

The Woodruff Gun

Annotations to the Margreiter article.

Price's Army Loses the Woodruff Guns at Trading Post, Kansas.

Charles Collins in his [*Battlefield Atlas of Price's Missouri Expedition of 1864*](#) notes that "The 2d Arkansas (U.S.) moved quickly and seized two small guns abandoned by the Confederates in their retreat" at the Marais des Cygnes River on the Kansas-Missouri border. His footnote identifies these as the Woodruff guns captured at Pilot Knob.

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53. The Marais des Cygnes River

The river and its fords are significant to the next phase of the fighting. The Fort Scott/Military Road passed through the small town of Trading Post and then continued south. The old ford crossed the river at the town and provided access to a secondary road to Mound City. However, the main road crossed at a new ford located one mile south of town. Within about an hour after daylight, the 2d Arkansas (U.S.) led the mounted pursuit and pressed forward to the main ford over the Marais des Cygnes River. The Union cavalry passed through the abandoned Confederate camp, capturing about 100 stragglers, numerous abandoned animals, and about 30 derelict wagons. Later, McNeil's and Blunt's men hung some of the prisoners in retaliation for the wanton destruction upon Kansas farms and alleged violations against the female residents of Trading Post. The 2d Arkansas (U.S.) moved quickly and seized two small guns abandoned by the Confederates in their retreat.²⁶ Their pursuit stalled when they found, "the ford of the stream, interrupted by an abatis on the opposite bank" and "the ford occupied" by Marmaduke's men.²⁷ The Confederates had positioned a significant skirmish line amid the trees and bushes on the opposite bank to slow the Union pursuit. From the top of the eastern mound, Sanborn observed the stalled pursuit and developed a plan to re-energize the attack. He directed the 2d Arkansas (U.S.) to fix Confederate attention on the ford, and for the 7th PEMM to outflank the Confederate defense. The 7th PEMM dismounted about 400 yards above the ford and crossed over the river. Unfortunately, Sanborn and the militiamen were unaware of the old ford located at Trading Post. Nonetheless, the 7th PEMM crossed over the river. The militia's commander stated, "We were then thrown out as skirmishers on the right of the brigade, driving the enemy from the creek bottom."²⁸ The flank attack was a success and the Confederates at the ford abandoned their position and withdrew.

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26. These guns were the two-pounder Woodruff guns captured by the Confederates at Pilot Knob. The two-pounder guns were not very effective field guns. The average field gun in both armies fired shot weighing 10 to 12 pounds. It appears that one gun was captured near the mounds and the other near the ford. Maj. Gen. Rosecrans later awarded one of the guns to the 2d AR as a trophy. However, there is no record of either of the guns being used by the Union forces in their continued pursuit of Price.

Charles D. Collins, Jr., *Battlefield Atlas of Price's Missouri Expedition of 1864*. Fort Leavenworth, Kan.: Combat Studies Institute Press, 2016: 131, endnote 26 on 164.

Lumir Buresh in his book *October 25th and the Battle of Mine Creek* notes the placement of “[t]wo small cannons, probably two-pounder Woodruff skirmish guns, captured at Pilot Knob” on p. 72.

p. 72.

General Cabell’s Brigade of Fagan’s Division was the force that deployed on the east mound. Pickets were placed in front of the mounds and later drawn back to the foot of the mound with the main force on the crest. Cabell’s Brigade being the largest brigade in Price’s Army consisted of about 2,000 troops. The west mound was lightly defended by about 300 men of Slemmons’ Brigade also of Fagan’s Division. Two small cannons, probably two-pounder Woodruff skirmish guns, captured at Pilot Knob³² were placed on the road between the two mounds. When the pickets were driven in by Sanborn’s Division, Cabell notified Price that the enemy was in his front in force and said that an immediate crossing of the river [Marais des Cygnes] should be made. This was not done initially, but a withdrawal of most of the train and all troops except the rear guard was accomplished some time before daylight.

32. Richard J. Hinton, “Price’s Raid”, *St. Louis Globe Democrat*, St. Louis, Missouri, April 4, 1897.

John R. [sic—L.] Margreiter, “The Woodruff Gun”, *Civil War Times Illustrated*, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania: May 1973: 32-37.

Buresh again notes their presence on pp. 76-78: “The Confederates had also placed two small two-pound Woodruff guns on the road between the two mounds.”

pp. 76-78.

As soon as Sanborn received these new instructions from Curtis, he made specific plans and issued orders for the attack. The artillery, consisting of two batteries, H and L, of the Second Missouri Light Artillery under Captains Montgomery and Thurber were ordered into a position approximately a half mile north of the mounds. Because of the difficulty of moving the six rifled Rodman guns into position over the wet fields and mired roads, they did not open fire until just before dawn. The assault on the mounds was ordered to be made on foot under the command of Colonel J. J. Gravely of the Eighth M.S.M. of Sanborn’s Brigade at the first light of dawn. The Eighth M.S.M. and the Sixth M.S.M. would charge the east mound while the Fourth Iowa Veteran Volunteer Cavalry of Benteen’s Brigade under the direction of Colonel Gravely would take the west mound. The battalion of three companies of the Second Colorado Cavalry, although not under the command of General Sanborn or Colonel Gravely, would cooperate on the extreme right flank. This attacking force including horseholders did not exceed nine hundred men. Cabell’s Brigade of some 2,000 men were posted on the east mound with three hundred men of Slemmons’ Brigade on the west. The Confederates had also placed two small two-pound Woodruff guns on the road between the two mounds.²

2. Richard J. Hinton, “Price’s Raid”, *St. Louis Globe Democrat*, St. Louis, Missouri, April 4, 1897.

The Confederates had captured four Woodruffs at Pilot Knob. Only known small steel guns in use at the time. John Margreiter, “The Woodruff Gun”, *Civil War Times Illustrated*, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania: May 1973: 32-37.

Buresh states the Confederates actually employed the Woodruffs in the gap between the mounds on pp. 78-79: "The Confederates' two Woodruff guns in the gap now opened fire and the Union guns then returned the volleys [sic] stopping the fire from the gap. The two small Woodruffs were pulled back by hand." He reports their recapture in the same section: "The Second Arkansas pushed forward to the ford quickly so as to be in position to capture two small guns being taken across the ford by the retreating Confederates.⁴ Undoubtedly, these were the same two guns that had been placed in the gap between the mounds."

pp. 78-79.

The attack started as the first faint light of the morning appeared. The Fourth Iowa assisted by the battalion of the Second Colorado Cavalry had less difficulty on the right flank than those assaulting the east mound. The mound they were attacking had a considerable cover of trees and rocks, and they reached the summit not long after daybreak and fired a few parting shots at the retreating enemy. The east mound was attacked by two regiments, the Eighth M.S.M. and the Sixth M.S.M. shortly after the attack on the west mound and after the Union artillery fire had lifted. Sanborn said later that there was much apprehension by his officers in charging the big mound looming up at their front, and they came to him to confirm the orders for a charge. "Is it a fact, General," they asked, "that we are to charge up those mounds and try to take them?" "It is," I replied. "Well, then good-bye, General"³ The Confederates' two Woodruff guns in the gap now opened fire and the Union guns then returned the volleys [sic] stopping the fire from the gap. The two small Woodruffs were pulled back by hand. The fire from the mounds was totally ineffective. In fact, the advancing troops could hear the guns going off but could not hear the bullets going overhead which meant that the shots were flying much too high and creating no damage. This was caused by the convex curve of the face of the mound. The Confederates on top could not see their attackers moving up the mound. An attack on the mound in the daylight would have been difficult, if not impossible where the defenders would have had a good view of the approaching enemy. The attackers had, however, reached the cover at the base of the mound before daylight. The charge up the mound was treacherous in spite of the ineffective fire because of the steepness of the ascent. Reaching the summit at last, the Missourians gave a yell, although the charge was made to attack. Cabell's men with bayonets, the M.S.M. being armed with rifles, only to discover that the enemy had already departed. The weary attackers took a few parting shots at the retreating Confederates running down the south slope of the hill which tapered gradually to the river. Cabell could see that he was being flanked on his left rear and must have assumed that his delaying mission was completed. He and his men were fighters and could have easily have driven back Gravelly's two regiments. This attack which was made on foot up the mounds was immediately followed by mounted pursuit by the Second Arkansas Cavalry (Union) of Sanborn's Brigade and the Third Iowa Cavalry and the Tenth Missouri Cavalry of Benteen's Brigade.

The remnants of Price's Army still north of the river were easily driven back across the river, and the mounted units arrived at the main ford in a short time. The Second Arkansas pushed forward to the ford quickly so as to be in position to capture two small guns being taken across the ford by the retreating Confederates.⁴ Undoubtedly, these were the same two guns that had been placed in the gap between the mounds. The

casualties on both sides were minor in this delaying action with Colonel Gravely reporting only one man wounded.

4. J. C. Leach, Recollections of, Private Company D Third Iowa Cavalry as printed in *Boots and Saddles* by Theodore Cook, p. 17.

OR, Series 1, Vol. 41, Part I, Report of Colonel John E. Phelps, p. 404.

Richard J. Hinton, "Price's Raid", *St. Louis Globe Democrat*, St. Louis, Missouri, April 4, 1897.

The *OR* provides a number of reports of the recapture of the Woodruffs. Brig. Gen. John B. Sanborn, commanding the District of Southwest Missouri and the Third Brigade, Cavalry Division, of the Union forces in pursuit of Price, made these comments in report of action on October 25:

"...General Pleasanton was now upon the ground and ordered me to advance my line to the Marais des Cygnes and cross the river as soon as possible. This order was immediately executed, and in a few moments my command occupied the ground just abandoned by the enemy, who left one piece of artillery and many wagons, horses, mules, cattle, sheep, cooking utensils, &c. Colonel Phelps, Second Arkansas Cavalry, was directed to take the advance and move forward as rapidly as possible...."

Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Series 1, Vol. 41, Part 1: 391.

Operations in Louisiana and the Trans-Mississippi States and Territories. July 1-December 31, 1864. Part 1: Reports.

No. 32.

Report of Col. Edwin C. Catherwood, Thirteenth Missouri Cavalry.

HEADQUARTERS THIRTEENTH MISSOURI CAVALRY,
Rolla, Mo., December 2, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report the following list* of killed, wounded, and missing of the Thirteenth Missouri Cavalry in the late campaign in Missouri against the rebel army, commanded by General Price, viz:

At the battle of Independence—Officers wounded, 4; enlisted men wounded, 7. At the battle of Osage River—Enlisted men killed, 3;† wounded, 11;† missing, 1. In the battle of Glasgow—Wounded, 1. Full report of killed and wounded in this action not received.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. C. CATHERWOOD,
Colonel, Commanding.

