

SCHOFIELD.

The Battles and Victory Before Kinston, N. C.

Full Details of Operations on the 8th Instant.

The Fifteenth Connecticut, Twenty-seventh Massachusetts and a Portion of the Twelfth New York Cavalry Captured.

REBEL LOSS FULLY TWO THOUSAND.

The Fight Resumed on the 9th, and Our Forces Advanced.

The Rebels Repulsed with Heavy Loss on the 10th.

Their Dead and Wounded Left on the Field.

Junction of Couch's Army with Schofield's Forces.

Johnston Hastening to the Relief of Bragg.

IMPORTANT REPORT FROM SALISBURY.

A Union Force Releases Our Prisoners at That Point, &c., &c., &c.

THE OFFICIAL REPORT.

Secretary Stanton to Major General Dix.

Major General JOHN A. DIX, New York.

The following despatch has been received by this Department.

General Schofield's Report.

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

To Lieutenant General Grant.

The enemy made a heavy attack upon our centre and left to-day, but was decisively repulsed, with heavy loss.

We also took several hundred prisoners. Our loss is small.

General Couch is only twelve miles from here to-night, and will be up early in the morning.

We took prisoners from Lee's and Stuart's corps. They say that two corps are here, and the rest of Johnston's army is coming.

J. M. SCHOFIELD, Major General.

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant General.

THE HERALD REPORTS.

Our Northern Correspondence.

NEWBURY, N. C., March 9-10 A. M.

General Schofield returned from the front early this morning.

Yesterday afternoon there was a little skirmishing with the enemy, and a few of our skirmishers from the Fifteenth Connecticut and Twenty-seventh Massachusetts, were unfortunately killed and taken prisoner.

I do not learn as yet, however, that there was any particular loss of life, although there are wild stories about the entire regiments who were taken prisoners.

Major Debnor, who was in command of the Fifteenth Connecticut, was wounded and taken prisoner.

The army is very hard pushed for transportation, and in consequence they have to wait for the railroad to be constructed as they advance.

As fast as this is completed, and sufficient supplies are received over it, the forces will continue to advance, dependent upon it, and if Kinston stands in the way it will be brushed aside.

It is undoubtedly true, however, that the rebels have been repulsed at Kinston, and it is thought that Bragg is in command. Lee's corps, from Wood's army, is reported to be there; but I think it is Major General D. H. Hill's corps from Augusta.

THE EVENT AT KINSTON.

It is understood that since the movement began from here the enemy have introduced quite a force into Kinston.

The ram Neuse is also there, and it is claimed, cannot get away, carrying too much water to get up or down the river.

RELEASE OF UNION PRISONERS AT SALISBURY.

A gentleman named Lofton, of this city, has just received a letter from a brother of his, who has been a prisoner at Salisbury, N. C., for two years, past, and who writes that he has been released by Union forces.

Whether it was done by Sherman, or by a raid from the Western part of the State, he did not say.

Our Army Correspondence.

IN FRONT OF KINSTON, March 11-A. M.

A number of skirmishes and engagements have taken place here since Tuesday, the 7th instant, which, for pertinacity of fighting and the results that followed, would bear respectable comparison with many of the battles that figure largely in history.

Time will permit me to give you only the general features and events, while the details, and list of killed, wounded and prisoners, must be presented hereafter.

I have already advised you of the general movement, which started from Newbern and vicinity on the 6th and 7th, under command of Major General Cox. Since then Major General Schofield has established his headquarters at Newbern, and has spent the most of his time in the field in front of Kinston.

THE FIRST ACTION OF ANY CONSEQUENCE WAS ON WEDNESDAY, the 8th, although there was some inferior skirmishing on the 7th between a small body of Colonel Claassen's command and the enemy's skirmishers, which resulted in the latter being driven to their works at Jackson's Mills, about four and a half miles east of Kinston.

There was subsequently more or less artillery firing till night came on, attended with insignificant results.

