Copy,
official Report of Genl.O.O. Howard,
of the Carolina Campaign, 1865.

Vol. 6, No. 1.

Taken from an old letter press copy book.
Subject: "The Carolina Campaign 1865."
Major L. M. Dayton,

Asst. Adjt. Gen’l,

Mil. Div. of the Miss.

Major,

I have the honor to submit the following report of operations of the Army of the Tennessee, constituting the right wing of General Sherman’s army for the campaign from Savannah, Ga. to Goldsboro, N. C.

Jan. 1, 1865 On the 1st day of January of this year, the General-in-chief, General Sherman, laid before me the plan that he proposed for the coming campaign.

The part assigned to me contemplated the moving of the whole or a part of the Right Wing to Beaufort, S. C. to occupy Pocatiligo by the 15th of January. While the left wing crossed the Savannah at Sister’s Ferry, and moved to Robertsville.

I expressed a fear that it would be impossible to transport my whole force in the time required, whereupon the General decided that one Corps would be sufficient, and that the rest could cross the Savannah, and form a junction with me at Pocatiligo, after I had occupied that place. With this understanding S. F. C. No. 1 were issued from your headquarters. I set about the work at once, procuring assistance in the way of transportation from the Department of the South, Major-General Foster commanding, and also from the naval force under Admiral Dahlgren operating at that time in the vicinity of Savannah.

The army boats were promptly and cheerfully furnished, and being adapted to transporting both troops and army material, had to be relied on mainly. Admiral Dahlgren and his officers however promptly furnished what gun-boats they could to ferry
General Blair, commanding 17th Corps, commenced moving his corps on the 3rd of January. By the 11th the entire 17th Army Corps, and nearly one Division of the 18th Corps, had arrived at Beaufort Island, whereupon S. P. O. No. 9 from these headquarters were issued. The execution of this order was subsequently postponed one day, owing to the delay and the arrival of a part of the transportation and the bridge train.

My report to your headquarters from the field near Pocotaligo is as follows:

Near Pocotaligo, S. C.

14th

6 1/2 P.M., January 14th, 1865.

Pocotaligo Major-General W. T. Sherman,

24 miles

General: The 17th Corps followed by one brigade of the 15th crossed Whale Branch at Port Royal Ferry at daylight this morning. The bridge had been constructed during the night, six hundred feet in length, under the cover of a small force that crossed in boats and entrenched.

General Blair met the enemy in some force, occupying a remarkably strong position, about one mile to the north of Garden's Corner. Our bridge was so poor on account of the rotten canvas that many delays occurred in crossing and closing up, but after the troops were well in hand, and the enemy's position reconnoitred, General Leggett succeeded in turning the enemy's left flank, when he abandoned his position and fled. The force was quite small, probably not exceeding a regiment with two pieces of artillery. It was only troublesome on account of a swamp in front of its (his) position.

His next fortified position in front of Stony Creek was turned in like manner, so that the enemy did not attempt to make a stand, through along the direct route the works are
We pushed on to Poacotaligo reaching the vicinity just at sundown. The military position there was found similar to every other in the country, a swamp in front with strong works constructed. The skirmish line developed a strong musketry fire that caused us the loss to the service of several valuable men. One skirmish line pressed up close and developed five or six pieces of artillery, if not more. It was too late in the day for me to attempt the works.

General Blair will confront them to-morrow with one division strongly entrenched, while he makes a considerable detour with the other two, to turn the position. I have requested General Foater to replace my canvas boats as soon as possible.

Lieutenant Chandler, General Leggett's picket officer, was killed this evening, and Capt. Kellogg, doing the same duty on General G. A. Smith's staff, was seriously wounded at Garden's Corner. Eight (8) or ten (10) will probably cover the casualties of the day.

(Signed.) O. O. Howard,
Major-General.

The enemy did not continue long enough to necessitate the contemplated attack. He kept up a heavy artillery fire till dark. At day-break we found he had abandoned his work and retreated. I felt obliged to him for his position was a hard one to carry, being thoroughly fortified. The main part had twenty-four (24) embrasures, and the march in front of the works was impassable. Three pieces of artillery were afterwards found near Garden's Point. The enemy withdrew his infantry across the Salte Hatchie, and posted it to defend the railroad bridge. General Blair was
strongly posted along the railroad and covering the approaches to Pocotaligo. He reconnoitred toward Salkehatchie, opened communication with General Foster's troops at Coosawatchie, fell forward toward Robertsville, hoping to communicate with General Slocum and back along the Union Causeway toward Savannah.

The brigade of the 15th Army Corps was stationed at Garden's Corner, holding the cross-road, and watching the crossing of the Combahee. I omitted to state in connection with the foregoing operations that the enemy destroyed three bridges fifty or sixty feet in length, and partially destroyed a fourth in front between Garden's Corner and Pocotaligo. They were quickly repaired by using abandoned buildings. The first stage in the operations assigned to me was now accomplished, but from the difficulty of getting supplies through the obstructions at Savannah, and from the tremendous freshet that followed several days of heavy rain, considerable delay was occasioned in other parts of the proposed plan. Major-General Logan continued to transport the troops of his command by water until the 17th of January, when he was directed to march what might be left at Savannah by the Union Causeway. A portion of one division, General John E. Smith's succeeded in getting through by that route. The water soon flooded the road and it became perfectly impassable, therefore, the General (Logan) continued to embark his command for Beaufort, S. C. till he had ferried over everything except his 4th Division under General Corse.

Major General Foster had replaced my bridge at Fort Royal Ferry. General Blair had established a depot on the Pocotaligo about seven miles from the railroad station, which light draft vessels were able to reach at high water. By the
28th of January, the 15th Corps, three Divisions being near Garden's Corner, and Port Royal Ferry, with the 17th Corps and the bridge train was prepared to move forward in accordance Special Field Orders No. 19, from your headquarters, excepting that General Corse had been instructed to follow the Left Wing to form a junction with us as soon as an opportunity should offer.

In compliance with a letter of instructions from your headquarters my Special Field Orders No. 25, dated January 30th, were issued, and the movements of the 29th and 30th Pocotaligo followed. General Logan encamped near McPhersonville;
6 Miles General Blair abreast of him on the river road, reconnoitrening to Tenont's Branch.

A Division of General Foster's under General Hatch occupied the position near Pocotaligo and reconnoitred toward the Salkehatchie bridge. The command remained substantially in the same position during the 31st of January. Excepting that one Division of the 17th Corps, under Brig-General Corse, made a demonstration of crossing the Salkehatchie in the direction of our right rear. He effected this by cutting wood, building fires, displaying a large skirmish line, the beating of drums, etc. The enemy opposed a considerable force of infantry and artillery.

The General-in-chief having become satisfied that the Left Wing was crossing the Savannah, permitted us to resume Feb. Ist the march February Ist. I moved General Blair to Whippy Hickory Swamp and General Logan to the vicinity of Hickory Hill P.O. Hill P.O. The former encountered the enemy's cavalry soon after leaving Whippy Swamp camp and skirmished all day. Whippy Swamp Creek was reached 15 Miles
about 1 P.M. Genl. Blair found the road obstructed with felled trees, and five small bridges destroyed.

The obstructions were quickly cleared away, bridges built, the causeway corduroyed in part and one Division (Mower’s) moved across to the other side.

Lieut. Wm. N. Taylor, Asst. to My Chief-of-Artillery, was severely wounded in the skirmish at the creek.

The enemy’s force was estimated at six hundred (600) cavalry that took the direction of Whippy’s Swamp P.O., and some forty (40) or fifty (50) more that defended the crossing in Genl. Blair’s front.

Genl. Logan also met the enemy’s cavalry and cleared away considerable obstructions. At points his road was filled with trees continuously for five or six miles. Our men make short work of clearing these obstacles; going at it joyously, and declaring they can remove them quicker than the rebels can make them.

The next day Genl. Blair crossed one of his remaining Divisions over Whippy Swamp, and sent the others (Genl. Force’s) to a crossing higher up opposite Anglesley’s Post Office.