Capt. FRANK ENO,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 33.

Reports of Brig. Gen. John B. Sanborn, U. S. Army, commanding District of Southwest Missouri and Third Brigade, Cavalry Division.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI,
Springfield, Mo., November 13, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report, for the information of the major-general commanding, the part taken by my command in the recent campaign in Missouri against the rebel army, commanded by Major-General Price, while reporting to Major-General Pleasanton:

Under paragraph 5 of Special Orders, No. 1, dated headquarters U. S. forces, Jefferson City, Mo., October 8, 1864, I immediately proceeded with all the available cavalry force of the command and one battery of light artillery in the direction of the enemy. This command consisted of the following regiments and detachments, viz: First, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Regiments Missouri State Militia Cavalry, Sixth and Seventh Provisional Regiments Enrolled Missouri Militia, Second Arkansas Cavalry, First Iowa Cavalry, Seventeenth Illinois Cavalry, with Battery H, Second Missouri Light Artillery, to which was added one section of Battery L, Second Missouri Light Artillery, the whole under command of Captain Thurber, of Battery H, numbering in effective force pressed for duty about 4,100 men. This force was at once organized into brigades as follows: First Brigade, consisting of the First, Fourth, and Seventh Missouri State Militia Cavalry and the First Iowa Cavalry, under command of Col. John F. Philips, of the Seventh Missouri State Militia; Second Brigade, consisting of the Third, Fifth, and Ninth Missouri State Militia Cavalry and the Seventeenth Illinois Cavalry, with a battery of mountain howitzers, under command of Colonel Beveridge, of the Seventeenth Illinois Cav-

* Nominal list omitted.

† Two of these belonged to the other regiments temporarily attached to Thirteenth Missouri.

ally; Third Brigade, consisting of detachments of the Sixth and Eighth Missouri State Militia Cavalry, Sixth and Seventh Provisional Enrolled Missouri Militia, and the Second Arkansas Cavalry, under command of Col. J. J. Gravely, of the Eighth Missouri State Militia Cavalry. The artillery (six guns), Captain Thurber commanding, was attached to the division generally to act under my orders. The First Brigade, Colonel Philips commanding, already in motion, was ordered to continue its march on the Jefferson City and Springfield road toward Versailles and Warsaw, and the Second and Third Brigades were ordered forward along the line of the railroad toward California and Tipton. Before I left Jefferson City artillery firing was heard in the direction of the Springfield road, and soon after I received a dispatch from Colonel Philips informing me that the enemy had made a stand at the crossing of the Moreau, occupying a very strong position, and that artillery was needed to enable him to carry this position without serious loss. The Second Arkansas Cavalry had already been sent to his support, and I immediately ordered the rest of the Third Brigade, Colonel Gravely commanding, with one section of Thurber's battery, to turn off from the California road, and move forward to the support of Colonel Philips. The enemy retired from the Moreau before the arrival of Colonel Gravely, with some loss in killed and wounded, leaving about seventy horses abandoned on the field. No loss was sustained by my command. The First and Third Brigades and one section of artillery bivouacked on and near the Moreau that night, and the Second Brigade, with three sections of artillery, at Gray's Creek, about ten miles from Jefferson City, on the California road.

At daylight on the 9th the entire force of the enemy moved forward rapidly on the Springfield road toward Versailles from its place of bivouac east of Russellville, the Third Brigade moving in pursuit. The Second Brigade moved across by a neighborhood road from the California road to the Springfield road and advanced to the support of the Third Brigade, already engaged with the enemy's rear guard. The enemy resisted the advance of the column strongly with a heavy line of dismounted skirmishers and strong reserves while passing through the heavily timbered country east of Russellville. The entire Third Brigade was immediately formed in line, with a line of dismounted men as skirmishers in front, and the other brigades moved forward in support. The enemy, on account of the timber and formation of the ground, was able to resist the advance of our skirmishers to such an extent that it was deemed proper to charge with a mounted force through the enemy's line of skirmishers and attack his reserves. This was accomplished by a detachment of the Sixth Missouri State Militia Cavalry, under Lieut. R. B. Riggs, Company K, Sixth Missouri State Militia, and the enemy retreated rapidly through Russellville, leaving several dead on the field. My loss in this affair was Lieut. R. B. Riggs killed and — wounded. Lieutenant Riggs was a most gallant officer, and fell within five yards of the enemy's reserves, which he was charging so vigorously. The Seventh Provisional Enrolled Missouri Militia, deployed as skirmishers, and the Sixth and Eighth Cavalry Missouri State Militia, which were also engaged, behaved most gallantly. This cleared the road to the open prairie, on which the enemy's columns and trains were plainly visible within artillery range. When my advance emerged from the woods artillery was immediately opened upon the flying columns, which continued to move forward toward Versailles until it had passed every road turning to the right toward California but one, viz, the road at High Point. This movement of the enemy

induced me to move by the shortest route and by a rapid march to California for the purpose of striking his flank if he should turn north toward Boonville at High Point, and also for the purpose of moving rapidly on his flank during the night toward Warsaw, with a view of reaching that point before him, if he continued his march in that direction. The First Brigade, with one section of artillery, led in this march and the Second and Third Brigades followed, with another section of artillery with the rear brigade. The head of the column emerged from the timber upon the open prairie near California about 5 p. m., and found a large force of the enemy in that town, a portion engaged in tearing up the railroad and a large force in line of battle. The enemy opened with one section of artillery upon my advance immediately. The First Brigade was at once formed in close column of squadrons in rear of the crest of a ridge running east and west, about half a mile south of the town, and dismounted and formed line in rear of this crest, the right extending northeast of the California and Russellville road, on which my command was marching, and the left extending in a southwesterly direction across this road toward the road leading from California to High Point. The section of artillery with the First Brigade, under Captain Thurber, went into position on the left of the road about 700 yards from the enemy's guns and opened a well-directed fire. Three squadrons of the First Iowa Cavalry, mounted, were ordered to our extreme left on the road leading from California to High Point, as a party of observation. The Second and Third Brigades were still in reserve with the exception of two regiments. The line was ordered to advance and moved forward with the utmost alacrity. The enemy soon ceased his fire and as the left of our line entered the town he fled with great precipitancy, leaving five dead on the field. Our loss was one man wounded in the First Brigade. It was now dark. Shelby's division moved to and occupied Boonville during the night. The main body of the enemy bivouacked on the Moniteau and moved out on the Boonville road at daylight. My command started at daylight also, and moved through Tipton, bivouacking for the night within nine miles of Boonville, on the Tipton and Boonville road. During the evening Fagan's division was reported moving into Boonville. Early in the morning of the 11th the Sixth Provisional Regiment Enrolled Missouri Militia was sent across to the Boonville, Pisgah, and California road, with orders to Lieutenant-Colonel McMahan, commanding, to advance up that road as far as possible. The balance of the Third Brigade was ordered forward on the Tipton and Boonville road. At the same time Colonel Eppstein, of the Fifth Missouri State Militia Cavalry, was ordered to proceed west to the Boonville and Georgetown road, and advance up that road, driving in the enemy's pickets and ascertaining whether the enemy had moved west or not. The Second Arkansas Cavalry, which had the advance of the Third Brigade, on the Tipton road, encountered the enemy's pickets about three miles south of Boonville, and drove them in in the most spirited manner. The enemy deployed a line of skirmishers about two miles in length. The Sixth Provisional Enrolled Missouri Militia came up on the Pisgah road without opposition and joined the Second Arkansas Cavalry, and the enemy's skirmish line, though repeatedly re-enforced, was driven back to his main line. Lieutenant Gideon, Company H, Sixth Provisional Enrolled Missouri Militia, with one company advanced into the outskirts of the town and entered, and for a short time occupied two or three houses for protection to his men. The enemy opened artillery upon these houses and the line, and his main line

opened fire. I ordered the line to retire, the enemy advancing but a short distance as it withdrew. The line was ordered to advance again, and moved forward to within short musket-range of the enemy's main line. A dispatch from Colonel Eppstein, on the Georgetown road, announced that no portion of the rebel army had moved west, and I withdrew my lines to the south side of the Petit Saline. In the affair of this day my loss was 1 man killed and — wounded. The enemy's loss is known to have been 15 killed, and 28 so severely wounded that they could not be moved, and a large number were wounded and taken along with the army. Several officers, one a colonel, were reported among the rebel wounded. My command had been out of rations for thirty-six hours, the men had become much exhausted, and I could not learn of any train on the way to me. I determined to move toward California in the morning, until I should meet a subsistence train, and return immediately upon procuring supplies. Four days' rations were procured and issued at California, and the command moved back to its position in front of Boonville by 10 o'clock on the morning of the 13th of October. Colonel Catherwood's brigade of veteran troops, 1,500 strong, reported to me at California and held the advance in this day's march. A reconnaissance made by a detachment of the Seventh Kansas Cavalry, under Captain Turley, developed the fact that the enemy had left Boonville on the morning of the 13th and moved westerly, crossing the La Mine River at Dug Ford and Scott's Ford. My apprehension was that the enemy would move by rapid marches to Lexington and into Kansas, and thereby prevent the organization and concentration of the troops of that department on the border against him, and at the same time place so great a distance between his army and the infantry and cavalry of this department, then moving to the front in support of my command, that it would be impossible for them to join me if I should follow him, and thereby avoid a battle with the large number of troops then being marshaled for that purpose or with any command larger than my own. Hence all my movements after the enemy left Boonville were made with the view of holding the enemy in or near Saline County until the Kansas troops were organized and on the border, and Winslow's brigade of cavalry and General A. J. Smith's command of infantry and artillery should be within striking distance. I therefore moved my command, with the exception of a small force under Captain Turley, which was ordered to follow the enemy's trail by Nebo Church, through Georgetown up the Georgetown and Lexington road to Cook's Store, arriving at this point at 3 p. m. on the 15th day of October, with the view of resisting the advance of the enemy, and attacking his flanks if he should advance immediately.

