

VERILL'S CAVALRY EXPEDITION
ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF THE AFFAIR.
THE EXPEDITION ORIGINATED

Averill Challenged by Fitzhugh Lee.

The Challenge Accepted and Lee Whipped

THE CROSSING AT KELLY'S FORD.

Unparalleled Dash and Daring.

FOUR HOURS CAVALRY FIGHTING.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, March 19, 1863.

The special correspondent of THE TRIBUNE sends the following:

HEADQUARTERS 2D CORPS, March 19, 1863.

The following is a list of casualties in the cavalry engagement of the 17th, as far as ascertained:

Major Chamberlain, wounded severely.

1st Lieut. Bowditch, A. A. G. 1st Brigade, killed.

FIRST UNITED STATES CAVALRY.

Killed.

1st Lieut. De Ede, Company C.

Wounded.

1st Lieut. A. Graham, Co. A; John W. Payne, Co. Z.

Machine Des Cohes, Co. N.

FIFTH UNITED STATES.

Killed.

1st Lieut. Brown, Company H.

Wounded.

1st Lieut. John C. Bryan, Co. G; Corp. Gregory.

1st Lieut. Corp. Newton, Co. H; George Zysa, Co. G.

FIRST RHODE ISLAND.

Killed.

1st Lieut. Nichols, Jeremiah Fitzgerald, Gardner.

Wounded.

Major Farrington, neck, slight; Corp. G. Sleeper.

1st Lieut. W. Eastbrook, W. W. Marsh, T. L. Porter, W.

Hendrick, J. E. Bennett, Bernard Murrill, John

Woodly, Myron Short, H. P. Jordan, Allen Baker,

J. W. Vincent, John Kernan, George Snow, Frank

McTilton, Frank R. R. Rollins.

FOURTH NEW-YORK.

Killed.

Henry Bush.

Wounded.

1st Lieut. Domingo, mortally; Sergt. Gilbert B. Ed-

wards, severely.

THIRD PENNSYLVANIA.

Wounded.

Capt. Treckle, slight; Keyser, groin, slight.

FOURTH PENNSYLVANIA.

Wounded.

1st Lieut. McBride, mortally; Sergt. Troutner, Corp.

Thomas, John Smith, Arnold Frink, McAlin Mc-

Laughlin.

SIXTEENTH PENNSYLVANIA.

Wounded.

— Berlin.

SIXTH OHIO.

Wounded.

Joseph E. Wood, Co. D, severely; Lt. George L.

Wilson, Co. G; Sergt. Joseph Philmon, Co. C, severely;

Sergt. Andrew Smith, Co. L; Lucan Libes,

Co. G, mortally; Henry Trumble, Co. I, severely;

George Granger, Co. G.

Altogether five were brought into camp, about 35

miles. These latter were so severely wounded that

they could not be removed without endangering their

lives. Lieut. McBride was the only officer left.

From Our Special Correspondent.

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, March 19, 1863.

Your correspondent with the late cavalry

expedition, under Gen. Averill, sent you a full account

by telegraph last night, but the success of the affair

renders it necessary to enlarge further upon the in-

cidents of the gallant achievement.

I learn that there was a matter of personal pride

on the part of Gen. Averill, in the success of the

expedition. It seems that soon after the last attempt

on our lines near Hartwood Church, Fitzhugh Lee

sent over a flag of truce for the bodies of two of his

officers, who were killed on that occasion. At this

time Lee left a baiting letter with the pickets for

Gen. Averill, who was his classmate at West Point,

indirectly challenging him to come over and fight

him. Lee had not long to wait. It being found

necessary to clear one flank in the direction of War-

renton of prowling Rebels, and to positively verify

some reports of our scouts, Gen. Averill was ordered

to make a dash in that direction, cross the river, find

Lee, and fight him. All of which was handsomely

done.

The expedition left on Monday morning, and ar-

rived near Kelly's Ford late in the day. The force

was divided to move toward Warrenton so early the

next (Tuesday) morning, and though advancing to

the railroad at Bealeton Station, found nothing but

scouts of the enemy, although the citizens reported

at gage of them in that vicinity, and information

has come that Stuart was at Warrenton on Monday,

but whether with or without force it was impossible

to know.

The crossing of the ford was accomplished soon

after daylight by Gen. Averill's main force, and for

the cavalry fully equalled the record of Freder-

ickburg, although no artillery was used on either

side. It was certainly one of the most remarkable

achievements of dash and daring which has yet oc-

curred in the war.

The ford was narrow, the roads on either side

were headed by trees, and the approaches and sepa-

rate had all to be conducted in the face of a sepa-

rate fire from Rebel sharpshooters, who were well

concealed in and behind houses and ditches on their

side. But our men effected the passage, with a loss

surprisingly small, and exerted the movement so

suddenly that only a portion of the dismounted

Rebels managed to escape. The rest were captured

to the number of 50, and they reported that the

guard at the ford was about 100, it having been in-

creased that morning by a detachment from Rappa-

hanock Ford, four miles above.

The fight at the ford, which delayed our crossing

an hour and a half, served to put Lee on his

guard, and Gen. Averill very rightly supposed that

he would turn out his brigade, and ride down to see

what was the matter. He had verified his suspicion

of Lee's whereabouts from the statements of the

prisoners, who said his camp was two miles and a

half this side of Culpepper Court-House, and that

his whole brigade of five regiments was there. He

therefore rested his command for an hour or two,

with pickets well thrown out. About 12½ the ad-

vance was ordered, and in fifteen minutes the enemy

was discovered.

