

General R. E. LEE.

NEAR BENTONVILLE, *March 21, 1865—7.20 a. m.*

We are remaining here to cover the removal of our wounded to the railroad at Smithfield. The enemy's intrenched position and greatly superior number, Sherman's army being in our front, make further offensive impracticable.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

General R. E. LEE.

NEAR SMITHFIELD, N. C., *March 23, 1865—1.30 p. m.*

Sherman's whole army being intrenched in our front on morning of 20th, we did not attack, but held our position to cover removal of wounded and occupy enemy. There was heavy skirmishing 20th and 21st, and several partial attacks by him handsomely repulsed. Troops of Tennessee army have fully disproved slanders that have been published against them. Evening and night of 21st enemy moved toward Goldsborough, where Schofield joined him, and yesterday we came here. Sherman's course cannot be hindered by the small force I have. I can do no more than annoy him. I respectfully suggest that it is no longer a question whether you leave present position; you have only to decide where to meet Sherman. I will be near him.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

General R. E. LEE.

NEAR SMITHFIELD, N. C., *March 24, 1865.*

Your dispatch in cipher just received. Sherman and Schofield have united at Goldsborough the Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Seventeenth, Twentieth, Twenty-third, Twenty-fourth, and Twenty-fifth Corps, making about 60,000. I was compelled to come here to cross Neuse. Prisoners say that Sheridan with his cavalry is expected soon. Should this be true, could you re-enforce Hampton? Sherman ought to cross Roanoke at Weldon. It would be best, I think, to fight on this side. I will keep you informed of his route and progress. He will probably stop at Goldsborough some days. I will impede his march if possible and keep in his front to join you should you wish to fight Grant first.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

General R. E. LEE.

NEAR SMITHFIELD, *March 25, 1865.*

Not the Twenty-ninth but the Twenty-fifth Corps, said by our scouts to be negroes. The returns of yesterday show our effective infantry to be 13,900.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

General R. E. LEE.

SMITHFIELD, N. C., *March 27, 1865.*

GENERAL: Your reply to my telegram, reporting the action of the 19th, near Bentonville, makes me apprehend that my brief account may have given an exaggerated idea of our success. I therefore write a more minute one.

The reports of our cavalry, received on the morning of the 18th, showed that the Federal army was moving toward Goldsborough. The Right Wing (Fifteenth and Seventeenth Corps) by the Fayetteville

road, and the Left Wing (Fourteenth and Twentieth Corps) by that from Averasborough; and that the Right Wing had crossed Black River, while the Left was still near Averasborough. It was probable, therefore, that in addition to the distance between the two roads, about twelve miles by the State map, there was an interval of a day's march between these wings. I determined therefore to attack the Left Wing. General Bragg and Lieutenant-General Stewart, whose troops were near Smithfield, were directed to march through Bentonville and encamp between that point and the Averasborough road, and Lieutenant-General Hardee, who was at Elevation, was instructed to join them. His march was so much longer—although by the map it appeared shorter—that he did not arrive until the following morning. The troops then moved by the left flank to the road on which the enemy was approaching. General Bragg's were formed across it at right angles, and the Army of Tennessee on their right, with its own strongly thrown forward. The ground in our front, north of the road, was open; that on the south of it was covered with thickets. We had but one road through dense black-jack for our movements, so that they consumed a weary time. While they were in progress a vigorous attack was made on General Bragg's left. Lieutenant-General Hardee was instructed to send a division to its support and the other to the extreme right, and with the latter and Stewart's troops to charge as they faced, which would bring them obliquely upon the enemy's left and center. General Bragg's troops were to join in the movement successively from right to left. In the meantime the attack upon General Bragg was repulsed with heavy loss, and another made upon Stewart's corps, commanded by Major-General Loring, by which the enemy was quickly driven back. These two affairs showed that the Fourteenth Corps was in our immediate front.

It was near 3 o'clock before Hardee's troops were in position on the right. He then made the charge with characteristic skill and vigor, well and gallantly seconded by Stewart, Hill, Loring, and the officers under them. Once, when he apprehended difficulty, Hardee literally led the advance. The Federals were routed in a few minutes, our brave fellows dashing successively over two lines of temporary breast-works, and following the enemy rapidly, but in good order. A mile in rear the Fourteenth rallied on the Twentieth Corps in a dense growth of young pines. In this position the Federal right rested on a swamp and was covered by intrenchments. Our troops continued to press the enemy back, except on the left, where we were held in check by the intrenchments just mentioned. Their progress was very slow, however, from the difficulty of penetrating thickets in line of battle. About 6 o'clock the Federal forces were so greatly increased, I believe, by the arrival of the Seventeenth Corps, that they seemed to attempt the offensive, but with little effect. They were able to hold their ground until night only by the help of dense thickets and breast-works.

After burying our dead and bringing off our own and many of the Federal wounded, and three pieces of artillery (a fourth was left because we had not horses to draw it away), we returned to our first position.

On the morning of the 20th, as the enemy had three of his four corps present and well intrenched, the attack was not renewed. We held our ground, however, in the hope that his greatly superior numbers might encourage him to attack, and to cover the removal of our wounded. The Fifteenth Corps coming up on our left flank, we changed front, parallel to the road, but near enough to command it. During the day General Bragg's line was repeatedly attacked and the enemy repulsed, severely punished. The briskest of these was on Kirkland's brigade about sunset.

On the 21st heavy skirmishing was renewed on the whole front. At noon, by throwing forward Stewart's and Taliaferro's skirmishers, it was found that the enemy had drawn back his left and intrenched it, as if to cover a march toward Goldsborough. During the afternoon the firing was very brisk on McLaws' and Hoke's lines, and about 4 o'clock the Seventeenth Corps penetrated the thin line of cavalry forming our extreme left, and moved upon Bentonville. Lieutenant-General Hardee, detached to that point with the reserves, met it in front with Cumming's (Georgia) brigade, the only infantry up, while cavalry, directed by Lieutenant-General Hampton and Major-General Wheeler, was thrown upon its flanks. By these combined attacks this corps was promptly driven back. In this affair Cumming's brigade, under Colonel Henderson, and the Eighth Texas Cavalry, distinguished themselves. In the latter General Hardee's son, a very promising youth of sixteen, fell mortally wounded when gallantly charging in the foremost rank.

Finding during the night that Schofield had reached Goldsborough and that Sherman was moving toward Cox's Bridge, and that all our wounded that could bear transportation had been removed, on the 22d we moved to the neighborhood of Smithfield, encamping south of the Neuse.

We took about 15,000 men into action on the 19th. The enemy's force before 6 o'clock was above 20,000, then increased by about 10,000. On the 20th and 21st the whole army was before us, amounting to near 44,000, including losses. But for the thickets which impeded our movements we should undoubtedly have beaten the Fourteenth and Twentieth Corps before 5 o'clock. I expected to use our cavalry on the enemy's left, but the character of the country is such that Lieutenant-General Hampton could not bring it into action.

Our loss is found to be greater than that first reported. It amounted in the three days to 224 killed, 1,470 wounded, and about 600 missing. Some of the latter skulked to the rear; most of them, however, were captured by separating late in the afternoon from parties which penetrated the enemy's line in the thickets in which it lay. The Federal loss could not be estimated, as it was greatest in the thick woods in which the action of the 19th terminated, and in front of our breast-works on the 20th and 21st. It certainly exceeded ours greatly.

The moral effect of these operations has been very beneficial. The spirit of the army is greatly improved and is now excellent. I am informed by persons of high standing that a similar effect is felt in the country.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. E. JOHNSTON,
General.

General R. E. LEE,
General-in-Chief.

ADDENDA.

NEAR SMITHFIELD, *March 27, 1865.*

GENERAL: I have the honor to transmit for your information a rough field return of this army:

On the 17th General Bragg had—	
Infantry	4, 775
Artillery	782
On the same day Lieutenant-General Stewart had, infantry	3, 956
On the morning of the 19th Lieutenant-General Hardee had, infantry	5, 400
Total	14, 913

My apology for addressing this communication to you is that I do not know who is your adjutant-general. I beg to be informed, that I may hereafter direct my correspondence properly.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. E. JOHNSTON,
General.

General R. E. LEE, *General-in-Chief*.

Abstract of strength from field returns.

MARCH 17.

	Infantry.		Artillery.
	Effective.	Present.	
Lee	2,660	3,390	.....
Stewart	890	1,349	.....
Cheatham	406	567	.....
Hoke	4,775	4,988	782
Total	8,731	10,294	782

MARCH 23.

Lee	2,340	3,211	.....
Stewart	723	1,131	.....
Cheatham	2,005	2,602	106
Hardee	5,328	5,916	927
Hoke	8,598	4,839	.....
Total	13,994	17,199	1,033

MARCH 27.

	Infantry.		Cavalry.		Artillery.
	Effective.	Present.	Effective.	Present.	
Lee	2,547	3,394	.....	.....	.....
Stewart	800	1,236	.....	.....	106
Cheatham	2,130	2,899	.....	.....	.....
Hardee	8,168	9,998	.....	.....	927
Wheeler .....	.....	.....	3,074	3,803	.....
Butler .....	.....	.....	1,019	1,118	.....
Total	13,645	17,527	4,093	4,921	1,033

MARCH 31.

	Effective.			Present.		
	Infantry.	Artillery.	Total.	Infantry.	Artillery.	Total.
Hardee	8,158	697	8,855	9,998	808	10,806
Army of Tennessee	6,745	96	6,841	8,869	108	8,977
	318	.....	318	371	.....	371
Total	15,221	793	16,014	19,238	916	20,154

Abstract of strength from field returns—Continued.

APRIL 7.

	Effective.			Present.		
	Infantry.	Artillery.	Total.	Infantry.	Artillery.	Total.
Hardee	8,605	624	9,229	10,337	695	11,032
Stewart (Army of Tennessee)	8,861	92	8,953	11,331	111	11,442
Total	17,466	716	18,182	21,668	806	22,474

APRIL 17.

Hardee	6,045	211	6,256	7,786	238	8,024
Stewart	4,953	467	5,420	6,567	586	7,153
Lee	2,681	95	2,776	3,462	104	3,566
Pioneers	318		318	371		371
Total	13,997	773	14,770	18,186	928	19,114

APRIL 24.

Hardee	5,356	184	5,540	7,276	194	7,470
Stewart	4,972	469	5,441	6,650	590	7,240
Lee	4,118	89	4,207	4,913	110	5,023
Total	14,446	742	15,188	18,839	894	19,733

Casualties at Bentonville.

Command.	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.	Total.
March 19:				
Hardee				
Army of Tennessee	91	624	284	999
Hoke	45	370	178	593
March 20:				
Army of Tennessee	2	7		9
Hoke	2	44	16	62
March 21:				
Army of Tennessee	9	45	21	75
Hoke	15	58	6	79
March 22:				
Hoke	1	3	2	6
March 18 to 21:				
Cavalry	15	80	18	113

RECAPITULATION.

Hardee	59	319	148	526
Army of Tennessee	102	676	305	1,083
Hoke	63	475	202	740
Cavalry	15	80	18	113
Total	239	*1,550	673	2,462

Prisoners taken.

Hardee	114
Army of Tennessee	417
Cavalry	368
Officers	4
Total	903

Hardee captured near Cheraw	113
Hardee captured near Fayetteville (of whom 20 were officers)	433

* But see statement, next, p. 1060, which shows an aggregate of 1,694 wounded. The increase of 144 is in the Army of Tennessee.

Cavalry return.

	Effective.	Present.
March 25:		
Wheeler	3,074	3,803
Butler	1,019	1,118
Total	4,093	4,921
March 31 to April 7:		
Wheeler (includes Allen detached with 1,602 effective and 2,365 present)....	3,848	5,209
Butler (includes Young's brigade, serving in South Carolina).....	1,240	1,517
Total	5,088	6,726

One hundred and eight Confederate wounded left on the morning of March 22 at Bentonville and Mr. Harper's, five miles off—63 and 45. Ambulances sent by Doctor Erskine removed 28 from Bentonville and 26 from Harper's. Forty-two Federals severely wounded were treated by Doctor Erskine, most of them requiring amputations.

Casualties in the Confederate forces near Bentonville, N. C., March 19 to 21, 1865.

Command.	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.	Total.
ARMY OF TENNESSEE.				
Lieut. Gen. A. P. STEWART.				
Lee's corps:				
Stevenson's division.....	27	187	152	366
Clayton's division	21	171	98	290
Hill's division	7	85	13	105
Total Lee's corps	55	443	263	761
Stewart's corps:				
Loring's division	21	129	3	153
Walthall's division	8	60	2	70
Total Stewart's corps.....	29	189	5	223
Cheatham's corps:				
Cleburne's division (engaged only on 19th).....	8	96	8	112
Bate's division (engaged only on 19th).....	10	92	29	131
Brown's division (not engaged)				
Total Cheatham's corps.....	18	188	37	243
TROOPS FROM DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA, GEORGIA, AND FLORIDA.				
Lieut. Gen. W. J. HARDEE.				
Taliaferro's division.....	31	166	126	323
McLaws' division	28	153	22	203
Total Hardee's command	59	319	148	526
TROOPS FROM DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA.				
General BRAXTON BRAGG.				
Hoke's division.....	61	471	202	734
Artillery	2	4		6
Total Bragg's command.	63	475	202	740
CAVALRY.				
Lieut. Gen. WADE HAMPTON.				
Wheeler's corps	8	53		61
Butler's division.....	5	22	18	45
Hart's battery.....	2	5		7
Total cavalry.....	15	80	18	113
Grand total.....	239	1,694	673	2,606

GENERAL ORDERS, } HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF TENNESSEE,
No. 22. } *Near Greensborough, N. C., May 2, 1865.*

COMRADES: In terminating our official relations I most earnestly exhort you to observe faithfully the terms of pacification agreed upon, and to discharge the obligations of good and peaceful citizens at your homes as well as you have performed the duties of thorough soldiers in the field. By such a course you will best secure the comfort of your families and kindred and restore tranquillity to your country. You will return to your homes with the admiration of our people, won by the courage and noble devotion you have displayed in this long war. I shall always remember with pride the loyal support and generous confidence you have given me. I now part with you with deep regret, and bid you farewell with feelings of cordial friendship and with earnest wishes that you may have hereafter all the prosperity and happiness to be found in the world.

J. E. JOHNSTON,
General.

No. 285.

Organization of the Confederate Forces, commanded by General Joseph E. Johnston.†*

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS.

ESCORT.

Capt. E. M. HOLLOWAY.

HARDEE'S CORPS.‡

Lieut. Gen. WILLIAM J. HARDEE.

ESCORT AND SCOUTS.

Capt. WILLIAM C. RAUM.

Capt. JOHN B. L. WALPOLE.

BROWN'S (LATE CLEBURNE'S) DIVISION.

Maj. Gen. JOHN C. BROWN.

Smith's Brigade.

Brig. Gen. JAMES A. SMITH.

1st Florida (consolidated 1st, 3d, 4th, 6th, and 7th Infantry and 1st Cavalry), Lieut. Col. Elisha Mashburn.

1st Georgia (consolidated 1st, 57th, and 63d Georgia Infantry), Col. Charles H. Olmstead.

54th Georgia (consolidated 37th and 54th Georgia and 4th Battalion Georgia Sharpshooters), Col. Theodore D. Caswell.

Govan's Brigade.

Brig. Gen. DANIEL C. GOVAN.

1st Arkansas (consolidated 1st, 2d, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 13th, 15th, 19th, and 24th Arkansas and 3d Confederate), Col. E. A. Howell.

1st Texas (consolidated 6th, 7th, 10th, and 15th Infantry and 17th, 18th, 24th, and 25th Texas (dismounted) Cavalry), Lieut. Col. William A. Ryan.

* As constituted after April 9, upon which date it was partly reorganized.

† General G. T. Beauregard second in command.

‡ At Bentonville, consisted of the divisions of Hoke, McLaws, and W. B. Taliaferro. Maj. Gen. Lafayette McLaws was assigned, April 10, to command the District of Georgia.

HOKE'S DIVISION.*

Maj. Gen. ROBERT F. HOKE.

Clingman's Brigade.

Brig. Gen. THOMAS L. CLINGMAN.

- 8th North Carolina, Lient. Col. Rufus A. Barrier.
 31st North Carolina, Col. Charles W. Knight.
 36th North Carolina, } Maj. William A.
 40th North Carolina, } Holland.
 51st North Carolina, Capt. James W. Lip-pitt.
 61st North Carolina, Capt. Stephen W. Noble.

Colquitt's Brigade.

Brig. Gen. ALFRED H. COLQUITT.

- 6th Georgia, Maj. James M. Culpepper.
 19th Georgia, Lient. Col. Ridgway B. Hogan.
 23d Georgia, Col. Marcus R. Ballenger.
 27th Georgia, Lient. Col. Hezekiah Bussey.
 28th Georgia, Capt. George W. Warthen.

Hagood's Brigade.

Brig. Gen. JOHNSON HAGOOD.

- 11th South Carolina, Capt. B. F. Wyman.
 21st South Carolina:
 Capt. J. A. W. Thomas.
 Col. Robert F. Graham.
 25th South Carolina, Capt. E. R. Lesesne.
 27th South Carolina, Capt. Thomas Y. Simons.
 7th South Carolina Battalion:
 Capt. William Clyburn.
 Lient. Col. James H. Rion.

Kirkland's Brigade.

Brig. Gen. WILLIAM W. KIRKLAND.

- 17th North Carolina, Lient. Col. Thomas H. Sharp.
 42d North Carolina, Col. John E. Brown.
 50th North Carolina, Col. George Wortham.
 66th North Carolina, Col. John H. Nethercutt.

First Brigade Junior Reserves.

Brig. Gen. LAWRENCE S. BAKER.

- 1st North Carolina, Lient. Col. Charles W. Broadfoot.
 2d North Carolina, Col. John H. Anderson.
 3d North Carolina, Col. John W. Hinsdale.
 1st North Carolina Battalion, Capt. Charles M. Hall.

CHEATHAM'S DIVISION.†

Maj. Gen. BENJAMIN F. CHEATHAM.

Palmer's Brigade.

Brig. Gen. JOSEPH B. PALMER.

- 1st Tennessee (consolidated 1st, 6th, 8th, 9th, 16th, 27th, 28th, and 34th Tennessee, and 24th Tennessee Battalion), Lient. Col. Oliver A. Bradshaw.
 2d Tennessee (consolidated 11th, 12th, 13th, 29th, 47th, 50th, 51st, 52d, and 154th Tennessee), Lient. Col. George W. Pease.
 3d Tennessee (consolidated 4th, 5th, 19th, 24th, 31st, 33d, 35th, 38th, and 41st Tennessee), Col. James D. Tillman.
 4th Tennessee (consolidated 2d, 3d, 10th, 15th, 18th, 20th, 26th, 30th, 32d, 37th, and 45th Tennessee, and 23d Tennessee Battalion), Col. Anderson Searcy.

Gist's Brigade.

Col. WILLIAM G. FOSTER.

- 46th Georgia, Capt. Abe Miles.
 65th Georgia and 2d and 8th Georgia Battalions (consolidated), Lient. Col. Zachariah L. Watters.
 16th and 24th South Carolina (consolidated), Maj. B. Burgh Smith.

* From the Department of North Carolina, commanded by General Braxton Bragg.

† All the troops of Cheatham's old corps engaged at Bentonville were commanded by Maj. Gen. William B. Bate.

ARTILLERY BATTALION.

Maj. BASIL C. MANLY.

Louisiana Battery, Capt. William M. Bridges.
 North Carolina Battery, Capt. George B. Atkins.
 South Carolina Battery, Capt. George H. Walter.
 South Carolina Battery, Capt. William E. Zimmerman.
 Virginia Battery (Paris'), Lieut. Thomas M. Tucker.

STEWART'S CORPS.

Lieut. Gen. ALEXANDER P. STEWART.

LORING'S DIVISION.

Maj. Gen. WILLIAM W. LORING.

Featherston's Brigade.

Brig. Gen. WINFIELD S. FEATHERSTON.

1st Arkansas (consolidated 1st and 2d Arkansas Mounted Rifles, and 4th, 9th, and 25th Arkansas Infantry), Col. Henry G. Bunn.
 3d Mississippi (consolidated 3d, 31st, and 40th Mississippi), Col. James M. Stigler.
 22d Mississippi (consolidated 1st, 22d, and 33d Mississippi, and 1st Mississippi Battalion), Col. Martin A. Oatis.
 37th Mississippi, Maj. Q. C. Heidelberg.

Lowry's Brigade.

Brig. Gen. ROBERT LOWRY.

29th Alabama, Maj. Henry B. Turner.

12th Louisiana:

Capt. John A. Dixon.

Lieut. Col. E. M. Graham.

14th Mississippi (consolidated 5th, 14th, and 43d Mississippi), Col. Robert J. Lawrence.

15th Mississippi (consolidated 6th, 15th, 20th, and 23d Mississippi), Lieut. Col. Thomas B. Graham.

Shelley's Brigade.

Brig. Gen. CHARLES M. SHELLEY.

1st Alabama (consolidated 16th, 33d, and 45th Alabama), Col. Robert H. Abercrombie.

17th Alabama, Col. Edward P. Holcombe.

27th Alabama (consolidated 27th, 35th, 49th, 55th, and 57th Alabama), Col. Edward McAlexander.

ANDERSON'S (LATE TALIAFERRO'S) DIVISION.

Maj. Gen. PATTON ANDERSON.

Elliott's Brigade.

Brig. Gen. STEPHEN ELLIOTT, Jr.

Lieut. Col. J. WELSMAN BROWN.

22d Georgia Battalion Artillery, Maj. Mark J. McMullan.

27th Georgia Battalion, Maj. Alfred L. Hartridge.

2d South Carolina Artillery:

Lieut. Col. J. Welsman Brown.

Maj. F. F. Warley.

Manigault's (S. C.) Battalion:

Lieut. H. Klatte.

Capt. Theodore G. Boag.

Rhett's Brigade.

Col. WILLIAM BUTLER.

1st South Carolina (regulars):

Maj. Thomas A. Huguenin.

Lieut. Col. Warren Adams.

1st South Carolina Artillery, Lieut. Col. Joseph A. Yates.

Lucas' (S. C.) Battalion:

Maj. J. Jonathan Lucas.

Capt. Theodore B. Hayne.

WALTHALL'S (LATE M'LAWS') DIVISION.

Maj. Gen. EDWARD C. WALTHALL.

Harrison's Brigade.

Col. GEORGE P. HARRISON, Jr.

