



HISTORY

OF THE

ORPHAN BRIGADE.

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in swelling their ranks. The one class could be reached only by an appeal to their selfishness; while the other could scarcely have been convinced that their country really needed them and would suffer without their help. Though they gloried in Southern valor, they were not ambitious of that distinction for themselves; and though they would have resisted unto death any attempt to array them *against* the Southern cause, they deemed themselves perfectly justifiable in standing aloof from both, and the conclusion was strengthened by a rather unconservative opinion that the Confederacy was able to sustain itself with what forces it had already in the field.

On the 16th of November, 1861, Brig.-Gen. John C. Breckinridge assumed command, and named the following officers as composing his staff: Capt. George B. Hodge, A. A. G.; Maj. Alfred Boyd, A. Q. M.; Capt. Clint. McClarty, A. C. S.; Lieut. John C. Beech, Ordnance Officer;* and Capt. T. T. Hawkins, aid-de-camp. No assistant-inspector general was appointed, that duty devolving, for the time, upon other officers of the staff. On the 27th of December, Hon. Jilson P. Johnson was announced as volunteer aid-de-camp; and in March, 1862, Capt. William L. Brown and Capt. Charles J. Mastin were announced as additional volunteer aids.

At every change of the scope of General Breckinridge's command, and every change of troops, corresponding changes and modifications were made in his military family, but no effort is made to record other than those who were appointed to these places while he was brigadier.

The difficulty of arming the Kentucky troops was one which was not entirely surmounted until after the battle of Shiloh. At the time when General Breckinridge assumed command, there was not a sufficient number of small arms to supply each man one of any description, and the want of uniformity was a serious drawback upon efficiency. The Second, Third, and Fourth Regiments had been partially supplied with Belgian rifles, but numbers, even in those regiments, were armed with rifled muskets, and some of them of the old flintlock pattern. And among the new recruits, the display of small arms and ammunition would have moved the mirth of any but a Confederate himself, who looked upon it as too serious a matter to be treated lightly. There were rifled and smooth-bore muskets which had been brought in by State-Guard companies, that would have been excellent weapons if there had been uniformity, or any means of supplying the proper style of cartridge to suit each man's case; but these made up the lesser portion of the strange col-

* Lieutenant Beech is included, in regular order, in the above list, but the appointment was not made until February 22, 1862.

lection. There were guns of almost every kind known to the troops of the United States since Miles Standish "looked his last upon the sky." Some of them had been altered from the flint to the percussion lock, but the most of them were flintlocks still, and no few of them in a condition to be fired only by a match or a firebrand. There were squirrel rifles of every age, style, and bore; shot-guns, single-barreled, double-barreled, old and new, flintlock, percussion, or no lock at all; carbines of every character, pistols of every patent, and huge knives that were looked upon as too little to be useful if they weighed less than two pounds avoirdupois. They had, too, various supplies of ammunition, and various means of supplying more. There were some few cartridges, mostly for the smooth-bore and rifled musket; and these were the most destructive species of missile then at command. Troops armed wholly with these muskets, with suitable bayonet, and supplied with the "buck-and-ball" cartridge—consisting of a heavy round bullet, about an ounce in weight, to which was attached on its face opposite the charge of powder, three buckshot—would have every advantage of those bearing Enfield or other improved rifles, except in the matter of comparative range. At the distance of not exceeding three hundred yards, the former would be prepared to do an execution more terrible than any that the Enfield rifle is capable of. There were various molds for running bullets in cases of emergency. There were hunters' powder-horns and sportsmen's flasks. Some few cartridge-boxes, cap-boxes and belts; and a limited supply of bayonets, here and there, had found their way to the new camps. Governor Letcher, of Virginia, gave General Breckinridge a number of percussion muskets, and these were divided proportionately among all his regiments, about the 12th of December, and every effort was made to secure uniformity throughout companies, if not regiments, and to procure suitable ammunition; but even so late as the 2d of January, 1862, complaint was made that the Ninth Regiment had not arms of any kind for half its men, reports showing that there were but two hundred and forty-six really serviceable guns, besides seventy old flintlocks.

Tents, clothing, and commissary stores, however, were at this period abundant. In fact, there was a great superfluity of the former two, since tents were extravagantly plentiful, and almost every man went into camp with a supply of trunks, valises, wearing apparel, books and other adjuncts of traveling gentlemen, that would have absorbed all the transportation space subsequently allowed to a company.

In the latter part of November, when affairs had begun to assume a truly military shape, and it was hoped that the Central Army of Kentucky would soon be brought to a high state of efficiency—when the

the only damage done was the putting of some balls through the house—one of these having evidently been fired at a lady who looked out of an upper window to see how the storm was raging below, as it struck the right half-shutter while she had the left one open and her head out.

Early next morning a small force of cavalry went out from Horse Cave under command of Col. Jack Allen; and Col. Lewis sent additional volunteers from the Sixth Kentucky Infantry, to reinforce the little party there, as it was apprehended that the enemy might be on the move from Greensburgh; but no further trouble occurred. Among the horsemen were Wallace Herr and James H. Rudy, who afterward became distinguished members of the First Kentucky Cavalry.

Another minor affair took place while Johnston's troops were at Bowling Green, in which some men of the Ninth Kentucky were engaged. This was at Whippoorwill Bridge, on the Louisville and Memphis Railroad, some five or six miles below Russellville. On the 13th of November, Colonel Hunt, who had three companies reporting to him from Russellville, without having ever been to Bowling Green, went down with those collected at the latter place, was joined there by the three companies, and the whole established themselves near town, at what they called Camp Magruder, in pursuance of a custom then much in vogue among the Confederates, of calling encampments after noted officers of their army. They remained here till about the 1st of December, and returned to Bowling Green, with the exception of thirteen men, under command of Sergeant (afterward First Lieutenant) Peter H. O'Connor, of Co. H. The names of three of this detachment cannot be ascertained; but the others were: George Campbell, Co. A; Joseph Hall, Co. C; H. D. Dougherty, Thomas Lilley, Joseph Wilson, and Hatch Jupin, Co. B; Paul Burgess and John E. Cook, Co. G; Isaac Duckwall and James Johnson, Co. H. This force had been detailed to guard the bridge aforesaid from destruction by the Federal Home-Guards. It was left on duty when the regiment went back to Bowling Green, except Sergeant O'Connor, who had to go to Bowling Green for a supply of ammunition. On the morning of the 4th of December, the detail was attacked by ninety men, under command of a Captain Netter, who had come out cautiously from Rochester for the purpose of destroying the bridge. The guard stood gallantly to their arms against this overwhelming odds, and fought until they were surrounded (a number of Federals having found the way to their rear as well as front), when the survivors surrendered. Two of them (George Campbell and Hatch Jupin) were killed; and Joe Wilson, of Co. B, was severely wounded in the hip,

but fought on till he had a finger shot off, and the proximity of the enemy rendered further resistance vain. He was left on the ground. The Federals barely took time to fire the bridge, which they did in such a manner that it failed to burn, before they took up their march for Rochester, carrying their own wounded and the prisoners with them. It was never ascertained what loss they suffered, though citizens stated that a number of them were wounded but none killed. Some of the prisoners escaped before they reached Rochester; the others were sent to prison, and were not exchanged till the autumn of 1862. Surgeon Pendleton, who had been left with sick at Russellville, made up a party for pursuit as soon as possible after the truth was ascertained, but Netter had made good his escape from the neighborhood.

