

**ANNALS OF IOWA**

April, 1867

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

BY SAM'L PRENTISS CURTIS,  
BREVET CAPTAIN AND AID-DE-CAMP TO MAJOR GENERAL CURTIS

**CHAPTER FIFTH.**

(Continued.)

On my march to Leesville, I heard Major Poten's firing on the Bentonville road. Arriving at Leesville, the firing in front had ceased, whilst it commenced with new vehemence on the right at Elk Horn Tavern. At this moment Capt. McKenny, A. A. A. General, requested me, by order of Gen. Curtis, to send more reinforcements to the right, which I did by detaching five companies of the 25th Ills., and four pieces of Caps. Hoffman's battery, stationed in reserve at Leesville, to Elk Horn Tavern.

I then proceeded beyond the town to the battlefield, which I found in full possession of Col. Davis and Osterhaus. As no enemy could be seen, except a small detachment on a distant hill, I requested Col. Davis to protect my left flank, by sending his skirmishers and one regiment of infantry forward through the woods whilst I proceeded with the 36th Ill. and four pieces of Welfley's and Hoffman's batteries on the road to the north east, which was already opened by the 44th Ills. and 15th Mo. After making one mile, and passing two hospitals of the enemy, I ordered Col. Osterhaus to follow me with the 12th Mo., the 36th Ills., and a section of artillery which troops came up promptly, except the two pieces, 12-pounders, that remained with Col. Davis. We advanced slowly, and after making half a mile more, we reached an open field, where we took our position, and from which we could easily discern the camp fires of our friends and those of our enemies near Elk Horn Tavern.

I now sent immediately to Gen. Curtis, to apprise him of my position, and that I was ready to co-operate with him. Meanwhile night had fallen, and although, the cannonading was renewed in the night, I did not believe that after a hard day's work the enemies would make a final and decisive attack.

In order, therefore, to disguise our position, from which I intended to advance in the morning, I kept the troop in the strictest silence, and did not allow the building of camp fires, or any movement further than two or three hundred paces distant. So we remained until one o'clock in the morning, when I found it necessary to remove the troops, by a short and convenient road, into our common camp, to give them some food, sleep and a good fire, and to prepare them for battle.

To show the whole position of the 1st and 2d Divisions, on the evening of the 7th, allow me, General, to make the following statements:

Beginning on the left, Major Poten, with the 17th Mo., one company of the 3d Mo., two companies of the 15th Mo., two pieces of the Flying Artillery, and two companies of the Benton Hussars, were stationed on the Sugar Creek Bentonville road, three miles from the camp. The entrance of the road from this side, was guarded by two pieces of the 2d Ohio Battery, and six companies of the 2d Mo. towards the north (Leesville) two companies of the 44th Ill., and twenty men of the 36th Ills. Cavalry remained on picket. On the right, near Elk Horn Tavern,

were the following troops: Four companies of the 2d Mo., five companies of the 25th Ills., four pieces of the 2d Ohio Battery, and four pieces of Capt. Hoffman's Battery.

In the field, to the left of General Absooth and Col. Carr, under my immediate command, were the 12th Mo., the 15th Mo., the 25th, 36th and 44th Ills., two pieces of Capt. Welfley's, and two pieces of Capt. Hoffman's Battery.

The Fremont and Benton Hussars, and one section of Capt. Welfrey's Battery, returned to camp with Col. Davis The detachment of Major Conrads, consisting of six companies of infantry, detailed from the 3d, 15th and 17th Mo., and 36th Ills., and one piece of Capt. Welfley's Battery, was encamped a few miles west of Keetsville.

One piece of Capt. Welfley's Battery was spiked and taken by the enemy, but retaken and unspiked. Three pieces of Capt. Elbert's Flying Battery had been lost near Leesville, the wheels burnt by the enemy, and the guns left on the battle-field; another piece of this battery had broken down on the retreat from Bentonville to Sugar Creek, but the gun secured and brought into camp.

IV—BATTLE OF THE 8TH, NEAR ELK HORN TAVERN—The different combats to the 7th, had fully developed the plans of the enemy. It was evident that the main forces were stationed near and at Elk Horn Tavern, and that he would make all efforts to break through our lines on the Fayetteville road, and thereby complete his uppercut victory.

I therefore resolved to recall all troops and different detachments of the 1st and 2d Divisions, from wherever they were stationed (with the exception of four companies of the 2nd Mo., and four pieces of Artillery from the 2d Ohio Battery, sent to their original position on Sugar Creek) and to fall upon the right flank of the enemy, should he attack or advance from Elk Horn Tavern.

At daybreak of the 8th. the following troops were assembled near and around my headquarters, awaiting order:

1st Division—Col. Osterhaus.—2 companies 3d Mo. Vols, 12th and 17th Mo., 25th, 36th and 44th Illinois, Welfley's Battery, 5 pieces, Hoffman's Battery, 6 pieces, Capt. Jenks' squadron [cavalry attached] 36th Ills. [Infantry].

2D Division—General Asboth.—2d 510., six companies, 15th Mo., 2 pieces 2d Ohio Battery (Lieut. Chapman) Battalion (4 companies) 4th Mo. Cavalry (Fremont Hussars) 6 companies 5th Mo. Cavalry (Benton Hussars) 2 pieces Capt. Elbert's Flying Battery.

It was about 1 o'clock in the morning when the firing commenced on the Keetsville road, this side of Elk Horn Tavern. I was waiting for Col. Ostarhaus and Lieut. Assmussen, of my staff, who had gone to reconnoiter the ground on which I intended to deploy, and to find the nearest road to that ground. The 44th Illinois had already been sent in advance to form our right, when the above named officers returned, and the movement began.