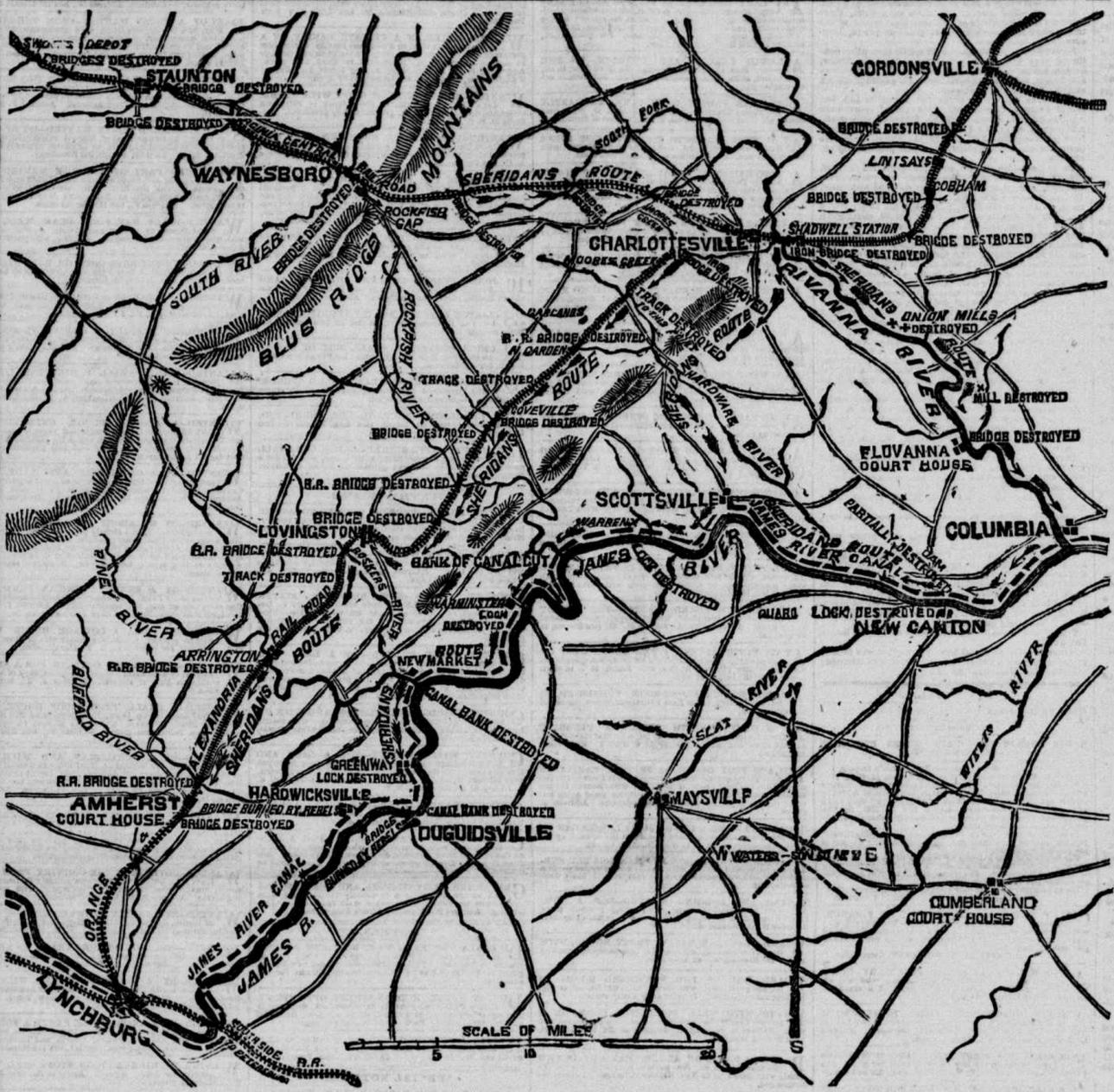
THE BATTLE OF THE 8TH INST.

Wednesday forenoon, the 8th, the enemy gave evidence of a determination to attempt to turn our left flank, where the Fifteenth Connecticut and the Twenty-seventh Massachusetts were occupying the advance skirmish line.

The rebel force that made this unexpected onset is supposed to have been Holke's division. They came upon us suddenly, and the consequence was that a large portion of the two regiments mentioned above were

SHERIDAN'S IMPORTANT OPERATIONS.

Where Sheridan Went and What He Accomplished--Immense Destruction of Rebel Roads and Supplies.



SHERIDAN.

Official Despatches Concerning General Sheridan's Raid Up the Shenandoah Valley.

THE ENEMY TAKEN UNAWARES.

Waynesboro, Staunton, Charlottesville, Scottsville, New Canton, Duguidsville, Hardwickville and Amherst Court House Occupied.

Fourteen Pieces of Artillery and Twelve Canal Boats Laden with Supplies Captured.

Immense Destruction of Railroads, Bridges, Canals, Mills, &c.

Commander Hollins, of the Rebel Navy, Shot, &c., &c., &c.