- 1st Georgia (regulars), Col. Richard A. Wayne.
- 5th Georgia, Col. Charles P. Daniel.
- 5th Georgia Reserves, Maj. C. E. McGregor.
- 32d Georgia, Lieut. Col. E. H. Bacon, jr.
- 47th Georgia and Bonaud's Battalion.

Conner's Brigade.

Brig. Gen. JOHN D. KENNEDY.

- 2d South Carolina (consolidated 2d and 20th South Carolina and Blanchard's Reserves), Col. William Wallace.
- 3d South Carolina (consolidated 3d and 8th South Carolina, 3d South Carolina Battalion, and Blanchard's Reserves), Col. Eli T. Stackhouse.
- 7th South Carolina (consolidated 7th and 15th South Carolina and Blanchard's Reserves), Col. John B. Davis.

ARTILLERY.

Maj. A. BURNET RHETT.

Georgia Battery:

Capt. Ruel Wooten Anderson.

Lieut. Henry S. Greaves.

Georgia Battery, Capt. John W. Brooks.

Louisiana Battery, Capt. G. LeGardeur, jr.

South Carolina Battery, Capt. Edward L. Parker.

South Carolina Battery, Capt. H. M. Stuart.

Georgia Battery, Capt. John F. Wheaton.

LEE'S CORPS.*

Lieut. Gen. STEPHEN D. LEE.

ESCORT.

Capt. George G. RAGLAND.

HILL'S DIVISION.

Maj. Gen. DANIEL H. HILL.

Sharp's Brigade.

Brig. Gen. JACOB H. SHARP.

- 24th Alabama (consolidated 24th, 28th, and 34th Alabama), Col. John C. Carter.
- 8th Mississippi Battalion (consolidated 5th, 8th, and 32d Mississippi and 3d Mississippi Battalion), Capt. J. Y. Carmack.
- 9th Mississippi (consolidated 9th Battalion Sharpshooters and 7th, 9th, 10th, 41st, and 44th Mississippi), Col. William C. Richards.
- 19th South Carolina (consolidated 10th and 19th South Carolina):
Maj. James O. Ferrell.
Lieut. Col. C. Irvine Walker.

Brantly's Brigade.

Brig. Gen. WILLIAM F. BRANTLY.

- 22d Alabama (consolidated 22d, 25th, 39th, and 50th Alabama), Col. Harry T. Toulmin.
- 37th Alabama (consolidated 37th, 42d, and 54th Alabama), Col. John A. Minter.
- 24th Mississippi (consolidated 24th, 27th, 29th, 30th, and 34th Mississippi), Col. R. W. Williamson.
- 58th North Carolina (consolidated 58th and 60th North Carolina), Lieut. Col. T. Coleman.

*At Bentonville consisted of Stevenson's, Clayton's, and Hill's divisions, commanded by Maj. Gen. D. H. Hill. Col. J. G. Coltart commanded Hill's division.

STEVENSON'S DIVISION.

Maj. Gen. CARTER L. STEVENSON.

Escort.

Lieut. J. L. JOHNSTON.

Henderson's Brigade.

Brig. Gen. ROBERT J. HENDERSON.

1st Georgia Confederate Battalion (consolidated 1st Georgia Confederate, 1st Battalion Georgia Sharpshooters, 25th, 29th, 30th, and 66th Georgia), Capt. W. J. Whitsitt.

39th Georgia (consolidated 34th, 39th, and part of the 56th Georgia):

Lieut. Col. William P. Milton.

Col. Charles H. Phinzy.

40th Georgia Battalion (consolidated 40th, 41st, and 43d Georgia):

Lieut. W. H. Darnall.

Capt. James E. Stallings.

42d Georgia (consolidated 36th and 42d Georgia, and parts of 34th and 56th Georgia),

Lieut. Col. Lovick P. Thomas.

Pettus' Brigade.

Brig. Gen. EDMUND W. PETTUS.

19th Alabama, Lieut. Col. Ezekiah S. Guley.

20th Alabama, Lieut. Col. James K. Elliott.

23d Alabama, Maj. James T. Hester.

54th Virginia Battalion, Lieut. Col. Connally H. Lynch.

ARTILLERY.

South Carolina Battery, Capt. J. T. Kanapaux.

CAVALRY CORPS.

Lieut. Gen. WADE HAMPTON.

Consisted of Lieut. Gen. Joseph Wheeler's corps and the division of Maj. Gen. M. C. Butler, embracing, in part, the following-named organizations:

1st Alabama.
3d Alabama.
51st Alabama, Col. M. L. Kirkpatrick.
1st Georgia.
2d Georgia.
3d Georgia.
4th Georgia.
5th Georgia, Col. Edward Bird.
6th Georgia.
12th Georgia, Capt. James H. Graham.
1st Tennessee, Col. James T. Wheeler.
2d Tennessee, Col. Henry M. Ashby.
4th Tennessee, Col. Baxter Smith.
5th Tennessee, Col. George W. McKenzie.
8th Tennessee.
9th Tennessee Battalion, Maj. James H. Akin.

3d Arkansas, Maj. William H. Blackwell.
3d Confederate.
8th Confederate, Lieut. Col. John S. Prather.
10th Confederate.
1st Kentucky.
3d Kentucky.
9th Kentucky.
8th Texas.
11th Texas.
Allison's Squadron.
Hart's (South Carolina) battery, Capt. E. Lindsley Halsey.
South Carolina Battery, Capt. William E. Earle.

Logan's Brigade.

Brig. Gen. T. M. LOGAN.

1st South Carolina.
4th South Carolina.
5th South Carolina.
6th South Carolina.
19th South Carolina Battalion.
Phillips (Georgia) Legion, Maj. W. W. Thomas.

Jeff. Davis Legion, Col. J. Fred. Waring.
Cobb's (Georgia) Legion, Capt. R. Bill Roberts.
10th Georgia, Capt. Edwin W. Moise.

(The division and brigade commanders mentioned in General Wheeler's official report of the campaign are W. Y. C. Humes, William W. Allen, Robert H. Anderson, Moses W. Hannon, James Hagan, George G. Dibrell, Felix H. Robertson, Thomas Harrison, Henry M. Ashby, and Charles C. Crews.)

UNATTACHED TROOPS.

Artillery Battalion, Maj. Joseph Palmer.
 South Carolina Battery, Capt. James I. Kelly.
 Swett's (Mississippi) Battery, Lieut. H. Shannon.
 Florida Battery, Capt. Henry F. Abell.
 10th North Carolina, Company I, Capt. Thomas J. Southerland.
 3d North Carolina Battalion Artillery, Maj. John W. Moore.
 13th North Carolina Battalion Artillery, Lieut. Col. Joseph B. Starr.
 Pioneer Regiment, Col. Julius G. Tucker.
 Naval Brigade, Rear-Admiral Raphael Semmes.

No. 286.

Tabular statement of officers and men of the Confederate Army paroled at Greensborough, N. C., and other points, in accordance with the military convention of April 26, 1865.

[Compiled from parole lists and reports.]

Commands, etc.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Aggregate.
Generals Johnston and Beauregard and staff departments, escorts, &c., Army of Tennessee	204	471	675
Major-General Lomax and staff, and unattached officers and men of the Army of Northern Virginia.	71	62	133
HARDEE'S CORPS.			
Lieutenant-General Hardee, staff, and headquarters attachés.....	40	161	201
Reserve artillery (Kemper's).....	53	520	573
Patients in Hospital No. 3.....	22	110	132
Brown's division.....	346	3,210	3,556
Hoke's division.....	208	1,389	1,597
Cheatham's division.....	292	2,711	3,003
Total Hardee's corps.....	961	8,101	9,062
STEWART'S CORPS.			
Lieutenant-General Stewart, staff, and headquarters attachés.....	23	85	108
Walthall's division.....	260	3,252	3,512
Loring's division.....	271	2,307	2,578
Anderson's division.....	185	2,441	2,626
Total Stewart's corps.....	739	8,085	8,824
LEE'S CORPS.			
Lieutenant-General Lee, staff, and headquarters attachés.....	33	83	116
Hill's division.....	200	1,293	1,493
Stevenson's division.....	317	3,050	3,367
Total Lee's corps.....	550	4,426	4,976
CAVALRY CORPS.			
Brigadier-General Allen, staff, and headquarters attachés.....	13	47	60
Butler's division.....	162	2,284	2,446
Total cavalry corps.....	175	2,331	2,506
Semmes' naval brigade.....	63	176	239
Foute's command.....	43	21	64
Total naval forces.....	106	197	303
Medical officers, attendants, and patients in hospitals.....	135	867	1,002
Unattached artillery.....	61	1,191	1,252
Detachments reporting to commander of post at Greensborough, N. C.	147	570	717
Miscellaneous paroles at Greensborough, N. C.....	65	463	528
General Samuel Cooper, adjutant and inspector general, and Brigadier-General Colquitt and staff.....	7		7
Miscellaneous paroles at Salisbury, N. C.....	279	2,708	2,987
Miscellaneous paroles at Charlotte, N. C.....	386	3,029	4,015
Miscellaneous paroles at various places in North Carolina and South Carolina.....	293	1,732	2,025
Grand total.....	4,179	34,833	39,012

No. 287.

*Reports of Lieut. Gen. William J. Hardee, C. S. Army, of operations
January 2-March 22.*

CHARLESTON, *January 2, 1865.*

(Received 11.10 p. m.)

The enemy have landed in force on the Georgia [Carolina] side of the Savannah River and are driving in our pickets toward Hardeeville.

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

General S. COOPER.

—
CHARLESTON, *January 3, 1865.*

(Received 7.10.)

The telegram of yesterday should have read: The enemy have landed on the Carolina side of the Savannah.

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

General S. COOPER.

—
CHARLESTON, *January 5, 1865.*

(Received 2 o'clock.)

Enemy in front of Hardeeville quiet yesterday. It is impracticable to ascertain their force yet.

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

General S. COOPER.

—
CHARLESTON, *January 6, 1865.*

(Received 4.20 7th.)

Major-General Wheeler reports that the enemy crossed New River bridge yesterday, moving toward Grahamville. Force not ascertained.

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

General S. COOPER.

—
CHARLESTON, *January 11, 1865.*

I have more than 1,500 cavalry under Brigadier-General Iverson, on the Georgia side of the Savannah River. This force was operating [sic] Savannah River, scarcity of forage compelling the main body to fall back to — Creek. Iverson has orders to watch Kilpatrick, and follow him if he should move into Southwestern Georgia. No movement of the enemy to report.

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

President DAVIS.

CHARLESTON, *January 14, 1865.*

The following telegram received from Major-General McLaws, dated 6 a. m. to-day:

Enemy reported in large force a few miles from the landing at Port Royal Ferry.

To-night he telegraphs:

I am endeavoring to evacuate my position. Enemy are immediately in our front. They drove our cavalry so rapidly that it was with difficulty I could send artillery and infantry to impede their advance. They are now checked at Old Pocotaligo. My troops are being moved from the right toward Coosawhatchie. Should the enemy succeed in crossing the Combahee we will have but a short line to Midway or Branchville. I go to the front to-morrow.

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

His Excellency President JEFFERSON DAVIS.

(Copy to General R. E. Lee.)

CHARLESTON, *January 16, 1865—9 a. m.*

(Received 6 o'clock 17th.)

I returned this morning from Salkehatchie bridge, where I found McLaws, who fell back Saturday night behind that stream. He could not give me any very satisfactory information of the enemy. They appeared in front of the bridge, but not in force. My impression is they will pass up the right bank of that stream to Broxton's or Rivers' Bridge, which by passing they will be in a day's march of the railroad. The enemy came in heavy force from Port Royal Ferry.

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

General S. COOPER.

CHARLESTON, *January 17, 1865.*

(Received 5 o'clock 18th.)

Enemy seems to be concentrating at Pocotaligo. A force reported to be moving up the Coosawhatchie. Nothing from General Wheeler to-day.

W. J. HARDEE.

General S. COOPER.

CHARLESTON, *January 18, 1865.*

(Received 2 o'clock.)

On the night of the 15th instant one of the enemy's monitors was sunk by the explosion of a torpedo about 1,000 yards from Fort Sumter. It is believed that most of the crew perished. Two boats are still lashed to the monitor, and it is supposed that but one boat's crew escaped.

W. J. HARDEE.

General S. COOPER.

CHARLESTON, *January 22, 1865.*

(Received 11 o'clock 24th.)

There are ten monitors inside the bar, an increase of four. No movements of the enemy on the Salkehatchie. I hear indirectly of the arrival of troops at Kingsland, but have received nothing official on the subject.

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

General S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General.

CHARLESTON, *January 27, 1865.*

(Received 7.40 o'clock.)

A gun-boat of enemy, in attempting to pass Battery Point, on the Combahee, yesterday, got aground. One of our batteries opened upon and succeeded in burning her. The crew, except one officer and four men, who were captured, made their escape. Major-General Wheeler reports a force of enemy near Springfield, Ga., moving on Augusta road, and Fourteenth Army Corps, eight miles south of that place, also on Augusta road.

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

General S. COOPER.

CHARLESTON, *January 28, 1865.*

(Received 11.30 29th.)

Enemy crossed at Springfield night of 26th, and moved northward in two columns on morning [of] 27th.

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

General S. COOPER.

CHARLESTON, *January 29, 1865.*

(Received 10 o'clock.)

Enemy have failed so far in all attempts to cross the Combahee. Indications are that the Fifteenth and Seventeenth Corps, now in Carolina, will cross the Savannah and unite with the column moving toward Augusta.

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

General S. COOPER.

BRANCHVILLE, *February 4, 1865.*

(Received 12 o'clock.)

Wheeler reports enemy moving up the right bank of the Salkehatchie northwardly toward Fiddle Pond.

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

General S. COOPER.

CHARLESTON, *February 6, 1865.*

Wheeler telegraphs from —, near Springtown, at 2.15 p. m. to-day, that he is skirmishing with enemy on Little Salkehatchie. Wright, that he is skirmishing with him at Combahee.

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

His Excellency JEFFERSON DAVIS.

CHARLESTON, *February 6, 1865.*

(Received 7th.)

Up to 12 o'clock last night no serious advance upon the South Carolina Railroad between Augusta and Branchville from the Salkehatchie River.

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

General S. COOPER.

CHARLESTON, *February 8, 1865—10 p. m.*

(Received 5 p. m. 9th.)

The enemy appeared at railroad bridge near Branchville to-day; also at New Bridge, five miles below, and at Binnaker's and Holman's Bridges, above. No serious effort made to cross the Edisto. Enemy have driven our forces from railroad bridge over Salkehatchie and are active at Combahee Ferry. Nothing heard from Wheeler to-day.

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

President DAVIS.

CHARLESTON, S. C., *February 10, 1865.*

(Received 11.20 p. m.)

The enemy has crossed the South Edisto at Binnaker's Bridge. Stevenson has concentrated his force on North Edisto to oppose him. Wheeler telegraphs that General Allen, having informed him that enemy is moving on Augusta, he is going with all his available forces to Aiken to meet him. Enemy's gun-boats have left the Tugaloo. Enemy repulsed to-day by General Wright. This morning enemy crossed from Dixon house and Battery Island to James Island, and are now in front of our works in some force; one monitor in Stono. The enemy have kept up constant fire to-day, but on city.

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

His Excellency President DAVIS.

(Same to General Beauregard.)

CHARLESTON, *February 11, 1865—9 p. m.*

(Received 1 p. m. 13th.)

The enemy last evening drove in our pickets on James Island. The lines have been re-established to-day. The enemy are still in strong

force on the island, but the movement is believed to be a demonstration. There is an increase to-day of eighteen steamers off the bar. A barge attack made to-night upon Battery Simkins was repulsed.

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

General S. COOPER.

CHARLESTON, *February 12, 1865—10 a. m.*

(Received 12.45 13th.)

I have just returned from Orangeburg and Branchville. It is believed the enemy is in heavy force between the Capler* and South Fork of Edisto, near Orangeburg and about it. Is not certain whether enemy intend going to Columbia or to Charleston. Enemy not in force near Branchville or below. All quiet on water front this morning.

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

President DAVIS.

CHARLESTON, *February 12, 1865.*

(Received 5.20 13th.)

Wright has been withdrawn from the Ashpoo across the Edisto, and the enemy having crossed the North Edisto near Orangeburg, McLaws is retiring from Branchville to the line of Four-Hole Swamp. Sixteen transports appeared in Bul's Bay to-day.

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

General S. COOPER.

CHARLESTON, *February 15, 1865.*

(Received 16th.)

Since my dispatch of this date General Beauregard has reiterated evacuation of Charleston. I will accordingly proceed with the movement.

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

President DAVIS.

KINGSTREE, *February 19, 1865.*

Charleston was successfully evacuated Friday night and Saturday morning.

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

General S. COOPER.

HDQRS. DEPT. OF SOUTH CAROLINA, GEORGIA, AND FLORIDA,
Charac, S. C., February 26, 1865—2 p. m.

GENERAL: Your dispatches have been received and your instructions will be carried out as far as practicable. The movements of the enemy indicate an intention of going either to Darlington, Florence, or

* Cipher.

this place. I think it probable he is making for Florence or Darlington. I regret to inform you that I met with great difficulty and delay in crossing the wagons, artillery, and troops across the Santee. McLaws' division is all here except a brigade which was left at Florence, under Colonel Hardy, to protect that place until the troops, wagons, and artillery have passed. I sent instructions yesterday to General Taliaferro urgently directing him to press forward to this place with the utmost expedition. I expect a portion of his command to-night, and most, perhaps all of it, may be here before the enemy shall cut the road. Much of our artillery and most of the wagons are still in rear. I have directed all those which may arrive at Florence to-day and after to remain at that place until the movements of the enemy are developed, and if the command should be compelled to fall back, to move with it. Instructions have been sent to Col. W. M. Hardy, also to General Taliaferro, if unable by movements of the enemy to join me here, to fall back toward the Santee, and to rejoin me by Sumterville and Camden.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

P. S.—It is proper I should add that more of my cavalry has come up. It was the last to cross, being kept in rear to guard the crossing of the Santee. Another cause of delay and embarrassment arises from a heavy rise in the Great Pedee and its tributaries, which has carried away some important bridges on the route, thus causing the wagons and artillery to go much out of the way to reach this place. The lack of cavalry is much felt, as I am unable to learn the movements of the enemy.

W. J. HARDEE.

General G. T. BEAUREGARD,
Commanding Military Division of the West.

[Indorsement.]

FEBRUARY 27, 1865.

Respectfully furnished Lieutenant-General Hampton.

Nothing has yet been received from General Cheatham since he was heard of between Newberry and Unionville.

Respectfully,

JNO. M. OTEY,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

CHERAW, February 28, 1865—12 m.

GENERAL: Since my dispatch to you yesterday I learn from Major-General Butler that the Seventeenth Army Corps crossed yesterday at Young's Bridge, on Lynch's Creek, and that the Fifteenth and Seventeenth Army Corps are marching on this place. His dispatch was dated at 6 p. m. yesterday at Kellytown. General Butler stated his intention of moving last night, so as to get between Cheraw and the enemy. I regret to state that the troops I mentioned as being in rear, and which I expected here last night with the artillery, have not arrived. There has been no arrival of trains since yesterday afternoon. I have sent down an engine to learn the cause. I do not apprehend that the road is cut, but that there has been some collision I have no doubt. This road, like all others in the Confederacy, is wretchedly

managed. With proper management I ought to have had everything here by this time. I have serious apprehensions that the troops in rear will not reach here before I am compelled to evacuate the place. This matter gives me serious concern, but I have the satisfaction of feeling that I have used every exertion and taken every precaution to insure their safety. A rapid march of the enemy will bring him here to-morrow. If he takes the direct road to this place I shall oppose him at Thompson's Creek.

With high respect, your obedient servant,

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

General J. E. JOHNSTON.

Since writing a train with troops has arrived and I have reason to hope that those behind, the track being now open, will soon be here.

W. J. H.

HEADQUARTERS,

[March] 3, 1865. (Via Fayetteville 4th.)

GENERAL: The enemy changed position yesterday. Advanced on Chesterfield Court-House and crossed Thompson's Creek above that point late in the afternoon. I am evacuating Cheraw and shall move to Rockingham, where I hope to receive your instructions. General Butler thinks army of Sherman is moving on this place or on Rockingham.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

General JOHNSTON.

HDQRS. DEPT. OF S. CAROLINA, GEORGIA, AND FLORIDA,
Near McKinnon's, Thirty-four Miles from Fayetteville,
March 7, 1865—9 p. m.

GENERAL: Your dispatch of this date received. I had already informed you, in repeated dispatches, of my change of route toward Fayetteville and the progress of my march. My supply train and reserve artillery moved by Carthage road and reached Carthage to-night. I have ordered Major-General Butler to ascertain the position and movements of the enemy's columns, and to keep directly in front of their line of march. I have heard nothing from General Butler to-day. He should be on the Graham's Bridge road.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. J. HARDEE,
Major-General.

General J. E. JOHNSTON.

NEAR SMITH'S FERRY, March 15 [16], 1865—3.30 p. m.

The enemy are passing me so closely that I cannot withdraw until night. It would be well for you to send a force to Elevation. It would insure my forming a junction with you.

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

General J. E. JOHNSTON,
Smithfield.

MARCH 16, 1865—4.30 p. m.

The enemy have made repeated attempts to carry my lines and turn my flanks, but have been repulsed in every attempt. I shall retire toward Smithfield to-night. General Hampton says the enemy have crossed Black River at several places, and urges me to move rapidly to prevent being intercepted. Have you any force you could move from Smithfield to Elevation?

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

General JOHNSTON, *Smithfield.*

HEADQUARTERS,
*Five Miles from Averagesborough, on Averagesborough
and Smithfield Road, March 17, 1865—1 a. m.*

GENERAL: There was little important fighting after my dispatch to you of 4.30 p. m. 16th instant. My loss is between 400 and 500. Among the missing is Colonel Rhett, commanding brigade, and among the killed Lieut. Col. Robert De Treville. Enemy's loss not known, but believed to be heavy. Two pieces of artillery were abandoned, the limber of one being blown off and the horses of both killed. Your dispatch of 4 p. m., countermanding the movement to Smithfield upon certain conditions, was received at 11 p. m., too late to arrest the movement. My trains had gone on to Elevation. I can, however, if you think it best, move from that point to Raleigh.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

General JOHNSTON.