After the first day's march from Boonville the enemy moved slowly, portions of his command halting a short time near Marshall, Arrow Rock, and Waverly. Detachments from my command reconnoitered the position and movements of the enemy daily. On the 17th day of October some movements were reported that indicated a design on the part of the enemy to move southeast through Marshall, and his advance not having appeared at Dover I moved south to the Blackwater to be in a better position to strike the enemy if he should move in that direction. Subsistence supplies had also been exhausted for two days, and it was absolutely necessary to get a train from Sedalia. Immediately upon my command moving south to the Blackwater the enemy commenced moving west rapidly. Subsistence was obtained and issued on the 19th day of October, and on this day I received the first dispatch from Gen-

eral Blunt, giving the force and position of the troops from Kansas and indicating a state of readiness on the part of General Curtis and himself. On the same day I received information from your headquarters of the arrival of Winslow's brigade of cavalry and General Smith's corps at Sedalia, and your order reorganizing the cavalry and taking immediate command. I sent a dispatch to Major-General Blunt immediately upon receiving his dispatch informing him of the position of the enemy and of all our forces and intended movements, and having on this day, by order of the general commanding, moved the First Brigade to Boonville and the Second Brigade to Kirkpatrick's Mill, I moved with the Third Brigade to Cook's Store and halted. At 3 p. m. I received a dispatch from Major-General Blunt, then in Lexington, and sent one immediately in return. I ordered Col. John E. Phelps, Second Arkansas Cavalry, to move forward on the Dover road at midnight till he should strike the main body of the enemy or reach the Missouri River. At 3 a. m. a dispatch from him announced that the rebel army had been moving through Dover west during the afternoon and evening of the 19th, and that cannonading was heard late in the evening in the direction of Lexington, adding that he would move forward and attack the force remaining in Dover. This information was immediately communicated to the general commanding, and the entire [force] at once commenced advancing. I sent dispatches to General Blunt on the evening of the 19th and again on the morning of the 20th. None of these dispatches reached him, and I consider it the most unfortunate thing of the campaign that he did not know our position and plans at this time. A determined stand by the forces in the enemy's front at Lexington, Little Blue, or Independence, which would have been made, of course, if the commanding officers had been fully advised of our position and intended movements, would have brought all our forces, including the infantry, into action, and the entire destruction of the enemy would seem to have been made certain.

On this day, General Pleasanton coming up in person, I assumed command of my brigade and moved forward in support of General McNeil's brigade, which held the advance. On the following day, 21st, I moved in the same order to Independence, where the leading brigade became quite heavily engaged with the enemy. Pursuant to orders from the general commanding I moved my brigade to the right of the Second Brigade under a severe artillery fire, dismounted the men, formed in two lines, and advanced rapidly on the left of the enemy's position. Colonel Phelps, Second Arkansas Cavalry, held the advance and moved forward through gardens, yards, and streets so rapidly that he captured a staff officer of General Cabell's and the general's sword, and their whole line commenced giving way. A charge by the Thirteenth Missouri Veteran Cavalry, simultaneously made, carried everything, and the enemy was routed, losing his artillery and many prisoners. The enemy reformed on the west bank of Stony Creek, and I moved by a circuitous route on our right with a view of turning this position. But before I reached the desired position the gallant fighting of Winslow's brigade had forced the enemy back, and he was at this time, though long after dark, fighting heavily and driving the enemy rapidly toward the Big Blue. At 5 o'clock on the following morning I moved forward to the support of the First Brigade, holding the advance. This brigade commenced advancing at 7 o'clock and in a short time was hotly engaged with the enemy at the Big Blue, advancing and driving the enemy in the most gallant manner. Soon after my command reached the front line the Second Arkansas Cavalry was dismounted and

ordered to advance against the enemy's right. The regiment moved forward and the enemy fell back, whereupon, pursuant to an order from the general commanding, I charged with the rest of my brigade in line and drove the enemy back to the Harrisonville road, a distance of some three miles. The lines were now reformed and soon the order came to charge again. In this instance the order was given directly to regimental commanders in two or three cases, and the points at which the several regiments were to strike the enemy's line were not designated. The result was that, although the troops charged with the greatest gallantry and carried the enemy's position, the charge was made so far to our right that the enemy was allowed to escape with his artillery on the Harrisonville road. My line immediately preceding the charge had been a little confused by one of our own batteries opening upon it from the rear, and hence was not in as good a position as it was a few moments before. As it was, the enemy burned a large number of wagons and abandoned a large amount of artillery, ammunition, and other property. The Second Arkansas Cavalry pursued the enemy across the creek south, killing 8 of them in a skirmish at the creek. My command moved forward this night to Little Santa Fé, and the following day, the 24th, it moved to the immediate vicinity of the Marais des Cygnes, a distance of sixty miles, passing the commands of Generals Curtis and Blunt, and taking the advance on the road twelve miles south of this point, followed by the First, Second, and Fourth Brigades, all having been placed by General Pleasanton under my direction for the night. My advance reached this point a little after midnight and immediately commenced skirmishing with the enemy. The road leading to the Trading Post, on the Marais des Cygnes, passes through a gap between two high mounds about half a mile from the river, each from one-half to a mile in length. Col. J. J. Gravely, Eighth Cavalry Missouri State Militia with his own regiment and the Sixth Cavalry Missouri State Militia, Maj. William Plumb commanding, was ordered to advance until the position of the enemy should be fully developed. The night was dark and it was raining heavily. Colonel Gravely advanced gallantly with his command and the enemy opened musketry fire from the gap. The line was deployed as skirmishers and advanced toward the base of the mounds. The enemy opened a line of fire from the foot, sides, and summits of the mounds and the intervening gap, and in an instant the clamor and noise of many voices indicated that we were near the position of the enemy.

My ignorance of the topography of the country, the impenetrable darkness and incessant rain, induced me to postpone a general attack until 4 o'clock in the morning. Previous to this hour Lieutenant-Colonel Benteen, commanding Fourth Brigade, had by my order sent one regiment of his brigade along a road leading west to a ford about three miles above the Trading Post and the place where the enemy was camped, and had sent forward the Fourth Iowa Cavalry to report to Colonel Gravely and assist him in taking possession of the two mounds. Colonel Gravely was ordered to advance and occupy the summits of the two mounds and the intervening gap without delay, and Captains Thurber and Montgomery were ordered to open fire with all their guns at 16 degrees elevation, bearing across the right end of the mound on our left through the gap, the mounds and gap being now just visible through the receding darkness. The Fourth Iowa Cavalry gained the mound on our right without serious opposition, but Colonel Gravely met with strong resistance in his advance toward the crest of the mound on our left. The enemy's line extended the entire length of this mound, and

as our line advanced it opened a rapid but ill-directed fire. The line formed by the Sixth and Eighth Cavalry Missouri State Militia, almost crawling upon the ground by reason of the abrupt ascent, moved steadily forward until within a few yards of the enemy, when a loud cheer from our line, followed by one or two sharp volleys of musketry, proclaimed the position gained. Captains Thurber and Montgomery had kept up a steady fire from their batteries during this advance, and, as was afterward ascertained, many of their shells exploded in the enemy's camp, creating the greatest excitement and confusion. General Pleasanton was now upon the ground and ordered me to advance my line to the Marais des Cygnes and cross the river as soon as possible. This order was immediately executed, and in a few moments my command occupied the ground just abandoned by the enemy, who left one piece of artillery and many wagons, horses, mules, cattle, sheep, cooking utensils, &c. Colonel Phelps, Second Arkansas Cavalry, was directed to take the advance and move forward as rapidly as possible. He soon reached the river and found the enemy busily engaged felling trees across the road on the opposite side. The Seventh Provisional Enrolled Missouri Militia was at once dismounted and thrown across the river, about 400 yards above the ford, and ordered to advance as skirmishes down the river till it should reach the ford. Colonel Phelps at the same time advanced, under a heavy musketry fire, and the enemy was driven from his position opposite the ford, where he had felled but two trees of moderate size across the road. The Second Arkansas Cavalry continued to advance, followed by the Sixth and Eighth Cavalry Missouri State Militia, which were already nearly exhausted from their labors during the night. The other two regiments of my brigade were still deployed as skirmishers. Upon reaching the open prairie, about half a mile from the ford, the enemy displayed a long line of battle, supported by one section of artillery. I ordered Colonel Phelps not to charge this line until other troops came up, unless he was certain that he could break it and capture the artillery, and proceeded to the ford to hurry up some artillery and other troops. The enemy had already opened his artillery and General Pleasanton was at the ford, throwing forward troops and artillery as rapidly as possible. Colonel Phelps, with his regiment, aided by the Sixth and Eighth Cavalry Missouri State Militia, dismounted, had already charged the enemy's position and had forced them to yield. A section of artillery now came up and was immediately placed in position on our left within good range of the enemy's guns and opened fire rapidly. Colonel Phelps came forward with his entire brigade upon the gallop, and advanced upon the enemy's left, and Colonel Benteen brought his brigade upon the field with similar spirit, although two of his regiments had been on duty nearly the entire night, and advanced against the enemy's center. The Third Brigade bearing strongly to the left at this time, the enemy gave way immediately, followed rapidly by Philips' and Benteen's brigades, and fled with such precipitancy that it seemed improbable that he would form again soon. My brigade having been on duty all night and engaged all the morning without anything for horses or men to eat, by permission of the general commanding I fell to the rear to feed for a few moments. Hardly were the horses unbridled when musketry firing was again heard beyond a ridge to the front, which was soon followed by artillery. "To horse!" was immediately sounded, and the brigade moved off on a gallop to the scene of conflict. Before it could reach the spot, however, the impetuosity and gallantry of the First and Fourth Brigades had broken the enemy's line, captured his artillery, and put him

to complete rout. I moved forward rapidly and took the advance again about three miles from the battle-field, and moved forward in line at a walk until near the Little Osage, where the enemy had reformed under cover of thick timber and brush, at which point I received an order from the general commanding to charge their position and move through the timber to the open prairie beyond and there halt and reform. The brigade charged the enemy concealed in the timber in the most gallant manner; drove him across the Little Osage and through the timber, where we halted and reformed the line. Three full lines of the enemy were visible within rifle-range, and the command became so eager for the fray that it seemed impossible to restrain them, and the entire brigade charged the enemy again, without any orders, and drove him fully four miles, killing and wounding many, capturing a number of prisoners, and compelling the enemy to burn a large number of wagons and other property; nor would the brigade have halted here, but the powers of nature both of men and horses had failed, and not even the excitement of battle could keep them up longer. The Second Brigade moved on in pursuit, and after an hour's rest my command moved forward, but could not again reach the enemy that day, and moved to Fort Scott for subsistence, and there rested for one day. On the morning of the 27th I left Fort Scott with my command and one section of Montgomery's battery, under Lieutenant Smiley, with the hope of striking the enemy one more blow in the vicinity of Newtonia or Neosho, as it was probable that he would make a short stay there to obtain supplies before entering the desert region of Northern Arkansas. I marched sixty-two miles that day, keeping the artillery and teams along, and reached Newtonia on the 28th about 4 p. m., having marched 104 miles with artillery and a train in thirty-six hours. I found General Blunt heavily engaged with the enemy, his line slowly receding, and the enemy's line extending much beyond his on both flanks, advancing rapidly upon the right and left. General Blunt directed me to form upon his left, and if possible to turn the enemy's right. The horses being exhausted and the fields intersected with stone walls and other obstacles, I was induced to dismount my command and the regiments were ordered to advance as fast as they could dismount and form. The Sixth Cavalry Missouri State Militia was the first to meet the advancing force of the enemy. This regiment advanced most gallantly, and had fired two or three volleys in rapid succession, when a triumphant cheer from the line announced that the enemy had turned and was falling back. All the regiments of the brigade behaved with equal promptness and vigor, and the enemy was driven back some three miles, when darkness, the flight of the enemy, and the exhaustion of our troops closed the battle and the pursuit. During the night I received the orders of the general commanding to proceed with my command to Springfield and assume command of my district, and on the following morning I moved in compliance with said order.