Secretary Stanton to Major General Dix. Washington, March 13-10 A. M.

Major General JOHN A. DIX, New York.

The following report of General Sheridan's operations has been received by this department.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

General Sheridan's Report.

CITY POINT, Va., March 13-7 P. M.

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

The following despatch is just received:

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant General.

HEADQUARTERS, MIDDLE MILITARY DIVISION, COLLEGE, Va., March 10, 1865.

Lieutenant General U. S. GRANT, commanding armies United States.

General--In my last despatch, dated Waynesboro, I gave you a brief account of the defeat of Early by Custer's division.

The same night this division was pushed across the Blue Ridge and entered Charlottesville at two P. M. the next day. The Mayor of the city and the principal inhabitants came out and delivered up the keys of the public buildings.

I had to remain at Charlottesville two days. This time was consumed in bringing over from Waynesboro our ammunition and pontoon trains.

The weather was horrible beyond description and the rain incessant.

The two divisions were during this time occupied in destroying the two large iron bridges--one over the Rivanna river, the other over Horse's creek, near Charlottesville--and the railroad for a distance of eight miles in the direction of Lynchburg.

On the 6th of March I sent the first division, General Devin commanding, to Scottsville, on the James river, with directions to send out light parties through the country and destroy all merchandise, mills, factories, bridges, &c., on the Rivanna river, the parties to join the division at Duguidville, fifteen miles from Lynchburg, destroying every lock, and in many places the bank of the canal. At Duguidville we hoped to secure the bridge to let us cross the river, as our pontoons were useless.

On account of the high water in this, however, we were forced, as both this bridge and the bridge at Hardwickville were burned by the enemy upon our approach. Merritt accompanied this division.

The third division started at the same time from Charlottesville, and proceeded down the Lynchburg Railroad to Amherst Court House, destroying every bridge on the road, and in many places miles of the road. The bridges on this road are numerous and some of them five hundred feet in length. We have found great abundance in this country for our men and animals. In fact the canal had been the great feeder of Richmond. At the Rockfish river the bank of the canal was cut, and at New Canton, where the dam is across the James, the guard lock was destroyed and the James river let into the canal, carrying away the banks and washing out the bottom of the canal.

The dam across the James at this point was also partially destroyed.

I have had no opposition. Everybody is bewildered by our movements. I have had no news of any kind since I left.

The latest Richmond paper was of the 4th, but contained nothing.

I omitted to mention that the bridges on the railroad from Swoop's depot, on the other side of Staunton, to Charlottesville, were utterly destroyed; also all bridges for a distance of ten miles on the Gordonsville railroad.

The weather has been very bad indeed, raining hard every day, with the exception of four days, since we started. My wagons have, from the state of the roads, detained me.

Up to the present time we have captured fourteen pieces of artillery--eleven at Waynesboro and three at Charlottesville.

The party that I sent back from Waynesboro started with six pieces, but they were obliged to destroy two of the six for want of animals. The remaining eight pieces were thoroughly destroyed.

We have captured up to the present time twelve canal boats laden with supplies, ammunition, rations, medical stores, &c.

I cannot speak in too high terms of General Merritt, Custer and Devin and the officers and men of their commands. They have waded through mud and water during this continuous rain, and are all in the spirits and health.

Commodore Hollins, of the rebel navy, was shot near Gordonsville, while attempting to make his escape from our advance in that direction.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. H. SHERIDAN, Major General Commanding.

REBEL ACCOUNTS.

Ross's Attempt to Recapture Prisoners.

SECRETARY STANTON TO MAJOR GENERAL DIX.

WASHINGTON, March 13-6:45 P. M.

Major General JOHN A. DIX, New York.

The following despatch has been received by the Department.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

GENERAL GRANT'S REPORT.

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

The following from to-day's Richmond papers has just been received--

We alluded in our last issue to a movement that was being made for the purpose of recapturing our prisoners who were taken from Early in the recent fight near Waynesboro, and who were being conducted under guard to Winchester. The following official despatch tells of it--

HEADQUARTERS, March 9, 1865.

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

SHERMAN.

IMPORTANT REBEL REPORTS.

Kilpatrick Driven from His Camp by Hampton's Troops.

Guns, Wagons and Prisoners Captured, &c., &c., &c.

Secretary Stanton to Major General Dix.

WASHINGTON, March 13-9:44 P. M.

Major General JOHN A. DIX, New York.

The following despatch has been received by this Department.