NEAR BLACK RIVER, *March 17, 1865—4.30 a. m.*

GENERAL: Your dispatch of 10 p. m. just received. The enemy has crossed Black River just above Mingo Creek, and at all, or nearly all, the crossings below. General Hampton says all the army has crossed except the Fourteenth Corps and one division of the Twentieth Corps, which were on the plank road, and which we fought yesterday. General Hampton promised to send you direct all the information of the enemy, else I would have been more particular. General Wheeler came to my assistance late yesterday afternoon and rendered valuable service. He is now in my rear with 500 or 600 men, and will ascertain whether the force on the plank road goes to Raleigh or crosses Black River. I hope to get my command to Elevation by 12 o'clock. The roads are almost impassable. At 1 o'clock Wheeler writes: "The enemy had not discovered my movement, but were busily engaged fortifying."

Respectfully,

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

General JOHNSTON.

NEAR BLACK RIVER, *March 17, 1865—7 a. m.*

GENERAL: I dispatched you this morning at 4.30 o'clock, giving you the information you desire respecting the movements of the enemy,

particularly the points at which they crossed Black River. The highest point at which they crossed was at Smith's Mill, half a mile above Mingo Creek. The other crossings were below. General Hampton reports all Sherman's army across Black River except the Fourteenth Corps and one division of the Twentieth Corps, which he stated was on the plank road. You inquire about the location of Elevation. My map places it midway between Averbosborough and Smithfield, and at the intersection of the road running between these two places with the road running from Smith's Ferry to Raleigh. I have not heard from Wheeler since 1 a. m.

Very respectfully,

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

General JOHNSTON.

P. S.—Hampton believes the enemy moving on Goldsborough.

W. J. HARDEE.

HEADQUARTERS,
March 17 [18[?]], 1865—8.50 a. m.

COLONEL: Your order directing me to put my command in motion immediately for Bentonville has just been received. It will be promptly obeyed, but I am ignorant of the road you designate, and that must first be found. I have instructed Wheeler to report the movements of the enemy, both to you and to me. Inform me whenever General Johnston changes his headquarters.

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

Colonel ANDERSON,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

ELEVATION, March 17, 1865—1 p. m.

GENERAL: I did not design moving beyond this point, but I find the map is incorrect and that the intersection of the roads is not at this point, but two miles nearer Smithfield, to which place I am moving. I do not believe the enemy is moving on Raleigh; if so, the force which has crossed Black River must come to this intersection, as there is no other road east of Black River on which he can move. I will endeavor to obtain all the information I can in reference to bridges, &c., on the road to Raleigh, and if the enemy should move there will keep in front of him. I send you a dispatch from Wheeler. To-day will develop the purposes of the enemy.

Very respectfully,

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

General JOHNSTON.

P. S.—Your order relative to McLaws has been received. I instructed General Hampton to send General McLaws to me; he has not come. I have thought it best not to mention the order to any one till McLaws arrives.

W. J. H.

SNEED'S HOUSE, *March 18, 1865—9.50 p. m.*

GENERAL: This house is five miles from Bentonville. My command is about a mile in rear. I shall start at 4 o'clock, so as to reach Bentonville at an early hour in the morning. I did not reach camp till after dark, but if it be necessary I can start my command at an earlier hour. Major Poole, who will deliver this dispatch, will give you all the news respecting the enemy.

Respectfully,

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

General JOHNSTON.

EN ROUTE, *March 22, 1865—3 p. m.*

GENERAL: I have McLaws on the road, which I learn from Captain Feilden, you intended the troops to take. Taliaferro on this wretched road, which I have been working on and pulling wagons through all the morning. If you have no objections I will continue with the wagons on this road and take Taliaferro's division with me. If you approve, please order McLaws forward from his present position at such time as you may judge fit. The road I am on is the road you traveled from Smithfield to Bentonville.

Very respectfully,

W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

General JOHNSTON.

The wagons on this road must go forward, as they can't be turned back.

W. J. H.

A D D E N D A .

HEADQUARTERS HARRISON'S BRIGADE,
February 3, 1865.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report the number of casualties in the detachment from my brigade under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Bacon, Thirty-second Georgia Infantry, in the engagement of the 3d instant at Rivers' Bridge:

Command.	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.	Total.
32d Georgia Infantry	5	27	10	42
47th Georgia Infantry	1	8	34	43
5th Georgia Reserves	1	8	1	10
Earle's battery	1	1	.....	2
Total	8	44	45	97

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. P. HARRISON, JR.
Colonel, Commanding.

Report of prisoners captured at Bentonville, N. C., on March 19, 20, and 21, 1865, by Hardee's corps, given in obedience to circular from army headquarters dated March 26, 1865.

Prisoners captured.

Command.	Mar. 19.	Mar. 20.	Mar. 21.	Total.
Hoke's division	9	12	.....	21
McLaws' division .....	.....	.....	.....	87
Taliaferro's division	6	.....	.....	6
Total .....	.....	.....	.....	114

Respectfully submitted.

T. B. ROY,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 288.

Reports of General Braxton Bragg, C. S. Army, of operations February 21-March 15.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA,
Rockfish Creek, Duplin County, February 25, 1865.

COLONEL: On my arrival at Wilmington on the 21st from Richmond, having delayed a few hours at Raleigh and Goldsborough on important official business, I found the enemy had driven our forces from the west bank of the Cape Fear, and were in full possession opposite the town.

The corps under Major-General Terry, engaged in the capture of Fort Fisher, had been re-enforced by Major-General Schofield's corps from Tennessee, making a total of nearly 20,000. Our own force, of all arms, did not exceed 6,500 effectives, including reserves and cavalry. Holding his intrenched position in front of Hoke, on the east of the river, General Schofield moved with a corps to Smithville, and then by a land march west of Orton Pond, turned our position at Fort Anderson, compelling Brigadier-General Hagood, with his garrison of 2,000, to abandon the work or be cut off and forced to surrender. He fought his way to Wilmington successfully, losing about 350 of his command. This rendered our continued occupation of the town very hazardous to the whole command, at the same time that we were very much embarrassed to save our stores on account of the large number of the enemy's prisoners forwarded for delivery, the Federal commander having refused to receive them. By the active and efficient operation of the Weldon and Wilmington Railroad, we succeeded in getting off all the prisoners able to travel and all important stores. Some naval stores and a small lot of cotton and tobacco were destroyed by fire. These could have been saved but for the occupation of the trains in carrying prisoners. No doubt some of the articles mentioned were secreted in small quantities in private houses, but the amount was inconsiderable.

Before daylight on the 22d I withdrew the troops successfully to the north side of the Northeast River. The pursuit of the enemy was feeble, owing, no doubt, to his occupation at the time, as we since learn, in throwing a corps by way of Masonborough Sound to gain our rear, and thus cut off our only route of retreat.

Our main force is now located here, with the cavalry in advance at Northeast River, where the enemy has finally, under General Grant's orders, consented to receive the prisoners. Instructions have been given to bring them forward as rapidly as possible. A detachment has been sent over to obstruct the navigation of the Cape Fear as far as practicable, and if possible prevent troops from ascending by steamers. The river is in fine navigable order, however, and I fear we cannot long save the arsenal, the enemy having quite a number of light-draught boats above the obstructions.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 BRAXTON BRAGG,
General.

Lieut. Col. W. H. TAYLOR,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Hdqrs. Army of Northern Va.

P. S.—At the time General Schofield reached Fort Fisher, Brigadier-General Meagher, with one brigade, certainly, and probably two, reached Beaufort and proceeded immediately to New Berne.

B. B.

—
 GOLDSBOROUGH, *March 6, 1865—3 p. m.*

The enemy's advance was this morning nine miles from Kinston. They are in heavy force and moving in confidence. A few hours would suffice to unite the forces at Smithfield with mine and insure a victory.

BRAXTON BRAGG,
General.

General J. E. JOHNSTON, *Fayetteville.*

—
 GOLDSBOROUGH, *March 7, 1865—11 a. m.*

General Hoke, at Kinston, thinks Schofield in his front. A deserter from the enemy yesterday also makes this report. I go down immediately, having arranged to bring on troops rapidly. No delay will occur in making an issue.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

General J. E. JOHNSTON, *Fayetteville.*

—
 NEAR KINSTON, *March 8, 1865—7 p. m.*

We attacked the enemy to-day about four miles in front of Kinston, and drove him from his position. He disputed the ground obstinately, and now confronts us about three miles from his original line. We captured three pieces of artillery and several hundred prisoners. The number of his dead and wounded left on the field is large. Our own loss, under Providence, is comparatively small. Major-Generals Hill and Hoke have exhibited their usual zeal, energy, and gallantry in achieving this result. Our troops behaved most handsomely.

(The above portion of this dispatch sent to General Lee, Petersburg, Va., and Colonel Sale, assistant adjutant-general, Department of North Carolina, Goldsborough. The whole sent to General J. E. Johnston.)

Schofield is not in our front. Major-General Cox, from Western Virginia, is reported by prisoners to be in command, with three divisions.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

General J. E. JOHNSTON, *Fayetteville, N. C.*

NEAR KINSTON, *March 10, 1865—3.45 p. m.*

The enemy is strongly intrenched in the position to which we drove him. Yesterday and to-day we have moved on his flanks, but without gaining any decided advantage. His line is extensive, and prisoners report large re-enforcements. Under these conditions I deem it best, with the information you give, to join you, which I shall proceed to do, unless otherwise directed.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

General J. E. JOHNSTON,
Raleigh.

NEAR KINSTON, *March 10, 1865—5 p. m.*

My cavalry is retreating before a heavy column of the enemy now in Onslow County, moving from Wilmington on my right and rear. Deserters from Wilmington confirm this report.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

General J. E. JOHNSTON,
Raleigh.

NEAR KINSTON, *March 10, 1865—6 p. m.*

There is no doubt about the movement of a heavy column from Wilmington in this direction. Will you have any means of delaying Sherman so as to enable me to save supplies, or must the junction be immediate?

BRAXTON BRAGG.

General J. E. JOHNSTON,
Raleigh.

GOLDSBOROUGH, *March 13, 1865—10.30 a. m.*

Your dispatch received. My troops are all here and ready, except rear guard at Kinston. The enemy had not appeared there last night.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

General J. E. JOHNSTON,
Raleigh.

NEAR SMITHFIELD, *March 14, 1865—2.15 p. m.*

I encamp at Smithfield to-night. Tennessee troops are all up. My own will be up to-morrow. The enemy had not advanced on Kinston last night.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

General J. E. JOHNSTON,
Raleigh.

SMITHFIELD, *March 15, 1865—8.30 a. m.*

Enemy reported last night as having crossed at Kinston in small force. Your dispatch received placing me in command here.

BRAXTON BRAGG,

General.

General J. E. JOHNSTON,
Raleigh.

A D D E N D A .

Return of casualties in Hoke's division, Department of North Carolina, March 19-22, 1865.

Command.	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.	Aggregate.
March 19:				
Clingman's brigade	1	18	1	20
Colquitt's brigade	33	163	18	214
Hagood's brigade	4	127	139	270
Kirkland's brigade	3	41	13	57
Nethercutt's brigade	3	18	7	28
Starr's artillery	1	3		4
Total	45	370	178	593
March 20:				
Clingman's brigade		1	1	2
Colquitt's brigade		1	1	2
Hagood's brigade		8		8
Kirkland's brigade	2	28	14	44
Nethercutt's brigade		5		5
Starr's artillery		1		1
Total	2	44	16	62
March 21:				
Clingman's brigade	2	16		18
Colquitt's brigade	7	13	2	22
Hagood's brigade	1	17		18
Kirkland's brigade	2	7	3	12
Nethercutt's brigade	2	5	1	8
Total	14	58	6	78
March 22:				
Clingman's brigade		1		1
Colquitt's brigade	1	1	2	4
Nethercutt's brigade		1		1
Total	1	3	2	6
Grand total	62	475	202	739

Respectfully submitted.

BRAXTON BRAGG,
General, Commanding.

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA,
Near Smithfield, March 23, 1865.

No. 289.

*Itinerary of Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Cheatham's corps.**

Friday, January 27.—Took the cars for Meridian, reaching that place early on the morning of the 28th.

Saturday, January 28.—Took cars for Demopolis; ran off the track when we had gone about fourteen miles and remained on the side of the road the rest of the day and that night.

Sunday, January 29.—Started again and reached Demopolis late in the afternoon. Here we took the train for Selma, but when within fourteen miles of that place and about 11 o'clock at night, our engine ran off the track and we did not get away until the night of

Monday, January 30.—Made Selma; and on the following morning, Tuesday, January 31, we transferred our baggage and horses to the packet Southern Republic, which started for Montgomery that night.

* From journal kept by Maj. Henry Hampton, acting assistant adjutant-general.

Wednesday, February 1.—Reached Montgomery about 2 p. m., where we remained until the morning of Friday, February 3, when we took the cars for Columbus, reaching that place before night.

Saturday, February 4.—Our baggage and horses were sent on and the general and most of the staff laid over a day, which was passed most agreeably with Mrs. W.

Sunday, February 5.—Left Columbus at daylight and arrived at Macon about 4.30 p. m.

Monday, February 6.—Left Macon at 8 a. m. and arrived at Midway about 2 p. m., and an hour later moved in wagons and on horseback to Milledgeville, one mile and a half distant, where we stayed all night.

Tuesday, February 7.—Left Milledgeville in a storm of rain and rode horseback twenty-five miles, bivouacking near Colonel Lane's, two miles from Sparta.

Wednesday, February 8.—Started again at sunrise and completed the balance of the break on the Macon and Milledgeville Railroad, some twelve miles, reaching Mayfield Station at 12 m., and leaving there on the train at 4 p. m., we reached Camak Station, on the Georgia railroad, just after night.

Thursday, February 9.—Taking the first train which came along, about 10 a. m., we arrived at Augusta about 5 p. m. Stayed near the depot all night, and on the morning of

Friday, February 10.—We moved across the river into South Carolina, making our quarters at the Widow Mayer's, one mile from the bridge.

Saturday, February 11.—Was spent by the general and most of the staff present in examining the country about Bath Mills and vicinity.

Sunday, February 12.—The enemy near Aiken, seventeen miles from Augusta. Wheeler fighting them.

Monday, February 13.—The enemy reported retreating, or, rather, falling back, from Aiken, and orders from General Beauregard for General C[heatham] to move with his corps to Columbia, S. C., at once.

Tuesday, February 14.—Stationary, but preparing to move.

Wednesday, February 15.—Left our quarters at Mrs. Mayer's this morning and marched twenty miles, stopping at Banskett's Mills, twenty-one miles from Augusta.

Thursday, February 16.—Left our quarters at Banskett's Mills and marched to Mr. Norris', twenty miles.

Friday, February 17.—Started from Norris' about sunrise. Learning that the enemy had gotten between us and Columbia on the road we were traveling, it became necessary to make a considerable detour to the left and make for McNary's Ferry, on the Saluda, which point the head of the column reached about 3 p. m. As there was but one raft at this ferry, Smith's division, with the artillery, crossed here, and Bate's division went to Holly's Ferry, three miles below. By 2.30 a. m. the next day everything was across. Our quarters for the night at Mrs. Wise's, three-quarters of a mile this side.

Saturday, February 18.—In motion again by sunrise, reaching Frog Level Station, on the Greenville railroad, a distance of seven miles, by 1 p. m.; the troops camped two miles beyond, and our quarters for the night at ——. Quite a lot of commissary stores were found here, which were issued and shipped off. The enemy being between us and Columbia, General Beauregard directs that we cross the Broad River at a point above Newberry.

Sunday, February 19.—Leaving Frog Level about 8 a. m., we marched to Newberry Court-House, eight miles distant, reaching it at 11. Here we also found a quantity of stores, which were shipped off up the road.

Monday, February 20.—Still at Newberry, but orders issued to move to-morrow, General Beauregard directing a concentration at Charlotte, N. C., if not at some point farther south. Quarters at Mr. Fair's.

Tuesday, February 21.—Started at daylight and marched twenty-one miles to the Ennoree River. Received dispatch from General B[eauregard] that evening to the effect that that route was not practicable, and to cross Broad River and cut across Sherman's track, behind him, for Wilmington, N. C.

Wednesday, February 22.—Marched back again to Newberry and quartered at Mr. Fair's.

Thursday, February 23.—Troops took cars at Newberry and came to Pomaria, seventeen miles below; portion of staff came horseback. Break on railroad and General C[heatham] not able to get down until the morning of Friday, February 24, which day and the following, being Saturday, February 25, we remained stationary.

Sunday, February 26.—Left Pomaria and traveled ten miles over roads made exceedingly bad by two days' hard rains. Our quarters that night at Mr. Caldwell's.

Monday, February 27.—Left Caldwell's this morning and marched to Odle's Church, seventeen miles. Quarters at Mr. Watson's. Generals Lowrey and Loring joined us to-day with the troops they brought from the rear.

Tuesday, February 28, and Wednesday, March 1.—At Mrs. Watson's. No boats at the ferry, and had to build some.

Thursday, March 2.—Crossed the Ennoree at Jones' Ferry and marched nearly to Unionville. Our quarters at Mrs. Young's, four miles from Unionville.

Friday, March 3.—Moved through Unionville and marched to Skeift's Ferry, on Broad River. Our quarters at Colonel Gist's.

Saturday, March 4.—Spent at Colonel Gist's. General Stewart's corps not yet crossed. Our infantry all over by night.

Sunday, March 5.—Crossed ourselves after everything was over and marched to within three miles and a half of Chester Court-House. Quarters at Mrs. Hardin's.

Monday, March 6.—Moved into Chester this morning and made our quarters at Colonel Brown's. From this time till the following Saturday time passed—I scarcely know how; I took no note of it. * * * It became necessary to follow on after the troops, all of which had taken the cars at this point en route for Smithfield, where we will probably concentrate our strength, and on the afternoon of Saturday—

March 11.—We left Chester and reached Charlotte, N. C., forty-five miles, that night about 11 o'clock. Here we remained until the morning of Sunday, March 12, when we got up steam and made Salisbury, forty-five miles distant, by 4.30 p. m. Here we unloaded and, as a day or two will probably elapse before we can get off, took quarters at Major Smith's and Mr. Murphy's, where remained until Sunday, March 19, when we again took the cars. Our detention at Salisbury was occasioned by a difference in the gauge of the railroad tracks, which necessitated a change of cars, and a scarcity of rolling-stock.

Monday, March 20.—Reached Smithfield Depot this afternoon about 5 o'clock, unloaded our train, and bivouacked on the side of the railroad.

Tuesday, March 21.—Left the station this morning for the army, which we reached about 2 p. m., and found it skirmishing sharply with the enemy. Just after we reached General Johnston's quarters the Seventeenth Army Corps endeavored to get in on our left, but were handsomely driven from the field by our cavalry and infantry.

Wednesday, March 22.—This morning the army fell back a short distance, just this side of Mill Creek, and formed line again. The enemy followed to the bridge, which they succeeded in capturing, but came no farther. We remained in this position until the afternoon, when the entire army withdrew and moved across the Neuse, not far from Smithfield.

Thursday, March 23.—Stationary; some of the army moving in the direction of Raleigh. Sherman, after his failure, is supposed to have gone off toward Goldsborough.

Friday, March 24.—Moved this morning from our bivouac through Smithfield and about four miles north of Smithfield Station, on the Halifax road.

April 1.—Doctor Bowers left us.

April 4.—Captain Clark returned.

Saturday, April 8, and Sunday, April 9.—Employed in consolidating regiments, companies, &c.

Monday, April 10.—Left bivouac about 1 p. m., but did not get fairly on the road until 6 p. m., waiting on General Stewart's command. Marched till about 10 o'clock at night and made six miles on the Louisville road.

Tuesday, April 11.—Moved at daylight and marched with our corps eighteen miles, to within three miles of Raleigh.

Wednesday, April 12.—Moved through Raleigh about 9 a. m., and marched some nine miles beyond; our quarters in the woods, near railroad.

Thursday, April 13.—Marched on the Chapel Hill road, through that place, two miles beyond; quarters again in the woods.

Friday, April 14.—Moved at daylight and marched on the Greensborough road some fourteen or fifteen miles; quarters at Mrs. Crony's, near Haw River.

Saturday, April 15.—Moved an hour before day, crossed the Haw and the Alamance Rivers; making a march of fifteen miles.

Sunday, April 16.—Moved again early and marched some twelve miles on the New Salem road.

Monday, April 17.—Ordered to remain where we are until further orders. As the enemy are all around us, both above, below, and behind, the inevitable inference is that the army is to be surrendered. The army remained in a state of suspense and uncertainty until Wednesday, April 19, when it was known that peace had been agreed upon between the North and South, or rather, that terms of a peace had been agreed upon between Generals Sherman and Johnston and sent to their respective Governments for ratification.

Sunday, April 23.—Moved camp nine miles in the direction of Greensborough.

Monday, April 24.—Sherman notifies Johnston that President Andy Johnson refuses to ratify the proposition submitted to him; wont treat with us as a power, and that the truce will expire on the 26th instant at 11 a. m., when hostilities will again be resumed. Ordered to hold ourselves prepared to move promptly at that hour.

Wednesday, April 26.—Moved at 11 o'clock on the Center and Thomasville road and marched about ten miles, to within about four miles of the railroad, and directly on the Salem and Fayetteville plank road, the longest in the United States, being 120 miles long.

Thursday, April 27.—Stationary. In the afternoon it was officially announced that an agreement had been entered on between Generals S[herman] and J[ohnston] that this army should sign an obligation not to bear arms against the United States until released from it, and that the troops should be marched to their respective States and there disbanded.

No. 290.

Report of Brig. Gen. William B. Taliaferro, C. S. Army, of operations March 15-16.

HEADQUARTERS TALIAFERRO'S DIVISION,
In Camp near Smithfield, N. C., April 4, 1865.

COLONEL: I have the honor to make a report of the operations of this division on the 15th and 16th ultimo, near Averagesborough, N. C.:

On the morning of the 15th one of my brigades (Rhett's) encamped near Smith's house, at the intersection of the Fayetteville and Raleigh road with the road leading to Smith's house and on to Smith's Ferry across the Cape Fear River, and Elliott's brigade half a mile higher up at another cross-road leading to the same ferry. On the previous evening the enemy, who had advanced as far as Silver Run, were reported by the cavalry to have retired a distance of four miles below that point, and the troops had received orders from the lieutenant-general commanding to rest on that day (the 15th). About 8 o'clock I was informed by Lieutenant-General Hampton that the infantry of the enemy were pressing our cavalry back, when I selected a position for Rhett's brigade near Smith's house in rear of an open field on the right of the road and with the woods on the left, concealing our dispositions, along which I erected such hasty breast-works as our means permitted. I advanced a line of skirmishers a few hundred yards in front of this line and ordered up some field pieces to support the lines. My object in this was only to check the enemy until our trains should be beyond the reach of danger, when I designed to retire Rhett's upon Elliott's brigade, or to take such other positions as should be directed by the lieutenant-general commanding. The lieutenant-general commanding, as soon as he was notified of the advance of the enemy, rode to my front and ordered my picket-line still farther advanced. This was done, when they struck the enemy some half a mile in front of our position. The cavalry having retired to the right and left, I threw a few shells into the woods in front of our skirmishers; but except a slight demonstration along the skirmish line, nothing of consequence occurred during the rest of the day.