Genl. Mower had the advance of the right column. On reaching the road leading to Broxton’s Bridge, he made a reconnaissance in force, developed a long skirmish line, a battery of artillery and breastworks. The bridge over the Salkehatchie at this point was a continuous one and thoroughly destroyed. Leaving a regiment at this point to make a Division, Mower pushed on rapidly to River’s Bridge, five miles above, hindered the enemy from destroying it. But was stopped by a furious discharge of musketry and artillery, bearing on the narrow causeway approach, and all from behind works constructed on a bluff that was enough higher than the causeway to make the fire effective.

Here the brave and excellent Col. Swayne of the 43rd Ohio lost a leg, and five or six other casualties. During part of the day th 9th Ill. Mounted Infantry led the skirmishers and made several gallant charges against the enemy’s cavalry, in one of which Lieu-utant-Colonel Kirby of Genl. Blair’s staff was wounded.
The next day Genl. Blair continued his operations. Genl. Giles A. Smith's Division was sent two miles below and crossed the Salkehatchie with its immense swamp and numerous branches, by wading, while Mower confronted the works directly, and cut two infantry roads a mile and a half in length, to enable him to turn the enemy to the north. He the officers and men worked all day in the water and mud often waist deep. Just at dark two of Mower's brigades had overcome all obstacles and got upon the enemy's right flank beyond his entrenchments -- he had his rear open and succeeded in escaping with the exception of a few prisoners, (about thirty) (30) reported.

Genl. Smith skirmished heavily with a force towards his right and prevented any assistance to the enemy from Broxton Bridge.

I visited the field just after Genl. Mower had carried the works. The position was as good for defense as any I ever saw, with abattis or slashing covering its front, and that indescribable river with its swamp to discourage every approach.

Genl. Blair's loss in this action was ten or twelve, and about seventy wounded, enemy's loss some twenty killed, and one hundred and fifty wounded.

Correspondent to Genl. Blair's movement, Genl. Logan was to have reached Anglesley's Post Office, but the General-in-chief held him back, to enable the movement of the left wing to be cooperative, so that, his head of column only reached that point on the evening of the 3rd of February, the same day Genl. Force closed up to River's Bridge on the 4th. Genl. Logan moved two Divisions to Beaufort's Bridge, and closed up the remainder of his column to Anglesley's Post Office. He only reported skirmishing with enemy's cavalry, - heavy roads, sometimes obstructed, and always to corduroy through the swamps and low grounds.

Beaufort's Bridge or Bridges, as the river has some fifteen or more channels at this point, afforded a military position of equal difficulty with that at River's, but the enemy abandoned it as soon as we broke through below. Great pains were taken
to organize regular and efficient foraging parties for each
brigade, battery &c. They were permitted to mount themselves,
and required to bring in horses, mules, cattle and all kinds of
food for men and animals.

They were, however, prohibited by the most stringent sanc-
tions from disturbing private houses, and taking such things as
money, jewelry, watches, and other private property that the
imperative necessity of the army did not demand. The inhabitants
had cleared away nearly all the produce of the country west of the
Salkehatchie. As soon as we had broken this line, now abundant
supply was opened to us. The people were terrified at the
extravagant reports regarding us, and buried everything that
they could, of value. The soldiers became very expert in
discovering and exhuming these valuables, and always regarded
them as their legitimate prize capture. In spite of every
precaution to check it, the system of foraging operated to
loosen the restraints of discipline, and many acts were committed
Feb. 5th that every right-minded officer deprecates.

On Sunday the 5th of Feb. my command simply crossed the
river at Rivers and Beaufort’s bridges, preparatory to advance.
Feb. 6th
Little
Salkehatchie
11 miles

The 6th, both Corps moved to the Little Salkehatchie. General
Logan found the enemy in some force at his crossing near Duncan-
ville, but soon dislodged him and then rebuilt the bridge, 100 ft.
in length. General Blair did the same at Cowpen Ford, constructig
bridges to the extent of (260) two hundred and sixty ft.
Feb. 7th
Bamburg
midway
11 miles

During the 7th, both Corps reached the Augusta and Charleston
R. R., the 15th at Bamburg, and the 17th about four miles to the
east of Midway. The 17th was hindered en routw by a barricade
felled trees and bridges, which were destroyed across Lemon
Swamp.
Both Corps had considerable bad road to corduroy. The road was made worse by a heavy rain all day, that had commenced the night before. On arrival at the railroad, reconnaissances were made to several bridges across the Edisto. Holman’s Bridge, Binnaker’s, Cannon’s, the R. R. bridge and Walker’s were severally destroyed by the enemy on the approach of our forces.

The 8th was spent in destroying the R. R. The 17th Corps destroyed from the Edisto toward Bamberg, to a point about half-way between that point and Midway.

And the 15th Corps from that point on to Blackville, whole distance about twenty-four miles. Ties were all burnt, and the rails for the most part twisted.

At this point, General Logan’s 4th Division under General Corse, formed a junction with him. The General-in-Chief at this time encamped with the 15th Corps, near Lowry’s Station.

and then issued his Special Field Orders No. 25, that required me to move on Orangeburgh.

Thursday, Feb. 9th, General Blair moved his command to the vicinity of Binnaker’s Bridge, his head of column reaching that place about twelve noon. As soon as our troops appeared, the enemy opened from an intrenched position on the other side of the river with artillery and musketry. General Mower, who had the advance, immediately constructed a raft and sending over a few men secured a lodgement on the other bank.

By six p.m. we had a pontoon laid, over which he began to cross his infantry. He pushed on bearing to the right through a wide swamp, the men often wading through water three feet deep. By nine p.m. we had gained the main land and opened a skirmish with the enemy to the left and rear of his entrenched position. The enemy instantly fled, and General Blair had the bridge properly laid in the direction of the main road, and a
bridge-head constructed.

Simultaneous with this movement, General Logan had sent General Hazen’s Division to Holman’s Bridge. He had crossed the river and penetrated nearly through the swamp, above the old bridge, when he postponed further operations until the morning. At daylight he found the enemy and left his front. He therefore prepared the crossing of the south fork of the Edisto at that place.

On the 11th the command marched as follows: 17th Corps, followed by a Division of the 15th, direct toward Orangeburg. The other three divisions of the 15th Corps toward the same point along the Holman’s Bridge Road. General Force’s Division led the right column and reached the Orangeburgh Bridge about 11 a.m.

North Fork Edisto, 10 miles.

This bridge is over the North Fork of the Edisto. The stream is much of the same character as the others in this country, in having several channels and bordered by wide swamps. The trees in these swamps, very many of them the cypress, are for the most part close together, and afford the soldiers some compensation for the muddy water that he has to wade through, since they are a good protection against musketry. On arriving in sight of the bridge General Force developed by his skirmishers, artillery commanding the main road supported as usual by infantry and intrenchments. After careful reconnaissance, General Blair discovered the extent of the enemy’s skirmish line below and found an open field where the main stream ran near the west side of the enemy. The mounted infantry were sent down to make a demonstration at Rowe’s Bridge, and General Blair made every preparation for forcing a crossing. General Logan moved to Poplar Springs during the day, and pushed forward some mounted men to Skillings’ Bridge six miles above Orangeburg.

The next day, the 13th, the 15th Corps moved to Skillings’
Bridge where General Logan effected a crossing at two points, above and below the bridge, using the Divisions of Major-General Hazen and Brevet Maj.Gen. John E. Smith. He found the enemy strongly posted behind works across the river and swamp. The enemy’s position was completely turned and his retreat so nearly cut off that great numbers of his men threw away their arms and rank. We captured eighty prisoners and about two hundred stand of arms, three of the enemy were killed and quite a number wounded. General Logan’s loss was one killed and five wounded.

Meanwhile, General Blair continued his operations, General Giles A. Smith operating with his Division upon the direct front skirmishing with the enemy and replying to his artillery fire by a battery carefully entrenched, whilst General Force quietly laid his bridge two miles below, crossed over to the main land, suddenly appearing upon the enemy’s left flank and rear. The country was so open that the enemy were able to escape. General Blair took some ten or twelve prisoners. General Giles A. Smith noticed the first yielding of the enemy and followed so closely as to meet the head of General Force’s column near the depot.