In a campaign of greater hardships and privations for its duration than any in which I have ever taken part, the troops of my entire command conducted themselves in the most uncomplaining, energetic, and gallant manner. I neither saw nor heard of a single straggler during the campaign, and the greatest effort required of me was to restrain the advance from a general attack upon the enemy until the rear was in supporting distance. The commanders of brigades, Colonel Philips, of the Seventh Cavalry Missouri State Militia; Colonel Beveridge, of the Seventeenth Illinois Cavalry, and Colonel Gravely, of

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the Eighth Cavalry Missouri State Militia, throughout the campaign, while under my command, conducted themselves in the most energetic and soldierly manner, and have earned the gratitude and confidence of the country. My staff officers—Capt. William T. Kittredge, assistant adjutant-general; Surg. H. H. Maynard, acting medical director; Maj. A. B. Freeburn, Second Arkansas Cavalry; Capt. John G. Quinn, Sixth Cavalry Missouri State Militia; Capt. Charles W. Rubey, Sixth Provisional Enrolled Missouri Militia; Lieut. S. Lee Davis, Seventh Minnesota Infantry, and Lieut. D. E. Murphy, Eighth Cavalry Missouri State Militia, my personal aides, and Lieut. George Graves, Sixth Provisional Regiment Enrolled Missouri Militia, acting commissary of subsistence, and Lieut. Samuel Turner, Sixth Provisional Regiment Enrolled Missouri Militia, acting quartermaster—conducted themselves throughout the entire campaign in the most prompt, energetic, and gallant manner.

During the campaign my brigade captured 1 piece of artillery, 250 stand of small-arms, and 800 prisoners, including those captured in the district. The casualties in my brigade during the entire campaign were 1 officer killed and 5 officers wounded, and 9 enlisted men killed and 76 enlisted men wounded, and 1 man missing, as will appear more fully from the accompanying lists. Reports from subordinate commanders are transmitted herewith.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JOHN B. SANBORN,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Lieut. **CLIFFORD THOMSON,**
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Cavalry Division.

List of officers and men killed, wounded, and missing in the Third Brigade, Cavalry Division, in the campaign against the rebel army under General Price, in Missouri, during the month of October, 1864.

RECAPITULATION.

Regiment.	Killed.			Wounded.			Missing.			Aggregate.
	Officers.	Men.	Total.	Officers.	Men.	Total.	Officers.	Men.	Total.	
6th Cavalry Missouri State Militia ...	1	1	2	1	17	18	.....	.....	.....	20
8th Cavalry Missouri State Militia ...	.....	2	2	2	22	24	.....	.....	.....	27
6th Provisional Enrolled Missouri Militia.	.....	5	5	2	26	28	.....	1	1	33
2d Arkansas Cavalry .....	.....	1	1	.....	10	10	.....	.....	.....	11
Total	1	9	10	5	75	80	.....	1	1	91

JOHN B. SANBORN,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF SOUTHWEST MISSOURI,
Springfield, Mo., November 13, 1864.

COLONEL: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of my command during the late movement of the rebel army under General Price into and through this State:

Preparations for this campaign on the part of the rebels commenced in the valley of the White River about the 10th of June last, General Shelby arriving there with his division, seizing all mills and horses

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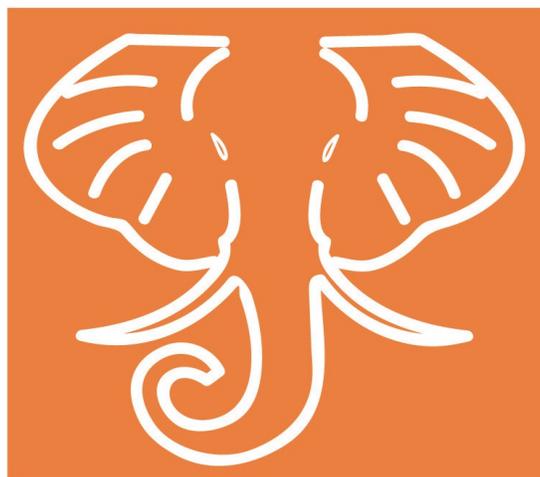
The War of the Rebellion : a compilation of the official records of the Union and Confederate armies / Pub. under the direction of the ... Secretary of War

United States.

Washington : Govt. Print. Off, 1880-1901

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Col. John E. Phelps, commanding the Second Arkansas Cavalry (U.S.), included these comments in his report of action on October 25:

“...The [*Union*]artillery opened at daybreak. At once the Second Arkansas was deployed as skirmishers across a piece of prairie into the timber and brushwood of the Marais des Cygnes, the Second Colorado Cavalry being on the right. Those woods having been visited and cleared the regiment was withdrawn, and in rear of the Second Colorado, to their right, marched in column to the ford of the stream, interrupted by an abatis on the other or opposite bank. The ford was occupied, a few shots only being fired, and the squadrons crossed over and forward. In advancing, a small piece of ordnance was discovered on the right, abandoned by the enemy. (It ha since been appropriated as a trophy by another command, though bestowed upon the Second Arkansas by order of General Rosecrans.)...”

Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Series 1, Vol. 41, Part 1: 404.
Operations in Louisiana and the Trans-Mississippi States and Territories. July 1-
December31, 1864. Part 1: Reports.

cutting off my communications and supplies, evidently with the hope of obtaining assistance from Price on his return, and it came at last. Early on the morning of the 3d of November a scout came into the garrison with the report that 8,000 rebels, with two pieces of artillery, under command of Major-General Fagan, were marching upon the town from Cane Hill. I found this report to be very nearly correct. Price detached Fagan with 5,200 men and two pieces of artillery, which force was joined on the march by 1,500 men under Brooks and Brown. They attacked my pickets and commenced bombarding the town with all their boasted chivalry, not giving me the least time to remove families (mostly their own at that) nor demanding a surrender. The bombardment was kept up with one 6-pounder rifled gun and one 12-pounder field howitzer until nearly sunset. Three times the order was given to charge the works, but each time the men on coming within range of my rifles shrank from the assault and fled to a safe position. At sunset the retreat of the enemy commenced and was continued during the whole night by divers routes, the majority, with the artillery, returning to Cane Hill; at sunrise on the 4th instant only about 600 remained to cover the retreat. By the admissions of the enemy and reports from prisoners their loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners was about 100 (over 75 being killed and wounded). My loss was 9 wounded—1 mortally, 8 slightly. The strength of my command during the engagement was 958 volunteers and 170 militia; total, 1,128. On the arrival of the Army of the Border I was ordered with my command to join in the pursuit of Price, and at 11 a. m. November 5 moved out in advance of the column, which post of honor I was permitted through the favor of the commanding general to hold until the close of the campaign (four days), when I watered the horses of my command in the Arkansas River and returned to this place, arriving on the 12th.

During the siege, which lasted from October 26 to November 4, ten days, the troops, both volunteers and militia, labored faithfully by day and several nights by torchlight upon the fortifications under command of Capt. H. C. C. Botchfuhr, First Arkansas Cavalry, to whose calmness and faithfulness as well as bravery much of our success is due. By all the officers and men of my command much credit is deserved for their zeal in carrying out my orders and their hearty co-operation.

I remain, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. LA RUE HARRISON,

Colonel First Arkansas Cavalry, Commanding.

Maj. Gen. S. R. CURTIS,

Commanding Army of the Border.

No. 36.

Report of Col. John E. Phelps, Second Arkansas Cavalry (Union).

HEADQUARTERS SECOND ARKANSAS CAVALRY,
Springfield, Mo., November 2, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that in obedience to orders from your headquarters of date September 26, 1864, six companies (B, D, F, H, K, and M) of this regiment, and under my immediate command, moved from Springfield, Mo., on the day following at 5 a. m., and marching on the road to Rolla arrived at that place at 3 p. m., having

bivouacked both at Lebanon and Waynesville, two posts on the road. From Rolla, together with the other regiments of the brigade, my command reached Saint James on the 30th of September, and was joined there by Squadron L on the 1st of October. On the 2d of the month, in connection with the Seventh Enrolled Missouri Militia, joined purposely to the Second Arkansas Cavalry, the regiment was marched to Knob View, with orders, if necessary, to go to Harrison and meet General Ewing's forces, then pursued by the rebel cavalry, and to assist General Ewing, who was met at Knob View. It was there agreed to leave with him the Seventh Enrolled Missouri Militia, while the Second Arkansas would extend a reconnaissance to the south and east, and both march to Saint James the same day. In the reconnaissance the regiment visited Massey's Iron-Works, at the headwaters of the Meramec. They had been visited by a band of rebel prowlers, of whom none were to be seen. The regiment arrived at Saint James almost simultaneously with General Ewing's troops. Marching to Cuba the next day (3d of October) the column moved on the 4th in a northerly direction and reached Vienna, a village on the road to Jefferson City, which was made the next day, the regiment halting three miles from the town, with the horses saddled all night. The rebels were then reported to advance and to attempt a crossing of Osage River. On the morning of the 6th, while regiments of other brigades were actively engaged in skirmishing with the enemy and disputing the crossing of the Osage, the Second Arkansas remained in line, and while in the afternoon the Sixth and Eighth Missouri State Militia were annoying and detaining the enemy between Osage and Moreau Creek the regiment was kept under arms. All the efforts of the Sixth and Eighth Missouri State Militia, however, could not succeed in inflicting a repulse on the invading forces, and these kept advancing. The regiment was then called in, and at 4 a. m. October 7 marched into Jefferson City, and on the west of town took position, occupying ground between the Sixth Provisional on the left and a section of 12-pounder howitzers (Battery B, Second Missouri Artillery) on the right. Soon after the skirmishing regiments were driven in and the rebel army poured its columns of cavalry around from the east to the west of town. They were passing in full view. The 12-pounder howitzers were tried without effect; shells even with 5-second fuses failed to reach the rebel column. Meantime mounted skirmishers were constantly kept in front of the regiment toward the enemy. At night the skirmish line was dismounted, and on the line of the regiment rifle-pits dug or erected, in some places well contrived and quite powerful.