In less than half an hour, the troops were in their respective positions, the 1st Division formed the 1st line, the 2d Division, with all the cavalry, the reserve, 250 paces behind the first line.

To protect and cover the deployment of the left wing, I opened the fire on the right with a section of Capt. Hoffman's Battery. The enemy returned the fire promptly and with effect, but was soon outflanked by our position on the left, and exposed to a concentric and most destructive fire of our brave and almost never failing cannoniers.

After the first discharge, at a distance of 800 paces, I ordered Capt. Welfley and Lieut. Frank to advance about 260 yards to come into close range from the enemy's position, whilst I threw the 25th Ills. forward to the right, to cover the space between the Battery and the

Keetsville road. Col. Schaffer, with the 2d Mo., was ordered to proceed to the extreme left, and, by forming against cavalry, to protect our left flank. This movement proved of great effect, and I now ordered the centre and the left to advance 200 paces, and brought the reserve forward on the position which our first line had occupied. I then took a Battery, commanded by Capt. Klaus, and belonging to Col. Davis' Division, nearer to my right, and reported to you that the road toward Elk Horn Tavern was open, and we were advancing.

About this time, when the battle had rested one hour and a half, the enemy tried to extend his line farther to the right, in occupying the first hill of the long ridge, commanding the plain and the gradually rising ground where we stood. His infantry was already lodged upon the hill, seeking shelter behind the rocks and stores, whilst some pieces of artillery worked round to gain the plateau.

I immediately ordered the two howitzers of the reserve (the 2d Ohio, under Lieut. Ganesvoort) and the two pieces of Capt. Elbert's Flying Battery, to report to Col. Osterhaus on the left, to shell and batter the enemy on the hill. This was done in concert with Hoffman's Battery, and with terrible effect to the enemy, as the rocks and stones worked as hard as the shells and shot. The enemy's plan to enfilade our lines from the hills, was frustrated, and he was forced to beat a precipitate retreat with men and cannon. Encouraged by the good and gallant behavior of our troops, I resolved to draw the circle a little closer around the corner into which we had already pressed the enemy's masses and ordered a second advance of all the batteries and battalions, changing the position of the right wing more to the left, and bringing the troops of the reserve, the 15th Mo., and the whole cavalry, behind our left.

Assisted by Klauss' Battery on the right, and co-operating with the troops of the 3d and 4th Divisions, who advanced with new spirit on the Keetsville road. the enemy was overwhelmed by the deadly power of our artillery, and after about one hour's work, the firing on his side began to slacken, and nearly totally ceased.

To profit this favorable moment, I ordered the 12th Mo., the 25th and 44th Ills., to throw forward a strong force of skirmishers, and take the woods in front where the enemy had planted one of his batteries. At the same time, I ordered the 17th Mo. Vols, which had arrived during the battle from Bentonville road, to climb the hill on our left, and to press forward against the enemy's rear. The 36th Ills. was also ordered to assist this movement, and to hold communication between the 12th and 17th Mo., whilst Cols. Schaffer and Joliat, with the 2d and 15th Mo., followed slowly, and Col. Nemett, with his cavalry, guarded the rear.

The rattling of musketry, the volleys, the hurrahs, did prove very soon that our troops were well at work in the woods, and that they were gaining ground rapidly. It was the 12th Mo., under Major Wangelin, which, at this occasion, took Dallas' Artillery, and their flag followed close behind, and on the right by one part of the 3d Mo., the 44th and the 25th Ills., and on the left by the 36th Ills.

The 11th Mo., under Major Poten, had meanwhile arrived on the top of Pea Ridge, forming the extreme left of our line of battle.

The enemy was routed, and fled in terror and confusion in all directions.

It was a delightful moment, when we all met, after 12 o'clock, on the eminence, where the enemy held position with his batteries, A few minutes before, and when you let pass by the columns of your victorious army.

To pursue the enemy, I sent Capt. Von Kielmanseggo, with one company of Fremont Hussars, forward; the 17th and 3d Mo. followed in double quick time, assisted by two pieces of Elbert's Flying Artillery. Other troops of the 1st Division, all under Col. Osterhaus, came up and

continued their march towards Keetsville.

At the fork of the Benton and Keetsville roads, I detached the 44th Ills. (Col. Knobelsdorff) two pieces of artillery of the Flying Battery, and a squad of 30 men (Fremont Hussars) to proceed a short distance on the road to Bentonville, and to guard that road. Arrived at Keetsville with the greatest portion of my command, I found that one part of the enemy had turned to Roaring River and Berryville, while others had turned to the left.

I also received your order to return to Sugar Creek, which I did, and met the army on Sugar Creek at 4 o'clock in the evening of the 9th.

A list of the dead, wounded and missing of the command, has already been transmitted to you, and a special report, mentioning those officers and men of my command, who deserve consideration for their conduct in action, together with the reports of the different commanders of regiment and corps, will follow to day, as some of the reports have not come in yet.

I am, General, very respectfully your ob't serv't,

F. SIGEL,

Brig. Gen's, Comd'g 1st and 2d Division

**TO BRIG. GEN'L S. R. CURTIS, COMD'G S. W. ARMY**

SIGEL'S SPECIAL REPORT,  
HEADQUARTERS 1ST AND 2D DIVISION  
CAMP HOFFMAN, MO., MARCH 20TH, 1862

GENERAL:—In accordance with Par. 743, Army Regulations, I take leave to transmit to you the names of the following officers, non-com. officers and privates, who have distinguished themselves under my immediate command and presence, in the different actions of the 6th, 7th and 8th of March.