Apprehensions were entertained about the middle of November that a Federal force would be sent across by way of Rochester, on Mud River, to interfere with the Confederate communications, by striking the Memphis road, either at Russellville or below, and on the 17th of that month an expedition, consisting of the Second Kentucky, the Third Kentucky, and a part of the Fourth, with cavalry and a battery of artillery, was sent out to Mud River, but nothing of particular note occurred, and they returned to Bowling Green about the first of December. A little subsequently, a similar force was sent out in that direction, but with no more important results.

The enemy was now known to be rapidly repairing the bridge over Green river, a pier of which had been destroyed by the troops stationed there in October, and, being in great force on the north bank, disposed between Munfordville and Elizabethtown, an advance upon Nashville, either directly through Bowling Green or by an attempt to turn the right of General Johnston's immediate strategic position, would probably take place as soon as their arrangements for crossing the river and keeping open their communications could be perfected. Scouts reported that a movement was apparently on foot looking to an advance upon what is known as the "upper pike," or the turnpike road running from Louisville to Nashville by way of Glasgow and Scottville. On the 18th of December a portion of the brigade was sent forward to Oakland Station, ostensibly to support, or act in concert with the brigade of General Hindman, who had been out continually as far advanced toward Green River as prudence would allow. Part of the brigade was then at Bowling Green and part of it at Oakland. On the 20th some of the troops were thrown six miles still further forward to Dripping Springs.

On the 21st, it having been reported that a column of the enemy was actually advancing, so as to threaten Bowling Green on the right,

although not drilled, his regiment did excellent service. Capt. Byrne, as I have already said, managed his battery with skill, and fought with great gallantry. Capt. Cobb, commanding light battery, unfortunately lost most of his horses and two of his pieces, but is represented to me as having fought with great courage and skill. Capt. John H. Morgan, with his squadron, was not under my immediate control, and has only to-day returned from the scene of conflict. On receiving his report I will add a supplement to this. His conduct is represented to have been such as all expected of so gallant a commander.

The captains and subalterns of the command who fought with distinguished courage, are too numerous to be mentioned in this report. Regimental reports are referred to for justice to them. It may not be out of place to say, however, that the Third Kentucky came from the battlefield and from Mickey's house, under command of Lieut. C. H. Meshew.

I am under obligations to my Adjutant, Joe Linden Robertson, and my volunteer aids, Samuel Gray, John Hooe, Tho. B. Darragh, Robert W. McKee, and Charlton Morgan, all of Kentucky (the last of whom was wounded on Sunday morning), and Charles J. Mastin, of Alabama, all of whom exhibited decided gallantry.

But I have to mourn the loss of many who were very dear to the command, among whom Maj. Monroe is very deeply lamented. He fell nobly at his post. No officer of his rank could have been his superior, and no man in the army could have possessed more merit as a gentleman. At the same place fell Governor George W. Johnson, whose death will be mourned by thousands of his countrymen.

The command went into action with something less than 2,400 men, and the table of casualties shows an aggregate loss of 844. The list of missing is ninety-seven, all of whom were probably killed or wounded.

The losses of the different regiments, etc., were as follows:

Third Kentucky Regiment	174
Fourth Kentucky Regiment	213
Sixth Kentucky Regiment	108
Ninth Kentucky Regiment	134
Hale's Thirty-first Alabama	79
Clifton's Alabama Battalion	30
Crews' Tennessee Battalion	55
Cobb's Battery	37
Byrne's Battery	14
Total	844

All the horses of the command belonging to the field and staff engaged in the action, with one or two exceptions, were either killed or wounded. Respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. P. TRABUE,

Colonel Fourth Kentucky, Commanding Brigade.

The preceding report, it will be observed, gives a close account of the action taken by all those troops that constituted the brigade proper, but Gen. Breckinridge and his staff, separated from it nearly all day of the 6th, as explained, are necessarily merely referred to as regards the operations of that day; and in order to a just view of their action during that time, we quote the following from Gen. Hodge:

"Two o'clock had arrived, and the whole army was now, or had been, for hours engaged, with the exception of Bowen's and Statham's brigades of the Reserve Corps. The enemy had been driven through and from half of his camps, but refused to give back further. Having given way on his right and left wings, he had massed his force heavily in the center, and poured an almost unintermitting hail of fire, murderous beyond description, from his covert of trees and bushes, when Gen. Breckinridge was ordered up to break his line. Having been most of the day in observation on the Hamburg road, marching in column of regiments, the reserve was now moved by the left flank, until opposite the point of attack, then deployed rapidly into line of battle, Statham's brigade forming the right and Bowen's the left. The long slope of the ridge was here abruptly broken by a succession of small hills or undulations of about fifty feet in height, dividing the rolling country from the river bottom; and behind the crest of the last of these the enemy was concealed. Opposite them, at the distance of seventy-five yards, was another long swell or hillock, the summit of which it was necessary to attain in order to open fire, and to this elevation the reserve moved in order of battle at a double-quick. In an instant the opposing height was one sheet of flame. Battle's Tennessee regiment, on the extreme right, gallantly maintained itself, pushing forward under a withering fire, and establishing itself well in advance. Little's Tennessee regiment, next to it, delivered its fire at random and inefficiently, became disordered, and retired in confusion down the slope. Three times it was rallied by its Lieutenant-Colonel, assisted by Col. T. T. Hawkins, aid-de-camp to Gen. Breckinridge, and by the Adjutant-General, and carried up the slope, only to be as often repulsed and driven back; the regiment of the enemy opposed to it, in the intervals, directing an oblique fire upon Battle's regiment, now contending against overwhelming odds.

"The crisis of the contest had come—there were no more reserves,

and Gen. Breckinridge determined to charge. Calling the staff around him, he communicated to them his intentions, and remarked that he, with them, would lead it. They were all Kentuckians, and though it was not their privilege to fight that day with the Kentucky Brigade, they were yet men who knew how to die bravely among strangers, and some, at least, would live to do justice to the rest. The Commander-in-chief, Gen. Johnston, rode up at this juncture, and learning the contemplated movement, determined to accompany it. Placing himself on the left of Little's regiment, his commanding figure in full uniform, conspicuous to every eye, he waited the signal. Gen. Breckinridge, disposing his staff along the line, rode to the right of the same regiment; then with a wild shout, which rose high above the din of battle, on swept the line through a storm of fire, over the hill, across the intervening ravine, and up the slope occupied by the enemy. Nothing could withstand it. The enemy broke and fled for half a mile, hotly pursued, until he reached the shelter of his batteries. Well did the Kentuckians sustain that day their honor and their fame! Of the little band of officers who started on that forlorn hope but one was unscathed, the gallant Breckinridge himself. Col. Hawkins was wounded in the face; Capt. Allen's leg was torn to pieces by a shell; the horses of the fearless boy, J. Cabell Breckinridge, and of the Adjutant-General were killed under them, and Gen. Johnston was lifted, dying, from his saddle. It may well be doubted whether the success, brilliant as it was, decisive as it was, compensated for the loss of the great captain.