Early in the morning of the 8th three squadrons of the regiment were thrown forward, mounted, to try the enemy's position, and find out their intentions if possible. The line of dismounted skirmishers advanced at the same time, supported by those three squadrons (B, D, and M), under their respective commanders. The place is a little ridge, flanked on each side from east to west by a deep ravine, and terminates to a plateau on the west; toward the east it is covered with dense woods and timber, on the west by thick brush. Squadron B dismounts and moves forward on the enemy, then showing themselves and in force in front. The dismounted men are sent to the left to make an impression on the enemy's flank—D Squadron had been ordered to the right in the ravine; M Squadron was kept as reserve. Squadron B moves up gallantly to the work, and the dismounted skirmishers showing themselves on the left, and D Squadron the right, the enemy wavering, M Squadron coming up to the charge put them to flight, the two mounted squadrons (M and D) keeping up the pursuit. Such was the rapidity of the move-

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ment that wounded and dead were left by the enemy on the field. After the pursuit reconnaissance was extended to a mill four miles from town; the enemy was not to be seen; the command returned then to Jefferson City, but to receive orders to move forthwith on the Sedalia, or Boonville, road, where Philips' brigade, sent forward, had already caught up with Price's rear and engaged in a skirmish at the crossing of Moreau Creek. At 6 a. m. the next day the regiment, placed under the same command, with the Ninth Missouri State Militia, joined the Second Brigade, then in front, where a lively skirmishing was taking place. The rebels retreating, our forces advancing, the command crossed Moreau. Near Russellville the skirmishing became so spirited that artillery was twice brought to the front to disperse the rebel lines. The same evening California, on the railroad, was occupied after an artillery duel between the contending forces. Leaving California on the 10th and passing through Tipton the same day, the Second Arkansas was before Boonville on the 11th; together with the Sixth Enrolled Missouri Militia they encountered the enemy's skirmishers three miles from the city. Deploying immediately as skirmishers, the two regiments drove the enemy to their line. Three squadrons of the Second Arkansas on the right, B, H, and L, mounted, the Sixth Enrolled Missouri Militia on the left, dismounted, with the remaining four squadrons of the Second Arkansas mounted for support, made such vigorous demonstration that the enemy brought their artillery to bear. The Sixth and Eighth Missouri State Militia in the meantime and the other Provisional regiment had taken position, but it was deemed advisable to withdraw, and the regiment retired the distance of half a mile, awaiting what movement the withdrawal would cause the enemy to make and to venture. No demonstration being made, at 5 p. m., under orders from your headquarters to advance the skirmish line and try the enemy again, three squadrons, B, F, and D, of the Second Arkansas Cavalry were marched again for that purpose, and engaging the enemy at once, drove their skirmishers again under protection of their line of battle, and their artillery was again brought into play. The squadrons retired upon the regiment and all went to bivouac beyond Saline Creek, to take the road to California the next day after rations. Then from California on the Boonville and Georgetown road by Palestine, then through Georgetown on the road to Lexington, to Cook's Store by Dunksburg 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of October.

From Cook's Store, on the 16th, 200 men of the regiment, to whom had been added 100 of the Sixth Enrolled Missouri Militia, were ordered on a reconnaissance to Dunksburg, eight miles. Sedalia had been occupied by Thompson and a force of rebels variously reported at from 3,000 to 5,000, and it was suspected or anticipated that they might maneuver against our forces at Cook's Store. The reconnaissance was made—parties sent out from Dunksburg for information. No traces of the enemy were to be found. From Sedalia Thompson had returned directly toward the Missouri River. The bivouac, however, was changed to a wood two miles beyond Dunksburg the next day, whence the two squadrons, D and L, were sent as part of a reconnaissance in the direction of Brownsville almost due north, the bivouac being changed again to Cook's Store October 19; from this place, at midnight, the regiment, re-enforced by two companies of the Sixth Missouri State Militia, under Major Plumb, throws itself by a rapid march upon the enemy's position, then in possession of Lexington and occupying Dover and to the east of it. At or shortly after sunrise October 20 the regiment is marched to the entrance of Dover, and Squadrons L and K

charge through town. M Squadron is sent to the support of K, charging in the west of town, sweeping rebels before them. In this expedition and charge 3 men were killed or wounded of the rebels, and 13 taken prisoners, among them four commissioned officers. Though within two miles and a half of Shelby's brigade on the left, and a strong force on the right, the regiment withdrew unmolested. The enemy, supposing from the audacity of the attack that it had been made by a strong force, busied themselves in closing up their scattered columns—thought nothing of pursuit, but hastened to evacuate Lexington instead. October 21, meanwhile, the brigade had approached Lexington. The regiment followed on and took position in camp the same night, with the others of the brigade. In approaching the city, in the fields, and in the lanes, were visible the marks of a recent engagement, but leaving the city to the right, the column was winding in the afternoon toward Independence. The 22d opened by skirmishing at some distance from the town, but the enemy losing ground constantly the outskirts of the city were soon reached. On the left about the entrance and a little further into town there was a very spirited fire of musketry; the enemy even was not sparing of artillery. The regiment was then ordered to dismount. It did so, and across streets, ditches, inclosures, and lanes moved on at a rapid step. A party of rebels attempted to form to the right and front; they were scattered in a moment, and the regiment marched on until fatigued and exhausted by the march. They were halted in line in an inclosure the other side of the town, abreast, if not ahead, of any other troops. It was at this juncture that the cavalry charge was given and the rebel guns were captured by Catherwood's veterans. The Second Arkansas Cavalry and one company of the Sixth Missouri State Militia were on the field on the right and fully up with the guns in advance of any other command, ready to envelop the position of the rebel artillery, which had no alternative but to give way to a charge of cavalry, or be taken by the maneuver of this dismounted regiment. Here was found Cabell's naked sword, and one of his staff taken prisoner.

Next day Little Blue was crossed. The crossing had been disputed by Price's rear, but finally carried by our advance. The regiment was soon placed in position, dismounted on the hill beyond, with orders to clear the left of the road. Deploying in line and advancing steadily and rapidly they were brought to a halt some two miles beyond their horses, who had not yet and were not for some time after brought up. At this time the advance line withdrew some distance from suspicion of a movement of the enemy on the right. The apprehension, however, did not appear founded, and all the cavalry being brought up in position, a charge of the whole line took place upon the rear of the rebel army. The Second Arkansas Cavalry, the last brought up, and detained by fences, ditches, and works of masonry, arrived in time yet to give the last blow. The enemy, protected by stone structures (fences), had formed a double line in order to conceal and protect the maneuvers of their artillery. Here also they had burnt wagons. As soon as their artillery was planted anew, the Second Arkansas at the same time advancing in column of attack, they withdrew toward their artillery for mutual protection. In three divisions of regiments the enemy stood in the brushwood on both sides of the piece enfilading the road, the other division on open ground in advance and to the right of the artillery. On went the regiment with serried squadrons. The artillery of the enemy, well served and well aimed, planted the shells in the column with an unerring accuracy, but the column did not waver, and

seeing it closing on them every step, the rebels fled before the regiment, taking their artillery away. Two ditches or gullies impassable to cavalry saved it by retarding the progress of the regiment and turning the column, but the rebels were severely punished nevertheless. The road beyond, strewn with dead, ammunition, wagons, and horses, testified it amply. The regiment continued the pursuit and kept annoying the rear until the whole column of the rebel army on that road had crossed the stream in the valley and cleared the top of the hill two miles beyond the extreme limits of the battle-field. The same evening found the regiment in bivouac beyond Little Santa Fé, a village half in Missouri, half in Kansas, and the next evening saw it within twenty-five miles of Fort Scott, sixty-five miles from Santa Fé, in an advanced position to the support of artillery brought up to the front, ready for an early engagement next morning. The artillery opened at daybreak. At once the Second Arkansas was deployed as skirmishers across a piece of prairie into the timber and brushwood of the Marais des Cygnes, the Second Colorado Cavalry being on the right. Those woods having been visited and cleared the regiment was withdrawn, and in rear of the Second Colorado, to their right, marched in column to the ford of the stream, interrupted by an abatis on the other or opposite bank. The ford was occupied, a few shots only being fired, and the squadrons crossed over and forward. In advancing, a small piece of ordnance was discovered on the right, abandoned by the enemy. (It has since been appropriated as a trophy by another command, though bestowed upon the Second Arkansas by order of General Rosecrans.) Directly after, the advance reported the enemy in front formed in line of battle. The regiment, at most 200 strong, moved up and formed immediately; the Second Colorado having crossed the creek shortly afterward came up also and formed on the left and to the rear of the Second Arkansas, who galloped immediately to the charge. The line of skirmishers of the enemy were sent flying to their line of battle, when the artillery, opening upon the Second Arkansas with fury, checked their advance and compelled them to reform their line, which they did under fire, while the Second Colorado, unmoved and behind cover, never pretended to offer a support, which might have won for that regiment glorious results, and which the skirmishers of Gravelly, though dismounted, attempted to give, but it was too late. Two hundred men alone could not do what an hour afterward, at the crossing of the Osage, three brigades succeeded in accomplishing, and these won laurels and elicited praise for their gallantry. They earned it nobly.