I regret to say that Colonel Rhett, First South Carolina Artillery, commanding this brigade, rode forward in advance of the skirmish line, and mistaking a party of the enemy's cavalry for our own, was made prisoner.

I was directed by the lieutenant-general commanding that in the event the enemy moved forward in the morning I should hold the position occupied with Rhett's brigade, now commanded by Colonel Butler,

First South Carolina Infantry, until it was no longer tenable, then fall back upon the position occupied by Elliott's brigade, which had been brought forward and occupied an intrenched line behind a narrow swamp some 200 yards in rear of the front line, which second line was to be held by my division as long as practicable, when I was to fall back upon an extended line being prepared some 600 yards to the rear, and in part occupied by General McLaws' division.

At 7 a. m. on the 16th the enemy advanced in considerable force, and the cavalry pickets, which had been re-established, retired. He soon appeared in our front and advanced to the attack. Our skirmish line, under the command of Captain Huguenin, First South Carolina Infantry, received their advance very handsomely and only fell back when forced by greatly superior numbers. On the right of the line and well advanced to the front the houses at Smith's place were occupied by two companies of the First South Carolina Artillery. The enemy established a battery on a rising ground beyond the swamps in our front to their left of the main road and shelled our lines with great determination and vigor. They made several attacks with their infantry upon our lines, chiefly upon the left, in all of which they were repulsed. About 11 o'clock they severely pressed our left and threatened to turn it. At the same time they massed and extended to our right, finally lapping and turning it, when from the impossibility of extending our line, already deployed to its fullest extent, the brigade was withdrawn to the second line, occupied by Elliott's brigade. The fighting was heavy during the entire morning. Men and officers displayed signal gallantry.

Our loss on this line was considerable, including some of our best officers, among whom were Lieutenant-Colonel De Treville, First South Carolina Infantry, and Captain Lesesne, First South Carolina Artillery.

Our light artillery, which consisted of two 12-pounder howitzers of Le Gardeur's (New Orleans) battery, and one 12-pounder Napoleon of Stuart's (South Carolina) battery, was well served and operated with good results upon the enemy's infantry and opposing battery. The ground was so soft from the heavy rains that the pieces could with difficulty be maneuvered, and when this line was abandoned it was found impossible to withdraw two of the guns, as every horse of Stuart's but one, and nine of Le Gardeur's, were killed, and nearly all the cannoneers of both guns either killed or wounded. Span horses had been ordered up, but did not arrive in time. All the ammunition, however, to the last shot of all the guns, was expended upon the enemy.

Sergeant Guibet, chief of piece in Le Gardeur's battery, deserves especial mention for his gallantry and energy.

The enemy now made several demonstrations along the second line now held by my entire division, first demonstrating to the right and then to the left of our lines, in which they were always resisted successfully. About 1 o'clock they moved a large body far to our left in the direction of the Black River, thus exposing our now first line on the left to enfilade, when the division was moved back to the line selected by the lieutenant-general commanding for his main line of defense, and I was ordered to occupy the line to the right and left of the main road, Major-General McLaws' division being to my left and Major-General Wheeler's dismounted cavalry to my right. Most of Rhett's brigade, which had been severely engaged all day to this time, was held in

reserve a few hundred yards in rear of the line of works. The enemy advanced several times in heavy force on my position during the day, but was always repulsed. His artillery shelled our lines at intervals, and was replied to by a section of Brooks' battery under Lieutenant ——. Heavy skirmishing continued until nearly 8 o'clock at night, at which time the infantry and artillery were withdrawn and the works occupied by a skirmish line of General Wheeler's cavalry (dismounted). Before we withdrew the enemy along my front intrenched themselves.

The officers and men of my command, though unaccustomed to field fighting, behaved as well as troops could have done. The discipline of garrison service, regular organization, and the daily exposure for eighteen months to the enemy's fire told in the coolness and determination with which they received the fire of the enemy.

I would especially mention Brig. Gen. Stephen Elliott and Colonel Butler, commanding brigades; Colonel Brown, Major Warley, and Captain Humbert, Second South Carolina Artillery; Majors McMullan and Bertody, Twenty-second Georgia Battalion; Captain Mathewes and Lieutenant Boag, Manigault's battalion; Captain McGregor, Bonaud's battalion, of Elliott's brigade; Lieutenant-Colonel Yates, Major Blanding (severely wounded), and Captain King, First South Carolina Artillery; Captain Huguenin, First South Carolina Infantry; and Major Lucas, Lucas' battalion of Rhett's brigade, Captain Le Gardeur, of Le Gardeur's Light Artillery.

To my personal staff is due my testimony to their gallantry.

My adjutant-general, Captain Page, and my inspector-general, Captain Read, were both wounded discharging their duties.

Captain Mathewes, engineer officer; Lieutenant Kemp, aide-de-camp, and Lieutenant Harrison, signal officer, discharged their duties with zeal and gallantry.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. TALIAFERRO,

Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Lieut. Col. T. B. Roy,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 291.

Reports of Maj. Gen. Daniel H. Hill, C. S. Army, of operations March 7-21.

HEADQUARTERS LEE'S CORPS,

March 29, 1865.

COLONEL: On the 7th instant, whilst at Smithfield Station, N. C., and temporarily in command of Lee's corps, I received an order from General Johnston to co-operate with General Bragg in an attack upon the Yankees near Kinston. My division, under Col. J. G. Coltart, Fiftieth Alabama, and Pettus' brigade, of Stevenson's division, were at once placed upon the cars and encamped that night beyond the Neuse and below Kinston.

Before day the next morning we relieved Hoke's division, in the trenches on Southwest Creek, while it made a flank movement to the Yankee left. General Clayton, of Lee's corps, came up with his division about 8 a. m., and was sent to co-operate with General Hoke.

Hagood's brigade, and the North Carolina Reserves under General L. S. Baker, were added to my command, and we were ordered to cross the creek and co-operate with General Hoke as soon as his firing was heard. That officer informed me that he expected to seize and hold the lower Trent and Dover roads, and he asked me to cut off the Yankee retreat on the British and Neuse roads. General Baker crossed the creek when the firing opened on our right, and I directed the skirmishers from Lee's corps, under Capt. E. B. Vaughan, Fiftieth Alabama, to push boldly forward in front of our abandoned works. The North Carolina Reserves advanced very handsomely for a time, but at length one regiment (the First, I think) broke, and the rest lay down and could not be got forward. I directed General Baker to hold his position, while I, with Coltart, Pettus, and Hagood, would go around the swamp, which constituted the Yankee right. This movement was completely successful, and the Yankees ran in the wildest confusion. I had nothing to do now but to press forward rapidly to the firing and intercept the foe fleeing from Hoke. I think that with little loss we would have captured several thousand men. Captain Vaughan, with forty-five skirmishers, took about 300 prisoners, and reports that the rout of the Yankees was more complete than he had ever seen before. At this critical moment I received a note from Major Parker, General Bragg's adjutant-general, saying that General Hoke thought that if I went down the Neuse road until I struck the British road, and followed up the latter, I would make many captures, and adding that General Bragg directed me to make the movement. I pushed on rapidly to West's house, and threw a picket across to the British road, and went to it in person, but saw no enemy. It was 4.30 p. m. when we reached West's house, and it was obvious that we could effect nothing unless we moved over to Tracy Swamp and got upon the railroad and the Dover road. General Baker and a battery had joined us, but our entire force was but little over 2,000 men. The firing was still heavy in our rear, and indicated plainly that Hoke was not driving the Yankees. A consultation was held with my officers, and all but General Baker thought it too late and too hazardous to march three or four miles farther to reach Tracy Swamp. A message was received soon after from General Bragg to return, if too late to strike a blow. We were now five miles from our bridge on Southwest Creek, held only by a picket, and the Yankee cavalry had appeared between us and it; but the march was made without loss. On the road I met a staff officer of General Bragg, who directed me, after crossing at our bridge, to recross at Jackson's Mill and go down the Dover road and unite with Hoke. This junction was formed about midnight. General Clayton, who had been operating with Hoke, once more joined his own corps.

March 9. We had now a line of breast-works along the British road, and another nearly at right angles to it, covering the railroad down to Southwest Creek. These works were held by the fragments of the Army of Tennessee and Hagood's brigade, all under my immediate command. The Reserves were thus in the works on Southwest Creek and not subject to my orders. General Hoke attempted a flank movement on our left to-day, but finding the Yankees strongly intrenched did not attack, and returned and took position on my right. To make a diversion in his favor, the skirmish line, again commanded by Captain Vaughan as corps officer of the day, advanced and seized the intrenched skirmish line of the Yankees, but lost it again upon being pressed by a line of battle.

March 10. A portion of Stewart's corps, under General Walthall, reported to-day. Hagood's brigade was relieved by Whitford's brigade, which was also placed under my command. General Bragg informed me that he had ordered General Hoke to make a flank movement to our right, and directed me to co-operate with him by a strong demonstration in our front, but not to attack the main line of the Yankee earth-works. My officers had stated to me the unwillingness of the men to attack earth-works, their experience in the late campaign not being favorable to such an undertaking. This fact I had reported to General Bragg. The skirmish line was doubled and placed under charge of Captain Brewer as corps officer of the day. This line was directed to move forward at the sound of firing on our right, followed by the line of battle, except Coltart and Whitford, holding the intrenchments nearly parallel to the railroad. At the appointed signal all moved forward with alacrity, and the intrenched line of Yankee skirmishers was taken. This threw our line of battle so far forward that I called upon Colonel Coltart for 300 men to cover our left flank. They were promptly furnished under Major Palmer. Lieutenant-Colonel Carter, commanding Manigault's brigade, volunteered his services, and the whole command displayed great gallantry. General Walthall, commanding the fragments of Stewart's corps, on our right, was now seen retiring in perfect order. He reported that he had taken some earth-works, but being without support on his right and left, found it necessary to withdraw. Stovall's and Jackson's brigades, of Clayton's division, numbering only 416 men, broke causelessly, leaving Pettus like a stone wall alone, supported only by Coltart's skirmishers. A considerable Yankee force was visible outside of their works, and while hesitating about renewing the attack and attempting to capture it, I learned that Hoke was retiring, after finding the Yankees strongly intrenched and getting one brigade (Kirkland's) roughly handled. The fact was reported to General Bragg, who directed our line to fall back to the intrenchments on the British road, holding, however, the captured line of skirmishers. This was effected without loss. That night we crossed the Neuse and encamped near Kinston, in order to co-operate with the forces covering Raleigh. The Yankees did not pursue us, and, in fact, my scouts reported that they fell back the same night we did.

The troops, with the exceptions above given, all behaved most handsomely. Clayton's division was not with me on the 8th, but I learned from him came to Hoke's support at 2 p. m., acted well, and had the honor of taking part in a very brilliant movement.

The accompanying table shows the strength of Lee's corps on going into action and its loss.

I have received no report from General Hagood, Colonel Whitford, or General Baker. General Baker lost considerably on the 8th, and did all that could be done to inspire his troops. I doubt not they will behave most gallantly in their next engagement, now that they have been under fire. In fact, on their march to West's house they seemed to be in the highest spirits and ready to renew the conflict.

Clayton's division:	Total effective.
Stovall's brigade, Colonel Kellogg commanding.....	319
Jackson's brigade, Colonel Gordon commanding.....	76
Hill's division, Colonel Coltart commanding:	
Manigault's brigade, Lieutenant-Colonel Carter commanding	285
Deas' brigade, Lieutenant-Colonel Toulmin commanding.....	277
Stevenson's division, General Pettus commanding:	
Pettus' brigade.....	350
Total	1,328

Casualties.

Command.	Killed.		Wounded.		Missing.		Aggregate.
	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	
Stovall's brigade		3	5	37		14	59
Jackson's brigade			10		1		11
Manigault's brigade		4	2	12			18
Deas' brigade		3	3	17			23
Pettus' brigade		1	5	16		1	23
Total		11	25	82	1	15	134

My thanks are due to General Clayton, General Baker, General Hagood, General Pettus, Colonel Coltart, commanding Hill's division; Colonel Toulmin, commanding Deas' brigade; Lieutenant-Colonel Carter, commanding Manigault's brigade, and to my staff, Major J. W. Ratchford, assistant adjutant-general; Maj. William Elliott, assistant inspector-general; Capt. W. A. Gibbes, Sixteenth South Carolina Volunteers, acting aide-de-camp; Lieut. J. A. Reid, aide-de-camp, and Lieut. W. S. Parish, C. S. Army, for valuable services rendered on the field, and Surg. J. H. Erskine, medical director; Maj. M. B. George, chief quartermaster; Maj. S. A. Jones, chief commissary of subsistence, and Capt. D. S. Sublett, chief of ordnance, for the energy and zeal displayed in their several departments. The last-named officer brought 600 arms from the field.

Respectfully submitted.

D. H. HILL,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS LEE'S CORPS,
March 31, 1865.

CAPTAIN: About 8 o'clock on the morning of the 19th instant Lee's corps, temporarily under my command, was placed on the right of the road leading from Bentonville to Wilmington, and immediately to the right of Loring's command. It consisted of portions of three divisions: Stevenson's division, effective total, 1,181; Clayton's division, effective total, 867; Hill's division, Colonel Coltart commanding, effective total, 639; total, 2,687.

This does not include Cumming's brigade, 213 effective, on detached service.

Before getting into position a personal reconnaissance showed me that the Yankees were advancing. Some skirmishers were thrown out under Lieut. S. A. Roberts, Thirty-ninth Alabama, to check this advance, which they did with spirit. As the divisions came into line skirmishers were advanced from each of them, and the whole skirmish front placed under charge of Lieutenant-Colonel McGuire. As we were waiting orders to advance, Lieutenant-General Stewart did not think it advisable to intrench. However, finding that no forward movement was directed, I started the work of throwing up breast-works. These were about half completed when some thousand or more Yankees

appeared in our front, just opposite Stovall's brigade, and charged until they got within forty yards, when they ran back in great confusion. The whole corps fired, many of the men without seeing any object at which to fire. Our whole front was covered by the Yankee skirmishers, but their line of battle extended only a little to the right and left of Stovall. In re-establishing our skirmish line Lieutenant Roberts, a gallant and meritorious officer, was mortally wounded.

At 3.15 p. m. the whole corps advanced in two lines, Deas' brigade, Palmer's, Stovall's, and Jackson's constituting the front line; Manigault's, Pettus', and Baker's the rear line, 300 yards retired. In this advance General Loring, with some 500 men, was on our left, and General Bate, with a somewhat larger number, on our right. The Yankees had some rifle-pits for skirmishers, but no connected line except in front of Palmer's brigade, of this corps, and in less than fifteen minutes from the firing of the first shot Palmer's men had passed through this line. Some ten minutes or more subsequent to this time, Tyler's and Govan's brigades, of Bate's command, passed over the same line. The Yankees retired to a more extended line of breast-works 300 yards in rear of their first, but were driven off without difficulty. We now reached the Goldsborough and Fayetteville road, when I received an order from Lieutenant-General Stewart to halt and reform my command. I directed all my troops to be formed parallel to the road, but a report from General Bate that the Yankees were massing in his front induced me to order General Clayton, on our right, to move obliquely across the road to meet this threatened attack and cover Bate's left. A map of the ground, since made by Lieutenant Currie, of the engineers, shows that the Yankees had two systems of lines—one nearly perpendicular to the Goldsborough road, for the protection of the swamp in Hoke's front; the other obliquely to this road, and no works at all on my right and in front of General Bate. Hill's division on the left of the corps, and Baker's brigade and part of Palmer's striking the works perpendicular to the road, with an enfilade fire, captured them without difficulty. Lieutenant-Colonel Carter, commanding Manigault's brigade, came to me at the angle or vacant space between the Yankee works and reported that his brigade had taken the line opposite the swamp. Supposing that General Smith, commanding Cleburne's division, was in connection, I rode forward, but in less than fifty yards struck the Yankees. It seems that Smith's troops had been withdrawn to meet a supposed attack much farther on the right.

General Stevenson had received a report from General Bate that the Yankees were on his front and flank, and had withdrawn Brigadier-General Pettus to the support of General Bate. Brigadier-General Palmer had been ordered up to me with the right of his brigade (the left having moved previously with Brigadier-General Baker), and had taken position on Baker's right. So far there had been a complete success on our left. General Palmer reports that many Yankees had thrown down their arms and were prepared to surrender. Lieutenant-Colonel Carter was in actual negotiation with a Yankee general for the entire surrender of his command. Unfortunately at this juncture the Yankees discovered the withdrawal of Smith and Pettus, and pressed upon the flank and rear of Palmer, Baker, and Carter from the point at which I had discovered them.

Between 200 and 300 of our men were cut off. A party of seventy under Colonel Searcy, Forty-fifth Tennessee, passed entirely through the Yankee lines, and joined us again in nine days. Captain Wood,

assistant adjutant-general, Manigault's brigade, brought out ten men and eight prisoners, after a tiresome march all night around the Yankee forces.

The disaster would have been much greater had not General Walthall arrived in time to fill up the gap and check the Yankee advance. Colonel Toulmin, commanding Deas' brigade, was placed on his left. General Palmer on withdrawing joined General Pettus by my order. General Baker retired entirely across the Goldsborough road, and was no more engaged that day. I did not know his locality until too late to put him again in position.

About sundown the Yankees attempted an advance upon General Pettus, but that stout-hearted soldier and his noble brigade drove them back without difficulty. In this attack he himself received a painful flesh wound, and his nephew and aide-de-camp, Lieutenant Pettus, was killed. The heavy firing induced the sending up a brigade from McLaws' division, which seemed to have no particular instructions, but went in gallantly where the roll of musketry was the most rapid and continuous. Another brigade of that division (Kennedy's) coming up without definite orders, I took the responsibility of sending it to the support of Walthall, who was firing rapidly, and one of my staff officers carried it into position. There had been a good deal of confusion after reaching the Goldsborough road, owing to the mixture of troops and to orders being issued by different commanders, but after nightfall, when natural darkness was much increased by the smoke of battle and from thousands of smoldering pine stumps and logs, it was greater than I ever witnessed before.

About 11 o'clock we were withdrawn to our original position of the morning, holding, however, with our skirmish line, the intrenchments taken from the Yankees at 3.30 p. m.

The capture of our men was due to the withdrawal of Smith and Pettus upon what, I think, was incorrect information. The failure to capture immense numbers of Yankees was partly due to that and partly to another cause. I learn from General Hoke that he had made a flank movement, and had nearly got to the end of the Yankee works when he received an order from General Bragg to advance directly to the attack. This resulted in his repulse and withdrawal. When the Yankees threw down their guns before Palmer, Baker, and Carter they had discovered the flanking force of Hoke and supposed themselves entirely cut off, but when he advanced to a front attack they resumed their position behind their works, repulsed him, and then turned upon Carter, who had been left alone, and drove him off also.

March 20, our scouts reported the Yankees still working at their breast-works at 8 a. m. in their position of the night before. About 10 a. m. their skirmishers advanced cautiously to Cole's house. Learning that General Hoke was changing his front, I sent General Stevenson to hold his works on the Wilmington road until he could form a new line. General S[tevenson] was met, however, by Lieutenant-General Stewart and ordered back. The Yankees were not slow to discover the abandonment of the works, and advanced with loud cheers upon Brigadier-General Kirkland, of Hoke's division, before he had had time to intrench. They met a stout resistance, however, and after I had succeeded in turning six guns upon them they retired precipitately. There was nothing in my front but desultory skirmishing this day between the pickets.

March 21, there was a great deal of heavy firing on our left, but no attack upon my command this day. My skirmish line, under Major

Thomas ———, as corps officer of the day, was advanced that afternoon in connection with the skirmishers of Generals Walthall and Bate, and with small loss drove the Yankees from their position about Cole's house. All the buildings there were burnt to prevent their further use by the Yankee sharpshooters.

About 3 p. m. the reserve brigades under Palmer and Baker were sent in all haste to meet an advance of the Yankees upon a road coming into the only road of retirement some two miles in rear of our position. The Yankees got within a short distance of this main road, scattering Butler's cavalry, when they were vigorously attacked by Cumming's brigade, 213 effectives, under Colonel Henderson, and 80 men of Eighth Texas Cavalry, and driven back three-fourths of a mile. The Yankee line consisted of two divisions of the Seventeenth Corps, and they no doubt were the advance party of a formidable force endeavoring to cut our line of communication. Brigadier-Generals Palmer and Baker were the first to come to the support of Colonel Henderson. The former was not engaged at all; the latter reports that he had some skirmishing, and lost 2 men killed and 12 wounded. The intervals between the men in this corps were widened at 4 p. m., so as to cover the ground occupied by Generals Bate and Walthall, who had been also sent to meet this flank movement. We retired that night at 2 o'clock and crossed Hannah's Creek.

Our men fought with great enthusiasm in this engagement. The only thing censurable in their conduct which I could perceive was an excited firing, at times resulting in the causeless waste of ammunition. The Yankees fought worse than I have ever known them to do on any previous field of battle. It may be that even a Yankee's conscience has been disturbed by the scenes of burning, rapine, pillage, and murder so recently passed through.

Casualties.

Command.	Killed.		Wounded.		Missing.		Total.
	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	
Stevenson's division	9	22	19	176	3	40	269
Clayton's division	4	18	11	149	7	55	244
Hill's division	2	5	9	76	.....	10	102
Total.....	15	45	39	401	10	105	615

The corps claims the capture of 1 Napoleon gun and 339 prisoners. I think that the number of prisoners has been overestimated.

My thanks are due to the division commanders, Major-Generals Stevenson and Clayton and Colonel Coltart. I was also struck with the soldierly bearing of Brigadier-Generals Pettus and Palmer, Colonel Toulmin, Lieutenant-Colonel Carter, and Colonel Kyle, commanding brigades. The other brigade commanders did not come specially under my observation. The corps staff and my own staff behaved most gallantly. Major Ratchford, assistant adjutant-general; Major Elliott, assistant inspector-general, severely wounded; Major Menninger, assistant adjutant-general; Captain Taliaferro, aide-de-camp; Captain Coleman, engineer, slightly contused by minie-ball; Captain Gibbs; Lieutenant Reid, aide-de-camp, wounded in the knee; Lieutenant Far-

ish, C. S. Army, slightly wounded, and Lieutenant Currie, of the engineers, all did their duty faithfully and well. The corps quartermaster, commissary, and ordnance officers also did their duty.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

D. H. HILL,
Major-General.

Capt. W. D. GALE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

ADDENDA.