On the 6th, retreat from Bentonville to Sugar Creek, Major Wangelin, comd'g the 12th Reg't Mo. Vols., the only infantry being present during the retreat from Bentonville, Major Karcher commanding the line of skirmishers in front.

Lieut. Ledergerber, Co. G, Lieut. Grenzenberg, Co. H, Lieut. Henne, Co. I, afterwards (on the 8th) severely wounded, Capt. Steinberg, Co. K. These officers and companies were assisting and relieving each other from time to time, acting as skirmishers in front of the column during the whole affair. First Lt. McKenzie, Co. D, covered our right flank; let Lieut. Andel, with Co. B and Co. C, our left, and 1st Lieut. Affleck, with Co. A, was marching behind as reserve, supporting and protecting the artillery.

Of the artillery (Flying Battery) I must give the highest compliment to Capt. Elbert, to Lieut. Schneider and Lieut. Gasson.

Of the cavalry, Col. Nemett has done his full duty, being sometimes one mile behind us charging in every direction, and protecting his own command as well as the infantry and artillery. I further mention Major Heinrichs, of Benton Hussars, who has commanded the companies of cavalry in advance, assisting and protecting the infantry in front and in both flanks.

Capt. Lebmann, who was always ready to charge, and always at work where there was some dangerous task to perform.

Lieut. Kiesmetter, who, in attacking the enemy with twelve men of the Benton Hussars up the hill in the bushes, was severely wounded, made a prisoner, and escaped from Bentonville, after the retreat of the enemy, although scarcely able to bring himself along. Lieut. Knispel, who acted as adjutant to Col. Nemett, and brought reports to me under great personal danger. Capt.

Jenks, of the 36th Illinois Cavalry (Col. Greusel's regiment) who was also with me in the advance, doing good service.

Of my staff, I mention 1st Lieut. Assmussen, Aid-De-Camp, and Lieut. Meysenberg, who executed all my orders with courage and promptness. Lieut. Schramm, commander of my escort of twenty men, who several times charged upon the enemy, or acted as skirmishers in advance, led by Sergeants Sprang, Mueller and Frantiocen, members of the escort. I also mention Lieut. Shepard, Co. A, Benton Hussars, who was posted as picket near Osage Springs, and although surrounded, with his men, cut his way through the enemy and joined his command the other day.

ON THE 7TH AND 8TH.—Major Poten, commanding 17th Mo. Vols., who executed my orders to demonstrate against the enemy's line of retreat, with great discretion and skis, and came back at the right time the next morning to turn the enemy's right. Capt. Russel, of the 44th Ills., and twenty men of the 36th Ills. Cavalry, who, on the 7th, were posted on picket between Leesville and Major Poten's command on Sugar Creek, Bentonville road, made forty prisoners, the greatest part belonging to the Louisiana forces, and among them the principal officers of that command.

Major Heinrich's Benton Hussars, who assisted Major Poten on the 7th, as commander of the two companies of cavalry, and who on the 8th assisted me by bringing my orders to the cavalry, and other commands, during the whole time of the battle.

Capt. Von Klielmansegge, Act. Asst. Adjt. General, 1st Lieut. Assmussen, Lieut. Meysenberg and Lieut. Montzheimer, Aid-De-Camp, who, by their intelligence, superior education, and courage, assisted me to make our action systematic and perfect, and therefore efficient.

In conclusion, I direct your attention to the following non-commissioned officers and privates, who, by their faithful, prompt and brave conduct, have added much to the fortunate achievement on the 6th, 7th and 8th:

Corporal Saeger, and the following privates: Jacob Wacehter, Louis Berthold, Chas Beitner and Rudolph Hassler (all of the Benton Hussars) who, on the 6th, were standing picket the whole day near McKreisieks' farm, when the Divisions had left, to make the foraging parties, and other troops belonging to this command, aware of our movements and those of the enemy, which duties they performed to my best satisfaction.

The following non-commissioned officers and privates of Co. C, Benton Hussars, acting as my orderlies since Sept., 1861, deserve my thanks for their services done to me during that period and the three days of the battle: Sergeant Ruckam, Philip Heder, Joseph Eppinger, John Nagel, Bruno Krause and John Frey.

I a making this report, I have restricted myself to mention only such officers, non-commissioned officers and privates, who were acting under my direct orders, whilst the reports of commanders of divisions, brigades, regiments and batteries, will show sufficiently what they have done, and what officers and men deserve praise and special consideration.

I am, General, your ob't serv't,

F. SIGEL,

Brig. Gen'l Comd'g 1st and 2d Division.

To BRIG. GEN'L CURTIS, COMD'G ARMY OF THE S. W.

## CHAPTER SIXTH

## REPORTS OF COL. OSTERHAUS AND GENERAL ASBOTH, 1ST AND 2D DIVISIONS

### OSTERHAUS

CAPTAIN:—In compliance with special orders from headquarters of South West District, I have the honor to report on the part taken by the 1st Division, in the three days battle of the 6th, 7th and 8th of this month.