The largest and most brilliant cavalry contest of

the war followed, lasting with slight intermissions

until 5 o'clock, in which Lee was repulsed at every

point, driven two miles with heavy loss, the conflict

being mainly with the sabre and pistol, though the

carbine was frequently used with excellent effect.

Our men made several gallant charges, the enemy

retreating in every instance, generally not waiting

until the flashing sabers of our men got within striking

distance, but rushing for the friendly cover of the

woods. Your correspondent has seen in this

war several brilliant cavalry charges, but he never

saw anything so handsome and exciting as the dash-

ing charge made in the beginning of the fight on the

left of our line, by Col. Duffie, commanding on that

part of the field.

Our cavalry was composed partly of new and

partly of tried regiments, and I must say that they

nearly all behaved with great credit. The affair is

of great benefit to our cavalry force, who have thus

been taught that they are fully equal, if not superior,

to the enemy. Lee was soundly thrashed in every

contest he sought, and our forces retired when they

got ready, without interruption.

The gallantry displayed by many of the officers

deserves particular mention. Gen. Averill gave

ample evidence of his ability as a cavalry commander

by his management of the affair. His staff were

active and gallant, especially Major Chamberlain,

who was wounded early in the day at the Ford,

while acting in the most intrepid manner. Capt.

Moore, of Gen. Hooker's staff, added to his well-

earned reputation as a fighting man, while Col.

Duffie, Col. McIntosh, Capt. Reno of the 1st Caval-

ry, Capt. Lieb and Lieut. Walker of the 5th, Capt.

Newhall of the 3d Pennsylvania, and the gallant

Brown of Rhode Island, who led the first platoon

across the river, and many others whose names I

cannot now recall, deserve warm commendation for

their gallantry and faithful conduct.

Your correspondent tenders his thanks to Gen.

Averill and staff for real courtesies, which he fully

appreciates.

THE BATTLE ON THE BLACK

WATER.

The Rebels Found too Strongly Posted—

Evade but Ineffectual Efforts to Dislodge

Them—Our Loss Small—Re-enforce-

ments from the Ninth Army Corps.

From Our Special Correspondent.

SEDFORD, Va., March 17, 1863.

It having been reported that the Rebels had

thrown up a redoubt near Carlisle, last night, at

midnight, a detachment was sent out from Suffolk

to look after them. It consisted of two sections of the

7th Massachusetts Battery, and six companies of the

11th Pennsylvania Cavalry, under the command of

Col. Spear. The Rebels were reported at some 700.

They were found in the place designated, just after

daylight this morning, and Col. Spear, with his ac-

customed alacrity, immediately directed three com-

panies to charge the redoubt. They did so with

great impetuosity; but the strength of the enemy

was greater than reported, there being three regiments

of them, and they were repulsed. A ditch in

front prevented the cavalry from charging into the

works. A second charge was made, which was un-

successful also.

Perceiving that the Rebel infantry was flanking

him through the woods, Col. Spear charged his

position; not, however, until our battery, worked by

Lieut. Farrar, had given them some twenty

rounds, with what effect is not known. In the

charges made one of our cavalry was killed and six-

teen wounded, as the penalty of rushing headlong

against works of whose character nothing was

known. Our men behaved admirably, and with a

little more of that "discretion" which is the "bet-

ter part of valor," and which would not have at-

tacked without a more adequate force, they might

have been successful.

Our forces returned this evening, and it is prob-

able that an expedition will ere long go out from

Suffolk to clean out the Rebel force.

Since I last wrote we have been made glad by re-

ceiving large reinforcements from the Ninth Army

Corps, whose shelter tents and scanty conveniences

are in strong contrast with those of the rest of the

army. These hardy fellows have had a

rough time of it, and now feel as though they were

living in clover. How many of them there are, I

need not tell you. It is enough to say that we now

have a force large enough not only to man our ex-

tensive and increasing fortifications, but also to

carry the war into Africa. Look out for stirring

news from Suffolk before many days. SOLDIERS.

Another Account—List of the Wounded.

SEDFORD, Va., March 17, 1863.

At 1 o'clock this morning two sections of Capt.

David's 8th Massachusetts Battery, and the

Eleventh Pennsylvania Cavalry, were dispatched by

Major Gen. Peck, under the command of Col. Spear

to attack the enemy in his intrenchments on this

side of the Blackwater, opposite Franklin.

We were to make the attack at daylight; but,

owing to the bad condition of the roads, found it

impossible to do so until 12 a. m. At this hour the

attack was made in good earnest. Small-arms,

heavy guns, and cavalry were used on both sides.

The fight lasted for nearly an hour, and was

highly spirited in its character. Two separate cav-

alry charges were made on the fortifications. These

were found to be literally lined with infantry, who

poured a deadly fire into our ranks, wounding many

in the first charge, which was made by Major Strat-

ton. The Major was wounded in the shoulder, also

Lieut. Mowday in the side of the hip. The latter, it

is thought, fatally.

The second charge was conducted by Major Cor-

ning in person, who took his men up to and down

in front of the fortifications to try and jump the

gates, &c.; but the move was soon found to be im-

practicable.

The enemy opposed a heavy force of infantry and

cavalry to the right and left of our position, in or-

der to try and outflank us; but with little show of suc-

cess.

When your correspondent left the field to-day the

fight had not terminated.

The following are among

THE WOUNDED.