"The general repulse of the enemy had now thrown the reserve on the extreme right of the Confederate line. Far on the left was heard the musketry of the Kentucky Brigade, and the roar of its artillery, as it pushed its columns forward. It was fighting its way to its gallant general, and the hour was drawing near when they were to meet in the pride of glorious success. Capt. Byrne, of the Kentucky Battery, riding on the flank, observed heavy bodies of the enemy in rear of his line, from which he was constantly drawing fresh supplies of men, and thus was enabled to maintain his ground. Obtaining permission of Bragg, he changed position of his pieces, and then threw discharge after discharge of spherical case shot and shell among them. The effect was magical. The right of the enemy broke and fled, the center followed, then the left wing; and charging along the whole line the Confederate army swept through the camps of the enemy, capturing three thousand, and driving the Federal force cowering beneath the shelter of the iron-clad gunboats. Then and there, in the full fruition of success, the Kentucky Brigade and its general met for the first time during that bloody day since their separation in the morn-

ing, both covered with glory, both proud of and gratified with each other."

It will be observed that, more than is usually the case in battle, the fighting of the Kentucky troops, on these two momentous days, was by separate detachments. Regiments and batteries made a kind of individual record of their own; and it would be impossible, on that account, to enter into detailed notices of the many incidents, of various nature, connected with each, as this would require a volume of itself. The reader will find frequent allusions to them in the biographies and the short personal sketches and incidents that follow this chapter.

On Monday afternoon the great battle had been fought—and lost. The trials, responsibilities, and sufferings of the Kentuckians were not over, however. The brigade had preserved its organization in such a remarkable degree that its services were in demand to do a greatly disproportionate part in the work of protecting the rear of the retreating army. In the language of Col. Trabue, "It was a great undertaking."

Encamping that night without shelter, in the rain and mud, upon the very verge of the battlefield, now held by a powerful and victorious enemy, officers and men lay upon their arms; and next day it moved out slowly, gathering up abandoned property and wounded men; halted again almost within cannon shot of the enemy, and went to work to bury the dead found along the road and at the field-hospital, and to send forward the wounded, the prisoners, and captured property; and at last withdrew under Gen. Breckinridge's orders to Corinth, arriving there Friday morning, one week from the time it had set out for Burnsville.

Many and many a noble heart that beat high with hope, and with the pride that the expectation of great achievements naturally inspires, was now stilled in death. These, our slain, lay in soldiers' graves, scattered promiscuously, and with no mark even so much as to name them, and say to future generations that such and such a one sleeps here. The victory that the very first blow promised, and that seemed, to all who lived till nightfall on the 6th, almost within their grasp, had been snatched from them, and their dead comrades were now mourned as those who shed their blood in vain. The living had reached Corinth after almost unparalleled hardships, and, having witnessed the most heartrending scenes after the battle was over, in the suffering of the wounded, who were slowly and with extreme difficulty carried to that place by every means of conveyance at the command of the Confederate officers. The almost constant rain, the horrid condition of the roads, the absence of every comfort that a wounded man so much needs, made the lot of these poor sufferers dreadful be-

yond expression. To complete the discomfiture of the Army of the Mississippi, their great captain was no more; and they felt now that there had been a "giant in the land," and that there was no one left who could restore their broken strength as he could have done, nor lead them as he had led. Just as light seemed to be about to dispel the darkness that for some months had been settling over the Confederacy, the hand of the Almighty wrote the doom of the new Republic. With Johnston here, and Lee in Virginia, unopposed by the decree of Him who rules the nations of the earth, no human power at the disposal of the United States Government could have stayed the onward and triumphant march of the Confederate Armies; but one touch—a ball sped perhaps at random—and one of the greatest generals of modern days, who seemed to hold the fate of a nation in his hand, dropped the reins of his charger some minutes after he had received a stroke that he had scarcely noticed, reeled into the arms of Gen. Preston, and was presently no more.

No studied disquisition is needed to portray the conduct of Kentuckians on that field, and the traits indicated by that conduct. However tried they had proved true, and displayed the highest soldierly qualities. Intelligent, well-trained, intrepid in action, steady under blows which they could not return, actively humane when good offices could be extended to a wounded enemy; bearing with unflinching fortitude the hardships of a week's marching and more than their share of labor and of watching by night and by day,—all this was seen and acknowledged by those in position to judge, and lauded by all capable of being both generous and just.

And what prouder names could the Confederacy boast than those who led them there? The Commander-in-chief was a Kentuckian—he who fell after he had won a victory the consequences of which, had he lived to hold it, would have been incalculable; and their general of division, Breckinridge,—what knightlier soldier had ridden in battle on this continent?

But why attempt to call the roll of all the honorable names that proudly maintained on that field Kentucky's old renown? The list is too long, and the attentive reader has already seen how well they did it.

At Corinth there was gloom among the survivors, but the darker hue of disgrace was no part of it. More than thirty-five per cent. of the brigade, including its batteries, had been killed or wounded, but very few were missing and unaccounted for.

On two great fields, now, had the Kentucky volunteers tried their strength, had proved their valor and their constancy, and the living who were not in prison or disabled by wounds were "present for duty." An enemy coming upon them now would have found them

ready, even in their dejected state, to "stiffen the sinews and summon up the blood" for another conflict.

INCIDENTS AND ANECDOTES: ON THE MARCH; ALSO AT AND AFTER SHILOH.

I. "The Battle of Sunset."—I am indebted to that gallant and steady soldier and faithful comrade, Thomas Owens, of Co. I, Fourth Kentucky, for the following account of the false alarm referred to in the preceding chapter:

"The First Kentucky Brigade—now famous as the Orphan Brigade—had been in camp at Oakland Station, on the Louisville and Nashville railroad, twelve miles north of Bowling Green, Ky., since December 12th, 1861. The monotony and discipline of camp life had become irksome to the boys, and occasional rumors of an early call to active service were hailed with delight. After the fall of Fort Henry on the 6th day of February, 1862, we were in daily expectation of marching orders, which came at last on the 12th of February. After rapidly packing knapsacks and striking tents we turned our faces towards Nashville.

By forced marches we arrived on the evening of the second day within a couple of miles of the intersection of the Russellville and Glasgow turnpike with the pike running south into Tennessee on which we had been marching for two days. The weather was extremely cold, and we had that day marched more than twenty miles. We were all footsore and nearly exhausted when, late in the afternoon, Capt. Jack Allen, who was then acting aide to Gen. Breckinridge, rode back along the column in a gallop, shouting, 'Close up, men, close up; the enemy is directly in front of us!' This announcement instantly banished all sense of fatigue, and the column was quickly closed up, halted, and directed to load.

It must not be supposed that this maneuver of loading was accomplished with the same cool deliberation as on drill; on the contrary, many of us showed considerable trepidation as we brought the cartridge to the muzzle of the gun. This done, however, the order, 'forward, double-quick; march,' rang out along the line, and we moved forward at a rapid pace, listening every moment for the boom of cannon or the rattle of musketry at the front. Nothing of the kind was heard, however, and we soon began to suspect it was a false alarm; and so it proved to be.

The squad of cavalry acting as a vanguard for our little army had reached the crossing of the two roads above mentioned, and seeing a body of cavalry coming down the Glasgow road, took it to be a part of the Federal force then at Mill Spring, and, without waiting to learn the truth of it, rode back and reported the fact to Gen. Breckinridge. The reported enemy turned out to be Helm's regiment of cavalry, a gallant body of Confederates, which had been watching the movements of the Federal army then lying in the vicinity of Mill Spring, and were on their way to join our force. The battle (in anticipation) came to an end about the setting of the sun; and

CHAPTER VI.