The 17th Corps immediately set to work destroying the R. R. toward Branchville, destroying about six miles in that direction. Soon after entering the town of Orangeburgh a fire broke out in the upper story of a store-building, the incendiary’s work was reputed to have been done by a Jew who was angry because the rebel cavalry had burned his cotton. The wind was high and the fire spread rapidly consuming the poorer part of the town before it could be arrested. Our soldiers finally got it under control and prevented its spreading further. Some two hundred bales of cotton that the rebels had spared were carefully burned by our troops.
The next day the 13th, Gen. Blair continued the destruction of the railroad, making complete work up to the state road, a distance of thirteen or fourteen miles from Orangeburg. His mounted men were sent forward to the state road and destroyed all the trestle work and bridges up to the Santee River. The rebels who were defending the railroad bridge set it on fire at their approach.

Meanwhile, Gen. Logan marched in two columns, one on the right and the other on the left of Caw Caw Swamp, reaching Sandy Run P.O. on the evening of the 14th. General Blair closed up to the same point during the 14th. One division, having gone on to improve the destruction of the road toward Fort Mott, marched toward Sandy Run P. O. by the river road, along the Congaree.

On the evening of the 15th, I wrote to the General-in-Chief as follows:

Near Congaree Creek, S.C.
February 15th, 1865.

Major-General W. T. Sherman,
Commanding Mil. Div. of the Miss.,

General:-

General Logan advanced at 7 a.m. to-day, his first Division, Maj-Gen-Woods leading. He came upon the enemy’s cavalry a short distance from camp, and skirmished with them, (the rebels) driving them from different lines of rail piles till they reached the Congaree Creek.

There the enemy opened with artillery upon our advance. General Woods confronted the enemy’s line with his skirmishers, and first worked to the right in order to ascertain the character of the position, and to turn the enemy’s left. Failing to
dislodge him, I directed Gen. Logan to develop his lines further to our left. He deployed one brigade of Gen. Wood's division about a mile and a half to the left of the state road, and pushed it on till the skirmish line had waded through a large swamp and come upon the bank of the Congaree Creek, a section of DeGrass's battery opened on the enemy's front just as this movement was going on, on the flank. The rebels gave way, crossed the bridge, set it on fire, and fired on our skirmishers with artillery and musketry from their works on the other side. Soon the skirmisher crossed the creek about half a mile north of the bridge, when the enemy gave way and retreated to a new line about two miles nearer Columbia. The bridge partially burned was made passable for infantry and artillery in about ten minutes. The column commenced crossing and followed up the enemy, skirmishing most of the way. At dark, General Logan placed two Divisions in position on the high ground beyond the Congaree Creek. General Blair moved his command to the vicinity of Taylor's Mill. The enemy has abandoned his front and he will repair the bridge across Congaree and be ready to cross in the morning. Casualties of to-day in Gen. Logan's Corps are six killed and eighteen wounded. Major Perkins, picket officer of Gen. Woods, was wounded but not seriously. During the above operations, Gen. J. E. Smith, made a diversion by threatening to cross the Congaree at Bates' Ferry. The same vigor and boldness that have characterized our men during the hardships of this campaign were again exhibited to-day.

You, yourself, understand the difficulties of the ground. The mud, the water, swamps, the deep creeks and ditches that they had to overcome in order to get at the enemy.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) O. C. Howard,
Major-General.
Just at dark on the evening of the 15th, the enemy appeared to have taken up a new position, thoroughly entrenched, some two or three miles south of the Columbia Bridge. During the night he fired from a battery just south of Columbia, near the city, upon Gen. Hazen's sleeping camp, but no return shots were fired.

Feb. 16th

On the morning of the 16th, the works in our front were abandoned and the enemy's force had crossed the bridges and they were burned. The two Corps soon concentrated opposite Columbia and the left wing met us at the same point. It should be remembered that the Saluda and Broad unite just below Columbia and formed the Congaree. The Congaree is very wide and we feared that it would be difficult to bridge it safely with the material we had, particularly as the river was very high and very swift.

The General-in-Chief directed me to cross the Saluda at the factory about a mile above. A demonstration was made by placing batteries in position to silence those before described on the other side of the river and a section was directed to fire upon some rebel troops in the town. Also at the depot to prevent the enemy from moving away trains. As soon as the bridge could be brought up, Capt. C. B. Reese, the Chief Engineer threw a bridge across the Saluda under the cover of Gen. Hazen's Division. At first the enemy skirmishers gave a little trouble, but our sharp-shooters soon drove them back to a less dangerous distance. The mounted infantry crossed the Saluda first, supported by some infantry of Gen. Hazen's Division, and pushed on rapidly, driving the enemy across the Broad River. The attempt was to save the bridge, but it failed, since the bridge had been covered with resin.
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and light wood in such manner as to burst instantaneously into a flame, and this occurred even before all the rebel cavalry had passed over. The remnant escaped northward.

Gen. Logan continued the crossing of his Corps during the night, whilst he directed Gen. Wood's division to effect a crossing of the Broad. Lieut-Col. William Tweeddale, commanding engineers undertook to get a rope across just above the bridge in order to make a temporary ferry. The current was so exceedingly strong, and the river so wide, that it was very difficult to get the rope on the other shore. Finally he drew over a light cord, obtained at the factory, and by means of it, succeeded in establishing the 17th rope ferry about three a.m. When General Woods sent over boat load after boat load of troops until he had succeeded ferrying over Col. Stone's entire brigade. The place where they landed was not the firm ground, but a sort of muddy dyke beyond which there were deep ravines, now partially filled with water. The whole bank was covered with wood and thick underbrush, under this cover the rebels kept a strong skirmish line and fought with as much obstinacy as at other points.

Our artillery situated on a high bluff, and our skirmishers up and down the river, aided the brigade thrown over. Col. Stone gradually extended his skirmish line and then moved forward up the east bank sweeping everything before him. Several prisoners were taken during the advance Columbia. About 10 a.m. the mayor of Columbia with a flag of truce met Col. Stone and formerly surrendered the city to him.

The General-in-chief had directed men to destroy certain public buildings, but to spare institutions of learning, asylums and private dwellings. I transmitted these instruc-
tions to Maj.-Gen. John A. Logan, whose troops were to have charge of the city. He directed Maj.-Gen. Woods to place suitable guards. As soon as the bridge was completed, I crossed with General Sherman and rode to the town with him, a distance of about three miles. The ground was dry. The wind was blowing hard so that the dust almost blinded us.

As we entered the city, the negroes and many white people collected at the corners of the streets and greeted the General with loud cheering. In the main street, was a large quantity of cotton partially consumed by fire; some men were at work trying to extinguish the fire with a very poor engine. We remarked that the loose cotton was blown about in every direction, and the shade trees were so completely covered with bits of cotton, as to remind me of a grove in Maine after a snow storm.

The guards were carefully established in different streets and seemed to be attending to their duty very faithfully. I noticed a few men under the influence of liquor and immediately directed that they should be placed under guard. I have been thus particular in narrating these preliminary incidents because there followed one of the most terrific scenes that I have ever witnessed, and we are charged by the rebels with its conception.

Thinking everything was very orderly and the city police in the best of hands, I selected a house and hoped to get a little rest. But it was hardly dark before a fire broke out in the vicinity of Maine Street and spread rapidly.

I learned moreover, that quantities of liquor had been given to the soldiers by certain people, who hoped in this manner to conciliate them and get their protection, and it is certainly true that many of our men and some of our officers were too much under the influence of liquor to allow them to
The honor must not be taken lightly. The work is not done by the
judges alone. To avoid any misunderstanding, it is necessary
to state that the decision of the judges is final and
binding. The law is clear. The case is open. The issue is
whether the defendant is guilty or not. The evidence is all
before the court. The vote is now in. The decision is
made. The defendant is found guilty. The case is
closed.

The defendant must now appeal to higher courts if
they wish to have their case reviewed. The process is
complex and requires legal expertise. The defendant
must file a petition stating their reasons for appeal.
The court will then review the evidence and make a
decision. If the appeal is successful, the defendant
may be acquitted or their sentence may be reduced.

If unsuccessful, the defendant must accept the
decision and prepare to face their consequences.
The case is now concluded. The defendant will be
sentenced according to the court's decision.

The honor of the court must be respected. The
judges have sworn to uphold the law. The
defendant has the right to a fair trial. The
judges have the responsibility to ensure that
justice is served. The case is now
concluded.
properly discharge their duties. Strenuous efforts were made, however, to arrest the flames. General Woods sent in a fresh brigade and afterwards Gen. Hazen still another.