At 9 o'clock, P. M., on the night of the 6th inst. (I was then stationed at McKreisick's farm, 3 miles south-west of Bentonville, Arkansas) I was officially informed of the approach of the enemy, receiving, at the same time, orders to march at 2 o'clock, 6. M., next morning, in order to join the other Divisions of the army at Pea Ridge, on the Fayetteville or telegraph road. We left camp at the hour mentioned, and arriving at Bentonville, General Sigel ordered the 13th Mo. Vols., Major Wangelin commanding, to remain there and reinforce the rear guard (composed of the 2d Mo. Volunteers, Col. Schaefer, the Flying Battery, and the Fremont and Benton Hussars). This force was to stay at Bentonville, under the immediate command of General Sigel, while I myself proceeded to Sugar Creek with the other regiments and batteries of the 1st Division. On my arrival there, I learned by rumor, afterwards confirmed officially, that General Sigel had been attacked at Bentonville, and that his egress from that town is disputed by a strong rebel force. I immediately, after giving notice to General Curtis, ordered all the regiment and Capt. Hoffman's Battery to return with the utmost speed to the support of our General. They, together with the 16th Mo. Vols., of the 2d Division, responded promptly to my sudden call, and though tired by a 16 miles march, hurried back in double quick to the field of action.

I had almost arrived at the head of Sugar Creek Hollow with this force, when I met General Sigel and his small force, who had broken through the enemy. The latter was still following them. On a bend, in the narrow defile formed by Sugar Creek Hollow, I planted two pieces of Hoffman's Battery, while the 15th Mo. Vols. (2d Division) formed in a line of battle in support of the Battery, while the 17th Mo. Vols. were deployed as skirmishers over the whole breadth of the valley and the crest of the bordering hills.

The enemy advanced towards us with artillery in the valley and skirmishers on the hills, when a few rounds of spherical case and canister stopped him. His artillery played without success. I then ordered the two pieces back, as was as the infantry, with the exception of the 17th Mo., which covered our retreat in most admirable style, exchanging an occasional shot with the enemy. Major Poten, commanding the 17th 110., deserves the highest credit for the determination and coolness exhibited on this occasion.

We arrived in camp without any further molestation, and prepared to bivouac on the northern ridges skirting Sugar Creek Hollow, near the camps of the other Divisions, fortifying our position at once, anticipating a night attack. The enemy did not molest us however.

MARCH 7TH.—Early morning brought us the intelligence, that the united forces of the Confederate and Mo. rebels had passed our right flank, and were deploying also on our line of retreat, near Elk Horn Tavern. They advanced during the night by the direct road leading from Bentonville, Ark. to Cassville, Mo. (This road joins the Telegraph Road from Fayetteville to Cassville, at a point a few miles north of the above mentioned Elk Horn Tavern).

To prevent the enemy from still more strengthening their position in our rear, and to engage a part of his force, General Curtis ordered me to make a demonstration on their right flank, toward Leetown, and if necessary, of the Bentonville and Cassville road. The forces detailed for

this purpose, were mainly cavalry (Battalions of the 3d Iowa, 1st and 5th Mo. Cavalry) and three pieces of the Flying Battery, all under the immediate command of Col. Bussey, 3d Iowa Cavalry, and further the 12th Mo., 36th Ills. and 22d Indiana regiments, three pieces, 12 pound howitzers, of Capt. Welfley's Battery, and Capt. Hoffman's Battery. This command started after ten o'clock, A. M. I arrived at Leetown, having no knowledge whatever of the whereabouts of the enemy, and took position in the open fields north of Leetown, going forward myself with the cavalry and three pieces of the Flying Artillery. The field in which the artillery and infantry were posted, is divided from another tract of cultivated ground, by a belt of timber with thick undergrowth. Debouching from this timber, I came in sight of a large force of the enemy, mostly cavalry. All the open fields to my front and right were occupied, and the road from Bentonville was filled with new regiments arriving.

As appears from the accompanying sketch, this gathering of the enemy's forces was accomplished in the immediate neighborhood of the headquarters of our army, being only 1 1/2 miles distant, and it was patent that the enemy was preparing a most energetic attack on our right flank, at the same time they opened fire on our rear. Notwithstanding my command was entirely inadequate to the overwhelming masses opposed to me—which, I learned afterwards, were under the immediate command of Generals McCulloch and McIntosh, and comprised some of the very best drilled regiments in the Confederate service, and Indian regiments—I could not hesitate in my course of action. The safety of our position was dependent on the security of our right flank, and the keeping back of the enemy until I was reinforced.

I therefore ordered the three pieces of the Flying Battery to form, supporting them by companies from the 1st Mo. Cavalry (provided with revolvers and revolving carbines) forming the remainder of the cavalry in line of attack.

The Battery opened fire with the most disastrous effect on the enemy, and in order to cut off fresh supports, two companies of cavalry were ordered to charge down the road. When I saw the effect of the artillery creating a panic in the lines of our opponents, I ordered Col. Bussey to charge from the right, attacking the left of the rebels.

While these preparations were making, a wild, numerous and irregular throng of cavalry, a great many Indians among them, rushed towards us, breaking through our lines. A general discharge of fire-arms on both sides, created a scene of wild confusion, from which our cavalry, abandoning the three pieces of artillery, retreated towards their old camping ground, while that of the enemy made their way across fields toward the Bentonville road.

It being evident that the cavalry could not be formed again for the present, I had to rely solely on the infantry and artillery to achieve my purposes. Fearful of the impression which the above scene of confusion might have made, I went to meet them. They had stood without flinching, and in a few minutes they were in such shape I could attack the enemy again.

The 22d Indiana on my right, Capt. Welfley's two pieces (one piece had been disabled) the 12th Mo., Captain Hoffman's Battery and the 36th Ills. on my left, formed the line. For reserve, I had to rely on reinforcements, for which I sent to General Curtis.