Return of casualties in Hill's division, Lee's army corps, in action of March 19-21, 1865.

Command.	Killed.			Wounded.			Missing.			Aggregate.
	Officers.	Men.	Total.	Officers.	Men.	Total.	Officers.	Men.	Total.	
March 19:										
Deas' brigade.....	1	2	3	5	25	30	.....	1	1	34
Manigault's brigade.....	1	3	4	4	49	53	.....	11	11	68
Total.....	2	5	7	9	74	83	.....	12	12	102
March 20:										
Deas' brigade.....					2	2	.....			2
Manigault's brigade.....							.....		
Total.....					2	2	.....			2
March 21:										
Deas' brigade.....							.....		
Manigault's brigade.....							.....	1	1	1
Total.....							.....	1	1	1
Grand total.....	2	5	7	9	76	85	.....	13	13	105

No. 292.

Reports of Maj. Gen. Carter L. Stevenson, C. S. Army, of operations March 19-21.

HEADQUARTERS STEVENSON'S DIVISION, *March 30, 1865.*

MAJOR: I have the honor to submit the following brief report of the operations of my division at and near Bentonville, N. C., on the 19th, 20th, and 21st instant:

On the morning of the 18th instant the division, with the exception of Cumming's brigade, marched from near Smithfield and bivouacked that night a short distance beyond Bentonville.

On the morning of the 19th it moved about two miles and a half from this point, and was formed in two lines, Palmer in front, Pettus in rear, in the center of Lee's corps. The brigade at once proceeded to construct temporary breast-works. We had only been in position a short time when it became apparent that the enemy were feeling our line, endeavoring to develop our position, especially the right flank. In a short time he advanced a single line of battle, which, from its direction, marching at an acute angle with the works instead of advancing

square to the front against them, he doubtless thought would strike the right flank. This line covered Major-General Clayton's front and about half of Palmer's, but from the direction, while its left came within a few yards of Clayton, its right barely came within range of Palmer. It was easily and handsomely repulsed.

About 2 o'clock Major-General Hill, commanding Lee's corps, directed me to be in readiness to move forward and attack the enemy in fifteen minutes. While the necessary preparations were being made he directed me to postpone the attack for ———. He then informed me that my division would be the division of direction for the army. My experience with this army has convinced me that one of the greatest obstacles in the way of our success in assaulting the fortified positions of the enemy has been caused by a failure to keep the commands properly aligned, and to move them straight to the front. I had just established markers between Palmer's line of battle and the skirmish line, when I received notice from General Hill that it was time to advance. I accordingly moved out at once and in perfect order. In, I suppose, about 600 yards Palmer struck the enemy's first line, which he carried without a pause, and within a short distance encountered their second line, which he assaulted with equal gallantry and success. He then moved on in pursuit, followed by Pettus. Near the second line General Palmer captured a piece of artillery. After moving rapidly to the front for about three-quarters of a mile, through a dense and tangled undergrowth, General Palmer halted to collect his men, who were necessarily somewhat scattered, and to readjust his line. At this time, owing at once to the impetuosity of their advance and the difficulties of the ground, to which I have alluded, the first line, so far as I could observe, of the whole army was considerably broken and confused. Before halting Palmer had crossed to the left of the Goldsborough road. It was then directed that he should return to the right of the road. About half of his brigade had done so, and was being filed parallel to the road, when it was halted by direction of Major-General Hill. While in this position a brigade (Baker's, General Palmer states) came up, its line being exactly at right angles to that portion of Palmer's which had crossed the road, and cutting his brigade into about equal parts. Hence, to meet a sudden emergency, I presume, as the order was not communicated through me, and I did not know of it until it was put into execution, General Hill directed General Palmer to move forward at once with that part of his brigade which had not been separated, in the manner above described, from him. For the narrative of the particulars of this movement, and of the gallantry displayed by his troops in this renewed assault upon two more intrenched lines of the enemy, I refer you to General Palmer's report.

While affairs were thus progressing, General Pettus had executed my orders to the letter, and in spite of all obstacles had kept his command thoroughly in hand, well aligned, and ready to move in any direction. When he reached the Goldsborough road, anticipating from the firing that his services might be needed on the left of the road, I directed him to cross it in that direction, which being done, he again moved forward. Afterward, the fire growing hotter and extending to the right toward the Goldsborough road, his line was advanced conforming thereto. At this time General Bate stated that the enemy were on his flank and in his front, and asked for assistance. Pettus was halted and a line formed, which prolonged General Bate's, whose left rested on the Goldsborough road. Troops of Loring's command were soon moved up so as to connect with Pettus' left.

The enemy had been for some time bringing up fresh troops, and now moved to the attack. Pettus' skirmishers held their ground, driving back the enemy's skirmishers whenever they moved forward, until they were forced to retire before the enemy's line of battle. When Pettus moved up I placed that part of Palmer's brigade which had been separated from Palmer a short distance in rear as a reserve. Soon afterward General Palmer returned and the brigade was united. Here the fire of the enemy was heavy and incessant, both of artillery and small-arms. Pettus' noble brigade met each advance of the enemy with even more than its usual steadiness, and repulsed them with apparent ease. In the whole of this fight I did not see one of his men attempt to leave the line, unless wounded or with proper authority. The darkness of night put an end to the battle. After the roar of musketry had subsided we could hear the enemy fortifying most energetically in our front.

Toward the close of the evening several brigades of Lieutenant-General Hardee's troops were sent up to support the troops who were engaged. The brigade which came to my support (I do not now remember the name of its commander) formed in rear of my line ready to give any assistance which might be necessary. My two brigades, Pettus' and Palmer's, retained their position until between 10 and 11 o'clock that night, when they withdrew under orders to the line from which we had advanced, Pettus, however, being now put in the front line in order to give Palmer's brigade, which had been compelled to move much more rapidly in the different charges which it made, and consequently was more exhausted, a better opportunity to rest. One regiment of Palmer's, the Fifty-eighth North Carolina, was, however, placed upon the front line to fill up the allotted portion of the works.

The 20th instant passed without incident, my skirmishers occupying the first line which we had taken from the enemy.

On the morning of the 21st, agreeably to orders, my skirmishers, in conjunction with those of the division on my right and left, advanced and drove those of the enemy. Toward the evening of the 21st I received orders to send the troops in my second line as rapidly as possible in the direction of Bentonville, and to extend the command in my front line to the right and left, to fill vacancies caused in the lines of the other divisions by the removal of troops. General Palmer at once put his command in motion, but did not become engaged.

I forward herewith the report of Col. R. J. Henderson, commanding Cumming's brigade, of the action of that brigade in repulsing, in conjunction with a small body of cavalry, a vastly superior force of the enemy in a serious flank movement. The brigade had not then reported to me, having been detached for some time. No encomium that I can pass upon the conduct of the brigade at this important juncture will be so expressive a recognition of its gallant behavior as the simple statement that it received upon the field the thanks and compliments of General Johnston.

On the night of the 21st I withdrew Pettus' brigade, agreeably to orders, across Mill Creek. Here I was joined the next morning by Palmer's and Cumming's brigades.

I have heretofore submitted a list of casualties, but the safe return of Colonel Searcy with a considerable number of the officers and men of Palmer's Tennessee regiment and of the Fifty-fourth Virginia, I am happy to say, renders a correction of it necessary, and I append the amended report. The commendation bestowed by General Palmer upon him and the officers and men who accompanied him is richly deserved.

Amongst the casualties we have to deplore the death of some of our best and bravest officers and men, and to regret the wounds of others. In the battle of the 19th Brig. Gen. E. W. Pettus received a troublesome, but I earnestly hope not a serious, wound. He remained with his brigade until it was withdrawn to the original line. Capt. G. H. Lowe, of General Palmer's staff, a most valuable and efficient officer, was severely wounded. Lieutenant-Colonel Boggess, Twenty-sixth Tennessee, and Captain Hampton, Sixty-third Virginia, were amongst the killed on the 19th. On the same day Lieut. E. W. Pettus, the nephew and aide-de-camp of Brigadier-General Pettus, was instantly killed. He was a young gentlemen of remarkable gallantry and of singular modesty and worth. Col. R. M. Saffell, Twenty-sixth Tennessee, a brave officer, was killed while fighting with the cavalry on the 21st instant.

I received important assistance from my staff, especially from Maj. J. J. Reeve, assistant adjutant-general, and Capt. G. D. Wise, acting assistant inspector-general, who were generally in the hottest part of the field.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. L. STEVENSON,
Major-General.

Maj. J. W. RATCHFORD,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Lee's Corps.

Statement of the effective total of Stevenson's division in the battle near Bentonville on March 19, 1865.

Palmer's brigade.....	708
Pettus' brigade.....	473
Total	1,181

Cumming's brigade detached, not in the battle; on 21st of March effective total, 213.

List of casualties in Stevenson's division on March 19, 20, 21, 1865.

Command.	Killed.		Wounded.		Missing.	
	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.
March 19:						
Palmer's brigade	5	8	13	108	3	39
Pettus' brigade.....	3	8	5	50		1
Cumming's brigade.....						
March 20:						
Palmer's brigade						
Pettus' brigade.....						
Cumming's brigade.....						
March 21:						
Palmer's brigade	1					
Pettus' brigade.....		2		1		
Cumming's brigade.....		4	1	17		
Total *.....	9	22	19	176	3	40

* Total, 269.

HEADQUARTERS STEVENSON'S DIVISION,
March 26, 1865.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report that fifty-seven prisoners, exclusive of the wounded, were captured by my division on the 19th instant. I herewith inclose reports from each brigade commander, which will explain the matter more fully.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. L. STEVENSON,
Major-General.

Maj. J. W. RATCHFORD,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 293.

Report of Col. Robert J. Henderson, Forty-second Georgia Infantry, commanding Cumming's brigade, of operations March 20-21.

HEADQUARTERS CUMMING'S BRIGADE,
Near Smithfield, N. C., March 29, 1865.

MAJOR: I have the honor to submit the following operations of Cumming's brigade near Bentonville:

In obedience to orders from the commanding general, the command marched at daylight from Smithfield via Bentonville on the 20th instant to rejoin Stevenson's division, from which it had been for some time detached. Arriving at General Johnston's headquarters the brigade was halted and placed in reserve about 400 yards in rear of General Hoke's command, which was on the main line. Remained thus until about 2 p. m. on the 21st, when I was informed by Col. Archer Anderson, assistant adjutant-general, that my command was subject to the orders of General Hardee, and to proceed with it down the Bentonville road, which I did, a staff officer of General Hardee accompanying to designate the position the brigade was to occupy. I rode in advance with this officer for the purpose of examining the ground by the time the troops should come up. About half a mile from Bentonville we left the main road and went upon one going to the right, leaving a courier at that point to turn the troops. I was absent on this road but a short while when a courier came to inform me that the command had continued down the main road. I immediately rode rapidly back to rejoin it and found it in line of battle on both sides of the road, advancing. The skirmishers of the enemy were in its front, retiring, and also drawing off toward their left and our right. Without halting I at once changed front, so as to correspond with this movement of the enemy. After proceeding a short distance in the new direction, the Eighth Texas Cavalry came up on my right and charged in conjunction with me.

I had no means of ascertaining with accuracy the strength of the enemy in my front, but it was estimated to be two divisions of the Seventeenth Army Corps. We drove him with ease for about three-quarters of a mile and until we were in contact with a line of fresh troops, when the cavalry fell back and left my flank exposed. The enemy, quickly discovering this, advanced line, which lapped my right as far as could be seen, and would, in a few moments, have completely enveloped that flank. Under these circumstances my line retired, the right regiment somewhat scattered, but the others in good order. The enemy, as soon as we fell back, halted and did not follow.

We reformed about 400 yards in rear of the farthest point to which we had advanced, and were placed in position by General Hardee on the right of General Taliaferro, where we remained until 2 o'clock the next morning, when we marched across Mill Creek and reported to Major-General Stevenson.

A list of casualties has been heretofore furnished.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. J. HENDERSON,
Colonel, Commanding.

Maj. JOHN J. REEVE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 294.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Edmund W. Pettus, C. S. Army, of operations
March 19.*

RALEIGH, N. C., April 1, 1865.

MAJOR: The following is a report of the part taken by my brigade in the battle of the 19th ultimo near Bentonville:

The division was formed in two lines in the center of the corps, Palmer's brigade in front and my brigade about 250 yards in the rear, both partially intrenched.

About 4 p. m. I was ordered by the major-general commanding to follow the movements of Palmer's brigade, keeping my command about 300 yards in his rear until such time as Brigadier-General Palmer might need my support. The movement commenced soon thereafter. Palmer's brigade moved forward and my command followed as directed. The front line drove the enemy from two intrenched lines, and was still moving forward when I received orders from the major-general commanding to move my brigade by the left flank, so as to cover the main road from Bentonville, and to move forward on that road, keeping my command well in hand. The ground over which my command had to advance was flat and marshy and covered with undergrowth; so to keep my brigade well in hand I had to move slowly. After advancing about 500 yards past the enemy's second line the firing became brisk, and at a short distance from and directly on my left flank, and Lieutenant-Colonel Elliott, Thirtieth Alabama Regiment, was sent with his small command to cover that flank as skirmishers. This fire increasing and approaching my line, and seeing stragglers moving rapidly to the rear from that point, I changed front by throwing back my left; but the enemy were driven back by other troops. My line was again formed across the road and moved forward, covered by the skirmishers under Lieutenant-Colonel Elliott, who was instructed to drive in the enemy's skirmishers and find his line. Whilst thus advancing under a heavy fire from the enemy's artillery and driving his skirmishers, Major-General Hill, commanding corps, rode up to my line and informed me that the enemy were advancing in force, and probably with fresh troops, and ordered me to halt and prepare to meet the charge. My line was halted with the right on the road, and the men were ordered to lie down in their places. It was then about sunset, and from the smoke of the guns and the burning woods it was difficult to see objects at a distance. The enemy's line, very soon after I had received the order from General Hill, charged and drove in my skirmishers, follow-

ing them with a shout. They were met, however, by a fire from the line so steady and so well aimed that they halted, and after receiving a few rounds retreated. The order to cease firing was given, and the skirmishers were again thrown forward. The brigade remained in this position until past 11 o'clock that night, when it was retired to the position from which the movement was begun.

In this action the officers and men acted well, rendering most prompt and willing obedience to orders. There were no stragglers.

Col. J. B. Bibb, Twenty-third Alabama Regiment, acted with remarkable coolness and gallantry, and rendered valuable service by his vigilance and activity. It is believed that he deserves a higher command.

Lieuts. W. W. Girard and William Jones, acting on my staff, bore themselves most gallantly. They were prompt and attentive to their duties.

Lieutenant Pettus, my aide-de-camp, a modest, brave young officer, was killed.

Inclosed is a list of casualties.*

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDMD. W. PETTUS,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Maj. J. J. REEVE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 295.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Joseph B. Palmer, C. S. Army, of operations
March 19.*

HEADQUARTERS PALMER'S BRIGADE,
Near Smithfield, March 29, 1865.

MAJOR: This brigade took position in the front line of the general line of battle formed by the Army of Tennessee near Bentonville on the 19th instant, at or about 10 a. m., and immediately fortified. Skirmishers were at once thrown 300 yards forward under command of Lieut. Col. A. Hall, of the Forty-fifth Tennessee Volunteers.

At 12 o'clock a single line of battle of Federal forces moved upon our position, striking, however, more directly General Stovall's line of Major-General Clayton's division, on my right, but covering, say, one-half of my right wing, which, in connection with the brigade on my right, repulsed them with ease, killing and wounding a number without any loss on my part.

At 3.15 p. m. the whole line advanced upon the enemy's position. This brigade moved steadily forward for about 400 yards in common time, preserving its alignment almost as if on parade, although for a part of that distance under considerable fire. This carried the brigade within 200 yards of the enemy's first line of works, which were at once charged and carried. This command did not halt there, but moved forward in double-quick, pursuing the enemy, flying in disorder and confusion to their second line of works, which was also charged and carried, capturing one piece of artillery near the second line. The pursuit was continued as far as the Goldsborough road, when it became necessary to halt the command, much exhausted by the two charges just made, and for the purpose of rectifying the alignment, more or less

* Not found, but see p. 1096.

disturbed by such rapid movements through the woods thickly set with troublesome undergrowth. My line was here formed across the Goldsborough road, and Brigadier-General Baker threw his line across mine, cutting nearly through the center of my brigade. Being then informed by Major Ratchford, of Major-General Hill's staff, that my command would then be placed in reserve, I immediately sent a staff officer to throw my left wing back on a line with my right, but before he could return I was ordered forward with the right wing to fill up a space made vacant by the movement of the brigade on my right. From this position I was by Major-General Hill ordered forward with the right half of my brigade to attack the enemy again. This wing immediately advanced for the distance of, say, 300 yards beyond the Goldsborough road, taking position on Brigadier-General Baker's right. I found no works at this point in my front, but just to my left were two lines of breastworks running rather perpendicular to this road. These works were occupied by the enemy with about the usual number of men in their lines. It was wholly unsafe to move farther forward or pass this force on my left, and, indeed, on discovering these works and their singular direction I came to the conclusion that to carry them was in part the objective point of my movement. I therefore wheeled to the left, assaulted and carried the first line and part of the second line, the balance manifesting a disposition to surrender by throwing down their guns, &c. At this moment I was informed that there was a considerable Federal force not more than 100 yards to my right, and moving upon my rear. This was soon verified by the rapid advance from that direction of a well-defined line of Yankees more than double my number. On the appearance of this force those in my front renewed their resistance, and thus my command was immediately under heavy fire both in front and rear. I at once ordered a movement as rapidly as possible by the left flank, so as to retire back on or near the Goldsborough road, but the Federals effected a junction so quickly as to capture some of my men and to cut off Col. A. Searcy and Lieutenant-Colonel Hall, of the Forty-fifth Tennessee Volunteers, and Major Joyner, of the Eighteenth Tennessee Volunteers, with another portion. These officers, with fifty of my men and small detachments from other commands of our army, after having remained in rear of Sherman's army for nine days, made their way around the enemy's left flank and rejoined the brigade on yesterday with the four stand of colors of the "Tennessee consolidation" cut off with them. This required on their part very great adroitness, determination, courage, and endurance, and, aside from their gallant and meritorious conduct throughout the fight, justly entitles them to the highest distinction as soldiers.

Immediately on retiring from the position just described I united the two wings of my brigade, and, by order of Major-General Stevenson, moved to the support of Brigadier-General Pettus.

At 11 o'clock that night this command, with the whole army, retired to the position first described in this report. My brigade, however, was placed in reserve after arriving there.

I captured and sent to the rear 45 prisoners, besides 50 of their wounded, which I also sent to the rear during the day's operations.

My losses during the fight were 13 killed, 113 wounded, and 55 captured, making in all 181. The enemy's loss, I am satisfied, was greater, especially in killed.

Among others of my killed was Lieut. Col. A. F. Boggess, of the Twenty-sixth Tennessee Volunteers, who fell in the gallant discharge of his duties, a noble specimen of the man, officer, and soldier.

Col. R. M. Saffell, Twenty-sixth Tennessee Volunteers, being a supernumerary officer, volunteered with Colonel Ashby's cavalry, to resist the enemy attempting to turn our left flank on the 21st, and was killed while gallantly leading a charge and repulsing them.

Cpts. Gideon H. Lowe and W. T. Powers and Lieut. F. R. Burns, of my staff, each behaved with distinguished gallantry. Captain Lowe was severely wounded early in the action.

Capt. G. W. F. Harper, commanding Fifty-eighth North Carolina; Capt. Eli Spangler, commanding Fifty-fourth Virginia, and Lieut. Col. C. H. Lynch, commanding Sixty-third Virginia and Sixtieth North Carolina, each handled their commands with ability and bore themselves handsomely through the day, as did Colonel Searcy and the officers under him, commanding "Tennessee consolidation."

With considerations of very high regard, major, I have the honor to submit this report. and am. your obedient servant,

J. B. PALMER,
Brigadier-General.

Maj. JOHN J. REEVE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 296.

*Report of Maj. Gen. Edward C. Walthall, C. S. Army, of operations
March 19.*

HEADQUARTERS WALTHALL'S DIVISION,
STEWART'S CORPS, ARMY OF TENNESSEE,
April 8, 1865.

I respectfully submit the following report of the part taken by the command in the action near Bentonville, N. C.:

Early in the morning of the 19th of March, with Reynolds' and Quarles' brigades, commanded respectively by Brig. Gens. D. H. Reynolds and George D. Johnston, I followed Loring's division to the point, about two miles and a half from the village of Bentonville, selected for the line of battle. Arriving there I was informed by Lieutenant-General Stewart, commanding the Army of Tennessee, that Loring's division would form in the woods to the right of a field near by, where several batteries were posted, and that other troops were already in position to the left of it. He had at the same time directed me to put my command in the woods on the left of the field to protect the artillery. While getting into this position Brigadier-General Reynolds, who commanded my leading brigade, was severely wounded by a shell from the enemy's artillery, which opened a brisk fire upon the head of my column as soon as it was discovered, and the command of his brigade devolved upon Col. H. G. Bunn, Fourth Arkansas Regiment.