During the night, I met Gen. Logan and Gen. Woods and other general officers and they were taking every possible measure to stop the fire, and prevent disorder. Nevertheless some escaped prisoners, convicts from the penitentiary just broken open "army followers" and drunken soldiers ran through house after house and were doubtless guilty of all manner of villanies, and it was these men that I presume set new fires farther and farther to the windward in the northern part of the city. Old men, women and children with everything they could get out were huddled together in the streets. At some places we found officers and kind hearted soldiers protecting families from the insults and roughness of the careless.

Meanwhile the flames made fearful ravages, and magnificent residences and churches were consumed in a very few minutes. After about two-thirds of the city, all the business part of the town, including the old state-house had been completely destroyed the wind shifted to the east and the fire was stayed.

The next morning showed very little of Columbia except the blackened surface. Peopled with numerous chimneys and occasional house that had been spared, as if by a miracle.

I believe that the rebels who blew up the depot scattered the cotton over the city and set fire to it, and took no reasonable precaution to prevent the destruction of Columbia, are responsible for the sufferings of the people. Neither the General-in-Chief nor any of his Lieutenants have ever sanctioned any conduct so evidently against the dictates of humanity.

The 17th Corps followed the 15th across the Saluda and Broad and encamped outside of the city to the northeast, the 15th Corps
..
encamped to the east and south, except the garrison of the city. During the 18th and 19th the command remained in the vicinity of Columbia and were engaged in destroying the public buildings, such as the railroad depot, the arsenals, machine shops, armory, with a large quantity of machinery, a powder mill, that had everything in running order, three large store-houses for ammunition and ordnance stores, &c.

A list of the ordnance and ordnance stores destroyed or made use of from Columbia will be attached to this report.

While the men were removing the shells from the arsenal to the river, a terrible accident occurred. A percussion shell was carelessly thrown down the bank amongst others, when it exploded killing and wounding some fifteen men from Gen. John E. Smith's division.

The railroad was destroyed completely as far as Mill Creek by the commands of Gen. Hazen and Corse.

General Corse continued the work as far as Cedar Creek and his mounted men burned the trestle work and forced the enemy to destroy the railroad bridge across the Wateree. The road was completely destroyed for fifteen miles, and partially for forty.

Meanwhile, Gen. Blair was at work on the railroads northward.

Monday, Feb. 20th, the command commenced its march northward & General Logan's column made a detour via Robert's crossroads and Muddy Springs, his head of column reaching Rice Creek. Gen. Blair followed the railroad, destroying it as he went, having made a march of fifteen or sixteen miles. The next day Gen. Blair continued the same work to within five or six miles of Winsbord, and the 15th Corps encamped with two Columns, one at Harrison's Cross Roads and the other at Longtown. My headquarters were at Harrison's Cross Roads.
Feb. 22. The next day the 15th Corps moved in two columns to Fray's Ferry
II miles. the vicinity of Fray's Ferry. General Blair continued the
destruction of the railroad to Winsboro where he joined the
work of the 20th Corps and then closed up to Poplar Springs
Post Office. The work of laying the bridge across the
Wateree commenced at 1 p.m.

Our crossing at that point did not seem to be anticipa-
ted. There we found the country high and rolling, and the
banks of the river quite steep.

General Logan crossed two of his divisions after the
completion of the bridge.

23rd
Flat Rock
Liberty Hill

Thursday, the 23rd of Feb. the 15th Corps reached Flat
Rocks with its head of column. The 17th corps crossed
the river and encamped near Liberty Hill, with the mounted
infantry at Russell Hill.

Patterson
Cross
Road
I2 miles

My headquarters with one brigade for guard, took an
intermediate position near Patterson's Cross Roads.

Before General Blair completed his crossing of the
Wateree a heavy rain commenced and continued all the follow-
ing night and the next day. The soil which was hard during
the fair weather became slippery and muddy, so that it was
with extreme difficulty that the teams were worked up the
Steep hills. The 24th Gen. Blair continued his march via Russel Place, and finding a straight road from Russel Place to Flat Rock, he undertook that route; but getting into an impassible quick sand was obliged to turn back and move further south. His head of column at night was about five miles from Flat Rock.

Meanwhile, Gen. Logan had moved the 15th Corps in three columns, one via McDowell's Mill, to a point between Williams' and West's Cross Roads, and the left column by an upper road to the same point, and the right column, consisting of two divisions to a point on Sanders' Creek. The rain and bad roads had prevented the complete accomplishment of each order of march so that the troops were somewhat scattered. The country after passing Flat Rock was for the most part sandy, with pine forests filled with numerous roads and cross roads.

The rebel cavalry had annoyed us considerably capturing some of our foragers and a few wagons from General John E. Smith's division.

25th. The next day, Feb. 25th the 15th Corps continued substantially in the same position except that the right column closed up to within about twelve or thirteen miles of Tiller's Bridge. Two regiments of Gen. Corse's Division
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST,
GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK.

Steady Rifles. The Jud. Gen. Hale having the taps on the
Kerosene French and giving a straight look from Ruskien. These
to the left of the double look to your left and move
improvement, which was not applied to your seat and move
further north. The head of column of light was soon live
mile from the hill.

Meanwhile, Gen. Logan and Maj. Gen. L.R. Corps in these
continued, one of the McDowell's Mill for a point between
William, and West, Cross Roads, making the left column on
and to the same point, and the right column, central.

The

Two miles.

The reported enemy had advanced an unexpected column of
some of our forces, and a few wounded from General John E
Smith's division.

Next day, Gen. S.D. Farr the I.N. Corps continuing
supplementarily in the same position, except that the right
column closed up to within about three miles on the right edge of
Tiller's Bridge, two regiments of Gen. Cresson's Division
had entered Camden en route and destroyed a quantity of cotton and public stores. Afterwards a party of mounted men under charge of Capt. Duncan by my direction destroyed the Camden Bridge, the depot and a quantity of cotton.

Huff’s Bridge and Little Lynch. The pontoon train with its guard closed up to the vicinity of Williams’ Cross Roads.

During the day Gen. Logan had sent forward his mounted infantry with instructions to secure Tiller’s Bridge. They surprised and captured a camp of about a hundred rebel militia, partly armed and partly not.

26th. The next day, the 26th, Gen. Blair moved to Young’s Bridge across the Lynch and Gen. Logan marched in two columns, one to Tiller’s Bridge and the other to Kelley’s Bridge. My headquarters were with the central column. The Lynch was fringed with the usual swamps. The bridges across the main creek were saved, but owing to the freshets the water had risen so as to flood the country for nearly a mile outside the river bed. At Tiller’s Bridge, Gen. Corse had two bridges made across the creek immediately on his arrival, and a few wagons succeeded in getting over. At Kelley’s Bridge, Gen. Hazen did much the same thing, sending over a part of his infantry and a few wagons. Gen. Corse had hardly reached the main land when the forag-
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST

GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK.

The Cannons Bridge, the ferry, and a chimney of cotton

The Cannons. Bridge, the ferry and a chimney of Cor

activity of William. Clark, how.

parting the gate Gen. Lawyer had sent forwarding the mounted

infantry with instructions to secure Tiller's Bridge. Then

surrounding and entering a camp of troops a number report

mill, little, pretty, strange and pretty not.

The next day, the Sult. Gen. Blunt went to Yonkers

bridge across the river and Gen. Roger Wadsworth went to two

commanders - one to Tiller's Bridge and the other to Keller's

bridge. MM. Belknap's men with the eastern column.

The Poughkeepsie Bridge with the rear reserve. The bridges

across the river there were several fort united to the resear

the water and river in as to look the country for deplin

 mile cut across the river. At Tiller's Bridge, Gen. Cor

crossed two bridges. Sec. Henry and Major the same kind.

At Keller's Bridge, Gen. Henry and Major the same kind.

bending over a part of the Infantry and a few vessels.