The enemy soon made his appearance with colors flying on the opposite side of the field which I occupied. Our batteries opened their fire on him, sweeping everything from our sight. I ordered skirmishers from the 12th Mo., to advance and scour the woods on our right and front, and sent one company of Benton Hussars (which had reassembled) to our left.

On approaching the woods, they were received by the enemy with a heavy musketry fire, to which the infantry replied so successfully, that they were able to bring back (from a very exposed position) the piece of Capt. Welfley's Artillery which had been disabled. This piece

afterwards did very good service.

For several hours the enemy repeatedly attempted to advance, on each occasion bringing fresh troops into action; however, they invariably had to give way to the unflinching courage of my men.

McCulloch and McIntosh led their troops in person, and both fell. The former from a ball from a soldier of the 36th Ills. Volunteers—Peter Pelican.

The enemy's cannon played from time to time pretty severely on our ranks, and it became necessary to silence them. My instructions to that effect were so well executed, that the rebels were unable even to carry away the three pieces of the Flying Artillery abandoned by our cavalry in the early part of the day. They had to leave them on the field.

About 2 o'clock, P. M., General Jefferson C. Davis arrived with some of his regiments, and was joined by the 22d Indiana, up this time under my command.

The gallant officer deployed his regiments at once on my right, advancing towards any foe who might still be in the timber. The report of musketry told me a lively fight was going on.

To act in concert with him, I ordered my right forward to front, also come cavalry which had partly reassembled. I advanced with my whole line, when the enemy showed his colors again. Cavalry and infantry came around the left of General Davis and opened their fire on my now unsecured right. In double quick, I threw the 12th Mo. on this exposed flank, supporting them by Capt. Welfley's Battery, who had wheeled to the right, and forming the 36th in close column, on the extreme left of this new position, to be ready for any cavalry attack, protecting at the same time Capt. Hoffman's Battery.

The enemy's plan being defeated by a raging fire from the 12th Mo. and Capt. Welfley's Artillery, they made a feeble attempt to cut off our line of retreat which was frustrated by skirmishers thrown out by the 36th Ills. Vols.

As my infantry force was not equal to the artillery (having only the 12th and 36th with me) and also to counteract any further attempts of the enemy to outflank me, I thought it judicious to send four pieces of Capt. Hoffman's Battery back to Leetown, which affords a very commanding position. This with some of General Davis' infantry, formed my reserve.

Cavalry flankers and infantry skirmishers, having thoroughly scoured the ground in front of where the battle had raged for hours, reported the enemy gone, and his train could be seen in the distance, moving toward Bentonville.

Similar news was brought to me from the right, where a brave Indiana regiment (Col. Davis') held aloft the stars and stripes, which emblem of our country was hailed with enthusiastic cheers by the men around me.

General Sigel now arrived with the rest of the 1st and 2d Divisions, and as we passed over the ground, the enemy's dead and wounded, amounting to hundreds, gave evidence of the fearful execution done by our soldiers. On our extreme right, where Col. Carr was engaged, the cannon were still thundering, although night was not far distant. We marched to the assistance of our friends, planted our battery and brought the infantry into line, but it was too late to open fire.

General Sigel was of the opinion that it was best to wait until morning, and not to betray our position by a few shots, which could be of no avail, as it was already night. Our men lay down to rest in a wet cornfield, having eaten nothing since morning, but not a murmur was heard; they waited in patience.

So ended the second day of battle. I cannot pass over the occurrences of this day without again paying tribute to the indomitable courage and devotedness of officers and men. They deserve the highest encomiums for their bravery and endurance; to mention names is almost

impossible, when everybody has such noble claims.

Under my immediate observation, were all the artillery officers present; Capt. Welfley, the unterrified, and Lieut. Benecke, both of Battery A, and Capt. Hoffman and Lieuts. Frochlich, Piteret and Frank, of Battery B (Ohio) Major Wangelin, commanding 12th Mo. Vols., and Col. Greusel, of the 36th Ills. Vols.; furthermore, two reliable officers, who were detailed to me for the occasion as orderly officers, viz: Capt. Kielmansegge (Fremont Hussars) of General Sigel's staff, and Capt. Anlefeldt (12th Mo. Vols.) of General Curtis' staff, and also the gentlemen of my staff. I have also to mention Capt. McKenny, Asst. Adj. Gen'l on General Curtis' staff, who was with me part of the day, and rendered great assistance in bringing Hoffman's Battery to Leetown, as well as the general arrangement for the disposition of my lines.

MARCH 8TH, 1862.—The commencement of this day, still found our troops on the cornfield, without food or fire. Several messengers, sent off for provisions, returned, having been unable to procure them. It being indispensable that our men should eat something before entering on another day of struggle, General Sigel, at 2 A. M., gave the order to return to camp (about one mile distant) where we arrived at 3 A. M. The men slept until daybreak, and provisions having been brought up in the meanwhile, fell in after a hasty breakfast to deliver another and last blow on the enemy.

The ground selected for this last attack, by Lieut. Assumssen (of General Sigel's staff) was a field forward of, and connecting with, the one on which we had taken position during the fore part of the night.

The 44th Ills. regiment was first brought up and formed in line on the left of the right wing (3rd and 4th Divisions) of our army. General Sigel then arrived and took command in person, while I was engaged in bringing out the regiments and batteries of my Division.

The first position on the field was as follows:

The 25th Ills. Vols. on my extreme right, connecting with the left of the right wing of our army (3rd and 4th Divisions) On the left of, and in advance of that regiment, I had posted the 44th Ills. vols., with Capt. Welfley's Battery on their left. To the left of the battery, the 12th Mo. Vols. was brought into position, while the 36th Ills. Vols. formed the extreme left, in column by division at half distance, Hoffman's Battery occupying the interval between the 12th Mo. and 36th Ills. Vols. The 3rd and 17th Mo. Vols. were formed as reserve in rear of my centre.