REORGANIZATION OF THE ARMY AT CORINTH AND REASSIGNMENT OF KENTUCKY TROOPS.—THE RETREAT.—SIEGE OF VICKSBURG.—INCIDENTS AND ANECDOTES.

In a short time the work of reorganizing the army throughout was begun, and the remainder of the month of April was spent in getting it in proper shape to render it available for attack or defense. Halleck, who had now assumed in person the command of the combined armies of Buell and Grant, delayed his movement on Corinth for a similar purpose; and even when he began his approaches, it was in a manner so cautious that it was not until the 2d of May that Beauregard deemed an engagement imminent. Confederate cavalry watched him closely while the work of preparation was going on at Corinth.

But, to come more particularly to the troops of Kentucky and their leaders: Shortly after the battle of Shiloh, Breckinridge was commissioned a major-general, and assigned to the permanent command of the division which had led with such distinguished skill and valor on and from its first field. Some changes took place, however, and additions were made. Colonels Preston and Helm received notification of promotion to the rank of brigadier-general, and were ordered to report to Gen. Breckinridge for duty. The Kentucky troops were now separated and made part of two commands. One brigade was assigned to Brig.-Gen. J. M. Hawes, who had been promoted in the summer or autumn of 1861, and consisted of the Fourth and Ninth Kentucky Regiments, Hale's Alabama Regiment, Clifton's Alabama Battalion, and Byrne's Battery. Owing to resignation of the officers of Byrne's Battery, and the consequent breaking up of the company, a change was made in the artillery of this brigade, on the 2d of May, Hudson's Battery being substituted for Byrne's. Gen. Hawes soon relinquished his command for service in the Department of the Trans-Mississippi, and Gen. Ben Hardin Helm was placed in charge of his brigade, which was so modified as to consist of the following: Fourth and Ninth Kentucky Regiments, Thirty-first Alabama Regiment, Fourth Alabama Battalion, Thirty-first Mississippi Regiment, and the Hudson Battery.

One brigade was assigned to Brig.-Gen. William Preston, and con-

sisted of the Third, Sixth, and Seventh Kentucky Regiments, Thirty-fifth Alabama Regiment, and Cobb's Battery.

The Seventh Kentucky fought at Shiloh, in another command, and did not report to Gen. Breckinridge until after the arrival at Corinth. Its first colonel (Wickliffe) had been killed there, and it was now commanded by Col. Ed Crossland.

These two brigades and two under Bowen and Statham respectively, with two cavalry companies, now constituted Breckinridge's division. It will be noted that this was an organization composed of Kentuckians, Alabamians, Missourians and Mississippians; and this ill-advised arrangement prevailed till the following September, when the Second Kentucky returned from prison, and preparations were being made to join the army under Bragg, when the Kentucky regiments were all thrown together, and the title became once more appropriate in every sense. The Third and Seventh were detached, with a view of moving them into Kentucky, by way of Jackson, Tenn., and were not again connected with the main body, but there were four regiments still together, under the title of First Kentucky Brigade, until the autumn of 1861, when the Fifth Kentucky Infantry was added, or rather substituted for the Forty-first Alabama, and no further change took place in the organization.

Though not strictly pertinent to the history of the Kentucky regiments and artillery composing these brigades, it is not amiss to note the staff announced by Gen. Breckinridge after his promotion to Major-General, as they were nearly all Kentuckians, and saw much service with the Kentucky infantry during the next twenty months. This staff was at first about as follows, though frequent changes afterward occurred—some of which are referred to below: Capt. George B. Hodge, A. A. G.; Capt. John S. Hope, A. I. G.; Maj. Alfred Boyd, Chief Quartermaster; Capt. Clint McClarty, Chief Commissary; Lieut.-Col. D. Beltzhoover, Chief of Artillery; Lieut. James Wilson, Ordnance Officer; Dr. B. W. Avent, Medical Director; Col. T. T. Hawkins, Aide-de-camp; and Col. Jack Allen, Capt. A. Keene Richards, Capt. F. Lousdale, and Capt. Charles J. Mastin, volunteer aides-de-camp.

Col. O'Hara, who had hitherto been announced as aide, was still with him, but was recommended to the Government for promotion, and assignment to a command of cavalry, and was not included among the regularly appointed staff. He did not receive the proposed promotion, however, and so continued to serve with Gen. Breckinridge in various capacity. It may be proper to remark, also, that other officers of the staff, who were with him during the battle of Shiloh, were highly complimented in dispatches to the War Department, and

recommended for promotion to higher rank. Of these, in addition to O'Hara, Hodge, Hawkins and McClarty were thus mentioned.

Capt. Hodge resigned on the 2d of May, being a member of Congress, and the duties of A. A. G. devolved on others of the staff till June 3d, when Maj. John T. Pickett was appointed. He served in this capacity till July, when he was ordered to Richmond, for service with Gen. Cooper, after which Col. John A. Buckner was made A. A. G. Capt. Hodge was afterward promoted to Brigadier-General of Cavalry, and, reëntering the field, served till the close of the war.

Col. O'Hara had served on the staff of Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston till the death of that officer. At Shiloh, he conducted himself with that noble bearing which had been exhibited on the fields of Mexico and Cuba.

The staff of Brig.-Gen. Hawes was announced to be as follows: Capt. Joe Linden Robertson, A. A. G.; Capt. Wm. M. Cargill, A. Q. M.; Maj. A. P. Barbour, Aide-de-camp; and Lieut. J. Cabell Breckinridge, volunteer aides. The duties of inspection and the commissariat were performed by other officers not included in the order of announcement in our possession, and whom we cannot now recall to mind.

The order announcing staff of Brig.-Gen. Preston has been lost, but the following officers are remembered to have served with him at different times: Major (afterward Lieutenant-Colonel) James W. Hewitt, having escaped capture at Donelson, was some time Acting Adjutant-General, also Capt. Nat Wickliffe; and on the 29th of August, Captain (afterward Major) R. W. Woolley was appointed to that position. Capt. William Stanley was his Inspector General during the summer, Maj. John R. Throckmorton, Chief Quartermaster, and Maj. Alex. Evans, Chief Commissary.

The staff of Brig. Gen. Helm, after he succeeded to the command of the brigade in which the Fourth and Ninth Kentucky were included, consisted of: Capt. G. W. McCauley, A. A. G.; Maj. Thomas H. Hays, A. I. G.; Maj. G. W. Triplett, A. Q. M.; Maj. Silas M. Moorman, A. C. S.; Lieut. G. M. Ryals, Ordnance Officer, and Lieut. Alexander H. Todd, Aide-de-camp.

Changes occurred, too, in the regiments themselves, and particularly in the Sixth and Ninth, which had been enlisted for twelve months only; whereas the others were originally three-year men. The two twelve-months regiments reorganized early in May, making their term of service co-extensive with that of the others—elections being held for officers throughout, except those of each regimental staff, who, of course, were to be the appointees of the respective colonels chosen. Officers who preferred remaining in the service with the rank then

held, but in a different field or different capacity, were to report to the commanding General for assignment; such as chose to relinquish their rank could be discharged from the service by simply refusing to appear as candidates; and such as should be defeated were to be thus divested of rank—the two classes last named to be held subject to the provisions of the conscription bill, provided they failed to select some arm of the service and reëntlist. Such of the field and staff officers as appeared for the suffrages of the men were retained in their old positions, and, in most cases, the officers of the line also. In some few instances the officers in commission under the old organization declined to have their names used, and a few were rejected. Some of those who entered other departments of the service distinguished themselves in different fields.