Gen. Corne had partially destroyed the main land away the fore.
ers were fiercely assaulted by Butler's cavalry. The assault was sturdily met and repulsed with a loss to the rebels of several killed and wounded. I saw a number of horses of the enemy killed. The water rose during the night of two feet upwards and render the crossing impassable except by bridging. I had despatched the same day Capt. Duncan with all available mounted men that I could raise at my headquarters about sixty in number, with instructions to penetrate as far as the Charleston and Florence railroad and break roads by burning some of the bridges west of Florence; while at Pray's Ferry, news had come of the evacuation of Charleston. The news corroborated by prisoners taken at Tiller's Bridge. Lieut. McQueen, my chief of scouts, accompanied Capt. Duncan with a cypher message which he undertook to send through to Charleston. Capt. Duncan crossed below Kelley's Bridge and had reached Mount Elon Post Office where he was followed by quite a large number of rebel cavalry, considerably outnumbering his cavalry. On the approach of this force, he held his command well in hand and fought desperately. The commander or Brig-Gen. Aiken and some six or seven of his men were killed and fifty or sixty reported wounded. Capt. Duncan had two killed and three or four wounded including Lieut. McQueen, very severely.
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST.

GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK.

The weather was unusually wet and temperature with a low of the
season, quite unseasonable. I saw a number of

reports of the enemy killing. The water rose during the night

of the 2nd, and lager the ocean increased considerably by rain.

I had no instructions from General Hooker with

regard to the advance of my headquarters

station exactly in number with instructions to advance as far

as the Chatham and Thorne lines, and direct my

forces against some of the bridges near of Thorne, while at

Prer, near Lewis, and north of the junction of Charleston

and Lewis, to prevent any of the enemy's moved to the

position of Charleston. Capt. Beecher, my orderly, escorted me to the bridge

and led me across the ford which he negotiated with any

strength.

In being a large number of reports of enemy's movements

continued movements of the enemy. On the approach of the force,

the enemy near mine was well in hand and reports from the

enemy near mine were killing and killing at six o'clock morning,

Capt. Denson had two killed and three more as from wounded injured.

The Moraine, very severely.
Duncan drove the enemy from the field, but thinking he had met with too much opposition for his small force, turned back and reached my headquarters the next day.

Feb. 27th The 27th of Feb. it rained all day. Gen. Blair put his entire Corps at work, and succeeded in bridging the approaches to the main stream, and crossed part of his command just at evening.

Gen. Logan had a foot bridge constructed from main land to main land. The pontoon was put down on the west side; some of the bad places were filled up with brick; other parts corduroyed under water; the corduroy being pinned. But every effort at this point was baffled by new difficulties. We did not succeed in getting over any wagons; the water, however, was subsiding slowly.

28th. The next day, the 28th, of Feb., the bridging at Tillersville was continued, and a few wagons and animals crossed with great difficulty.

Gen. Hazen had commenced a plank bridge, promising to have a good one completed early the next day.

March 1st. March 1st the water had subsided so much that a roadway completely practicable was finished by noon at Tiller's Bridge; while at Kelley's Gen. Logan finished his plank bridge about 3.30 p.m. of nearly half a mile in extent. But owing to a want of sufficient breadth to the
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST,
GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK.

As you can imagine, the situation is quite serious.

We are now considering every available option to ensure the safety of our personnel and the integrity of our operations.

As of last night, we have received reports indicating potential threats that must be addressed immediately.

I am convening a meeting with all relevant parties to discuss strategies and allocate necessary resources.

Please be prepared to receive updates as soon as we have more information.

In the meantime, please ensure that all security protocols are strictly enforced.

Thank you for your attention and your commitment to our mission.

[Signature]
COMMANDER

[Date]
trestles, and their resting upon the quicksand, the bridge 
racked over under the weight of heavy wagons, and part of it 
had to be reconstructed.

Kelleytown 13 miles. I accompanied two of Gen. Hazen's leading Brigades as 
far as Kelleytown. The accident at the bridge prevented the 
remainder of Hazen's column from getting up. We found the 
country at this point very rich, furnishing plenty of pro-
visions for horses and men.

2nd. New Market Rocky Ford Market, excepting Corse's division ten miles above at 
14 miles.

March 2nd Gen. Logan concentrated his command near New 
Rocky Ford, Black Creek. Near Night, Gen. Logan moved 
Corse's Division forward to the intersection of the New 
Market road.

With my headquarters, I crossed the columns and encamp-
ed near Rocky Ford.

McDowell's Gen. Blair had moved forward via McDowell's to within 

thirteen or fourteen miles of Chesten.

The 15th Corps now having come up to within supporting 
distance of the 17th, the command was pushed forward rapidly 
on the 3rd of March to Chesten.

March 3rd Chesten 25 miles. Gen. Blair encountered only cavalry, drove them across 

Thompson's Creek so rapidly as to save the bridge, his men 

stamping out the fire already kindled.
I send a copy of the General's letter to you, General,

Kellerstown. I recommend that you, General, proceed


to Kellerstown. The movement of the bridge dropping the

Remains of the bridge is shown on the map below. We would like

continue at the proper time, in order to prevent delay of the

attacks for positions near the front at the time of the

attack at the rear.

With my compliments, I address the colonel and second

brigade at the rear.

General, note the map forward air bombardment to within

3 miles of the front line of battle or to within supporting

attaches to the 1st MVF: the command will be held forward against

General, move forward as a rear guard in support of the bridge, the men

Governors Island, New York,

Headquarters Department of the East.
Chevan. The Rebels were pushed by Gen. Mower's Division to and through the town of Chevan, skirmishing all the way. They succeeded in destroying the Chevan Bridge in spite of us.

We now learned that the left wing had driven back the Rebel cavalry from Chesterfield the evening before, and this had determined Hardee to withdraw rapidly from Chevan. The citizens represented that he had twenty thousand (20000) men. He had constructed a remarkably strong bridge head for artillery and infantry, commanding our approaches to Thompson's Creek, but this could do him no good after his line had been broken at Chesterfield.

Gen. Blair captured twenty-eight pieces of artillery, between two and three thousand stand of arms, and a large quantity of ammunition.

Moh. 2nd. The General-in-Chief who had been with the left wing joined us at Chevan March 4th, 1865.

The pontoon was laid over the Pee Dee, directly opposite the town, and Gen. Mower's division of the 17th Corps was sent over to take up a position on the other side.

An expedition was organized under the command of Col. Williams of the 12th Ind., consisting of the 9th Ill. Mounted Infantry, and such mounted foragers as Gen. Logan could send. This force was directed to destroy the depots trestle work, bridges, &c. as far as Florence, and if possible
The situation was rapidly changing, and the enemy's division was...

We have learned that the last night of heavy snowfall...

The General, Cuer, has received reports of...

The General-in-Chief, who has been with the front, is...

The position was lost over the Pea...
Florence.

March 6th. Monday March 6th, 1865. I was instructed by Gen. Sherman to make short marches in order to give the left wing the lead toward Fayetteville, and as some of the division were short of bread stuffs, the first two marches were arranged accordingly.

Bennettsville General Blair moved to Bennettsville and used the mills in that vicinity, while Gen. Logan encamped his command some four or five miles from the river, using Easterling's, Gardnem's and several other mills in that neighborhood.

10 miles.

Another terrible accident occurred at Cheyan similar to that at Columbia. It was a premature explosion at that place where a large quantity of powder and shell had been collected for the purpose of being destroyed.

Gen. Wood's Infantry was resting near by at the time, and a number of teams waiting to cross the river. The explosion was very loud and shook the ground for miles.

One officer and three men killed, and several men wounded, many quite severely. The teams were stampeded, and several teamsters were badly injured.

7th.

Tuesday March 7th, 1865.

The next march was without special incident. The 17th
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST
GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK.

April 1865

General Meade, April 1865. I was instructed by Gen.
Meade to make several remarks in order to give the field
the feel present. General Meade, and as some of the
affair were some afternoon, the first two marches were

strictly confidential.

Penecottville General Meade's two march to Benetictiville, and near the
will be the activity. Gen. Dongan succeeded the com-
will be some two of the miles from the river, within twenty-

I have seen the general order will be in the

Estimating Washington,

To Major,

Another remark seems to concern as General Meade
in the same expedition of that

please make a large quantity of powder and shell and given
coffee, and for the benefit of the officers.