The enemy fired from several batteries with the utmost vehemence, their shot and shell falling thickly around our lines and on our batteries; so much so, that the troops on our left were forced to fall back for a while. At this critical moment, the batteries of the 1st Division opened on the enemy, bearing mainly on the extreme right of the rebels. The effect was proportionate to the skill, courage and coolness of officers and men. The enemy, seeing that his right was endangered, concentrated all his energies on that wing, the fire of their other batteries slackening off considerably. General Sigel ordered the battery to advance, and at the same time dispatched me to report progress. By this movement, in which the right wing of our army co-operated, the enemy's entire line of retreat was brought under the concentrated fire from our lines.

To execute this movement, on my return all our batteries wheeled to the left, and I ordered the skirmishers of the 12th Mo. Vols. forward towards a grove of timber, from which the heaviest battery of the enemy was firing against us. The men under the gallant Capt. Lightfoot, of Company F, advanced like veterans. In connection, and to the left, the skirmishers of the 36th and 44th Ills. Vols., were also thrown out, and all the regiments of the 1st division began their march forward, in support of the skirmishers. They were received with an intense fire by the

enemy. The 12th Mo., supported by the 25th Ills. (Col. Coler) entered the grove on our right, where the enemy's infantry fired heavy volleys, disputing every inch of ground.

Major Wangelin, commanding 12th Mo., here had his horse shot under him, and the two regiments going on in gallant style, soon obtained possession of the main road.

Two brass pieces and the flag of the Dallas Artillery were taken by the 12th Mo. in the charge.

During these struggles, the movements on our extreme left were just as fast powerful and successful. the 17th and 3rd Mo. and the 36th Ills., supported by the gallant soldiers of the 2nd and 15th Missouri, and the artillery of Lieut. Chapman, 2nd Division, advanced steadily - the cavalry on the left towards the rocks over which the enemy was retreating. Soon we saw the noble regiments, 17th and 3d Missouri, and 36th Ills., on the crest of the step rocks, and with this position, the field of the defeated rebel army was in our possession. We had conquered.

The rebels were retreating in all direction; one force by the Cassville road which we followed in close pursuit, and prevented every attempt of theirs to form again. A great many prisoners and munitions of war, muskets, caissons, baggage wagons, and one more cannon, were taken by us in this pursuit.

General Sigel ordered me to drive the rebel column as far as Keetsville, which I did, arriving in the neighborhood of that place at 5 o'clock, P. M.

Next morning, March 9, we entered the town of Keetsville, and dispatched a cavalry force a few miles beyond, but it being evident the enemy's forces in that direction had dispersed, General Sigel ordered us to return to the battle ground, when we encamped near our comrades of the other Divisions.

In conclusion, I ought to add the list of names of those who excelled.

They all were brave, and I only could repeat the names mentioned before. 1st Lieut. Jacobi, of Capt. Welfley's Battery, who was not in the battle of Leetown, did great service and immense execution with his twelve-pound guns on the 8th, and he is a worthy comrade of his brother officers.

It also becomes my pleasant duty to acknowledge the very kind assistance I repeatedly received on the 8th from Col. Schaefer, 2nd Mo. Vols., and his command P. J. OSTERHAUS

Col. Comd'g 1st Division, Army of the S. W. To Capt. T. I. McKenny, A. a Gen'l S. W. Dist. Army of the Mo.

ASBOTH

HEAD QUARTERS 2D DIVISION,

CAMP AT ELK HORN TAVERN, PEA RIDGE, ARK., March 16, 1862 Gen's F. sigel,  
Commanding 1st and 2d Divisions:

GENERAL- In compliance with Special Order No. 163, I have the honor to submit my report of the participation of th 2d Division in the battle of the 6th, 7th and 8th days of the present month at Bentonville, Sugar Creek and Pea Ridge.

By way of preliminary, I may allude to the happy union of the 1st and 2d Divisions under your command. I say happy union, because I have never witnessed more perfect harmony, either in camp or upon the battlefield. Native Americans and foreigners of varied nationalities have been aptly blended, and the fraternity of the troops finds its counterpart in that prevailing between the officers and commanders. No wonder the privations of our arduous winter campaign, in the midst of a hostile populace, were so cheerfully borne, or that the hardships

thus engendered, should result in so irresistible a co-operation upon the battle-field.

Officers and men were all imbued with the earnest feeling, that you would lead them only to victory. And you did so, at a moment when experienced and brave soldiers admitted the critical chances of our position.

Allow me to thank you, General, in the name of my Division, for your skillful leadership and the result achieved.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6TH, 1862.—On the 5th of March, being encamped at McKreisick's farm with my Division, in close proximity to the 1st Division, 3 1/2 miles south-west of Bentonville, I received orders from you at 11 o'clock P. M., to march at 2 o'clock on the following morning, in conjunction with the 1st Division, to Bentonville, and there to await further orders.

We started accordingly in the following order:

1. Company of Fremont Hussars;
2. 15th Mo. Vols.;
3. 2d Ohio Battery;
4. The train in the order of respective commands;
5. 1st Division;
6. First Flying Battery;
7. Benton Hussars;

and reached Bentonville at about 4 o'clock in the morning, overtaken by you, and as information arrived that the 2d Mo. Regiment, of my Division, expected from Smith's Mill, was already near the town, you ordered me to continue the march in the same order to our old camp at Sugar Creek—yourself awaiting the 2d Mo. Regiment, which with the Benton Hussars and the Flying Battery, was to form the rear guard of the column.