The Third Brigade, after that first charge, had been halted and ordered to rest. In the meantime heavy cannonading and musketry was going on in front at the ford of the Osage. It was the climax of the battle, and at its sound the Third Brigade, with men and horses half starved, jaded, and exhausted, was moved at a gallop to the front. They saw as they passed the enemy's artillery captured, they saw the prisoners, they saw Marmaduke and Cabell (two renowned rebel chiefs) in our hands; it was enough; the Third Brigade was ready for battle. Across a prairie and over a ridge they trot, they run, and form in an immense valley at the foot of the ridge, with other brigades in order of echelon. The Third Brigade occupied the center of the front line, and of this line the Second Arkansas formed the right center. Forward and along the valley sweeps the long line, then in double column across a stream to another prairie on the right, then again in line as before and to the charge. Down the prairie to the edge of the woods, and partly across a fenced field, the first line gallops, then as skirmishers

through the dense brush, the ravines, and undergrowth to the creek beyond. In this movement the two squadrons, H and L, of the Second Arkansas Cavalry were separated from the command, but soon again brought up in line on the other side of the creek. A passage had been effected, and the line formed again under cover, or rather in the face of a steep perpendicular bank entirely commanding the valley below. The Second Arkansas, once formed, moved up the embankment in good style, and gaining the plateau above, marched boldly to the work. Forward resounds on all sides, and now the enemy, seeing the line advance to the charge, dare not wait; they fly. In a vale at some three-fourths of a mile beyond, however, and under cover of a projection of woods into the prairie, they stand, emboldened by the conduct, almost inexplicable, of some of the troops, both on the right and left, but more so on the left, among whom was a command with sabers drawn. Vainly were those troops encouraged to move forward; Lieutenant-Colonel McMahan, of the Sixth Provisional, made fruitless efforts to move them; in vain was Major Rush, of the Seventh [Sixth?] Provisional, sent to move them by order of General Pleasonton; they failed to come up. The center, however, renewed the charge, the Second Arkansas leading, and the enemy broke in dismay, the pursuers giving them no time to form any line. After the charge might have been seen the effect of protracted marches and exhausted men and horses. Of the leading regiment, hardly more than fifty men arrived together at the top of the ridge, where they were last halted to form again. The rest, as well as other regiments, were scattered pell-mell over two miles of ground, without order, without commanders, without any point to rally upon but the small squad that had stood the work so well. On the other side the enemy had formed anew. In front was a strong line; to the left front numerous rallying squads and skirmishers; but the other brigades had arrived also, and being thrown forward, they dislodged the enemy from their position without any trouble. The Third Brigade moved as fast as they could behind them, and at last, passing in the rear of our lines, beyond which the rebel line could plainly be seen, left the field at 5.15 p. m. October 25, on the way toward Fort Scott, six or seven miles distant. Blunt's division was then arriving on the field, its column not quite abreast of the Second Arkansas. The regiment rested and recruited at Fort Scott, and with others of the brigade left on the 27th, passing through Lamar, and on the road McNeil's brigade, near the trail leading to the Osage Agency. A bivouac was at last reached on Buck Creek, five miles from Johnson's Mills, on Spring River.

The next day, following the Neosho road and passing through Granby, the brigade arrived at Newtonia, unexpected but most welcome. Blunt had there engaged the enemy, and was being signally defeated; his forces badly cut up and without ammunition were giving way, while the enemy, pouring in re-enforcements, were determined to pursue their advantage and reap it as [fast as] possible. But the arrival of the Third Brigade changed the aspect of affairs. In a moment the regiments were dismounted and thrown in line toward the most threatened point. Steadily they kept advancing; at their approach the enemy's artillery was withdrawn, and soon after their cavalry, heedless of the bugle that called to the charge, filed off by platoons, and left the historical field of Newtonia in Federal hands. The brigade remained in line until 9 p. m., amid the darkness. Thus in thirty-six hours they marched 104 miles and by their unexpected appearance turned a defeat into a victory.

On the 29th the Third Brigade moved again from Newtonia. This time it was toward their camps and homes; they reached Springfield on the 31st of October, loaded with the palms of victory. It repays them amply for the hardships and privations of a thirty-five days' campaign, and the labors of a march as performed by the Second Arkansas Cavalry of upward of 950 miles. As commander of this regiment, I have tried in this report while mentioning the regiment to be fair toward all commands with which the regiment may have been associated or placed in contact during the campaign. My report I believe will prove correct. I will not close, however, without paying to the soldiers of the regiment at large the tribute due to their prowess and to their valor displayed on every occasion, and to the officers under my command the highest praise for their alacrity and readiness to obey and execute my orders, for their noble emulation and their unsurpassed gallantry on many a battle-field. Where all are worthy and deserving impartiality forbids to mention any name; but they will all join me in mentioning with pride and gratitude the medical officer of the regiment, Assistant Surgeon Turner, for his innumerable services on the field, his indefatigable energy in caring for the wounded of this and other regiments. There is a heroism of devotion, as well as a heroism of bravery. Both deserve equal honor, equal credit. It is only just that it should be equally bestowed.

The following table* will exhibit the total loss of my regiment during the series of engagements above reported; and when it is compared to the danger incurred and the loss inflicted upon the enemy, I have reason to be thankful that it has been so trifling.

JOHN E. PHELPS,

Colonel Second Arkansas Cavalry, Commanding Regiment.

[General JOHN B. SANBORN.]

No. 37.

Report of Lieut. Col. Hugh Cameron, Second Arkansas Cavalry (Union).

HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT,
In the Field, Mount Vernon, Mo., October 31, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that on the 29th of October, 1864, with a detachment of about 400 men, principally of the Second Arkansas Cavalry, I pursued a body of rebels, supposed to be 800 strong, under command of Colonel Hodge, from Buck Prairie, Lawrence County, and encountered them at the Upshaw farm near Camp Bliss, Barry County. Routed and dispersed them; killed 50, took 37 prisoners, 58 horses, 4 mules, a large number of saddles, and several stand of arms. Three wounded only were found; the remainder escaped on their horses or concealed themselves in the brush. The prisoners report that there were ten captains with Colonel Hodge, viz, Captains Thomas Todd and John Merrick, Captains Sitton, Kimball, Shull, Rudd, Withers, Onam, Arnold, and Annabury. The last named was killed early in the encounter. My loss was 1 man slightly wounded, 1 man injured by his horse falling, and a few horses crippled.

* Nominal list (omitted) shows 1 enlisted man killed and 11 wounded.

The War of the Rebellion : a compilation of the official records of the Union and Confederate armies. / Pub. under the direction of the ... Secretary of War.

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Capt. William C. V. Montgomery, commanding Battery H, Second Missouri Light Artillery, reported his unit's capture of another Woodruff on October 25:

"...October 24 we marched for Fort Scott, Kans., in pursuit of the enemy. We traveled fifty-six miles to the Marais des Cygnes River, in Kansas, by 2 a.m. October 25; drove the rebel pickets at 3 o'clock in the morning; Colonel Gravely's regiment [*8th Missouri State Militia Cavalry*] had the advance. Lieutenant Smiley, firing several shots with his section; captured one piece of artillery on the bank of the Marais des Cygnes River...."

Perhaps in poetic justice, Battery H participated in the Battle of Pilot Knob, where the Woodruffs had been abandoned by the Union forces to the occupying Confederates after the evacuation of Fort Davidson.

Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Series 1, Vol. 41, Part 1: 460.
Operations in Louisiana and the Trans-Mississippi States and Territories. July 1-December 31, 1864. Part 1: Reports.

17th instant. Moved in the direction of Lesterville; killed several guerrillas on the way there. Crossed Black River to Logan's Creek; moved down it to Carter's Mill; then came up to Colonel Pollock, who was in command of some fifty rebels. They fired heavy for some minutes, then broke to run. We pursued them for some two miles, shooting one down every now and then. They fled in all directions, with a loss of 9 killed on the ground. I returned to Ironton, Mo., on the evening of the 21st instant, having killed 16. Turned over to the quartermaster six horses. No loss on our part.

Major, I am, your obedient servant,

SAML. R. KELLEY,

First Lieut. Company L, Third Missouri State Militia Cavalry.

Major MONTGOMERY,

Commanding Post, Pilot Knob, Mo.

No. 62.

Report of Capt. William C. F. Montgomery, Battery H, Second Missouri Light Artillery.

HDQRS. BATTERY H, SECOND MISSOURI LIGHT ARTY.,

November 14, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report that on the 21st of September I received orders from headquarters Saint Louis, Mo., to march to Pilot Knob and report to the commanding officer at that post for duty.

Tuesday evening, 5 o'clock, I started from Saint Louis, Mo., to Pilot Knob, Mo., on the evening train. On the morning of the 22d I reached the above-named place and was directed by Major Wilson, commanding officer of the post, to select a suitable camp for my battery, which was done in a short time. At that time we had flying reports concerning the movements of the rebel army. At retreat on the 23d I was ordered by Major Wilson to have my battery ready for action at a moment's warning. At tattoo I had the horses harnessed and hitched, cannoneers and drivers at their posts. We had the same order and acted likewise the two following nights. At 1 p. m. Sunday, September 25, the pickets ran in and reported the enemy advancing rapidly in strong force on the Fredericktown road. I gave orders to harness and hitch, which was done inside of ten minutes, all ready for action. This proved to be a false alarm. The horses remained harnessed through the night. Next morning, September 26, the rebels were discovered in small force advancing on Arcadia, two miles southwest of Ironton. Brigadier-General Ewing arrived at 1 p. m.; assumed command of the forces at Pilot Knob. Major Wilson was ordered with the cavalry and one section of my battery, Lieutenant Simonton in command. The section remained in the front till 10 p. m., when it returned to the fort with the other two sections. We immediately set to work constructing platforms for the remaining four guns. Tuesday, September 27, at 3 a. m., Lieutenant Simonton was again ordered to the front with his section, the other guns being mounted ready for action. Our force was soon driven in. The section under Lieutenant Simonton took position on the north side of the fort. The enemy then opened fire on us from the east end of Shepherd's Mountain with two large guns, 12-pounder Napoleons. We fired occasional shots from the fort to silence their guns and drive them from the sides of the moun-

tain, where they were trying to form lines of battle. About 2 p. m. 27th the enemy succeeded in mounting two guns on the top of Shepherd's Mountain, where it was little trouble to get our exact range. They fired one gun from that position. We then opened on them with seven pieces from the fort. The charge was then made by the enemy. Lieutenant Simonton then opened fire on their lines advancing from the side of Shepherd's Mountain, scattering and breaking their lines successively, the four guns inside doing excellent firing with shell until the rebels charged within 150 yards. We then used canister, double charge. The enemy's lines came within thirty paces of the fort. Lieutenant Simonton held his position, doing excellent service, until the enemy were within sixty yards of the fort. He was then ordered inside. Just as the lead team of the right piece reached the gate the two lead horses were shot down, wounding the driver, blocked up the gap so they were unable to get the section inside. The lieutenant ordered all the men to take care of themselves. The men all came in except one, who was captured. The horses then were beginning to stampee, when I ordered them to shoot the horses with their revolvers. They were soon disabled so they could not take any carriages away. These men then used their pistols and muskets until the battle was nearly over, when they cut the horses loose and brought in some of the guns and some of the horses. During the charge I lost in killed 1 sergeant, Isaiah B. West, and 3 privates, viz, E. F. Hall, James M. Lee, William F. Lee. We had 3 men accidentally burned and 3 wounded, but none of them seriously; will all soon recover. At sunset the firing ceased and the wounded were taken to the hospital and the dead properly cared for. During the engagement I lost 40 horses killed and wounded.