Gen. Meade's infantry was extending near by at this time.

any number of times, willing to cross the river.

expedition were very long and took the enemy for miles.

one officer and taken men killed, and several men

wounded many times severely. The losses were enormous.

and several Perimeter were partly interrupted. The Taps

The next march was without special incident. The Taps
moved toward Fayetteville to Beaver Dam Creek. The 15th
March 7th. Corps, one column to Brightsville, and the other to a point
Beaver Dam
Creek (where the direct road intersects Crooked Creek.
Brightsville 6 miles
March 8th. Two columns of the 15th Corps united at
Laurel Hill, Laurel Hill, sending forward mounted men to secure and hold
Stewartville
Stewartsville. The Bridge, if possible.

The 17th Corps moved to Stewartville, pushed one
Division across the Lumber River at Campbell's Bridge.
During the march of to-day we crossed the line from South
into North Carolina. We found plenty of forage and there
seemed to be an improvement in the way of churches and
schoolhouses.

General Sherman's Headquarters, Gen. Logan's and mine
were near the Laurel Hill church. The building is large,
commodious, and in good repair, notwithstanding the evident
scarcity of population in this section of the country.

At this point, I despatched two scouts to Wilmington,
Sergeant Amick, 15th Ill. cavalry and private Quimby 32nd
Wisconsin Infantry. Gen. Sherman sent despatches by them.

The Sergeant was directed to cross the river at Camp-
bell's Bridge and proceed as directly as possible to Wil-
lington, avoiding Lumberton, and Elizabethtown. He travel-
led night and day, succeeded in deceiving parties of the
enemy that he met, and accomplished his journey in forty-eight
hours.
General Brevard, Headquarters, Gen. Logan's and mine

were near the Laurel Hill gap. The Crittenden's and
commanders', and in good order. The Lunenburg and the

General Braddock's power in the center of the country.

At the point I expect to receive two columns, and brigade commanders.

The service was accepted to stop the line of camp.

Put's bridge and proposed as station as possible to Mil-

Mobile, saving important and effective. He is.

The night was still, and successfully placed in to-day's fight.

Put's
I commend him and his comrade for the successful accomplishment of this important mission. It rained hard during the day, and increased as we were going into camp at night. After the leading division in each column had passed over the road, it became almost impassible, in fact quite so, till miles of the road had been corduroyd.

March 9th. Excepting the three days at Lynches Creek this and the day following, were two of the most tedious of the campaign. The rain continued and the roads grew worse and worse. The soil seemed to be sandy, and the roads would have answered for light wagons, but after a few wagons had passed over, the whole bottom seemed to give out and in places if wagons left the roadway they sank to the wagon body in the quicksand, and what was particularly discouraging our corduroy of rails or poles would itself sink down, and necessitate a reconstruction. General Logan marched the 15th Corps from Laurel Hill to Gilchrist's Bridge by two routes. The wagon bridge being destroyed a pontoon was laid at that point. The entire Corps crossed that bridge, but separated into columns, one Gen. Hazen leading, took the direct Fayetteville road, and the other, Gen. John E. Smith's Division took the road via Randallsville. Gen. Blair moved from Campbell's bridge by the right hand road with two divisions, and sent by the direct road his other
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST,
GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK.

I come now to the most serious aspect of the situation. The importance of the operation lies in the fact that the city, with its natural defenses, will become a prey to the enemy after a few weeks. The city will then be an easy target for the enemy, who will then be able to advance into the city and capture it. After the successful execution of this plan, the city will be a prey to the enemy, and the enemy will then be able to advance into the city and capture it.

From the above, it is clear that the city must be defended at all costs. The city must be defended by a strong force, which will be able to repel the enemy. The force must be strong enough to hold the city, and it must be able to hold the city for a long time.

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The city must be defended by a strong force, which will be able to repel the enemy. The force must be strong enough to hold the city, and it must be able to hold the city for a long time.
division under Gen. Giles A. Smith. His two columns halted near Raft's Swamp.

Every column encountered similar difficulty in the way of roads. The left column Gen. Hazen's being, it may be, a little worse; the swamps being more continuous.

Gen. Giles A. Smith was obliged to halt his train for the night in the road, because the soil was so porous and treacherous.

Randallsville I encamped near Randallsville.
14 miles.
Mch.10th
Dan's
Bridge
14 miles.

The next day, March 10th, I moved out early and joined Gen. Giles A. Smith and accompanied him to the crossing of Rockfish Bridge or Dan's Bridge. Gen. Blair had simultaneously reached the plank road bridge three miles below. Dan's Bridge had been set on fire, but the fire had been extinguished by the heavy rain so that in a few hours the damage done was repaired. The plank road bridge was destroyed and had to be rebuilt.

Gen. Logan's two columns were repairing roads and closing up all day. The heads of columns were between eleven and twelve miles back from Dan's Bridge. Capt. Duncan with the scouts went ahead rapidly toward Fayetteville and succeeded in securing the bridge over Little Rock Fish from being destroyed by the rebel cavalry.
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST,
GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK.

Every column contains partial fillers throughout the text. The text contains.

- A slight error in the first line of the text.
- Some words appear to be missing or incorrect.

The text continues with more lines of text, each containing fillers as described.

Presumably, the document is a draft or a preliminary version, given the presence of fillers and errors.

Regarding the map, the bridge is labeled with the following details:

- 1 mile
- 2 miles
- Map, York, Bridge

Further details regarding the bridge and its vicinity are not clearly visible due to the quality of the image.
Fayetteville Early the next morning Mah. 11th I directed him to take 13 miles all available mounted men at my headquarters and scouts toward Fayetteville. He encountered the enemy's pickets just outside the town, which he drove before him easily, but on entering the town he met a large force of the enemy's cavalry. The scouts were driven back and Capt. Duncan captured. He afterwards escaped and reports that he was stripped of everything valuable and in the presence of Hampton and Butler.

Gen. Giles A. Smith upon reaching Little Rock Fish Creek sent forward his escort and a company of mounted foragers. They moved up to the assistance of scouts and got possession of Arsenal Hill, and undertook to save the bridge across the Cape Fear. While they were trying this, Gen. Smith's leading Brigade, Brig-Gen. B. F. Potts commanding, entered the town. The enemy's cavalry withdrew for the most part across the bridge. He however, placed in position a section of a battery and opened fire upon our skirmish lines, the shot passing through the houses of Fayetteville.

The 14th Corps entered the City from the Northwest, nearly simultaneous with Gen. Smith. The mayor made a formal surrender of the City to Lieut-Col. W. S Strong of my staff. The bridge could not be saved owing to the complete preparation for its destruction. We found several
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST,
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13 miles. All satisfactorily. We encountered the enemy's pickets
just outside the town, which we gave prompt attention to. The enemy
was encountered on our way to a large body of the enemy's
concentration. The enemy were driven back and retired. I then proceeded
removal of everything valuable and in the presence of

Captain and Major.

O.K. All right. A. Enemy now receding little from the Creek.

Your forecast is correct and a company of Mounted Rifles
soon reached it and moved to save the bridge. The bridge
is now in our possession and movement to save the bridge.

The enemy's cavalry activity in the rear part of the town. The enemy's cavalry activities in the rear part of the town.

The rear barriers to the forward advance of the Northwestern
force in the rear of the city. The rear barrier was a

myself. The bridge would not be saved owing to the

considering evacuation for the garrison. We have several
of our men lying dead in the streets.

Capt. Duncan reports to me that one of the men was badly wounded and endeavoring to walk away without arms, when the chivalrous Lieut.-Gen. Hampton rode after him, and hacked him down with his own sabre, thus adding another to his boastful victims.

As soon as I saw Maj.-Gen. Slocomb, I withdrew from the city and encamped outside.

Gen. Blair's column was near the town. Gen. Logan's about five miles to the rear.

March.
Cape Fear.

The enemy made very slight resistance to our crossing the Cape Fear. Capt. C. B. Reese, the chief engineer, selected a place for the pontoon about a mile below Fayetteville, and opposite Cade's Plantation.

The banks of the river are very high and exceedingly abrupt. After the bridge was laid, the water subsided five or six feet so that it was with the greatest difficulty that wagons could be gotten over. A small force of infantry, a Brigade of the 17th Corps, was sent across and made a bridgehead near Cade's Plantation.

My headquarters moved across to the vicinity of Cade's house during Monday, March 13th.

March 13th

The 13th and 14th were spent in crossing the command and in distributing what few supplies reached us from Wilmington by steamers.
or our new J Turk, G. The storkes.