I had arrived at your old headquarters on Sugar Creek, with all the troops of the 1st and 2d Divisions, except the rear guard mentioned, after 10 o'clock, A. M.; but while arranging the encampments, the verbal intelligence came that you were attacked and surrounded by a vastly superior force of the enemy at Bentonville. General Osterhaus and myself hastened with all our troops to your relief and found you still engaged, five miles off, on the Sugar Creek Bentonville road, with the rebel troops, who were speedily routed.

By your order, our forces were drawn up on the Bentonville Sugar Creek road, with all precautions against a fresh attack. But nothing more was heard of the rebel forces, and you effected a junction with the main body on the telegraph road at its crossing of Sugar Creek. The Benton Hussars, the Flying Battery, the 12th Mo. and 2d Mo. Vols., took a prominent part in fighting their way through the Sugar Creek Valley, the last named regiment losing Captain Francis Kuhr, of Company C, a most efficient officer, who was killed in the first attack, when deploying his company as skirmishers. Lieut. Colonel Laibold, commanding the 2d Mo. Regiment, speaks in his official report, of the bravery of Frederick Taensch, Acting Asst. Adj't Gen'l of Col. Schaefer's Brigade, and also of Capt. Walter Hoppe, Company K, and Captain Christian Burkhardt, of Co. B, who gave a noble example to the rest of the troops, and I cheerfully make mention of them here.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7TH.—Intelligence having been received that the enemy was advancing in force, with the view of cutting off our communications with Missouri, and by approaches in other directions, to surround us, General Curtis commanding, ordered a force, composed of parts

of all the different Divisions, under command of General Osterhaus, to attack him at Leesville, in concert with the 3d Division, under command of Colonel Jefferson C. Davis. The Benton and Fremont Hussars, and the Flying Battery, were directed to join him from my Division. The 1st Brigade, under command of Colonel Schaefer, and composing the 2d and 15th Mo. Vols., with the 2d Ohio Battery, was directed to take position on the heights this side of the Sugar Creek Bentonville road, commanding it. The battle speedily opened, both in the direction of Leesville and Keetsville, at Pea Ridge, and raged furiously, without involving the 1st Brigade of my Division in action. A few skirmishers from the heights, on the opposite side of the valley, and several wounded horses of the rebels, without riders, were all that we saw. In the afternoon, between 3 and 4 o'clock, however, General Curtis commanding, came personally with the information, that the 4th Division, under acting Brigadier General Carr, on our right, was hard pressed. All the troops were immediately ordered forward, with the exception of the two howitzers of the Ohio Battery, and six companies of the 2d Mo. Vols., which were left in their old position on the Sugar Creek Bentonville road. I, myself, was directed by you to take four companies of the 2d Mo. Vols., and four pieces of the 2d Ohio Battery, forward as quick as possible on the telegraph road, with the view of meeting the remaining force of the 1st and 2d Divisions, on the contested battle-ground this side of Elk Horn Tavern. Arriving there in advance of your troops, I found the 4th Division already exhausted, the enemy pressing forward from the woods around Elk Horn Tavern, to the open space on either side of the telegraph road, with great force, and, seeing that in that critical moment, no time was to be lost, I ordered the 2d Ohio Battery to take position on the left of the road, and replacing the three pieces of the 1st Iowa Battery, under command of Capt. M. M. Hayden [*this is an error; the 1st Iowa Battery was not under command of Capt. Hayden*] to its right, opened at once a brisk and concentrated fire upon the enemy, checking instantly his advance, and at the same time, rallying the partly faltering forces of the 2d Brigade, 4th Division. The artillery having kept up a steady fire for half an hour, and perceivin that the enemy was forced by it to abandon the woods this side of the tavern, the 2d Mo. Infantry, to the right and left of the artillery, was deployed as skirmishers, under Col. Schaefer. and advanced steadily to and through the woods to the fence, within two hundred yards of the Elk Horn Tavern. Thus securing the advance of my artillery, I ordered the 2d Ohio Battery forward, to follow us to a position on and to the left of the road commanding the enemy's stronghold. Sharp firing, and a hard contest was again maintained from this point, until the enemy's Battery was silenced, and the ammunition of the 2d Ohio Battery being nearly exhausted, we retired in good order to our first position, to hold it at all hazards. Night, however, setting in, fighting ceased on both sides, and the four companies of the gallant 2d Mo. Vols., were ordered to remain as guard on the extreme line of our centre for the night. Lieut. Chapman, commanding the 2d Ohio Battery, was seriously wounded during the action, and was carried away by the Surgeon. A musket ball passed through my right arm, but did not disable me from continuing in command. I take here the opportunity of mentioning the high valor of the 2d Mo. Vols. and the 2d Ohio Battery, as well as the gallant co-operation of the 1st Iowa Battery, under Capt. Hayden. Officers and men all did their duty well and gallantly until the last cartridge was expended. I have especially to mention the gallant conduct of Col. Schaefer, Lieut. Col. Laibold, and the commander of the 2d Ohio Battery, Lieut. Chapman. They united coolness to energy and daring. The 1st Flying Battery of my Division, ordered in the morning to join the Leesville expedition, suffered very severely. Three of its pieces, under command of Lieuts. Gassen and Schneider, followed by the 1st Missouri and 3d Iowa Cavalry, with the larger portion of the Benton and Fremont Hussars, under command of Col. Bussey, were engaged when the first