The companies which had been reduced below the minimum were ordered to be consolidated in such manner as to give the organizations that were retained their full quota of men, in pursuance of which the new regiments were made to consist of but eight instead of ten companies each. The Ninth chose a Lieutenant-Colonel and a Major, none having been previously appointed, and its organization was thus perfected after it had passed through the ordeal of battle.

Among the officers elect, some few were rejected by the examining board, as being disqualified by want of a sufficient knowledge of tactics and general regulations. At this juncture, Bragg, who assumed command of the army on the 6th of May, stepped in to remedy defects, and began the appointment of officers to fill vacancies. The men selected in these cases were, for the most part, worthy of position; and, indeed, some most excellent ones were assigned to duty in the line by authority of the General commanding—talented, courageous, and faithful—but after six months, or more, during which time these officers had discharged the duties, borne the responsibilities, and met the expenses incidental to their position—and that, too, under the evident displeasure of those whom they commanded, because not the men of their own election—Bragg's action was declared illegal, and they were returned to the ranks without having their pay-claims allowed; and the temper of the men was henceforth humored by suffering them to choose for themselves who should wield the authority that they considered as rightfully in their gift.

The month of May was spent for the most part in moving to and fro along the line of defense in front of Halleck, who, with spade and pick, gradually drew nearer. Indications were frequent that battle would be joined, but further than the customary picketing in force, skirmishing between the outposts, occasional battle-orders, and formation to meet an attack, nothing of moment occurred during the entire

sad a one as ever marked the career of the Kentucky Brigade; but the failure of Bragg to maintain himself, the consequent trouble he had created for their friends there, and their own bitter disappointment, but served to bring out, in bolder relief, their striking soldierly qualities. On turning their faces toward Knoxville they sent up a mighty shout—half in desperation, half in defiance; and once again committed to the fate of service away from home the gloom soon gave way to a degree of cheerfulness.

Breckinridge removed his command to Chattanooga, or rather to Shell Mound, some distance out on the Nashville Railroad, and it encamped there on the 23d. Bragg had by that time reached Knoxville in person, and Breckinridge was ordered to proceed to Murfreesboro', and assume direction of military operations there, as it was apprehended that Buell, who was now on the march for Nashville, might endeavor to occupy a more advanced position. After much trouble in crossing the river at Bridgeport—the bridge there having been destroyed—and everything having to be ferried over the two arms of the river, and carried upon the men's shoulders across the island which cuts the stream at that point, the command reached Murfreesboro' on the 28th, just eight months from the time of having left it with Gen. Johnston, and encamped in the same locality—some of the regiments on the same ground.

Breckinridge now had command of all the advance forces, which he retained until the arrival of Bragg in November.¹⁸⁶³ Changes had been constantly taking place in his staff, and we note here, as part of the record affecting Kentuckians, that, after the arrival at Murfreesboro', the following officers were announced: Lieut. Col. John A. Buckner, A. A. G.; Maj. Calhoun Benham and Maj. James Wilson, Assistant Inspectors-General; Maj. Rice E. Graves, Chief of Artillery; Dr. L. T. Pim, Medical Director; Maj. George W. Triplett, Chief Quartermaster; Col. T. T. Hawkins and Lieut. J. Cabell Breckinridge, Aides-de-camp; and Captains Keene Richards and Richard C. Morgan, volunteer aides. Maj. Brown was still Chief Commissary. Associated with him at various times during the summer and autumn, in addition to those named heretofore, had been Maj. Sullins, Quartermaster; Maj. Clarence J. Prentice, aide; Capt. James Nocquet, Chief Engineer; Dr. Cary N. Hawes, Medical Director, and Maj. Alexander Evans—the latter of whom was made Post Commissary after the arrival at Murfreesboro'. Maj. Throckmorton was made Post Quartermaster, and Maj. Boyd had been some time engaged in the pay department, but was thereafter again immediately connected with the staff of Gen. Breckinridge.

A new division was formed for him in December, which consisted of Hanson's, Preston's, Adams', and Brown's brigades.

But we recur to events connected more particularly with the Kentucky Brigade. This now consisted of the Second, Fourth, Sixth, and Ninth Kentucky Regiments, the Forty-first Alabama Regiment, and Cobb's Battery. The cavalry company of Capt. B. E. Roberts was also connected with it till ordered to report to Gen. Buford in January, 1863. Col. Hanson was assigned to the permanent command of it, and recommended for promotion, which he received on the 13th of December. The officers of his staff were Capt. John S. Hope, A. A. G.;* Capt. Thomas E. Stake, A. I. G.; Maj. John R. Viley,† Chief Quartermaster; Maj. S. M. Moorman,‡ Chief Commissary; Lieut. Presley Trabue, Ordnance Officer, and Lieut. Joe Benedict, Aide-de-camp.

Gen. Hanson at once devoted himself, with his usual energy and ability, to the work of discipline and the attainment of the highest order and efficiency; and early in November a division inspection report showed clearly that the Kentucky troops were in better condition and in better tone than any others then available for the defense of the advanced position.

Breckinridge had now but a small infantry force at his command, and it was late in November before Bragg had succeeded in concentrating all the troops subject to his orders at that point. The enemy had arrived at Nashville, and was prepared to advance before Bragg was in any condition to meet him; but from some cause remained quietly on the Cumberland until near the close of the year. General Rosecrans had succeeded to the command of the Federal army there, and though he adopted such measures at once as threatened Murfreesboro' at an early day, nothing occurred immediately affecting the infantry at that point till the battle of Hartsville, excepting a march toward Nashville, designed by Breckinridge as a feint, both to hide his own weakness and to enable Morgan to destroy a large amount of rolling stock collected in Edgefield. The cavalry of Generals Morgan, Forrest, and Wheeler was actively engaged between Murfreesboro' and Nashville, and on the flanks of the Federal position; and frequent

*Capt. (afterward Lieut.-Col.) S. F. Chipley was acting A. A. G. during the week's fighting on Stone River, and with Col. Hanson in the final charge of Friday, January 2, 1863.

†Maj. Viley was Chief Quartermaster of Brigade till December, 1863, after which he was assigned to similar duty on the staff of Gen. Bate.

‡Maj. Moorman was nominally Chief Commissary of brigade till February, 1864, when he was relieved by Capt. C. W. Helm, and assigned to post duty at LaGrange, Georgia, where he afterward died of disease.

HEADQUARTERS BRECKINRIDGE'S DIVISION, }
January, 1863.

Maj. T. B. Roy, Assistant Adjutant-General—

SIR: I have the honor to report the operations of this division, of Lieut.-Gen. Hardee's corps, in the recent battles of Stone River, in front of Murfreesboro'.

The character and course of Stone River, and the nature of the ground in front of the two, are well known; and as the report of the general commanding will, no doubt, be accompanied by a sketch, it is not necessary to describe them here.