I notified Major-General Loring that I was in position on the left of the field by orders from Lieutenant-General Stewart, and about 2.20 o'clock was informed by him that the whole line would move forward precisely at 2.45. His instructions to me were so to move that after crossing the field before me my right should strike a point indicated in the woods beyond where it was supposed the left of Loring's division would arrive by the time I reached it, and that then my command in advancing should guide right, unless, however, the commands on my right and left should so converge in advancing as to cover the ground

in my front, and in that event he directed me by moving to the right to put my troops in support of Loring's. This result was anticipated from the general direction of the lines, the line of the Army of Tennessee, of which my command was the extreme left, and that of the troops to the left of me forming an obtuse angle, with the point of union where those troops and mine connected. At the appointed time I put my command in motion and moved across the field, under a slight fire of the enemy's artillery, 300 or 400 yards, when skirmishers were encountered in their detached works. These were driven off by the skirmish line covering my front under Capt. E. C. Woodson, Twenty-sixth [Twenty-fifth] Arkansas Regiment, and my line in its advance (the contingency above referred to not having occurred) soon connected with Loring's near the point indicated. About 250 yards from where I found his skirmishers I came upon the enemy's main line intrenched, which was easily carried, the troops retreating in disorder and leaving about 200 of their number in the ditches. Having no men to spare to guard them, these prisoners were ordered to the rear and the line moved forward toward two pieces of artillery in its front, which kept up a constant fire upon it. The men soon fled from their guns and I moved on, my left brigade (Quarles') passing over them, till the density of the undergrowth and the rapid pursuit so deranged my line that it became necessary to rectify it before advancing farther. The troops on my right were halted for the same purpose, and after the line was reformed I again moved forward with them by the order of Major-General Loring, my instructions being to regulate my movement by theirs. After advancing a short distance Loring's division moved several hundred yards by the right flank and then forward again, to which movements I conformed. Information was soon received that a force of the enemy was immediately on my left, which was communicated to Major-General Loring, and before the messenger returned my left flank was fired upon. In a few moments I was informed by General Loring that the whole line would halt till further orders, and I directed Colonel Toulmin, [Twenty-second] Alabama Regiment, who just before had reported to me with about fifty men of Deas' brigade, to take position on my left and deploying his command to throw it back so as to protect my flank. While this disposition was being made some troops of Lee's corps retired through my line and Loring's, and the enemy soon moved upon us. The first line failing to carry our position, a second was brought up, which also failed, and a heavy musketry fire was kept up till nearly dark on either side, the enemy also employing his artillery, but with little effect.

About sunset, Colonel Bunn having been wounded, the command of Reynolds' brigade devolved on Lieut. Col. M. G. Galloway, First Arkansas Regiment [Mounted Rifles, dismounted].

About dark, Conner's brigade, under Brigadier-General Kennedy, moved upon the line occupied by my command and Loring's, and the latter, whose ammunition was exhausted, as I had been informed by the commanding officer, Colonel Jackson, was withdrawn, and so much of Conner's brigade as moved upon the line occupied by that command withdrawn soon afterward. The remainder of Conner's brigade (one regiment, I think) moved forward a short distance, but by my order was soon withdrawn and formed on my right, which was then entirely open, the nearest troops to my right, understood to be Pettus' brigade, being several hundred yards distant. While this formation was being made the force on my left engaged Deas' skirmish line, and it became necessary for the left of my line to change front to meet the threatened

attack. Such was the condition of things when firing ceased along the lines on my left, and the enemy were soon busily engaged in fortifying before me. The regiment of Conner's brigade which was formed on my right having been withdrawn, I covered my right flank with skirmishers and remained in my position till 10.45 o'clock, when, by Major-General Loring's orders, I withdrew to the point from which I moved when the line first advanced.

It would be unjust to my brigade commanders and the officers and men of their commands were I to withhold an expression of my high appreciation of their services and conduct in this action. I only award them what is their due when I state that not one among them failed to do his entire duty in every respect and to the fullest extent.

The wound received by Brigadier-General Reynolds just as he came upon the field, which resulted in the loss of a limb, deprives the country for a time of the services of a valuable officer, who, during four years of faithful service, has been distinguished for his intelligence and skill no less than for his gallantry on every field where he has been before the enemy.

Lieut. A. F. Smith, acting assistant inspector-general, and Private E. D. Clark, Fourth Louisiana Regiment, acting assistant adjutant-general (both of whom were wounded), and Lieut. R. A. Smith, ordnance officer, were with me on the field, and my thanks are due them for the efficient manner in which their duties were performed.

Reports of brigade commanders, with lists of casualties,* are herewith forwarded.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. C. WALTHALL,
Major-General.

Maj. R. W. MILLSAPS,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 297.

Report of Brig. Gen. George D. Johnston, C. S. Army, commanding Quarles' brigade, of operations March 19.

HEADQUARTERS QUARLES' BRIGADE,
March 20, 1865.

CAPTAIN: In obedience to orders, I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by Quarles' brigade in the action of the 19th instant:

A short while after sunrise on the morning of the 19th instant the brigade took up the line of march from Bentonville for the field of battle; after reaching which it was placed in line on the left of General Reynolds' brigade, near the road leading from Bentonville to the battle-field.

At 2.45 p. m. the division was moved to the attack of the enemy, who were occupying works in our front and to the right of the road referred to. The attack was made in right spirit and good order under heavy artillery and small-arm fire, and two of the enemy's lines of battle were driven promptly from their position and from the field. Two field pieces and quite a number of prisoners were passed by here, but no halt was allowed or taken to possess and carry back these captures. They

* Not found, but see consolidated statement, p. 1060.

were taken possession of by others after we left them. The enemy were pursued for near a mile beyond the works, when, the lines becoming confused from the energy of the pursuit, a halt was ordered for reformation. After formation our brigade, with Reynolds', was moved to the left of the road and held for a short while in reserve, but soon we were ordered forward again, and retiring lines of our troops meeting us and passing through, reporting the enemy advancing in heavy force, a position was selected and in a few moments our division was again engaged. The contest here was very stubborn, the enemy bringing up two lines of battle or more; but not an inch was given them, and not a straggler along the line was to be seen. The men fought with exceeding gallantry and coolness. The fighting here lasted for two hours or more.

About nightfall, a fresh brigade (Conner's) of General McLaws' division coming up, our brigade, with Reynolds', was moved a little to the left, connecting on the right with Conner's and fronting to the left to resist an attack which had been threatened by the enemy during the whole fight just alluded to on this exposed flank, which had been covered during the fight by a skirmish line from our division and a portion of Deas' brigade (reporting at this time temporarily to Major-General Walthall). Deas' brigade was then withdrawn, and about an hour in the night Conner's was withdrawn, which necessitated the deployment of the two brigades as skirmishers to cover the ground occupied by them. The brigade, with Reynolds', remained in this position until 11 o'clock at night, when, by orders, it was withdrawn.

The brigade carried into this action ninety-one guns, and its casualties are 1 man killed, 5 officers and 17 men wounded, and 1 man missing.

I will mention as worthy of compliment for good conduct Lieut. R. W. Banks, acting assistant adjutant-general, and Lieut. J. H. Rainer, acting assistant inspector-general, acting on my staff.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. D. JOHNSTON,

Brigadier-General, Commanding Quarles' Brigade.

Capt. W. R. BARKSDALE,

Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 298.

Report of Col. Henry G. Bunn, Fourth Arkansas Infantry, commanding Reynolds' Brigade, of operations March 19.

HEADQUARTERS REYNOLDS' BRIGADE,

March 28, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of Reynolds' brigade in the engagement of the 19th instant in front of Bentonville, N. C., viz:

While maneuvering to take position on the right of General Hoke's division, about 11 a. m. on the 19th, Brig. Gen. D. H. Reynolds received a wound (from which he subsequently lost a leg), and I was immediately placed in command of his brigade. Our position proper was in an open field and supporting one or two batteries of artillery, but owing to the exposed situation, with Brigadier-General Johnston I

was ordered to take position for the time about 200 yards in rear of General Hoke's right, with instructions to support the artillery in the open field in case of an attack by the enemy.

At 2.45 p. m., with Brigadier-General Johnston on my left, I was ordered to advance simultaneously with General Hoke, on our left, and General Loring, on my right, to attack the enemy in his position, and in case the line of advance of the above-named division should so converge during the advance as to take up the line allotted to my command I was ordered to form in reserve to General Loring. With Brigadier-General Johnston I advanced, obliquing to the right through the open field, directing my right to General Loring's left. General Hoke not moving simultaneously, I continued to occupy the line to the left of General Loring, in the meantime driving the enemy from his temporary works. Brigadier-General Johnston and I continued to advance rapidly until we reunited with General Loring's advance line, where, halting a short time to reform, we charged and drove the enemy from his main works and pursued him several hundred yards.

The whole line at length was halted to reform, where I remained until about 4 p. m., when, in conjunction with the commands in the main line, I advanced about half a mile through a swamp inundated.

Having taken a position at length, Brigadier-General Johnston's and my brigade forming the left of that position of the line, about 5 p. m. the enemy in one or two lines of battle attacked and attempted to drive us from our unprotected position; but our men stood firm, not a man leaving his post except the wounded. At this point the contest was more obstinate and the musketry more terrific than at any other time of the engagement. Having received a slight wound, I retired from the field at twilight.

In connection with this report I have to say that Reynolds' brigade conducted itself with that gallantry and spirit which has ever distinguished it in battle. Officers and men did their duty nobly. I could mention several instances of personal courage and daring, but many equally deserving, doubtless, I could not under the circumstances observe.

My thanks are due Lieut. F. W. Ragland, aide-de-camp, and my only staff officer, for his gallant services during the day.

My loss in this engagement was as follows, viz: Killed, 7; wounded, 33; missing, 1; total, 41. My effective force previous to the engagement was about 150.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. G. BUNN,

Colonel, Commanding Reynolds' Brigade.

Capt. E. D. CLARK,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 299.

*Report of Maj. Gen. William B. Bate, C. S. Army, of operations
March 19.*

HEADQUARTERS BATE'S DIVISION,
In the Field, near Smithfield, N. C., March 28, 1865.

COLONEL: In obedience to orders from headquarters of the Army of Tennessee I have the honor to submit the following as the official report

of the participation of that portion of Cheatham's corps under my command in the battle of Bentonville on the 19th instant:

Cheatham's division did not arrive until after the battle. Cleburne's, under Brig. Gen. James A. Smith, and Bate's (my) division, under command of Colonel Kenan, of the Florida brigade (neither of them complete, however, in strength), constituting that part of the corps present, and under my command, left camps near Smithfield Depot on the 18th instant, and after an exhausting march of fifteen or twenty miles went into bivouac, after night, near Bentonville.

On the morning of the 19th the corps resumed motion about 9 o'clock, and some three miles distant from Bentonville went into position on the extreme right of the army and in prolongation of Lee's corps. While forming my line my extreme left, Govan's brigade, commanded by Col. P. V. Green, of the [Fifth] Arkansas Regiment, was suddenly and fiercely assaulted. The enemy, with vigor, pushed up within thirty yards of this part of the line, which, fortunately, had been established, but after a sharp engagement was repulsed and precipitated from the field, leaving his dead and wounded. My lines were soon adjusted and breast-works constructed.

I received orders from Lieutenant-General Hardee in person early in the afternoon to advance and attack the enemy in my front. Having just returned from a close and accurate reconnoissance, in which I ascertained that the left of the enemy's line, at least his front line, did not extend connectedly at all beyond my right, and there being a division (Taliaferro's) lying in reserve in my immediate rear, I urged that it make a detour, passing beyond my extreme right, and be thrown upon the left flank of the enemy. This was adopted and the time of our advance deferred half an hour, that the flanking division might get into position before the front attack was made. At the designated time my command was promptly moved off, Cleburne's division composing the first and my division the second line of battle. In front of the right of the line there was an open field and fronting the center and left a pine forest. The right brigade (Smith's) of the front line in advancing obliques too far to the left, in order to get under cover of the timber, and caused a momentary confusion in this line just as it received the first volley from the enemy behind his defenses, which in my immediate front was only a few hundred yards. This line staggered and delayed for a few moments under this fire, whereupon the second line, being ordered, approached in such fine spirit and order as to reassure the first and excite an emulation which caused the first line to move rapidly forward directly on the works. His strong defenses were carried with a shout and a bound, and he rapidly driven in confusion. These defenses were continuous and well constructed, located about 800 yards in front of our breast-works; on a slight eminence, with a small creek in rear. Without delay he was steadily pursued. The left-oblique movement on the right of the front line at the start exposed that flank to a right-oblique fire (as Taliaferro's division had not got around), which necessitated my moving the second line and forming it on the right of the first and in continuation thereof. My whole command, with double line of skirmishers thrown forward, in one line advanced in incomparable style, driving the enemy from his second line of works and other chosen places. He made an obstinate stand in rear of a road parallel to and more than a mile distant from his original line, repelling and driving us for a short distance. Our line of battle being readjusted the advance was ordered, and, though his resistance was determined, he was

driven back beyond a slough, which served for a time as a kind of breast-work to our persistent pursuit. Our line cleared it, however, with but little delay, and was still advancing when I was ordered by General Hardee, through a staff officer, to halt and await further orders before moving. My command when halted was some distance in advance of our main line of battle. The left of the flanking division having been driven back, my right was again exposed. To guard against a flank movement in that direction, and in order to relieve it from isolation and connect with main line on my left, I retired it and placed the Second Tennessee Regiment [Provisional Army] in advance, with its right thrown back as a guard to its exposed flank. The enemy was in view, and taking advantage of this retrograde movement, turned and advanced upon us, but after a sharp contest was driven back again, which repulse we in turn followed up until re-enforcements came to his assistance, by the aid of which he drove us back a short distance and formed a strong line, which our single line was too weak, from casualties and exhaustion, to successfully attack. The two opposing lines being in easy rifle range kept up a constant fire. These facts I made known and renewed my application for re-enforcements to enable me to advance. McLaws' division after sundown passed through my lines and halted a few paces in its front. Had these fresh troops been thrown in an hour earlier our victory would have been more complete and more fruitful of advantage. The firing continued until dark. My lines remained stationary until about 9 o'clock that night, when, in obedience to orders, we buried our dead, cared for our wounded, and returned to our intrenched lines.

In this battle there were but few stragglers from my command, and not a man stopped to plunder the knapsacks of the enemy, which were lying in numbers behind his breastworks.

I am much indebted to officers and men of the corps for their prompt and gallant conduct. Though entering this fight after a long and wearisome trip, a retreat from a disastrous field, few in numbers, without the complement of officers, and much embarrassed for the want of efficient reorganization, the corps not only exhibited the innate metal of its material and maintained its ancient battle prestige, but encircled its brow anew with laurels gathered from the Atlantic slope.

I cannot confer too much commendation upon my division commanders, Brig. Gen. James A. Smith and Colonel Kenan, of [Sixth] Florida Regiment, both of whom were equal to every emergency, and inspired their commands by the proper example. Colonel Kenan lost a leg at the close, in the thickest of the fight, which deprives the country of the services of a most gallant and efficient officer.

I am doubly grieved to mourn, in conjunction with other casualties, the loss of the young, gallant, and lamented commander of Tyler's brigade, Bate's division, Maj. W. H. Wilkinson. For four years under my eye he has borne himself with modest grace, becoming dignity, and marked gallantry. He fell at the head of his brigade, leading the last charge of the day.

I am indebted to Colonel Moore, of North Carolina, for assistance as volunteer aide on this occasion.

To no one of my command am I more especially indebted than Capt. J. Cobbs, of the [Fortieth] Alabama Regiment, who was on duty with me as assistant adjutant-general. When his horse was killed under him he promptly took his place on foot and continued the discharge of his duty with persistent energy and peerless resolution.

Lieut. Bradford Nichol, acting ordnance officer for the corps, merits special notice in this report for the incomparable energy and efficiency in getting, under embarrassing circumstances, transportation for and furnishing timely supplies of ammunition.

To Dr. George M. McDowell, chief surgeon, I tender my acknowledgments for the skill, energy, and success displayed in his department.

A list of casualties has heretofore, as per order, been forwarded to your office.* It exhibits a loss of little more than 25 per cent of the number engaged.

For further particulars allow me to respectfully refer to the reports of my brigade commanders.

I am, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. B. BATE,
Major-General, Commanding.

No. 300.

Report of Brig. Gen. James A. Smith, C. S. Army, commanding Cleburne's division, of operations March 19.

HEADQUARTERS CLEBURNE'S DIVISION,
March 27, 1865.

SIR: In obedience to instructions from headquarters Cheatham's corps, dated March 22, 1865, I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by this division in the action near Bentonville, N. C., on the 19th instant:

Only two of the brigades of the division (Gordon's and my own) were engaged, the other two (Lowrey's and Granbury's) being still in the rear, and did not reach the battle-field until the next day. I was placed in position on the right of Clayton's division, Govan's brigade on the left and Smith's on the right. My lines had been formed but a few minutes, and I was proceeding to fortify, when the enemy suddenly appeared in our front, pushing his lines up to within thirty or forty paces of my left. He was, however, soon forced to retrace his steps in confusion, leaving a number of his dead and wounded in our possession. My breast-work was soon completed.

I received an order to be in readiness to advance at 12.45 p. m. Owing to the difficulty in getting over the abatis in front of my brigade the movement was not simultaneous along the line, and the consequence was this brigade did not come up as promptly as it should have done. After advancing about 200 yards the enemy opened a heavy fire on us from his works about 400 in our front. This fire only staggered us for the moment; another moment he was driven in great disorder from his strongly-intrenched position. The pursuit was kept up until we had reached a road running parallel with our works and about a mile from them. Here the line was halted to reform. Advancing again we encountered the enemy 300 or 400 yards in our front. This time his resistance was more stubborn, and bringing up fresh troops he was enabled to drive us a short distance. His success, however, was only temporary, as he was in turn driven across the slough about 200 yards

* See consolidated statement, p. 1060.

in front of the first. Here, owing to the depletion of our ranks from casualties and straggling, we were forced to halt and await the enemy's advance. He soon appeared in our advance, but was easily checked. Could the re-enforcements that were afterward brought up have been put in at this time I doubt not that our success would have been complete. They did not, however, come up until just before dark, when it was too late for them to accomplish but little.

My lines remained in this position until after night, when I was ordered to withdraw to the position occupied in the morning.

The troops under my command, with but few exceptions, acted with that gallantry and daring which has ever characterized them on the field.

My thanks are specially due Col. P. V. Green, commanding Govan's brigade; Lient. S. P. Hanly, acting assistant adjutant-general, and M. H. Hopkins, acting assistant inspector-general, for the zeal and energy displayed by them on this occasion.

For further details you are respectfully referred to the accompanying reports of brigade commanders.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. SMITH,

Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Capt. J. COBBS,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 301.

Report of Brig. Gen. John D. Kennedy, C. S. Army, commanding Conner's brigade, of operations March 19.

HEADQUARTERS CONNER'S BRIGADE,
Camp near Smithfield, N. C., March 31, 1865.

CAPTAIN: I respectfully submit the following report of the part taken by this brigade in the action near Bentonville, N. C., March 19, 1865:

By order of Major-General McLaws I formed line of battle in an open field on the right of a road intersecting the main Fayetteville and Goldsborough roads. The enemy shelled us so vigorously that I moved the line to a set of temporary works in the edge of the wood in our front. This was about 5 p. m.

We remained at this point until near 6 p. m., when Lieutenant-Colonel Roy, of Lieutenant-General Hardee's staff, ordered me to advance in the direction of the firing. I did so, obliquing to the left so as to uncover Harrison's brigade, which had immediately preceded me in the same direction. This oblique movement was performed very handsomely by the brigade under a terrific shelling. On approaching the musketry fire I halted the brigade, the left of it extending across the above-mentioned road, the center almost on it. Maj. Gen. D. H. Hill directed me to march to Major-General Walthall's left and join on to him. A staff officer was sent to show me where to extend. The brigade was then fronted and moved to the line, but instead of extending to the left of Walthall's line only a part of the brigade did so—about one regiment, certainly not more than two; the rest of it came up to a

line where troops (I took to be Walthall's) were. The fire of the enemy was not very severe. The smoke was so thick that it was impossible to see ten yards ahead, hence I could form no idea of the force of the enemy in my front. The enemy attempted a flank movement once only, but I regarded it as a weak one. I then had the Second South Carolina Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Wallace commanding, wheeled about so as to form almost a right angle with the front line and on an extension of a line Major-General Walthall had established. Lieutenant-Colonel Wallace executed the movement with his accustomed skill and gallantry. The accompanying diagram will explain what I was of our lines.

Darkness ensued without any change of the programme. I ordered a charge once at the center of the brigade, so as to move the whole forward, but the dense smoke, approach of night, and uncertainties of my left flank (no one being on it) made me desist from the movement.

After dark, when the action had ceased, by order of Major-General McLaws, I drew the brigade back to the point whence it had started.

The regimental commanders, their subalterns, and the men conducted themselves well, and all deserve my warmest approbation. I beg leave to particularly mention the gallantry and efficiency of Capt. C. R. Holmes, assistant adjutant-general; Lieutenant Harlee, acting assistant inspector-general; Lieutenant Sill, acting on staff, and of C. Kenison, acting aide-de-camp. Also the good conduct and coolness in bearing dispatches of Sergeant Blake and Corporal Pinckney, of the Second South Carolina Regiment. Lieutenant-Colonel Roy, when we advanced, was for a time on the left of the brigade gallantly inspiring the men. I am indebted to Capt. M. P. King, assistant inspector-general, of Major-General McLaws' staff, for assistance rendered me in bringing out the brigade.

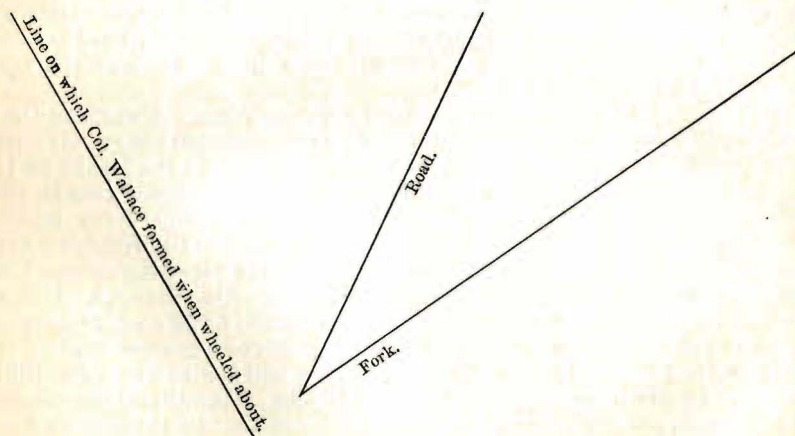
The brigade had 44 men killed and wounded and 5 missing.

I have the honor to be, captain, your obedient servant,

JNO. D. KENNEDY,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Capt. R. W. B. ELLIOTT,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

Front line.



[Inclosure.]

*Report of casualties in Conner's brigade in the engagement near Bentonville, N. C.,
March 19.*

Command.	Killed.		Wounded.		Missing.		Aggregate.
	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	
Headquarters brigade							
2d South Carolina Regiment		1	1	3		5	10
3d South Carolina Regiment		1	2	13			16
7th South Carolina Regiment	1	1	2	10			14
8th South Carolina Regiment							
15th South Carolina Regiment				1			1
20th South Carolina Regiment		1		6			7
3d South Carolina Battalion				1			1
Total	1	4	5	34		5	49

Respectfully submitted.

JNO. D. KENNEDY,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS CONNER'S BRIGADE,
March 20, 1865.