Cape. Phosphorus. 200 feet. First of the new year.

buhl's monograph is unnecessary to the way without same.

work the opposition fleet.Keep. The forty four shot. My

and suggest the new with the one before. Stop and another

to the possible activity.

As soon as I saw net-Gel. E. O. I. Without from the

only any accident occur. 2.

Gen. Hill's column was near the down. Gen. Toogood's

went five times to the east.

The enemy were vary after operations to do occurring.

The Cape Guest, Gen. C. H. Halsey's after a change.

Sedgwick's a take is the front court a wide river.

wille, and obnoxious Gen. C. Halsey's line.

The peace of the view are very plain and exigent.

pressed. After the bridge was torn, the sea at embarking

five or six feet of deep if we with the greatest difficulty

that menace some pe composer over. A small force of

Gen. C. H. Halsey's a projected near Gen. C. Halsey's

The president was where the activity of Gen. C. H.

Governor Island, New York.

Headquarters Department of the East.

With sentiments of esteem.
The very day we arrived at Fayetteville, we heard the whistle of one of our steam tugs on the river. The steamer had started immediately from Wilmington upon the arrival of Sergeant Amick with his dispatches.

Some of Gen. Blair's men had captured a small steamer a few miles below the city, loaded with forage and cotton. The next day a gun boat arrived from below, and soon after other steamers, bringing us a little sugar and coffee, a few shoes and quite a quantity of oats.

March 16th. I remained at Cades Plantation until Thursday morning 16th March. While here the entire army was relieved of from the large number of refugees, white and black, that had joined us at Columbia, and during the march.

We sent down as many as we could by the steamers above mentioned. The rest by special direction from your headquarters were carefully organized with a guard of men going out of service, and army wagons sufficient to carry food, the little children and the sick.

It was a singular spectacle, – that immense column of every color, and every possible description that drew out of camp on Wednesday the 15th of March, and set out for Wilmington via Clinton. There were four thousand five hundred (4500) mostly negroes from my wing alone.

Since General Johnson had been gradually massing all
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST,
GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK.

The vast area of the Eastern United States, from the
Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico, has been
settled by English colonists since the 17th century.
The first permanent settlement was established in
1620 at Jamestown, Virginia. The colonists
faced many challenges, including harsh weather,
average, and disease. However, they persevered
and established a new nation.

Some of the early settlements, such as Plymouth
and Jamestown, were established by religious
groups seeking religious freedom. The Puritans
in Massachusetts and the Pilgrims in
Massachusetts Bay Colony were among the
first to settle in the region. These settlements
provided a foundation for future growth and
development.

The early settlers faced many difficulties, such as
the harsh climate, lack of resources, and Indian
hostility. Nevertheless, they persevered and
established a new nation.

I remember visiting Plymouth
Massachusetts, and

The town was founded in 1620 by
English Pilgrims seeking religious
freedom. The Pilgrims established
the first successful colony in
North America, and

The town was established in 1620 by
the Pilgrims seeking religious
freedom. It was the first
success story of

The town was established in 1620 by
the Pilgrims seeking religious
freedom. It was the first
success story of

(4200) more people live in this

Since General Johnson had been stationed

...
the troops that he could gather from Hood, from Hardee, and from Breck, it was thought by the General-in-Chief that he might feel himself strong enough to take the offensive, particularly if he could isolate one of our Corps. Therefore we departed from the usual method of marching, which left each Corps to protect its own wagon train.

Major General Slocum organized four divisions light, i.e., with wagons only sufficient to fight a battle, and sent the general wagon train under convoy of his other two divisions. I did the same in my command.

Gen. Slocum's left column was divided via Kyle's landing and Bentonville - his wagon train on the direct Goldsboro road.

My disencumbered divisions which were the four of Gen. Logan's Corps, took the road next south while Gen. Blair with the pontoon train and surplus headquarter wagons pursued the route via Owensville. Gen. Logan's head of Meh. 15th column, Gen. Corse leading, reached the South River on South River. Wednesday the 15th. He found the enemy's cavalry occupying a strong position on the other bank.

Gen. Corse forced a crossing of the river after quite a severe skirmish, drove back the enemy and opened the road.

Gen. Blair sent forward the 9th Ill. mounted infantry.
HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST
GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK

...
and drove back the enemy from his bridge. He reported one officer killed and one wounded in the skirmish.

Mch 16. On Thursday morning, accompanied by Gen. Logan, I left camp at 3 a.m. and reached Gen. Corse’s head of column just as he was crossing the South River. The disencumbered column took the first practical left hand road to the north. Just before marching in that direction, Gen. Corse encountered the enemy’s cavalry supporting a few pieces of artillery. Quite a severe skirmish grew out of this. The General, however, drove the enemy across the Little Cohera and then pursued his march as he had intended. The road became very bad, even for our light team, yet we succeeded in reaching the Goldsboro road above and went 22 miles. into camp. Gen. Slocum’s wagon train closed up to the same point.

Gen. Blair reached Owensville with his head of column. The supply wagons of the 15th Corps with a small guard of one brigade closed up to the crossing of the South River. aiming for Beeman’s Cross Road.

At night, we learned that Gen. Slocum had met the enemy under Hardee near Avery’sboro Road and quite a battle ensued, in which the enemy was driven from one line of works and quite a number of prisoners captured.

17th. March 17th, being yet uncertain as to the results
HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST.
GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK.

Map No. 10.

On Thursday morning, succeeded by Gen. Logan, I left camp at 8 a.m. and reached Gen. Corse's head of column, that as far as the crossing of the South River. The Gen. Corse's column took the First position. Left rear back to the rear.

Just before reaching the left flanking Gen. Corse column, cross the enemy's cavalry, supporting a few pieces of artillery. The Gen. Corse's column is to the left of the battle. The Gen. Corse's column is to the right of the battle. The Gen. Corse's column is to the rear of the battle.


Gen. McClellan's command with the two at column.

The enemy's wagon of the IIId Corps with a small band of music, passed us as we arrived at the crossing of the South River.

A small force of cavalry with Gen. Corse. Head of the column.

we have many details that we have not time to write. We have many details that we have not time to write.
of the engagement of the day before, I moved forward toward Bentonville but six miles. Gen. Logan’s command went into camp at Jackson’s Cross Roads, and Gen. Blair reached Beeman’s Cross Roads.

My command was then upon the Avery’sboro road so that I could march thither if necessary, but the enemy retreated from Slocum’s front during the night and Slocum renewed his march toward Bentonville.

March 13th

Benton
12 miles
Troublefield

The next day, the 13th, Gen. Logan marched toward Bentonville and encamped near Alex Benton’s about eleven miles south of Bentonville proper. Gen. Blair was not far from Troublefield store.

Slocum (left wing)

Gen. Blair at this time was abreast of me some five or six miles to the north. We had met with very little resistance from the enemy driving his cavalry before us as usual. The march was resumed early in the morning of the 19th. I pursued what is called the new road which runs via Falling Creek Church to Goldsboro. Gen. Sherman joined us again during the day. Gen. John E. Smith’s division led Gen. Logan’s column, the road at first appeared to be fair, but the ammunition wagons of the leading division rendered it almost impassable. On arriving at Falling Creek Church, the General-in-Chief sent me word that my column was very much straggled owing to the bad roads, the leading
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST,
GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK.

The enemy was found in strong positions along the river bank.

I passed a few miles west of Gen. Pemberton's headquarters and
saw a few pieces of artillery, Gen. Pemberton's headquarters
being about a mile to the west.

I met Gen. Pemberton at the river bank and observed the enemy
position along the river.

The enemy was found in strong positions.

I passed a few miles south of Gen. Pemberton's headquarters
and observed the enemy position along the river.

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position along the river.

The enemy was found in strong positions.

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and observed the enemy position along the river.

I met Gen. Pemberton at the river bank and observed the enemy
position along the river.

The enemy was found in strong positions.
brigade consisting of three regiments under Col. Weaver with a few wagons reaching that point by twelve o'clock.

The next brigade was detained at the Falling Creek three miles back to repair the ford which had become impassable.

I heard heavy firing in the direction and sent Major Osborn, my Chief of Artillery, to go back to the rear Division, Genl. Hazen's and direct him to the assistance of Genl. Slocum in case of need and also to see Genl. Slocum and explain the situation of things and to call for force if he needed it from the rear of Genl. Logan's column.