On the morning of Sunday, the 28th of December, the brigades moved from their encampments and took up lines of battle about one and a half miles from Murfreesboro' in the following order: Adams' brigade on the right, with its right resting on the Lebanon road, and its left extending toward the ford over Stone River, a short distance below the destroyed bridge, on the Nashville turnpike; Preston on the left of Adams, Palmer on the left of Preston, and Hanson forming the left of the line, with his left resting on the right bank of the river, near the ford. The right of Maj.-Gen. Withers, of Lieut.-Gen. Polk's corps, rested near the left bank of the river and slightly in advance of Hanson's left.

Brig.-Gen. Jackson, having reported to me with his command, was placed, by the direction of the lieutenant-general commanding, upon the east side of the Lebanon road, on commanding ground, a little in advance of the right of Brig.-Gen. Adams. My division formed the front line of the right wing of the army; Maj.-Gen. Cleburne's division, drawn up some six hundred yards in rear, formed the second line of the same wing; while the division of Maj.-Gen. McCown, under the immediate direction of the general commanding, composed the reserve.

My line extended from left to right, along the edge of a forest, save an open space of four hundred yards, which was occupied by Wright's Battery, of Preston's brigade, with the Twentieth Tennessee in reserve to support it. An open field, eight hundred yards in width, extended along nearly the whole front of the line, and was bounded on the opposite side by a line of forest similar to that occupied by us. In the opinion of the lieutenant-general commanding, who had twice ridden carefully over the ground with me, and the general commanding, who had personally inspected the lines, it was the strongest position the nature of the ground would allow. About six hundred yards in front of Hanson's center was an eminence, which it was deemed important to hold. It commanded the ground sloping toward the river, in its

front and on its left, and also the plain on the west bank, occupied by the right of Withers' line. Col. Hunt, with the Forty-first Alabama, the Sixth and Ninth Kentucky, and Cobb's Battery, all of Hanson's brigade, was ordered to take and hold this hill, which he did, repulsing several brisk attacks of the enemy, and losing some excellent officers and men. A few hundred yards to the left and rear of this position, a small earth-work, thrown up under the direction of Maj. Graves, my chief of artillery, was held during a part of the operations by Semple's Battery of Napoleon guns.

In the afternoon of Tuesday, the 30th, I received intelligence from Lieut.-Gen. Hardee, that the divisions of Cleburne and McCown were to be transferred to the extreme left, and soon after an order came to me, from the general commanding, to hold the hill at all hazards. I immediately moved the remainder of Hanson's brigade to the hill, and strengthened Cobb's Battery with a section from Lumsden's Battery and a section from Slocum's Washington Artillery. At the same time, Adams' brigade was moved from the right, and formed on the ground originally occupied by Hanson's brigade. Jackson was moved to the west side of the Lebanon road, to connect with the general line of battle.

All the ground east of Stone River was now to be held by one division, which, in a single line, did not extend from the ford to the Lebanon road. I did not change my general line, since a position in advance, besides being less favorable in other respects, would have widened considerably the interval between my right and the Lebanon road. The enemy did not again attack the hill with infantry, but our troops there continued to suffer, during all the operations, from heavy shelling. Our artillery at that position often did good service, in diverting the enemy's fire from our attacking lines of infantry; and especially on Wednesday, the 31st, succeeded in breaking several of their formations on the west bank of the river.

On the morning of Wednesday, the 31st, the battle opened on our left. From my front, information came to me from Pegram's cavalry force, in advance, that the enemy, having crossed at the fords below, were moving on my position in line of battle. This proved to be incorrect: and it is to be regretted that sufficient care was not taken by the authors of the report to discriminate rumor from fact.

About half-past ten o'clock A. M., I received, through Col. J. Stoddard Johnston, a suggestion from the general commanding, to move against the enemy instead of awaiting his attack. (I find that Col. Johnston regarded it as an order, but as I moved at once, it is not material.) I prepared to fight on the ground I then occupied, but supposing that the object of the general was to create a diversion in favor

of our left, my line, except Hanson's brigade, was put in motion in the direction from which the enemy was supposed to be advancing. We had marched about half a mile, when I received, through Col. Johnston, an order from the general commanding, to send at least one brigade to the support of Lieut.-Gen. Polk, who was hard pressed, and, as I recollect, two, if I could spare them. I immediately sent Adams and Jackson, and at the same suspended my movement, and sent forward Capt. Blackburn with several of my escort, to Capt. Coleman and Lieut. Darragh, of my staff, with orders to find and report, with certainty, the position and movements of the enemy. Soon after an order came from the general commanding to continue the movement. The line again advanced, but had not proceeded far when I received an order from the general commanding, through Col. Johnston, repeated by Col. Grenfell, to leave Hanson in position on the hill, and with the remainder of my command to report at once to Lieut-Gen. Polk. The brigades of Preston and Palmer were immediately moved by the flank, toward the ford before referred to, and the order of the general executed with great rapidity. In the meantime, riding forward to the position occupied by the general commanding and Lieut.-Gen. Polk, near the west bank of the river and a little below the ford, I arrived in time to see, at a distance, the brigades of Jackson and Adams recoiling from a very hot fire of the enemy. I was directed by Lieut.-Gen. Polk to form my line, with its right resting on the river and its left extending across the open field, crossing the Nashville turnpike almost at a right angle. While my troops were crossing the river and getting into line, I rode forward with a portion of my staff, assisted by gentlemen of the staffs of Generals Bragg and Polk, to rally and form Adams' brigade, which was falling back chiefly between the turnpike and the river. Jackson, much cut up, had retired farther toward our left. The brigade of Brig.-Gen. Adams was rallied and placed in the line across the field, behind a low and very imperfect breastwork of earth and rails. These brigades did not again enter the action that day, (which indeed closed soon after with the charge of Preston and Palmer.) They had suffered severely in an attack upon superior numbers, very strongly posted, and sustained by numerous and powerful batteries which had repulsed all preceding assaults. The list of casualties shows the courage and determination of these troops.

Gen. Adams, having received a wound while gallantly leading his brigade, the command devolved upon Col. R. L. Gibson, who discharged its duties throughout with courage and skill.

Preston and Palmer being now in line, Preston on the right, Lieut.-Gen. Polk directed me to advance across the plain until I encountered

the enemy. The right of my line rested on the river (and from the course of the stream would, in advancing, rest on or very near it), while the left touched a skirt of woods from which the enemy had been driven during the day. At the opposite extremity of the plain a cedar brake extended in front of Palmer's whole line, and two-thirds of Preston's line, the remaining space to the river being comparatively open, with commanding swells, and through this ran the railroad and turnpike nearly side by side. It was supposed that the enemy's line was parallel to ours, but the result showed that, in advancing, our right and his left, at the point of contact, would form an acute angle.

These two brigades, passing over the troops lying behind the rails, moved across the plain in very fine order, under the fire of the enemy's artillery. We had advanced but a short distance when Col. O'Hara (my acting adjutant-general) called my attention to a new battery in the act of taking position in front of our right, between the turnpike and the river. I immediately sent him back to find some artillery to engage the enemy's battery. He found and placed in position the Washington Artillery. About the same time, Capt. E. P. Byrne reported his battery to me, and received an order to take the best position he could find, and engage the enemy. He succeeded in opening on them after our line had passed forward.