E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

GENERAL GRANT'S DESPATCH.

CITY POINT, Va., March 13, 1865.

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

The following items are taken from to-day's Richmond papers--

We have some good news this morning--news of a victory in South Carolina. It is announced in the following official despatch from General Lee. Though the despatch is rather scant in its particulars, enough is given to show that Kilpatrick was badly defeated.

THE REBEL GENERAL LEE'S DESPATCH.

HEADQUARTERS, Va., March 10, 1865.

General Hampton attacked General Kilpatrick at daylight this morning, and drove him from the camp, taking his guns, wagons, many horses, several hundred prisoners, and relieving a great number of our men who had been captured. The guns and wagons could not be brought off for want of horses. Many of the enemy were killed and wounded. Our loss is not heavy. Lieutenant Colonel J. S. King was killed. Brigadier General Howe, Colonels Kagan and Morrison, and Majors Davis and Ferguson, and others, were wounded.

R. E. LEE, General.

COMMENTS OF THE RICHMOND PAPER.

It will be observed that the locality of the fight is not named in the despatch. This is for prudential reasons. Sherman has no communication with the North, and it would be imprudent to publish where he was, as it would be giving news to Grant of his progress.

Matters are beginning to look decidedly better for us in the South. In the last three days we have had news of two victories--one in North Carolina and one in South Carolina.

NEWS FROM GEORGIA.

GEORGIA, March 8, 1865.

The Southern Express Company's messenger from Augusta, Ga., brings advice to the 3d instant. No news of interest had transpired west of the Savannah river. The Georgia Senate had passed a resolution declaring that it does not concur in the recommendation of Governor Brown for a convention by a vote of 20 yeas against 8 nays. Several extensive fires had occurred in Augusta, against a day or two.

Major General Cox has issued an order congratulating his troops on the heroic manner in which they have met the enemy and successfully repulsed them. The list of killed and wounded from the operations of yesterday and the night before will be quite heavy on both sides, though much more so with them than with us, from the fact that we fought from behind our works, while they indulged in some most foolhardy charges. We have probably taken, from the commencement up to last evening, not far from two thousand prisoners. Our entire loss from the commencement, in killed, wounded and prisoners, cannot be over two thousand. Captain Bassett, Fifteenth Connecticut, is thought to have been mortally wounded, and at last accounts was in the hands of the enemy. Captain Myers, Twelfth New York Cavalry, was captured. Lieutenant Pittman, Twelfth New York Cavalry, is supposed to have been killed. Captain Huffy, Ninth New Jersey, is reported to have been mortally wounded. Captain Hubbard, Twelfth New York Cavalry, was captured. Lieutenant Hartig, Acting Adjutant of the One Hundred and Thirty-second New York, was badly wounded in the face. The colonel of the One Hundred and Eighty-fourth was severely wounded in the leg. Captain Forbes, Twenty-fifth Massachusetts, was badly wounded.

THE TOPOGRAPHY OF THE COUNTRY.

where most of the fighting occurred presents a dead level, and the fields and roads were muddy beyond description. The soil is a mixture of sand and clay, and those who were with Sherman through Tennessee and Georgia affirm that they never saw the mud worse in any of those marches than here. There being no embankments, also, the artillery could not be worked so advantageously as otherwise. The prisoners we took were mostly Georgians and South and North Carolinians. The most of the prisoners were well dressed, and had with them duplicates of jackets, shirts, shoes, and personal outfit generally, including good knapsacks, canteens, &c. They were generally robust young men, of eighteen or twenty years of age. The rebel cavalry force seems to have been small. The prisoners generally affirm that Bragg is a chief command, and that they have a force of from fifteen thousand to twenty-five thousand, among whom is A. P. Hill's division, from Lee's army. There is no doubt of Holke's presence with them, and they have great confidence in him. At the capture of Newbern he was merely an orderly sergeant in a regiment of which Governor Vance was colonel. Some of the prisoners foolishly boast that Kinston will prove another Petersburg to us, and doubtless believe it. Should we approach nearer to the town they hope to do wonders by the aid of the ram at Kinston.

The Press Despatch.

NEWBORN, N. C., March 11-9 A. M.

The enemy, stated with the capture of two or three small guns and a line of skirmishers in our front, made several charge yesterday of the most reckless character, in which they were repulsed each time with heavy loss. Our forces were well entrenched, and are now within three miles of Kinston, to which point the railroad is now completed.