No. 302.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Zach. C. Deas, C. S. Army, of operations Feb-
ruary 12.*

HEADQUARTERS,
Jeffcoat's Bridge, February 12, 1865.

MAJOR: I ran a piece of artillery into the swamp and drove the enemy on both sides of the road into the swamp. As soon as I withdrew the piece the enemy crossed over a large force. I am satisfied from all I learn they are flanking me, and will consequently retire at dark, notifying Colonel Dibrell of it, and also Colonel Carter. The road to Orangeburg passes very near the swamp, and will be in the hands of the enemy as soon as I retire. I hope I am not withdrawing too soon, but think the safety of my command depends on my action.

Yours of 1.15 p. m. this moment received. I deem the holding of this place until to-morrow an impossibility.

I am, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Z. C. DEAS,
Brigadier-General.

Maj. J. W. RATCHFORD, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 303.

*Reports of Lieut. Gen. Wade Hampton, C. S. Army, commanding Cavalry,
of operations March 7-25.*

NEAR GRASSY PLACE FORD, *March 7, 1865—4 p. m.*

GENERAL: I have succeeded with great difficulty in getting most of my command across the river to-day, and I hope the whole of it will be over to-night. The Fourteenth Corps was crossing at Wall's Ferry last evening, that corps being on the left. Kilpatrick is now at Rockingham. General Wheeler killed ten of his men a few hours ago, and drove the rest close up to the town. I shall get everything together

near here to-night, and then be ready to move as circumstances require. I wish to have Butler with me, so as to operate to more advantage. Can you not let me have a small battery till mine comes up? I am now near Bethel Church, on the road to Rockingham, and three miles below Grassy Island Ford. As soon as my command can be concentrated I shall move round the left flank of the enemy to his front. Do let me hear from you.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WADE HAMPTON.

Lieutenant-General HARDEE.

LASSELLE'S HOUSE, NEAR INTERSECTION OF

SMITHFIELD AND GOLDSBOROUGH ROADS,

March 17, 1865—7.15 a. m.

GENERAL: I find the enemy on the roads leading from Starling's and Graham's Bridges. They camped last night where the road from the latter to Goldsborough crosses the Clinton and Smithfield road. I shall leave a strong picket at McDonald's Cross-Roads, with directions to fall back, if forced to do so, on the Smithfield road, thus covering your line of march. The rest of the force here I shall put on the Goldsborough road to assist in covering that point. If any portion of my command is now on the Smithfield road, and you can spare it, do send it on to Goldsborough road to join me. I shall be on the latter road to-day. If General Wheeler is with you will you advise him of my movements? I should like to hear the result of your fight yesterday. I hope it was successful, and that your casualties were light.

WADE HAMPTON,

Lieutenant-General.

Lieutenant-General HARDEE.

HEADQUARTERS,

One Mile west of Cole's House, March 18, 1865—2.30 p. m.

GENERAL: I took position at this place, the junction of the Fayetteville and Goldsborough with the Averagesborough and Goldsborough roads, two hours ago, and have been skirmishing with the enemy since. I can hold him here for several hours more and I do not think his advance will get beyond this point to-night. One regiment was sent on the Smithfield road with directions to watch the enemy and report all his movements to you. He may push one column up that road in hopes of crossing the river above and below Goldsborough at the same time. Wheeler can guard all the roads leading toward Smithfield from west and south, and I have written to him to do so. As soon as he can spare any troops from that duty I wish them to join me. The infantry have not yet reached this point. I have not yet learned the strength of the force opposed to me, nor what force it is, but I hope to get some prisoners soon. I think the Fifteenth and Seventeenth Corps camped near Beaman's Cross-Roads last night.

WADE HAMPTON,

Lieutenant-General.

General JOHNSTON.

I have not communicated with General Hardee since my last dispatch of last night, as I do not know his position, and I suppose you keep him advised of all information.

W. H.

ON ROAD, *March 19, 1865—12.45 p. m.*

(Received 1.45 p. m.)

GENERAL: With one regiment I am trying to get to Wheeler, or on the flank of the enemy. Butler is on the road behind you, and a part of Dibrell's command. Stewart wrote just now that the enemy attacked him. Taliaferro is just going in. I think whatever we do should be done quickly. An advance of the line would break them, I think.

Yours, very respectfully,

WADE HAMPTON,
Lieutenant-General.

General JOHNSTON.

HANNAH'S CREEK, *March 22, 1865—7.25 a. m.*

GENERAL: The new bridge over Mill Creek was not destroyed by the infantry, and it would not burn. General Wheeler threw off the flooring and did all he could to destroy it, but he says it can easily be repaired, and I suppose infantry can cross. The infantry did not cross till sunrise, and the enemy pressed Wheeler up to the bridge. I am preparing the bridge for burning.

Very respectfully,

WADE HAMPTON,
Lieutenant-General.

General J. E. JOHNSTON.

SOUTH MOCCASIN, *March 23, 1865—12.45 p. m.*

GENERAL: I forward a dispatch from Ashby, one of my best scouts. He is very accurate in his information. I shall press and follow the enemy up.

I am, very respectfully, yours,

WADE HAMPTON,
*Lieutenant-General.*General J. E. JOHNSTON,
Commanding.

[Inclosure]

MARCH 23, 1865—12 m.

Col. G. J. WRIGHT,
Commanding Young's Brigade:

COLONEL: I have just taken three more prisoners of the Fourteenth Corps, which they say is certainly moving toward Goldsborough. I presume the force on your front to be simply a strong picket protecting their flank. I am satisfied my report this morning was correct. Your advance is now very near the flank of the enemy's marching column. I have not seen General Logan's scouts since 8 a. m., but hear they are on my left, looking east. I will go down and report when I learn something which may be of importance.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. ASHBY.

HEADQUARTERS,
Moccasin Creek, March 24, 1865—6.15 p. m.

GENERAL: I struck a portion of the Twenty-fifth (colored) Corps this morning south of the creek. They attacked me, but we repulsed them and then drove them two miles to their works, close to Cox's Bridge. They appear to be guarding their pontoons. Prisoners say that the Fourteenth and Seventeenth Corps are in Goldsborough, the Twentieth entering to-day, and the Fifteenth in rear. I suppose this latter went down on the other side of the river. They expect to recruit here for two weeks. If the troops at Cox's Bridge remain there to-morrow you could strike them to great advantage, and could partially destroy their pontoons. There is no late news from Wheeler.

I am, very respectfully, yours,

WADE HAMPTON,
Lieutenant-General.

General J. E. JOHNSTON,
Commanding.

—

ATKINSON'S HOUSE, *March 25, 1865—10.15 a. m.*

GENERAL: General Wheeler reports that a force of the enemy yesterday crossed the Little River at Kennedy's Bridge. I have directed General Wheeler to send a part of his force on the other side of Little River and watch any movements of the enemy there. As soon as I am satisfied that the enemy have retired on this road I will leave a picket on it and move the rest of my force over to the other road. I am now holding Moccasin Creek.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WADE HAMPTON,
Lieutenant-General.

General J. E. JOHNSTON,
Commanding.

A D D E N D A .

Return of casualties in the cavalry, March 18-21, 1865.

Command.	Killed.		Wounded.		Missing.		Aggregate.
	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	
Wheeler's corps.....	8	9	44	.....	.....	61
Butler's division.....	5	1	21	.....	18	45
Hart's battery.....	2	.....	5	.....	.....	7
Total.....	15	10	70	.....	18	113

WADE HAMPTON,
Lieutenant-General.

Report of prisoners captured by cavalry from 18th to 21st March, 1865, inclusive.

Captured by—	Officers.	Men.
Wheeler's corps	4	301
Butler's division		67
Total	4	368

WADE HAMPTON,
Lieutenant-General.

No. 304.

Reports of Lieut. Gen. Joseph Wheeler, C. S. Army, commanding Cavalry Corps, of operations January 3–April 15.

GRAHAMVILLE, January 3, 1865—3.20 p. m.

(Via Beech Hill. Received 1.20 a. m. 5th.)

GENERAL: Enemy fell back this morning about two miles.

J. WHEELER.

Major-General McLAWS.

HARDEEVILLE, January 3, 1865.

(Via Grahamville.)

Slight skirmishing to-day. Enemy reported increasing his force on this side of the river. Reported to be bringing over cavalry.

J. WHEELER,

Major-General.

Major-General McLAWS,

Pocotaligo.

HARDEEVILLE, January 3, 1865.

(Via Grahamville.)

Just before dark this evening the enemy, consisting of infantry and cavalry, drove in our line for a short distance. General Anderson reports the force heavy.

J. WHEELER,

Major-General.

Major-General McLAWS,

Pocotaligo.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,

Grahamville, January 4, 1865—3.40 p. m.

(Received 1.30 a. m. 5th.)

The enemy fell back to-day to Hayne's house, about eight miles below Hardeeville. I have been unable to see the enemy's force myself, but scouts report it more than two divisions. The enemy have a pontoon bridge across the river. Will report again in about two hours.

J. WHEELER,

Major-General.

Lieutenant-General HARDEE,

Pocotaligo.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
Grahamville, January 5, 1865.

General Anderson reports that the enemy have made no change to-day. He thinks that they are waiting to remove the obstructions in the roads. I am urging the work pushed forward on the railroad as rapidly as possible, and have offered the railroad all the assistance they can use.

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Major-General McLAWS,
Pocotaligo.

EIGHT MILES NORTH OF PURYSBURG,
January 5, 1865—7 p. m.
(Via Grahamville. Received 1 a. m. 6th.)

Enemy but a short distance from here. We are falling back and obstructing the roads thoroughly, as it is the best way to check the enemy when they make their advance. The trestle near Savannah River has been destroyed. We are burning the railroad ties, and are giving every assistance to party taking up the track.

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Major-General McLAWS,
Pocotaligo.

EIGHT MILES NORTH OF PURYSBURG,
January 6, 1865—12.45 a. m.
(Via Grahamville. Received 9.45 a. m.)

Scouts on the other side of the river report enemy retiring toward King's Bridge, on Ogeechee River, and report that an intelligent negro just out of Savannah said Sherman was reviewing his army on the 3d, and Lincoln was expected in Savannah soon.

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Major-General McLAWS,
Pocotaligo.

EIGHT MILES NORTH OF PURYSBURG,
January 6, 1865—4.30 a. m.
(Via Grahamville. Received 9.45 a. m.)

The enemy crossed at New River bridge last evening, though the bridge had been thoroughly destroyed. It would have done no good to have sent artillery there, as the enemy could have crossed at any point above or below the bridge. Humes' division has been sent to Dibrell's assistance. I will go myself as soon as I get matters arranged here.

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Major-General McLAWS,
Pocotaligo.

GRAHAMVILLE, [January 6,] 1865—5.20 p. m.
(Received 9.50 p. m.)

Scouts just in report the enemy have retired to New River bridge, where they are now. Enemy consisting solely of infantry. Strength not great.

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Major-General McLAWS,
Pocotaligo.

GRAHAMVILLE, [January 6, 1865.]

We have blockaded the Savannah and Robertsville road to within twelve miles of Robertsville, also blockaded the road from Puryburg to Grahamville, and the road which runs by the railroad. We are now blockading the road which runs from New River bridge to Grahamville. This is the only effective way to check the enemy's march.

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

General McLAWS,
Pocotaligo.

GRAHAMVILLE, January 7, 1865—2.30 p. m.
(Received 3 p. m.)

Enemy advancing in small force from Boyd's Neck toward Bowling Church. Enemy's infantry also advancing from New River bridge. Will check them to the best of our ability.

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Major-General McLAWS,
Pocotaligo.

NEAR STEEP BOTTOM CHURCH,
January 19, 1865—10.15 a. m.

GENERAL: There is no news from the enemy this morning. Enemy's advanced brigade occupied McPhersonville yesterday. All my pickets on roads running south were driven in on 17th by scouting parties from the enemy. Reports from Georgia say all is quiet there.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Major-General McLAWS,
Commanding, &c.

N. B.—I regret that several dispatches sent you heretofore have been returned to these headquarters, thus causing a great delay in their reaching you.

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
Near Lawtonville, January 20, 1865—9 p. m.

GENERAL: The enemy have made no movement to-day. There are infantry pickets a short distance this side of Gillisonville, with barricades in front of them. They have also an infantry force at Coosawhatchie. Scouts sent down on the river (Purysburg) road yesterday as far as the barricades made by our forces would permit, and found no enemy. General Iverson reports all quiet on other side of the river.

Respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Major-General McLaws, Comdg., &c., near Salkehatchie Station.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
Near Lawtonville, January 23, 1865—11.30 p. m.

GENERAL: I learn that the enemy have taken up iron and burned the ties on the railroad [near Pocotaligo]. I suppose any information that I can give you from that [region will] be stale before it reaches you, as you no doubt learn it much sooner through your own scouts. I send it to corroborate any information you may have received. My scouts report no advance of the enemy anywhere to-day.

Respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. Gen. L. McLaws.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
Near Lawtonville, January 26, 1865—6.20 p. m.

GENERAL: General Iverson reports the Fourteenth Army Corps eight miles south of Springfield. My pickets were driven in near Pocotaligo this morning. Colonel Colcock thought the force of the enemy large. All quiet at other points.

Respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. Gen. L. McLaws, Commanding, &c., Salkehatchie.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
Near Lawtonville, January 26, 1865—7 p. m.

GENERAL: A dispatch just received from General Iverson states that the enemy were three miles and a half from Springfield and moving toward that place. Force not stated.

Respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. Gen. L. McLaws.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
Lawtonville, January 27, 1865—7.15 p. m.

GENERAL: The latest reports from General Iverson say the enemy have occupied Springfield. Their force has not been stated. The force that advanced upon General Humes yesterday retired after slight skir-

ishing. A prisoner who was captured says the object of the demonstration was to cover the left flank in an attempt to cross the Salkehatchie, which attempt failed. Scouts make the same reports. Everything quiet in my front to-day.

Respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. Gen. L. McLAWS.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
Lawtonville, S. C., January 27, 1865—11.30 p. m.

GENERAL: I have received no dispatches from General Iverson dated to-day. Scouts that crossed the river into Effingham County to-day report that the enemy encamped at Springfield last night, marched this morning northerly, in two columns—one on the Middle Ground road and one on the river road. Citizens report that they have four days' rations with them. Two transports appeared at Sister's Ferry to-day, from which it is said they are to replenish their supply of rations. Citizens also report that they are to cross into Carolina. Our pickets at Ennis' Cross-Roads were driven in to-day. They report that a considerable force of infantry are encamped at that point to-night. A scout from Gillisonville reports that he learned that General Foster is now in command of the troops at Pocotaligo.

Very respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

General McLAWS, *Commanding, &c.*

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
Near Lawtonville, January 28, 1865—8.30 a. m.

GENERAL: I have nothing further from the enemy since my dispatch of 12 o'clock last night. Should the enemy advance upon [*sic*] be compelled to withdraw to the road upon which they advance, leaving pickets only to observe the other roads. Will this meet your approval?

Respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. Gen. L. McLAWS, *Commanding, &c., Salkehatchie Station.*

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
Lawtonville, January 28, 1865—3 p. m.

GENERAL: The enemy's infantry commenced advancing toward Robertsville this morning. Their force is not yet ascertained. At 10.35 o'clock they were four miles south of Robertsville.

Respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. Gen. L. McLAWS, *Commanding, &c.*

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
Near Lawtonville, January 28, 1865—8 p. m.

GENERAL: My scouts report enemy's infantry camped on road leading from Ennis' Cross-Roads toward Grahamville and on road from

Ennis' Cross-Roads toward Sister's Ferry. My scout, writing at 2 p. m., could not determine which way they would march, as wagons were going in both directions. A considerable force moved up toward Robertsville, but it was only a reconnaissance. Scouts sent to vicinity of Gillisonville and Coosawhatchie report no force at the latter place except Foster's, numbering 3,000 to 4,000, principally negro troops; reports a small infantry camp near Grahamville; very little cavalry or signs of cavalry seen, though it was said a brigade of cavalry had gone out the Black Swamp road. The troops at Ennis' Cross-Roads had a star on their hats, which is the emblem of the Twentieth Corps. They had a wagon train with them.

Respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. Gen. L. McLaws, *Commanding, &c.*

—
LAWTONVILLE, S. C., *January 29, 1865.*

DEAR GENERAL: I write to inform you as well as possible of the situation of things in our immediate front. General Sherman no doubt first intended moving upon Branchville, but on reaching Pocatigo I presume the high stage of water in the Combahee may have deterred him. He certainly is now moving either for Augusta or for some point on the railroad between Augusta and Branchville; or he may yet turn and cross the Combahee above the railroad bridge and march direct upon Branchville. My best information is that the Fifteenth, Seventeenth, and part of the Twentieth Corps are upon this side of the river, and that the Fourteenth is on the Georgia side. General Hill, in taking command of the District of Georgia, has relieved me of the charge of that portion of my command which is in Georgia, so that I can turn my attention more particularly to my troops in my immediate vicinity. The advance of the enemy on this side of the river is at Robertsville, and on the Georgia side at Sister's Ferry. I have had a pretty good line of works thrown up at the Lower Three Runs, but you know that my force cannot hold the enemy in check long when their force is so overwhelming. I see General Hill has issued some orders which I fear will frighten the good people of Augusta very much. The twenty days of picket duty I have had has been devoted to drill and discipline and study of tactics, which has improved my command very much. The stories which I have been surprised to find circulated, to the effect that my command lacked discipline, were most false. It is the best disciplined cavalry in the Confederacy, and I can prove by the best citizens of Beaufort District that they have never known soldiers to treat people or property so well. Although I have tried to do so, I have not been able to find a citizen who had even to complain that a single rail had been burned.

With highest respect, your obedient servant and friend,

J. WHEELER.

General BRAXTON BRAGG, *Hdqrs. Armies of the Confederate States.*

JANUARY 30.

P. S.—Prisoners belonging to the Twentieth Army Corps, captured near Robertsville, state that the talk in camp is they are going to Augusta, and that they will move early to-morrow morning. They also state that their command was delayed to-day cutting out the blockades and to get up their forces, so as to ascertain what is in their immediate front.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
Near Lawtonville, January 30, 1865—3.15 p. m.

GENERAL: The enemy still occupies Robertsville. He advanced upon us this morning with infantry and artillery to where the roads were blockaded, but after slight skirmishing retired. General Iverson reports enemy near Sister's Ferry, on the other side of the river.

Respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. Gen. L. McLAWS,
Commanding, &c., Salkehatchie.

—

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
Near Lawtonville, January 31, 1865—6.25 p. m.

GENERAL: The entire Twentieth Corps is now at Robertsville. One division marched up on the Georgia side and crossed the river at Sister's Ferry. The Fourteenth Corps still in Georgia near Sister's Ferry. Some prisoners say they are marching to Augusta, others to Branchville and Charleston. Prisoners taken this evening think Branchville the point. Enemy are burning [all deserted] houses.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. Gen. L. McLAWS,
Commanding, &c., Salkehatchie.

The enemy bring forage and other supplies on transports to Sister's Ferry. When the enemy were demonstrating on my immediate front I ordered General Humes to concentrate at Hickory Hill and hold himself in readiness to move in this direction, leaving only two regiments to resist the enemy where he now is. Since the enemy have begun demonstrating on the Combahee I have ordered him to remain and resist the enemy as much as possible with his whole division.

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

—

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
Near Loper's Cross-Roads, February 2, 1865—5 p. m.

GENERAL: The enemy [*sic*] in strong force this [*sic*] drove the brigade which [*sic*] with me across the creek near Loper's Cross-Roads. This cross-road is the junction of the Augusta and Pocotaligo roads with the Lawtonville and Orangeburg roads. We have checked them at a creek just north of Loper's Cross-Roads, and I do not think the enemy will be able to cross to-night. The enemy has only driven [*sic*] four miles to-day.

My loss was between 20 and 30 men killed and wounded on this road. I think troops ought to be sent to Rivers' and Buford's Bridges.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. Gen. L. McLAWS,
Commanding, &c.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
On Aiken and Columbia Road, near Jackson's Bridge,
February 13, 1865—6.45 p. m.

COLONEL: Dispatches have just been received giving information that the enemy ceased to press our pickets in front of Aiken at 10.30 a. m. Afterward, when our skirmish line advanced, the enemy was found to have retired from Johnson's Turnout, and it was thought that he was moving in the direction of the Edisto. I have not heard from General Stevenson or General Dibrell to-day. My latest information of the enemy is that he was moving from direction of Pine Log Bridge, on South Fork of the Edisto, toward Gunter's Bridge, on the North Fork of the same river. I will hold him as long as possible at the crossing of the North Fork of the Edisto. The river is very small, however, and not very defensible. My last dispatch from you was dated 10.30 last night.

Respectfully, colonel, your obedient servant,
J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Col. JOHN M. OTEY,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
March 1, 1865—7.20 a. m.

MAJOR: A scout has just returned who reports that he went to Gillis' Creek, very near Lancaster, and found the bridge over that creek torn up, and he thought all the enemy had gone across to the other side. Citizens informed him they thought all the enemy had left Lancaster and gone east about five miles. Other scouts have been sent forward to ascertain fully the facts. Other scouts have been sent to Lancaster and Monroe roads to ascertain if the enemy were moving in that direction. The dispatch of 4 a. m. this day was by mistake dated 29th of February instead of 1st of March.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. H. B. McCLELLAN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
Four Miles from Wilson's Store, March 1, 1865—8.10 [p. m.].

MAJOR: We started from Lancaster with intention of going to Nelson's, on the Wadesborough road, but on approaching that place we found the Tenth Confederate, of General Allen's division, and were informed by the commanding officer that the enemy were on that road, and therefore we were compelled to move up on this road toward Wilson's Store. I think we will be compelled to move nearly all General Humes' division up to that point, as I can hear of but very little forage this side of that point. If you have any orders for me please send them right down this road.

Respectfully, major, your obedient servant,
J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. H. B. McCLELLAN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
Lancaster, March 1, 1865—4.35 p. m.

MAJOR: I find that most of the enemy left here yesterday. A party of about 200 came back this morning and left this afternoon. I think the object of the cavalry leaving here was to procure forage and protect the left flank of the army moving easterly. I think Kilpatrick is camped to-day about six miles from here, where he is throwing up breast-works. The Fourteenth Corps only left the [river] this morning. We captured a few of their foragers, who were in advance. The opinion of citizens who conversed with officers is that the enemy will leave Charlotte to the left. There is a talk among the officers that they are going to Goldsborough. I have sent parties on the different roads to pick up stragglers, &c. I will camp near Nelson's to-night, on the Wadesborough road. It may be necessary for me to go on to Taylor's for forage. I will inform [you as] soon as I go into camp.