A number of officers and men were killed along the whole line, but in this charge the chief loss fell upon Preston's right and center. His casualties amounted to one hundred and fifty-five. The Twentieth Tennessee, after driving the enemy on the right of the turnpike and taking twenty-five prisoners, was compelled to fall back before a very heavy artillery and musketry fire—Col. Smith commanding, being severely wounded—but it kept the prisoners, and soon rejoined the command. The Fourth Florida and Sixtieth North Carolina encountered serious difficulty at a burnt house (Cowan's) on the left of the turnpike, from fences and other obstacles, and were for a little while thrown into some confusion. Here, for several minutes, they were exposed to a destructive and partially enfilading fire at short range of artillery and infantry. But they were soon rallied by their gallant brigade commander, and, rushing with cheers across the intervening space, entered the cedar glade. The enemy had retired from the cedars, and was in position in a field to the front and right.

By changing the front of the command slightly forward to the right, my line was brought parallel to that of the enemy, and was formed near the edge of the cedars. About this time, meeting Lieut.-Gen. Hardee, we went together to the edge of the field to examine the position of the enemy, and found him strongly posted in two lines of battle, supported by numerous batteries. One of his lines had the pro-

tection of the railroad cut, forming an excellent breastwork. We had no artillery, the nature of the ground forbidding its use.

It was deemed reckless to attack with the force present. Night was now approaching. Presently the remainder of Lieut.-Gen. Hardee's Corps came up on the left, and with McCown's command and a part of Cheatham's prolonged the line of battle in that direction. Adams' Brigade also appeared and formed on the right of Preston. The troops bivouacked in position.

The commanding general, expecting an attack upon his right the next morning, ordered me during the night to recross the river with Palmer's Brigade. Before daylight, Thursday morning, Palmer was in position on the right of Hanson. No general engagement occurred on this day, the troops generally being employed in replenishing the ammunition, cooking rations, and obtaining some repose.

On Friday, the 2d of January, being desirous to ascertain if the enemy was establishing himself on the east bank of the river, Lieut.-Col. Buckner and Maj. Graves, with Capt. Byrne's Battery and a portion of the Washington Artillery, under Lieut. D. C. Vaught, went forward to our line of skirmishers toward the right, and engaged those of the enemy who had advanced, perhaps a thousand yards, from the east bank of the river. They soon revealed a strong line of skirmishers, which was driven back a considerable distance by our sharpshooters and artillery, the latter firing several houses in the fields, in which the enemy had taken shelter. At the same time, accompanied by Maj. Pickett, of Lieut.-Gen. Hardee's staff, and by Maj. Wilson, Col. O'Hara, and Lieut. Breckinridge of my own, I proceeded toward the left of our line of skirmishers, which passed through a thick wood, about five hundred yards in front of Hanson's position, and extended to the river. Directing Capt. Bosche, of the Ninth, and Capt. Steele, of the Fourth Kentucky, to drive back the enemy's skirmishers, we were enabled to see that he was occupying, with infantry and artillery, the crest of a gentle slope on the east bank of the river. The course of the crest formed a little less than a right angle with Hanson's line, from which the center of the position I was afterward ordered to attack was distant about sixteen hundred yards. It extended along ground part open and part woodland.

While we were endeavoring to ascertain the force of the enemy, and the relation of the ground on the east bank to that on the west bank of the river, I received an order from the commanding general to report to him in person. I found him on the west bank, near the ford below the bridge, and received from him an order to form my division in two lines, and take the crest I have just described with the infantry. After doing this, I was to bring up the artillery and establish

it on the crest, so as at once to hold it and enfilade the enemy's lines on the other side of the river. Pegram and Wharton, who, with some cavalry and a battery, were beyond the point where my right would rest, when the new line of battle should be formed, were directed, as the general informed me, to protect my right, and cooperate in the attack. Capt. Robertson was ordered to report to me with his own and Semple's batteries of Napoleon guns. Capt. Wright, who, with his battery, had been detached some days before, was ordered to join his brigade (Preston's). The brigades of Adams and Preston, which were left on the west side of the river Wednesday night, had been ordered to rejoin me. At the moment of my advance, our artillery in the center and on the left was to open on the enemy. One gun from our center was the signal for the attack. The commanding general desired that the movement should be made with the least possible delay.

It was now 2:30 P. M. Two of the brigades had to march about two miles, the other about one mile.

Brig.-Gen. Pillow having reported for duty, was assigned by the commanding general to Palmer's brigade, and that fine officer resumed command of his regiment, and was three times wounded in the ensuing engagement. The Ninth Kentucky and Cobb's Battery, under the command of Col. Hunt, were left to hold the hill so often referred to.

The division, after deducting the losses of Wednesday, the troops left on the hill, and companies on special service, consisted of some forty-five hundred men. It was drawn up in two lines—the first in a narrow skirt of woods, the second two hundred yards in rear. Pillow and Hanson formed the first line; Pillow on the right, Preston supported Pillow; and Adams' brigade (commanded by Col. Gibson), supported Hanson. The artillery was placed in rear of the second line, under orders to move with it and occupy the summit of the slope as soon as the infantry should rout the enemy. Feeling anxious about my right, I sent two staff officers in succession to communicate with Pegram and Wharton, but received no intelligence up to the moment of assault. The interval between my left and the troops on the hill was already too great, but I had a battery to watch it, with a small infantry support. There was nothing to prevent the enemy from observing nearly all our movements and preparations. To reach him it was necessary to cross an open space six or seven hundred yards in width, with a gentle ascent. The river was several hundred yards in rear of his position, but departed from it considerably as it flowed toward his left. I had informed the commanding general that we would be ready to advance at 4 o'clock, and precisely at that hour the signal gun was heard from our center. Instantly the troops moved forward at a quick step, and

in admirable order. The front line had bayonets fixed, with orders to deliver one volley and then use the bayonet.

The fire of the enemy's artillery on both sides of the river began as soon as the troops entered the open ground. When less than half the distance across the field, the quick eye of Col. O'Hara discovered a force extending considerably beyond our right. I immediately directing Maj. Graves to move a battery to our right and open on them. He at once advanced Wright's Battery, and effectually checked their movements. Before our line reached the enemy's position, his artillery fire had become heavy, accurate and destructive. Many officers and men fell before we closed with their infantry, yet our brave fellows rushed forward with the utmost determination; and after a brief, but bloody conflict, routed both the opposing lines, took four hundred prisoners, several flags, and drove their artillery and the great body of their infantry across the river. Many were killed at the water's edge. Their artillery took time by the forelock in crossing the stream. A few of our men, in their ardor, actually crossed over before they could be prevented, most of whom, subsequently moving up under the west bank, recrossed at a ford three-quarters of a mile above.

The second line had halted when the first engaged the enemy's infantry, and laid down under orders; but very soon the casualties in the first line, the fact that the artillery on the opposite bank was more fatal to the second line than the first, and the eagerness of the troops impelled them forward, and at the decisive moment when the opposing infantry was routed, the two lines had mingled into one, the only practical inconvenience of which was that at several points the ranks were deeper than is allowed by a proper military formation.