That night at 12 o'clock General Ewing ordered me to fill the limber chests of the pieces, select the best horses, leave the caissons, and get ready to march immediately. We were soon ready to march; we drew the caissons near the magazine where they would likely be blown up, leaving 100 rounds of ammunition in them that we could not carry. At 3 a. m. Wednesday, September 28, we silently drove out, taking with us all the horses and mounted cannoneers on them. We marched thirty-one miles that day, stopped at Webster, rested till midnight, when we started, feeling our way in the darkness of the night, raining and blowing so it was a difficult matter to travel. We then had thirty-five miles to march to Leasburg on the Pacific Railroad. At 8 a. m. the rebels attacked our rear guard, driving it in. Lieutenant Simonton formed his section in the road ready for action, but the enemy never came in sight. We marched three miles farther and we were again attacked from both sides and from the rear. We formed the battery in the edge of the field, firing lively from two sections, driving the rebels all out of sight. We then marched within three miles of Leasburg, when we were again attacked. We formed the battery on the hill-side, fired a few shots from Lieutenant Simonton's section; we again marched for Leasburg, infantry in line of battle. By this means we kept them back till we reached the station, where we formed our line and took up quarters for the night; sheltered the horses in the ditch by the track. By this time it was dark, and the rebels still firing at us from the brush; there was no time lost in preparing breast-works to shelter the infantry, who were so worn out that they were unable to march farther. At 9 p. m. the train came in from Saint Louis. We were ordered to dismount the guns and load them into the cars. The pieces, carriages, and harness were soon loaded. By this time it was discovered that the road was cut above and below. We could do nothing more for a move, so we

commenced to unload and mount the guns again and made the necessary preparations for a morning attack. At 10 a. m. the enemy came in sight but made no assault except skirmishing, which they kept up continually. At 12 p. m. we started for Rolla, Mo.; reached that place the same evening. October 5 I was ordered to report to General McNeil; started with his command for the defense of Jefferson City. I left one section and the worn-out men and horses at Rolla, [under] Lieutenant Simonton. After a fatiguing march of two days and a half we reached Jefferson City. When we arrived the rebels were crossing the Osage River nine miles out; we took a position, but the enemy never came inside the lines. October 8 I was ordered to send one section with a division of cavalry, commanded by General Sanborn, in pursuit of the enemy. Lieutenant Smiley was sent with his section; next morning he was in an engagement near Russellville, the same evening at California, Mo. Next day near Boonville, October 10, I was ordered to the front with a cavalry brigade commanded by Colonel Catherwood. We arrived at California that evening at 4.30 o'clock. The same night at 7 o'clock we were ordered forward twelve miles to Pisgah, on the Boonville road; next morning we joined General Sanborn's division, marched twelve miles on the Boonville road, where we learned the enemy was in full retreat toward Lexington. We then marched for Georgetown, Mo., distance thirty-three miles; arrived there next day, October 12, at 1 p. m. We then marched fifteen miles on the Lexington road. On the 15th we fell back to Blackwater [on] Georgetown road. On the 17th marched to Kirkpatrick's Mill with one section; sent Lieutenant Smiley to Sedalia with the other. October 18 marched at 2 a. m. for Lexington, stopped at sunset eight miles southwest of the town, then marched at 7 o'clock for the city. Drove the enemy's pickets from town, killing and capturing a number of them. That night we lay by the horses till day, when we again renewed the march for Independence. October 22 we reached the Little Blue River, where we found the bridge burned. Assisted by the cavalry we went to work and constructed a temporary bridge to effect a crossing with the horses and artillery. By this time our advance was skirmishing with the enemy's rear guard. The battery was soon across the stream and on the march on double-quick for two or three miles, when we found the rebels had fallen back to the suburbs of the city, where they soon opened fire on us with two pieces of artillery. I took position then with one section of my battery, fired twelve rounds, when they began to retreat. Lieutenant Smiley then reported to me with his section, which was immediately sent to the front with Colonel Winslow's cavalry brigade, Sixteenth Army Corps. At 9 p. m. I was ordered out from Independence with General McNeil's brigade, on the Little Santa Fé road. Next morning at 5 o'clock the battle opened on the Big Blue. Lieutenant Smiley was in action from 8 to 11 a. m. October 23, using canister most of the time. Our brigade was formed on the left of the road, and I fired into the enemy's retreating column as they passed, with good effect.

October 24 we marched for Fort Scott, Kans., in pursuit of the enemy. We traveled fifty-six miles to the Marais des Cygnes River, in Kansas, by 2 a. m. October 25; drove the rebel pickets at 3 o'clock in the morning; Colonel Gravelly's regiment had the advance. Lieutenant Smiley, firing several shots with his section; captured one piece of artillery on the bank of the Marais des Cygnes River. The enemy then formed a line of battle on the Osage River. Lieutenant Smiley moved his section forward and participated in the engagement, using double charge of canister. They then moved forward to the top of the

ridge, two miles farther, in the advance, and fired several shots at their retreating columns. I moved forward at a trot, which we kept up for seven miles, where the enemy was again formed and our cavalry driving them in a line of battle. We opened fire with the entire battery, breaking their lines first on the right, then on the left, then right center, when they formed column and retreated. By this time night came on, the horses were giving out, unable to travel farther. We were then ordered to Fort Scott for supplies, as we had not fed for thirty-six hours, and had no rations for three days except one hard cracker to the man. October 27, at 4 o'clock in the morning, Lieutenant Smiley's section was ordered out with General Sanborn's brigade to the front, marching in two days eighty-six miles. Arrived at Newtonia and took part in the battle at that place, firing twenty-two rounds. October 28 I was ordered to Warrensburg, forming part of the escort of prisoners, artillery, and other property captured by the cavalry division commanded by Major-General Pleasonton from the Confederate army commanded by Major-General Price, a distance of ninety-five miles. I was then ordered to Saint Louis, Mo., by way of Jefferson City. Lieutenant Smiley also to Saint Louis by way of Springfield and Rolla. Arrived in the city on the 9th with all my guns, seventy head of horses. Left my caissons in Fort Davidson, Pilot Knob, Mo., by order of Brigadier-General Ewing. My battery wagons, traveling forge, and transportation wagon, eighteen mules and fifteen head of horses were captured near Potosi, the 27th of September, 1864.

Traveling in all over 1,200 miles, expended 1,700 rounds of ammunition; took part in ten different battles.

My loss is as follows: 4 men killed, 3 wounded, 3 accidentally burned, 10 captured, 3 missing; 25 horses killed, 30 wounded, 15 captured, 10 worn out and abandoned on the road.

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

W. C. F. MONTGOMERY,

Commanding Battery H, Second Missouri Light Artillery.

Col. N. COLE,

Chief of Artillery, Department of the Missouri.

No. 63.

Report of Brig. Gen. Edward C. Pike, Enrolled Missouri Militia, commanding First Military District.

HDQRS. FIRST MIL. DIST., ENROLLED MISSOURI MIL.,
Saint Louis, November 3, 1864.

I have the honor to submit the following report of operations of the militia under my command during thirty-seven days from September 25 to October 31, inclusive:

Pursuant to orders from State headquarters on the 25th of September, I ordered all the militia of the First District Enrolled Missouri Militia, consisting of three companies of cavalry and thirteen regiments of infantry, to parade at Camp Sheridan on the 26th for active service. The call was responded to with great unanimity on the part of those men who remained liable to military duty, but finding most of my regiments mere skeletons from the operations of a law of this State that allows freedom from military duty by payment of a small sum of money, I was obliged to order the consolidation of companies and regi-

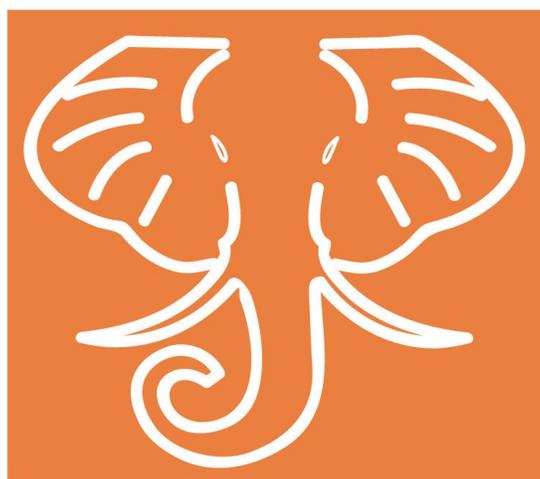
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Maj. Gen. Alfred Pleasonton, commanding the forces in pursuit of Price, replied to the Adjutant General in St. Louis regarding the ten pieces of artillery the Union captured from Price during his long retreat:

“...CAPTAIN: Your communication of the 8th instant, asking what became of the tenth gun captured by my command in the late campaign against General Price, has been received. I have the honor to state that ten guns were captured by me and taken to Fort Scott, Kans., on the night of the 25th of October, and that one of the guns was stolen during the night by some of the troops of General Curtis’s command, serving in Kansas. I sent to recover it, but did not succeed in doing so...”

Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Series 1, Vol. 41, Part 1: 342-343.
Operations in Louisiana and the Trans-Mississippi States and Territories. July 1-
December 31, 1864. Part 1: Reports.

the Marais des Cygnes, the destruction of Price's army at that time would have been inevitable. On the 26th of October, while at Fort Scott, Major-General Curtis sent me a communication, assuming command of my division; he also directed that the prisoners which were captured by my command on the preceding day should be marched through Kansas to Fort Leavenworth. Copies of these communications were forwarded to your office with my preliminary report.* On the 27th of October telegraphic communication was opened with Major-General Rosecrans at Warrensburg, and at my suggestion, to meet the best interests of the service, instructions were given for McNeil's and Sanborn's brigades to follow up and drive the enemy out of the department, and then return to their respective stations at Rolla and Springfield, Benteen's and Philips' brigades to return to their commands; and on the 28th of October the prisoners, captured artillery, and several hundred head of captured stock, left Fort Scott under a proper guard and arrived at Warrensburg on the 31st.