General Couch's division from Wilmington communicated with Major General Cox last night from Beaver Dam--a point he had just reached--which is eight miles from General Cox's headquarters. General Couch joins General Cox's forces this morning, which indicates a battle to-day.

The enemy show signs of weakness, and will doubtless fall back to the other side of the Neuse river, and make a stand in Kinston. The enemy are reported to number from fifteen thousand to twenty-five thousand.

The rebel ram is stationed at Kinston to protect the bridge across the Neuse, which is quite an extensive structure.

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tween the First and Second divisions, there being an interval of undefended territory between them. Brigadier General Ruger, of the First division, Twenty-third corps, had now in command of the Third division of this army, had his headquarters and division four or five miles back, and General Cox's headquarters were in the same vicinity. The latter, however, was present at the division headquarters in front, and in the course of the afternoon General Schofield came up, although the sole direction of movements was left with General Cox. General Schofield exhibited the utmost solicitude during the operations of the afternoon while he was present, and doubtless looked upon it all as a very slight affair compared with some of the many ugly ordeals he had previously passed through. In view of the adverse circumstances which existed, and the splendid conduct of our troops since, it is no detriment to the cause, nor discredit to the gallant general in command, to confess that we were surprised at first, and hardly supposed the enemy to have the force which they proved to have. But the fragmentary masses redeemed themselves, and the Western States, from which the most of them came, may continue to be proud of their children. General Cox has issued an order praising them for their gallantry; and when there is a fighting opportunity hereafter to the enemy that stands in their path.

Between three and four o'clock on the afternoon of the 8th, General Ruger came up and filled the intervals between the First and Second divisions. This gave a life to the entire line, and Colonel Malloy made a charge upon the rebel rifle pits, partially regaining the ground he had formerly occupied. At this night came on and the action ceased. Captain Fish, of the Twelfth New York Cavalry, had lost two small howitzers, and Captain Kelley, of the Third New York Artillery, had lost a Napoleon gun. We had taken, perhaps, two hundred prisoners during the day.

THE ADVANCE ON THE 9TH INSTANT.

Thursday morning, the 9th, Malloy fully regained his original position and continued to hold it. The enemy charged upon him three times in the forenoon, and were each time easily repulsed, with some loss of life and a small loss of prisoners to them. The afternoon was mostly occupied with light skirmishing along the whole line. About two hundred prisoners were taken by us during the day. We still held our original line, ample breastworks having been erected, and stout hearts occupying both them and the skirmish pits.

All through the evening of the 9th, and the night and morning of the 10th, rebel fury again boiled forth. They had evidently learned of something that urged them to unusual desperation; and we afterwards learned that it must have been the reception of intelligence by them that Couch was coming up overland to join Cox. This, of course, necessitated a furious and speedy onset upon Cox, in order to annihilate him before Couch should come up and prove a coat of thorns to them. All night long they charged again and again, making six or seven different charges, amid a roar of musketry and cannon that was deafening and terrible as it swept and surged through the night air. They had driven back our skirmish line from their rifle pits to the breastworks, and they seemed determined to pour their hordes over into these. But the wave was sent bounding back time after time, and finally, on the morning of the 10th, as they attempted another flank movement upon our left, it is said that we took from them an entire regiment of Alabamians. From this time their ardor began to diminish, and yesterday afternoon when I left the immediate scene of action there was every prospect that we would soon regain the skirmish pits and win a head some victory over the maddened foe.

The rebels on both sides.

The list of killed and wounded from the operations of yesterday and the night before will be quite heavy on both sides, though much more so with them than with us, from the fact that we fought from behind our works, while they indulged in some most foolhardy charges. We have probably taken, from the commencement up to last evening, not far from two thousand prisoners. Our entire loss from the commencement, in killed, wounded and prisoners, cannot be over two thousand. Captain Bassett, Fifteenth Connecticut, is thought to have been mortally wounded, and at last accounts was in the hands of the enemy. Captain Myers, Twelfth New York Cavalry, was captured. Lieutenant Pittman, Twelfth New York Cavalry, is supposed to have been killed. Captain Huffy, Ninth New Jersey, is reported to have been mortally wounded. Captain Hubbard, Twelfth New York Cavalry, was captured. Lieutenant Hartig, Acting Adjutant of the One Hundred and Thirty-second New York, was badly wounded in the face. The colonel of the One Hundred and Eighty-fourth was severely wounded in the leg. Captain Forbes, Twenty-fifth Massachusetts, was badly wounded.

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J. M. SCHOFIELD, Major General.

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant General.