A strong force of the enemy beyond our extreme right yet remained on the east side of the river. Presently a new line of battle appeared on the west bank directly opposite our troops, and opened fire, while at the same time large masses crossed in front of our right, and advanced to the attack. We were compelled to fall back. As soon as our infantry had won the ridge, Maj. Graves advanced the artillery of the division and opened fire; at the same Capt. Robertson threw forward Semple's Battery toward our right, which did excellent service. He did not advance his own battery (which was to have taken position on the left), supposing that that part of the field had not been cleared of the enemy's infantry. Although mistaken in this, since the enemy had been driven across the river, yet I regard it as fortunate that the battery was not brought forward. It would have been a vain contest.

It now appeared that the ground we had won was commanded by the enemy's batteries, within easy range, on better ground upon the

other side of the river. I know not how many guns he had. He had enough to sweep the whole position from the front, the left, and the right, and to render it wholly untenable by our force present of artillery and infantry. The infantry, after passing the crest and descending the slope toward the river, were in some measure protected, and suffered less at this period of the action than the artillery. We lost three guns, nearly all the horses being killed, and not having the time or men to draw them off by hand. One was lost because there was but one boy left (private Wright, of Wright's Battery) to limber the piece, and his strength was unequal to it.

The command fell back in some disorder, but without the slightest appearance of panic, and reformed behind Robertson's Battery, in the narrow skirt of timber from which we emerged to the assault. The enemy did not advance beyond the position in which he received our attack. My skirmishers continued to occupy a part of the field over which we advanced until the army retired from Murfreesboro'. The action lasted about one hour and twenty minutes. As our lines advanced to the attack, several rounds of artillery were heard from our center, apparently directed against the enemy on the west bank of the river.

About twilight Brig.-Gen. Anderson reported to me with his brigade, and remained in position with me until the army retired. I took up line of battle for the night a little in rear of the field over which we advanced to the assault, and Capt. Robertson, at my request, disposed the artillery in the positions indicated for it. Many of the reports do not discriminate between the losses of Wednesday and Friday. The total loss in my division, exclusive of Jackson's command, is two thousand one hundred and forty, of which I think one thousand seven hundred occurred on Friday. The loss of the enemy on this day was, I think, greater than our own, since he suffered immense slaughter between the ridge and the river.

I can not forbear to express my admiration for the courage and constancy of the troops, exhibited even after it became apparent that the main object could not be accomplished. Beyond the general good conduct, a number of enlisted men displayed, at different periods of the action, the most heroic bravery. I respectfully suggest that authority be given to select a certain number of the most distinguished in each brigade, to be recommended to the President for promotion.

I can not enumerate all the brave officers who fell, nor the living, who nobly did their duty. Yet I may be permitted to lament, in common with the army, the premature death of Brig.-Gen. Hanson, who received a mortal wound at the moment the enemy began to give way. Endeared to his friends by his private virtues, and to his command by

the vigilance with which he guarded its interest and honor, he was, by the universal testimony of his military associates, one of the finest officers that adorned the service of the Confederate States. Upon his fall the command devolved on Col. Trabue, who, in another organization, had long and ably commanded most of the regiments composing the brigade.

I can not close without expressing my obligations to the gentlemen of my staff. This is no formal acknowledgment. I can never forget that during all the operations they were ever prompt and cheerful, by night and day, in conveying orders, conducting to their positions regiments and brigades, rallying troops on the field, and, indeed, in the discharge of every duty. It gives me pleasure to name Lieut.-Col. Buckner, assistant adjutant-general, who was absent on leave, but returned upon the first rumor of battle; Col. O'Hara, acting adjutant-general; Lieut. Breckinridge, aide-de-camp; Maj. Graves, chief of artillery, twice wounded and his horse shot under him; Maj. Wilson, assistant inspector-general, horse shot; Capt. Semple, ordnance officer; Lieut. Darragh, severely wounded. Captains Mastin and Coleman, of my volunteer staff, were active and efficient. The former had his horse killed under him.

Doctors Heustis and Pendleton, chief surgeon and medical inspector, were unremitting in attention to the wounded. Dr. Stanhope Breckinridge, assistant surgeon, accompanied my headquarters, and pursued his duties through the fire of Wednesday. Mr. Buckner and Mr. Zantzinger, of Kentucky, attached themselves to me for the occasion, and were active and zealous. Capt. Blackburn, commanding my escort, ever cool and vigilant, rendered essential service, and made several bold reconnoissances. Charles Choutard, of the escort, acting as my orderly on Wednesday, displayed much gallantry and intelligence.

The army retired before daybreak on the morning of the 4th of January. My division, moving on the Manchester road, was the rear of Hardee's Corps. The Ninth Kentucky, Forty-first Alabama, and Cobb's Battery, all under the command of Col. Hunt, formed a special rear-guard. The enemy did not follow us.

My acknowledgments are due to Col. J. Stoddard Johnston, Lieut.-Col. Brent, and Lieut.-Col. Garner, of Gen. Bragg's staff, and to Maj. Pickett, of Lieut.-Gen. Hardee's staff, for services on Friday, the 2d of January.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE,
Major-General, C. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS KENTUCKY BRIGADE,
TULLAHOMA, Jan. 15, 1863. }

Col. T. O'Hara, A. A. G.—

SIR: The untimely fall of the gallant and lamented Hanson, brigadier-general commanding this brigade, in the engagement on Friday, the 2d instant, at Stone River, imposes on me the duty of reporting, to the extent of my knowledge, the operations of the brigade prior to and after his fall, in the battle before that place.

On Sunday, the brigade having received orders to that effect, marched from their camp in rear of Murfreesboro', at eight o'clock A. M., to the position in the front line of battle indicated for our occupation. This brigade formed the left of Gen. Breckinridge's Division, and in line rested with its left on or near Stone River, extending eastward until the right was united to Col. Palmer's Brigade. The position first taken up (the exact line not having been pointed out) was along the skirt of woods in rear of the open fields, east and south of Stone River, which afforded, by the existence of a small ridge running parallel with the front, and a consequent depression in rear, very good protection against the enemy's long-range artillery.

On Monday, Semple's Battery of six Napoleon guns, furnished by the chief of artillery, was placed on the crest immediately in front of the right wing, and Cobb's Battery was held to be placed later. Thus formed in line, the Fourth Kentucky was on the right; Second Kentucky, Maj. Hewitt, second; Forty-first Alabama, Col. Talbird, third; Sixth Kentucky, Col. Lewis, fourth; and Ninth Kentucky on the left, Col. Hunt.

On Monday evening it was perceived that the enemy meant to occupy immediately all the advantageous positions in our front, of which he could possess himself, for artillery. A prominent elevation existed one thousand yards in front of our left, which Gen. Breckinridge desired we should hold, notwithstanding it was liable to assault, being isolated one thousand yards in front of our lines. To this end, Col. Hunt, with the Ninth Kentucky; Col. Lewis, Sixth Kentucky; Lieut.-Col. Stansil, Forty-first Alabama, and Cobb's Battery, were ordered to occupy it. Throwing out skirmishers, they were soon engaged with those of the enemy. The force above named was then moved up to the front, in support of the skirmishers, and succeeded in establishing Cobb's Battery on the eminence. This was not accomplished without the loss of two valuable officers, Lieutenants Beale and Kennard, of Co. D, Ninth Kentucky—the former severely, the latter slightly wounded. By this time it was dark, when the enemy endeavored, in a spirited effort, to retake the position, rapidly driving in our skirmishers, and approaching to within a few yards of the battery. This attempt was