I desire to commend to favorable consideration the following brigade commanders, viz: Brig. Gen. John B. Sanborn, Colonel Philips, Seventh Missouri State Militia; Colonel Winslow and Lieutenant-Colonel Benteen. I would also mention as regimental commanders whose gallantry and efficiency came under my especial notice, Colonel Beveridge, of the Seventeenth Illinois Cavalry, and Colonel Catherwood, of the Thirtieth Missouri Veteran Volunteers.

The following-named officers serving on my staff were conspicuous for gallantry and fidelity throughout the campaign: Col. N. Cole, Second Missouri Artillery, chief of staff; Lieut. Col. S. H. Melcher, Sixth Cavalry Missouri State Militia, acting aide-de-camp; Maj. Henry Suess, Seventh Cavalry Missouri State Militia, acting aide-de-camp; Capt. R. L. Ferguson, Seventh Cavalry Missouri State Militia, provost-marshal; Capt. Alfred Walters, Fourth Cavalry Missouri State Militia, acting aide-de-camp; Capt. George W. Yates, Thirtieth Missouri Cavalry, aide-de-camp; Lieut. George H. Thompson, First New Hampshire Cavalry, aide-de-camp; Lieut. R. G. Leaming, Seventh Cavalry Missouri State Militia, acting aide-de-camp; Lieut. Clifford Thomson, First New York Cavalry, aide-de-camp and acting assistant adjutant-general; Surg. F. V. Dayton, surgeon in chief.

In justice to the troops from Missouri and those of Winslow's brigade I desire to make the most honorable mention of their gallantry, devotion, and self-sacrifice throughout the campaign; attacking and driving on every occasion at least four times their numbers from selected positions, and under disadvantages more than common, they have won for themselves the proud title of being able to fight side by side with the best soldiers of the Republic.

I am, colonel, respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. PLEASANTON,

Major-General.

Colonel DU BOIS,

Chief of Staff, Department of the Missouri.

A D D E N D A .

SAINT LOUIS, Mo., *December 10, 1864.*

Capt. FRANK ENO,

Asst. Adjt. Gen., Department of the Missouri :

CAPTAIN: Your communication of the 8th instant, asking what became of the tenth gun captured by my command in the late campaign

* See p. 339.

against General Price, has been received. I have the honor to state that ten guns were captured by me and taken to Fort Scott, Kans., on the night of the 25th of October, and that one of the guns was stolen during the night by some of the troops of General Curtis' command, serving in Kansas. I sent to recover it, but did not succeed in doing so.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. PLEASANTON,
Major-General.

No. 14.

*Report of Surg. Ferdinand V. Dayton, Second New Jersey Cavalry,
Surgeon in Chief.*

HDQRS. MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, CAVALRY DIVISION,
Saint Louis, Mo., November —, 1864.

LIUTENANT: I have the honor to submit the following report of medical department, together with a list of killed and wounded, Cavalry Division, Major-General Pleasanton's command, during the late campaign through Missouri:

On account of the length and rapidity of the march and the extent of country that the engagements extended over it was with great difficulty that the wounded could be collected or the dead buried; in fact, at no time, to my knowledge, was a proper burying party detailed, so that I was obliged to use hospital attendants and stragglers for that purpose, and with the aid of citizens I hope that most, if not all, of our killed were interred. Six field hospitals were formed at houses as near as possible to the fields of action, and surgeons left in charge, with proper attendants and ambulances to collect all not attended to immediately after each engagement. From the field hospitals the wounded, with attendants, were sent to the general hospitals at Independence, Kansas City, Mound City, and Fort Scott, the medical director of General Curtis' command taking charge of them. From Little Santa Fé I sent back from the supply train three days' provisions to the hospitals between that place and the Big Blue, and Surgeon Van Duyn, U. S. Volunteers, in charge of hospitals at Fort Scott, with the ambulances of his command and provisions that he could transport, started back the morning after we arrived at place over the line of our march to aid in attending the wounded, also collect those that we may not have been able to find.

In closing my report I wish to extend my thanks to the surgeons of the command for the prompt and zealous manner in which they performed all the duties of their position in the most disadvantageous and trying situations a surgeon could be placed in. Surgeon Trader, First Cavalry Missouri State Militia; Surg. J. Chitwood, Seventh Indiana Cavalry; Surgeon Maynard, Second Arkansas Cavalry, and Surgeon Cundiff, Thirteenth Missouri Cavalry, brigade surgeons, merit special commendation for the manner in which they controlled their separate departments. I herewith inclose consolidated list of killed and wounded.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. V. DAYTON,
Surgeon in Chief.

[Lieut. CLIFFORD THOMSON,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.]

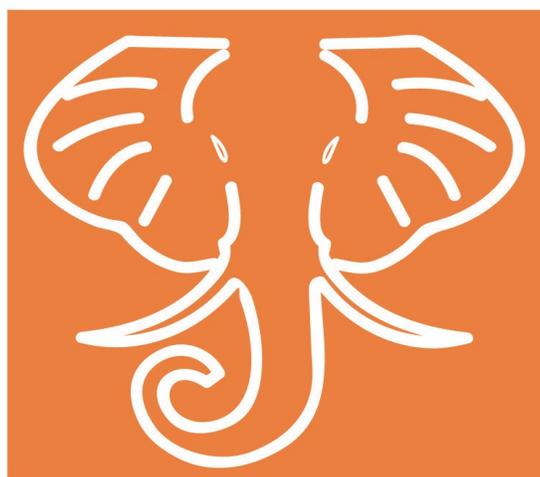
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The Kansans accused of the theft vigorously denied it in a newspaper retort:

A CONTEMPTIBLE BRAGGART.

We mean Major General Alfred Pleasanton. The jealousy of military men is proverbial. Nothing evinces this so much as the petty and paltry envy; the mean and contemptible spirit, exhibited by Generals Rosecrans and Pleasanton towards the commander of the Department of Kansas; his gallant subordinate, and their officers and soldiers. With the ill-judging passion of vindictive malice, the late commander of the Department of Missouri, and his second in command, have closed their inglorious administration of affairs in our neighbor State, by an abortive but vile attempt to rob General Curtis of his justly earned laurels and to fix a disgraceful stigma upon the brave volunteers of Kansas and Colorado, who were under his command.

The readers of the *St. Louis Democrat* of the 13th and 14th instant will know to what we refer. The publication of the slanderously mean report of what General Pleasanton is pleased to call his operations, in which by telling half truths infer therefrom a whole lie, is one of those breaches of military custom, and of the courteous etiquette, that should not only prevail among officers, but is also a direct proof of gentle breeding, which the experiences of the past two months warrant every Kansas soldier to expect at the hands of General Rosecrans.

In General Alfred Pleasanton Rosecrans has found a fit instrument and congenial spirit. It is fit that, after having let Price sweep through Missouri, from the south line to the mouth of the Kansas, unchecked and unrestrained, that these officers should exhibit to the world their malignant weakness and imbecility, by the most cowardly and dastardly inuendoes against the fair fame of the Generals and soldiers who, largely inferior in numbers, did succeed in checking, and ultimately driving the triumphant and insolent foe who had defied pursuit by Rosecrans with an almost an equal number of men, who, in character of arms and weight of metal, were immensely the superior of the rebel force.

The abortive and contemptible flings at General Curtis' command, which the publications alluded to exhibit, is well and fitly illustrated in the following delicious *morceau*, which we extract:

HEADQ'R'S DEPT. OF THE MISSOURI, }
St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 8, 1864. }
Maj. Gen. A. Pleasanton, U. S. V., St. Louis,
Missouri:

GENERAL—The General Commanding directs me to inform you that he notices in your report the capture of ten (10) guns. Col. Callender, Chief of Ordnance, reports the receipt of but nine (9) guns. What has become of the tenth (10th) gun?

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

FRANK ENO, A. A. G.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 10, 1864.
To Captain Frank Eno, Assistant Adjutant Gen.
Dept. of the Missouri.

YOUR communication of the 8th inst., asking what became of the tenth gun captured by my command in the late campaign against General Price, has been received.

I have the honor to state that ten guns were captured by me and taken to Fort Scott, Kansas, on the night of the 25th of October, and that one of the guns was stolen during the night, by some of the troops of Gen. Curtis' command serving in Kansas. I sent to recover it, but did not succeed in doing so.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

A. PLEASANTON, Maj. Gen.

As to the gun alluded to, we know nothing. We venture to pronounce the charge false, upon general principles. All of the guns and prisoners captured, after leaving Westport, were *stolen* from General Curtis, by this immaculate little braggart, Pleasanton, who, before he parades the dishonesty of the Kansas soldiery in so pompous a manner, had much better settle with the hotel keeper at Fort Scott, for the bill incurred by himself and staff, in providing for themselves and the rebel officers, whom they so lavishly entertained, at the expense of a loyal man of that post. Before making charges of robbery against Curtis' Command, we suggest to General Pleasanton that he compel his staff officers to first apologize, and afterwards receipt for, to Captain M. H. Insley, Department Quartermaster, the four or five thousand forage rations, etc., which they possessed themselves of at that post, and then so insolently refused to account for, even when they and their chief were alike politely invited by Captain Insley to do so. That officer is accountable for the forage consumed by General Pleasanton's division. His Quartermaster had ample time to give receipts. The truth is, that General Pleasanton acted at Fort Scott in much the same spirit (but with far more insolent swaggering) that the Kansas boys do when they get into a rebel post. We doubt not that the little braggart felt as he acted. His plantation manners were too well acted to have been assumed. He must have been "to the manner born."

But we are wasting words upon the dead, and only excuse ourselves therefor on account of the noxious effluvium which both are emitting as they leave the scenes of their best exploits—the drawing rooms of St. Louis.

“Those laugh best who laugh last,” is a trite proverb. Its truth is fitly illustrated by the results of Rosecrans’ jealousy and Pleasanton’s malevolence. The former has outlived his usefulness. The latter never had any. Both may return to the shades, and we may fervently hope that neither may hereafter disturb the public peace again. Vale and farewell!

“A Contemptible Braggart”, *Leavenworth Times*, 17 Dec 1864, p. 2, from newspapers.com, Internet, accessed 16 January 2023.