Respectfully, major, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. H. B. McCLELLAN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
March 2, 1865—7.05 a. m.

MAJOR: Prisoners captured late yesterday evening, about six miles east of Lancaster, state they were near Kilpatrick's whole camp when taken. He moved about five miles day before yesterday and one mile yesterday.

Respectfully, major, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. H. B. McCLELLAN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

P. S.—I move at once toward Wilson's Store.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
March 2, 1865—10.20 p. m.

MAJOR: Lieutenant Smith and scout have just come in. He says that he followed the enemy about twelve miles toward Chesterfield. The prisoners captured say they were on the march to that place. I will march early in the morning and join you on the road to Cheraw. General Law went into camp about six miles from here. In pursuance to instructions I had ordered him to this place, but upon learning that he had forage and was in camp I countermanded the order, but have ordered him to move on early in the morning.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. H. B. McCLELLAN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,

March 4, 1865—2.25 p. m.

MAJOR: The enemy have left their lines of works. All heard of as yet were 100 men at the first works.

Respectfully, major, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. H. B. McCLELLAN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,

March 4, 1865—2.30 p. m.

MAJOR: We find artillery here, and have but two small regiments. Can you not send more forces up? The enemy have retired from four lines of works.

Each line of works was for about 100 men.

Respectfully, major, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. H. B. McCLELLAN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,

March 4, 1865—3.30 p. m.

MAJOR: Having run against some artillery, and not having sufficient force to drive the enemy from his position, I have taken up a position and will await your orders. The enemy were driven from four lines of works by flanking him, but when we came upon artillery he showed himself rather bold. He advanced upon us, but only a short distance.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Major McCLELLAN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,

March 9, 1865—6.50 p. m.

MAJOR: A prisoner just brought in, who was captured about an hour before dark between here and Blue's Bridge, states that the rear of their column had moved out of camp but a short time previous, and he thought it was not designed to move far to-day. The roads, he states, were very bad and made the march slow. They had wagons with them.

Respectfully, major, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Major McCLELLAN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,

March 9, 1865—7 p. m.

MAJOR: General Dibrell has not yet arrived at this point. He has been delayed by some wagons of General Butler's command in his front. If possible will you please direct me where I can encamp my command? I will direct General Dibrell to stop at Blue's.

Respectfully, major, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. H. B. McCLELLAN.

This dispatch is written at the point you left me.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,

March 11, 1865.

General Allen reports the enemy advancing in his front.

Respectfully, major, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. H. B. McCLELLAN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,

March 13, 1865—3.45 p. m.

MAJOR: One officer has just arrived from beyond Cape Fear River. He states that the enemy had advanced up the river and was in six miles of McNeill's Ferry this morning when he left. It was a cavalry force, and he thinks but small.

Respectfully, major, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. H. B. McCLELLAN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,

March 13, 1865—7.20 p. m.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report that a scout that was at Elliott's Ferry at 11 o'clock reports no infantry seen on the river road at that hour. The same scout started back at 1 o'clock; struck a force of cavalry, about twenty-five in number, about four miles this side of Elliott's Ferry. This force crossed the river at King's Ferry. There is a picket of fifty men now on the river road about five miles from its intersection with the plank road.

Respectfully, major, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. H. B. McCLELLAN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,

March 13, 1865—7.20 p. m.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report that I have established my headquarters for the night on the river road, just below the Widow Denning's house, on left-hand side of the road.

Respectfully, major, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. H. B. McCLELLAN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,

March 14, 1865—10.40 a. m.

MAJOR: The enemy seem to be moving on a road to our left, supposed to be the Smithfield road. General Allen has sent a regiment to re-enforce the picket on that road. Colonel Ashby reports the enemy moving on the river road.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. H. B. McCLELLAN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,

March 14, 1865—11 a. m.

MAJOR: There is a bridge above the bridge over Black Creek which you directed me to picket yesterday. Please inform me if you wish me to picket that bridge also, and how long you wish the picket to remain at Black Creek. The enemy are still advancing upon Colonel Ashby on the river road, which makes it necessary for me to move back on this road.

Respectfully, major, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. H. B. McCLELLAN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,

March 16, 1865—9.15 p. m.

MAJOR: On arriving here this morning I found General Hardee engaging the enemy, and I have been fighting with him until dark. In obedience to his orders, General Allen will cover his right flank while he is moving to Smithfield, and I, with Ashby's command, will cover his rear. I am ordered to remain at his line of works till to-morrow morning with Ashby's command.

Respectfully, major, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. H. B. McCLELLAN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,

March 17, 1865—12.45 a. m.

MAJOR: On arriving at General Hardee's position yesterday morning I found him engaged with the enemy, and fought with him until dark. In obedience to his instructions General Allen will move on his right, to cover that flank while moving to Smithfield, and I remain with Ashby's command to cover his rear. Any communication will reach me at Elevation to-day.

Respectfully, major, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. H. B. McCLELLAN
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,

Averasborough, March 17, 1865—9.05 a. m.

GENERAL: The enemy have advanced very near this place with a line of battle of infantry. Cavalry has also been seen. When driven back [*sic.*] I will turn off toward Smithfield with my main force, and will send a regiment on the road toward Raleigh. I do not think the enemy will go farther toward Raleigh than where the road turns off to Smithfield. Colonel Ashby has sent off all the wounded which could travel, and has left rations for such as were not able to travel. He has also a force keeping up all stragglers.

Respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Lieut. Gen. W. J. HARDEE.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,

March 17, 1865—11.10 a. m.

COLONEL: The enemy marched a short distance up the Raleigh road, skirmishing with the Eighth Texas, but have advanced farther on this road. The indications are that the advance will be upon this road.

Respectfully, colonel, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Lieut. Col. T. B. ROY,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,

Smithfield and Averasborough Road, March 18, 1865—11.45 a. m.

MAJOR: The enemy moved a portion of Twentieth Corps up as far as Stewart's Creek, on the Raleigh road yesterday. Scouts just report that it has returned to Averasborough, and I presume it will turn off and cross Black River at the same point at which the Fourteenth Corps crossed it. I have sent out scouts to ascertain definitely as to

that fact. After crossing there they can move either toward Smithfield or Goldsborough. I will move at once toward Bentonville with all the command except small pickets.

Respectfully, major, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. H. B. McCLELLAN, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
Wilmington and Raleigh Road, March 19, 1865—11.30 a. m.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report that I arrived here with Allen's and Ashby's commands. I find the enemy have pickets on this road between Mill Creek and Stone Creek. I learn that Stone Creek is of difficult crossing; that it can be crossed at but one point, and then only by single file. I fear that Mill Creek is so full that it cannot be forded. I will try to secure the bridges before the enemy destroys them.

Respectfully, major, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. H. B. McCLELLAN, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
March 19, 1865—1.10 p. m.

MAJOR: On reaching Stone Creek I found a few Yankees on south side. I crossed with my advance and captured one prisoner from Twentieth Corps. He states that Twentieth Corps was moving on road from Averagesborough, in direction of Goldsborough, and that the Fourteenth Corps was in front on same road, fighting. When he left his corps it was corduroying the road.

Respectfully, major, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. H. B. McCLELLAN, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Indorsement.]

3 P. M.

General JOHNSTON:

Within just handed me by courier, who says he can't find General Hampton, as the latter has gone to General W[heeler]. I suppose it makes no difference.

H. B. McCLELLAN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
Clinton and Smithfield Road, March 19, 1865—3 p. m.

MAJOR: My orders were to attack the enemy on this road when the troops on the Goldsborough and Averagesborough road attacked. I have found great difficulty in crossing Stone Creek, but on hearing firing on the Goldsborough road I moved a small force across and attacked and drove in the enemy's pickets. I have heard but little firing in your direction, and now can hear none at all. Please give me information from time to time what to do. Soon as I get my troops across I shall move on. The ford is growing worse and worse, and citizens inform

me that if many troops cross it will become impassable. The force at Dismal Cross-Roads being still there this morning, I have been forced to keep a strong picket on the road leading in that direction.

Respectfully, major, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. H. B. McCLELLAN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
Smithfield and Clinton Road, March 19, 1865—3.30 p. m.

MAJOR: A prisoner just brought in, belonging to Kilpatrick's cavalry, reports that his command moved from Dismal Cross-Roads this morning in direction of the Widow Peacock's house, on the Clinton road, which is south from Dismal Cross-Roads. When he was captured he supposed the head of the column had reached Widow Peacock's house.

Respectfully, major, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

Maj. H. B. McCLELLAN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

N. B.—At Widow Peacock's house the enemy could turn off and go in direction of Bentonville or Goldsborough.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
Near Flower's House, March 20, 1865—11.05 a. m.

GENERAL: I have formed a dismounted line here very near Flower's house, and can hold the enemy in check till we are flanked out of it. The line is a very short one, however. I have sent General Law back to Bentonville, with instructions to scout all roads running eastwardly from that point.

Respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

General J. E. JOHNSTON.

N. B.—Enemy are engaging us very warmly.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
March 23, 1865—2.40 p. m.

GENERAL: I have moved to within one mile and a half of Moccasin Creek, and have sent out scouts [to watch] the movements of the enemy, some of which have gone to the north and northeast of Goldsborough to ascertain if the enemy are moving in those directions. Colonel Ashby is on Moccasin Creek with his command. I shall remain at this point till I get further information.

Respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Major-General.

General J. E. JOHNSTON.

enemy warmly the latter part of the day on account of meeting a stream over which it was impossible to cross. March 20, I was moved over to the left of the army and was immediately met by a large force of infantry moving up the Goldsborough and Bentonville road. After a severe fight we checked their advance and held them in position until evening, when General Bragg replaced my position by Hoke's division of infantry.

March 21. Before daylight on the morning of the 21st I built a line of breast-works 1,200 yards long on the prolongation of the infantry, and fought the enemy warmly with a part of my command, while the balance I kept mounted as a reserve. About 4 p. m. the enemy pressed warmly along our entire line. The troops on my left gave way and an entire corps of the enemy under General Mower immediately rushed in, pushing on in our rear until they gained our hospitals, and were resting directly upon the only line of retreat of our army. The enemy here received a volley in the flank from some dismounted men of my command, and a volley in front from a small body of infantry accidentally stationed near the bridge, but this hardly checked their advance. Seeing the inevitable loss of our army, should the enemy be able to retain the position he occupied, I immediately charged his left flank with Hagan's brigade, under General Allen, feeling certain that the boldness and rapidity of a charge was all that could in any manner check a force so vastly our superior in numbers. My gallant Texas Rangers, who were somewhat to our left and rear, galloped across an open field and bore down most beautifully in an oblique direction upon their left and front. The enemy were at this time advancing at a slow run, with their skirmishers about 200 yards in advance of their main line. The result of the charge was more than could properly have been expected from troops so suddenly called upon to charge so superior a force. The rangers broke through the line of skirmishers without breaking their impetus and pushed on, striking the main line almost the same moment with Allen's gallant Alabamians, which threw the entire force of the enemy in a most rapid and disorderly retreat, General Mower, the corps commander, narrowly escaping capture. The main body of Sherman's army were now pressing all points of our line so warmly as to amount to continuous battle, which caused me to check my troops and prepare to act on the defensive. With the assistance of some infantry under General Walthall which General Hardee promptly sent to my assistance, we filled all the space between the left of our intrenched line and Mill Creek, thus securing our communication from further menace from any force, however large, that might be brought against us. The occupying of this position brought on a renewed engagement, which continued until night. About midnight, during a cold rain, our army withdrew from the breastworks and retreated toward Smithfield, while I, pursuant to orders, remained to occupy the intrenched works and gradually fall back, checking the enemy should he follow us.

March 22. Before daylight he had evidently discovered the evacuation and pushed forward his skirmishers, driving me back toward the passage of Mill Creek. The extreme darkness of the night and heavy woods had caused our army to move very slow, and at sunup the rear of our infantry was still in Bentonville, while the enemy pushed on with great vigor, making it necessary for me to dismount most of my men and fight with considerable warmth to sufficiently check his progress. By 9 o'clock we had attained the object desired, having yielded about one mile during the morning's engagement, and at 10 o'clock we had taken position at the crossing of Black Creek on the Smithfield road.

The enemy came up in strong force, and a column of infantry attempted to charge across the bridge. Three color-bearers of the leading brigade fell dead within fifty feet of my position. They then retreated out of range and made no further pursuit whatever. March 23, I moved through Smithfield and picketed the front of our army, skirmishing daily with the enemy's foraging and scouting parties.

April 2, I marched to Raleigh with 2,000 men, but returned immediately. April 10, General Sherman's entire force advanced, driving us back toward Raleigh. April 13. On the morning of the 13th we evacuated the city and the enemy occupied it in large force. General Kilpatrick pushed out after me, charging our rear. I placed the Alabama brigade in position, met and counter-charged the enemy, driving Kilpatrick back some two miles, killing or capturing some of the enemy, among whom was the major of the Thirteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry. At Morrisville Station the enemy again appeared that evening, but after severe skirmishing retired toward Raleigh. April 14 and 15. On the 14th I moved on to Chapel Hill, and on the 15th the enemy approached but after firing a few shots without effect again retired. Pursuant to orders I now moved my command back of Chapel Hill, with orders not to engage the enemy unless attacked.

Thus ended the campaign, the war, and the military power of the Confederacy. For an entire year my troops had been constantly together, enduring, encountering, triumphing. During that year the enemy's cavalry had been frequently met and always had our arms been crowned with success. The spirit of my brave men was as buoyant, unbroken, and determined as in the first days of our country's existence. Unity, concord, good-will, devotion to duty and country, and I might add nearly all elements which grow out of continued success, and which I felt would insure success to me in the future, pervaded my command from the highest officer to the youngest trooper.

The reports of Colonels Mason and Henry, of General Johnston's staff, Colonel Portlock, from the War Department, and Colonel Jones and Captain Whitehead, of General Hardee's staff, all of whom had but recently thoroughly inspected my command, give combined testimony that the discipline, drill, and order of my corps was not surpassed by any mounted troops in our service.

The effective force under my immediate command, which was 4,442 at the commencement of the campaign, had, by bringing back detailed and detached men, been so increased that my reports of February 16 showed an effective force of 5,172 men, and my report of April 17, the last one ever made, showed an effective force of 4,965. This report showed the number absent without leave to be 306 men, the greatest number that had been absent without leave during the campaign. I will here mention that a year previous these same organizations numbered but 4,000 men. My losses in killed and wounded during the year were 13 division and brigade commanders and 3,200 subordinate officers and enlisted men. Notwithstanding this, by discipline and by using every opportunity to recruit my ranks behind the enemy's lines in Kentucky and Tennessee, my rank and file was not only kept full, but gradually increased.

I cannot express too earnest thanks to the gallant officers who have been of most valuable service to me during a long series of campaigns. Major-General Allen, Generals Humes, Dibrell, Anderson, and Hagan I had seen twice wounded while most nobly carrying out my orders upon the field. Generals Robertson, Harrison, and Ashby, Colonel Crews, Cook, and Pointer still are disabled from wounds received in

the same manner. Majors Hudson and Wailes, of my staff, still suffering with more than one wound received at my side, nevertheless continue to render most gallant, efficient, and untiring service. Captains Rawle and Ryan had also won more than ordinary commendation. Colonel Grigsby, my chief of staff; Captain Steele, chief engineer; Major Norton, chief quartermaster; Major Thomas, chief commissary, and Surgeon Lewis, medical director, and Colonel Messick, provost-marshal, had been efficient in their several departments. To all these officers I tender my most heartfelt thanks.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,
Lieutenant-General.

No. 305.

Report of Capt. William L. Church, Ninth Georgia Cavalry, commanding Mounted Detachment, Army of Northern Virginia, of operations January 3-17.

HEADQUARTERS MOUNTED DETACHMENT,
ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA,
January 27, 1865.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor hereby to transmit through you to the major-general commanding the subjoined report of the operations of this command while in the vicinity of Pocotaligo, S. C.:

Arriving upon the 3d day of January and having been assigned to Colonel Colcock, commanding cavalry, I was by him given for picket the line from the Mackay's Point road, south of Pocotaligo River, north to the Tullifinny, and in front of that portion of the line held by the brigades commanded by Colonels Hardy and Fiser. My line was kept up without molestation from the enemy, and the duty performed with vigilance and attention by both officers and men. Upon the morning of the 14th instant, the enemy having effected a landing at Port Royal Ferry, I was moved with my command down toward that point, and placed with Lieutenant-Colonel Johnson, commanding Third South Carolina Cavalry, in the works at Horspa Creek, near Garden's Cross-Roads. The enemy appeared in my front at 10 a. m., when skirmishing at long range took place, without loss to either side, and continued till 3 p. m., when, the enemy having brought up their artillery and were heavily shelling us, and our flank having been turned by the force on the Sheldon road having been driven back, we were ordered to retire by Colonel Johnson, which we did in good order and without being pressed by the enemy. Upon arriving at the fort at Old Pocotaligo, we were again placed in position. One of my companies, having been thrown forward as skirmishers, engaged the enemy until nightfall, when they were withdrawn to the fort. Half of my command was then dismounted and the others sent to the station to feed the horses, by orders from Colonel Colcock.

I remained in the fort until 3 a. m. 15th instant, when I was ordered by Colonel Colcock to withdraw my command on the McPhersonville road, after destroying the rice on Heyward's plantation. I withdrew my command as directed and retired without being annoyed by the enemy, reaching McPhersonville at daylight the 15th. Here I established my pickets from Coosawhatchie River to the Salkehatchie road. My scouts were driven out of Pocotaligo Station at about 8 a. m. the 15th instant. Upon the same evening I was relieved and ordered to report to Major-General McLaws, which I did January 17.

No casualties occurred in the skirmishes in which I was engaged, owing to the works we occupied and the long range at which we were engaged.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. CHURCH,

Captain, Commanding.

Captain ELLIOTT, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 306.

Report of Col. John N. Whitford, Sixty-seventh North Carolina Infantry, commanding brigade, of operations April 5-7.

HEADQUARTERS WHITFORD'S BRIGADE,

In the Field, April 9, 1865.

COLONEL: I have the honor to respectfully report that on the 5th instant Lieutenant Marshall, Company F, Sixty-seventh North Carolina Regiment, burned the steamer *Mystic*, near Maple Cypress. On the same day Captain Tolson, Company A, Sixty-seventh Regiment, destroyed a transport loaded with commissary stores near Cowpen Landing, and on the 7th instant four privates of Company A, Sixty-seventh Regiment, viz, George Hill, Turner May, William Salter, and R. Brewer, captured and destroyed (burned) 1 side-wheel steamer, the *Minquas*, and 2 barges, all loaded with quartermaster's and commissary stores. Very little was saved from the boats.

On the 5th instant Capt. Joseph M. White, Company E, Sixty-seventh Regiment, captured 15 negroes and 2 Yankees at Biddle's Ferry engaged in trying to raise a sunken craft.

The reason I have not forwarded to you a report of my command is because the companies and regiments are scattered so far apart that it is impossible to get a report from them.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. N. WHITFORD,

Colonel, Commanding.

Col. J. B. SALE, *Asst. Adjt. Gen., Raleigh, N. C.*

No. 307.

Report of Capt. John A. Simon, C. S. Army, of operations January 15.

TORPEDO BUREAU,

Richmond, Va., January 26, 1865.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON, *Secretary of War:*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith the official report of Capt. John A. Simon, in charge of Torpedo Service in the harbor of Charleston, S. C., setting forth the facts of the late destruction of a monitor (turreted) which the enemy had been using as a picket-boat in that locality.

G. J. RAINS,

Brigadier-General, Superintendent.

[Indorsement.]

JANUARY 26, 1865.

It is gratifying to have this additional evidence of the value of the Torpedo Service, and of the retribution which, through its agency, may be inflicted on the vessels of the enemy.

J. A. SEDDON,

Secretary.

[Inclosure.]

TORPEDO SERVICE, *Charleston, January 17, 1865.*

GENERAL: I have the honor to report the destruction of one of the enemy's monitors on the night of the 15th instant by a torpedo in Charleston Harbor. I had been engaged for some ten days before placing torpedoes in the locality where the monitor was struck. For some time past the enemy's picket-monitors have been in the habit of venturing much closer in the harbor than usual, and it has been my ambition to teach them a lesson, as well as our friends, upon the subject of torpedoes, and it is a pleasure to me to announce that one of these turreted monsters has met a fitting fate.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN A. SIMON,
Captain, in Charge Torpedo Service.

Brig. Gen. G. J. RAINS,
Chief of Torpedo Bureau, Richmond, Va.

FEBRUARY 5, 1865.—Action at Braddock's Farm, near Welaka, Fla.*Report of Capt. J. J. Dickison, Second Florida Cavalry.*

HEADQUARTERS SOUTH FLORIDA FORCES,
Waldo, East Fla., February 9, 1865.

MAJOR: I have the honor respectfully to report that on the morning of the 1st instant I left this encampment with the following detachment of my command: Company H, Second Florida Cavalry Regiment, sixty-four men, commanded by Lieutenants McCardell and McEaddy; Company B, of same regiment, thirty-three men, commanded by Lieutenant McLeod; Company H, Fifth Florida Battalion, twenty-three men, commanded by Lieutenants Haynes, Brantley, and Haile. On the evening of the 2d instant I crossed the Saint John's River at Palatka and moved in the direction of Picolata. When within a mile of the post I found it impracticable to make a successful attack. I then made a flank move in the direction of Saint Augustine and Jacksonville, where I captured seventeen prisoners, including a captain and lieutenant, with an ambulance. I then learned that a raiding party had left Saint Augustine for Valencia. Dividing my command in two parties, sending one by the King's road toward Pallicier Creek, the other by Cowpen Branch, my advance met a small party of the enemy and captured one of them. We continued our march and met the enemy at Braddock's farm, where I engaged them, taking 51 prisoners (including a lieutenant-colonel and two captains), killing 4 men (including an adjutant), also 18 deserters and tories, 10 wagons and teams with seed cotton (about 9,000 pounds), and a number of small arms and horses. I recrossed the river on the 6th instant without the loss of a man.

My officers and men behaved most gallantly, and deserve the highest praise for their conduct and obedience to orders. The march was very hard and fatiguing, having undergone hard travel both night and day to accomplish my design.

I sent in all 68 Yankee prisoners and 18 deserters.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I am, major, yours, respectfully,

J. J. DICKISON,
Captain, Commanding Forces.

Maj. H. C. GOLDTHWAITE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.