attack was made upon the enemy's cavalry. The 'are of the Battery. forced the enemy to retreat; being, however attacked from all directions, and not supported by the cavalry, the three pieces were lost, but afterwards found burned, and recovered. Six men of the Flying Battery were killed on this occasion, three wounded, and eight missing. The rest of the Battery, under command of Capt. Elbert, with a part of the 17th and 15th Mo. Vols., and two companies of the Benton Hussars, under command of Major Heinricks, were guarding the rear of the engaged army, and encountered; the enemy about four miles from Sugar Creek, on the Bentonville road. They opened and exchanged fire with them with shell and spherical case shot, until dark, when they retired towards their camps. The Benton Hussars, who were also, as stated, with the command of Col. Bussey, report that on arriving at the field of contest at 9 o'clock, A. M., they participated in a momentarily unsuccessful encounter with the enemy, but, that forming again in the first open field, they held it during the remainder of the day, guarding Welfley's Battery. At 5 1/2 o'clock, P. M., when the rest of the cavalry were withdrawn from the field, the Benton, with two companies of the Fremont Hussars, were left to maintain it during the night.

Half the Battalion of Fremont Hussars, under command of Lieut. Howe, were with the four companies of Benton Hussars, under command of Colonel Nemett; and in the affair just mentioned, Lieut. Clowes and four men were killed, eight wounded, and three missing. The other half of the Battalion, under command of Major Meszaros, charged, as he reports, near the town of Leesville, upon a regiment of the enemy's infantry.

After the enemy had retreated on the left wing, Major Meszaros was ordered by General Curtis, to take his command to the support of General Carr, but not finding him, was ordered by the commanding General to return to camp.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH.—On this day, the battle was resumed at 7 o'clock, A. M., our centre and right having first opened fire (I may say too soon) with a sharp and continuous return from the enemy. So severe was their fire, as to imperil our camp, before the 1st and 2d Divisions had taken position on the left. Arriving there, however, the hottest artillery fire was opened, and the whole force moved from position to position, like an immense machine, perfectly irresistible in its progress, under your command. The enemy, severely pressed upon every side, finally fled in wild disorder, leaving large numbers of his dead and wounded upon the ground, the Union army taking immediate possession of his position, and the 1st and 2d Divisions pursuing till nightfall, to Keetsville, taking many prisoners, arms and ammunition, and returning the next day to our common camp.

On that day of triumph to our arms, the whole of the 1st and 2d Divisions were united upon the open field, in full view of friend and foe, except four pieces of the Ohio Battery, with four companies of the 2d Mo. Vols., of my Division left as guard in our old position, at Sugar Creek Valley. The two remaining pieces of the Flying Battery, with the Fremont and Benton Hussars, and the 15th Regiment Mo. Vols., were designated as the reserve in the beginning, but were soon drawn into the line of battle, and ordered into action. Six companies of the 2d Mo. Vols., with two howitzers of the Ohio Battery, were sent towards the enemy's extreme right flank, south-west of Elk Horn Tavern, and forming an extreme left. The infantry, deployed as skirmishers, drove the enemy from a thicket at the foot of the hill, and then joined the general advance, the two howitzers of the 2d Ohio Battery, in the meanwhile, dismounting the enemy's battery, and driving their infantry from the top of a hill, upon which it had formed. I have to regret that the efficient Swiss regiment, 15th Mo. Vols., whose beautiful flag floated so picturesquely throughout the battlefield, had not the opportunity they so ardently longed for, of following their energetic commander, Col. Joliat, to the heart of the conflict, and of attesting, by

their blood, their devotion to the cause.

I feel bound to make honorable mention of the officers of my staff. They were always at hand, regardless of danger, when duty called them, especially during our desperate attack on the afternoon of the 7th. Lieuts. Gillen and Harken, although for the first time in a severe engagement, stood coolly at my side, under the hottest artillery and musketry fire, while Lieut. Von Unruh, a soldier of European experience, carried my orders, dashing bravely and promptly through every danger.

Mr. Ullfers, the accomplished topographical engineer, of my Division, during the arduous campaigns of the last six months, although not called by his especial duties to the battle-field, was every where, regardless of danger, and, while exhibiting an example of cool courage, gathered from the events of the moment, many important features towards his topographical delineation of the battle ground.

Major Wiegand, recently of the Garahaldi Guards, who joined me the day before as a Volunteer Aid, also deserves my hearty commendation.

You, yourself, General, having been everywhere, and having seen everything. know how well our men and officers generally behaved. Forward they always moved! Honor to them all!

My report of killed, wounded and missing, is herewith submitted. It shows commissioned officers killed, 3; wounded, 3; enlisted men killed, 17; wounded, 60; missing, 36.

One hundred and twenty-six prisoners were delivered by Capt. Hesse, Provost Marshal of the 2d Division, to the grand Provost Marshal, Major Heinrichs. A list of their names is herewith submitted.

Over 350 stand of arms, with a large amount of ammunition, and various implements of war, specified by the Division Quartermaster, were also taken, and delivered to Chief Quartermaster Carr. An artillery caisson taken is now with the 2d Ohio Battery.

I submit topographical sketches of the extended Pea Ridge battle-field, with our end the enemy's position, on the 7th and 8th of March, prepared by the topographical engineer of my Division, just so honorably mentioned, Mr. Ullfers. The sketch appertaining to your action at Bentonville, will follow in a few days. I am, General, very respectfully your obd't serv't,

ASBOTH,

Brigadier Gen's Comd'g 2d Division