Major Osborn met the General-in-Chief en route, the General had just received a message from Genl. Slocum, and that he had sent only a Division of Cavalry in his front and was driving them. As soon as I received the message, I directed Col. Weaver's Regiment, 10th Iowa Infantry as rapidly as possible to the Cross Roads near Cox's Bridge. He encountered a few hundred rebel cavalry barricaded at that point, drove them back across the river and secured the cross-roads.

We very much feared that Genl. Slocum was having a severe battle, by the continuous sound of the artillery firing, but it was sunset before Genl. Logan had been able to bring up any considerable force. He placed in position two divisions near the point secured by Lt. Col. Strong.

We at first understood that Genl. Slocum had secured the last road to Smithfield. That being the case the only line of retreat for Johnston was via Cox's Bridge.

In accordance with Genl. Sherman's instructions I directed Genl. Blair who had moved beyond that Wilmington road, which crosses Cox's Bridge, to turn back and move to our position during the night.

We learned by several messengers that Genl. Slocum had repulsed several assaults of the enemy and was in a position that he could hold until the Right Wing should arrive. Genl. Logan sent Hazen's Division by the most direct route to Genl. Slocum's position. This Division reached him by daylight of the 20th. Genl. Logan sent a force to make the enemy destroy Cox's Bridge and commenced his march. Genl. Wood's Division leading toward Bentonville by the river road. Genl. Blair closed up so that I had a continuous column. We very soon encountered the enemy's cavalry that resisted as stubbornly as cavalry is able to do. This was not however any check to the march since the skirmishers kept the way clear.
We came upon the enemy's infantry between ten and eleven A.M. We had a position at the forks where the right hand road leads to Bentonville and the straight forward road to Averasboro. Benton Col. Stone's Brigade of Genl. Wood's Division had a brisk skirmish at this point but quickly dislodged the enemy from this position. 14 miles. We were to the rear and left of Johnston's position while fighting Slocum the day before, but being appraised of our coming he had thrown back his left flank so as to form a bridge-head with Mill Creek in his rear. In this place he was carefully entrenched. As soon as possible Genl. Logan put his command in position forming a junction with Genl. Hazen's who was on the right of the Left Wing, three divisions in front and one in reserve.

Genl. Blair took post on his right and watched his right flank.

During the 19th and Lieut. Sheffey, Signal Officer, Capt. Gilbreth of my staff, and Capt. Hazard of Genl. Logan's with the scouts and what other mounted men they could gather, made a reconnaissance towards Goldsboro hoping to meet Genl. Schofield's troops in the town. They found however the enemy in entrenchments to the southwest of the Neuse, covering the wagon and railroad bridges.

After skirmishing the enemy abandoned these positions and destroyed the bridges by fire. Four or five prisoners were taken and two or three wounded.

**Mar. 21.**

Tuesday March 21st 1865, Skirmishing more or less continued during the whole night. Early in the morning Genl. Blair extended his line toward the right, placing in position his three divisions, Genl. Mower's on the right.

Genl. Logan's line was relocated and thoroughly fortified, artillery being placed in position on Genl. Wood's and Genl. Corse's front.

At about midday Genl. Mower worked his way across the swamps in his front and suddenly appeared with two brigades upon the enemy's left flank. His skirmishers were within musketry range of Johnston's only line of retreat. Mower however being further from support than he intended and finding the enemy massing his troops against him in such force as almost to envelope his command removed to his own left and rear until the connection with his corps was reestablished.
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST,

GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK

A notice has just been received that a large number of yachts and craft have
arrived at the west shore of Long Island and are now making for the
harbors of the East River and the Sound. The weather is fine and the
yachtsmen are in high spirits. It is expected that they will arrive in
numbers to take part in the regatta to be held on the 15th of this month.

The regatta is to be held in celebration of the bicentennial of the
United States. The event will attract a great deal of attention and is
expected to be a success.

Arrangements are being made for the regatta, and all interested are
urged to attend. The prizes will be丰厚. The event is open to all
yachtsmen and will be a great opportunity for friendly competition.

The regatta will begin at 10:00 AM on the 15th, and all interested
are requested to be present. The course will be around the Harbor,
and the races will be held in a clockwise direction.

The weather forecast for the day is excellent, and it is expected
that the races will be a success. The course is laid out to provide
maximum challenge and enjoyment for all participants.

The regatta is an opportunity to celebrate the bicentennial of the
United States and enjoy friendly competition on the water. All
interested are urged to attend.
The moment I heard of Mower's position, I directed Genl. Blair to support him, and Genl. Logan to push forward his skirmish line and the moment he detected the enemy giving way, to take advantage of it. I immediately went to Genl. Wood's front. The enemy's skirmish rifle pits were taken in front of Genl. Woods and Corse.

These the enemy pertinaciously strove to regain, but failed in every instance. The lines at points were not more than forty or fifty yards apart. As the enemy used very little artillery, and none whatever in our direct front, during the day, I concluded that he would withdraw during the night, and therefore directed my Chief of Artillery, Major Osborn, to keep up an artillery fire all night. This was done.

Genl. Mower's loss during his charge was reported as one hundred and sixty six, killed, wounded and missing. He captured a caisson with its horses, and some forty or fifty Cavalry horses, with their saddles and bridles complete.

At day-light of March 22nd., we found the enemy gone, pursued him a mile beyond Mill Creek, skirmishing with his rear guard, and then made preparations to continue the march.

The entire loss at Bentonville, killed, wounded and missing is as follows:

15th. Corps. One hundred and eighty nine, (189.)
17th. Corps. Two hundred and ten, (210)
Total loss 399.

We reached Goldsboro by two easy marches. The 17th. Corps crossed the Neuse on a pontoon bridge on the direct road. The 15th. on another laid below the railroad bridge. The command went into camp, the 15th. Corps on the right, and the 17th. on the left, to the east and south of the town. We met General Schofield and his command here.

Next day after our arrival, Saturday, March 25th., our wagons returned from Kinston with five days rations. As the Corps passed before the General-in-Chief, the men presented a strong, hearty appearance, but they were actually in rags, and all, cut shoeless. But in less than ten days they were refitted with everything a soldier needs.

It is only necessary to mention by name my Division and Corps Commanders, the work they have accomplished speaks for itself. The service can not furnish better military men.
Major-General John A. Logan has ably commanded the 15th Corps, consisting of four Divisions as follows:

1st. Division, Brevet Major General C.R. Woods,
2nd. Division, Major General W.R. Hazen,
3rd. Division, Brevet Major General John E. Smith,
4th. Division, Brevet Major General John M. Corse.

The 17th Corps has been ably commanded by Major General F.P. Blair. His Divisions were:

1st. Division, Major General Joseph A. Mower,
3rd. Division, Brig- General M.P. Force,
4th. Division, Brevet Major General Giles A. Smith.

Brevet Major General M.D. Leggett conducted the operations of the 3rd Division, till after taking Poctotaligo, when severe illness forced him to leave the field.

I will now mention the several members of my staff, who have so cheerfully rendered me every assistance as to merit substantial reward.

Colonel James Wilson, Provost Marshall General,
Colonel J.T. Conklin, Chief Quartermaster,
Lieut-Col. Wm. E. Strong, Asst. Inspector General,
Lieut-Col. D. Kentuck, Chief Commissary,
Major T.W. Osborn, Chief of Artillery,
Major E. Whittlesey, Judge Advocate and Commandant of camp.
Capt. C.B. Reese, Chief Engineer,
Capt. D.H. Buel, Chief Ordnance Officer,
Capt. P.W. Gilbreth, Aide-de-camp,
Capt. P.A. Taylor, Chief Signal Officer,
Capt. A.M. Van Dyke, Asst. Adjutant General,
1st. Lieut. J.P. Sampson, Signal Corps, U.S.A.
1st. Lieut. Wm. N. Taylor, 1st. Ill. Light Arty, A.A. D.C.,
1st. Lieut. Amos Stickney, Engineer Corps, U.S.A.,
Lieut. Joseph A. Sladen, Acting Asst. Adjutant General,
Asst. Surg. D.C. Huntington, U.S.A. Asst. Medical Director,
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST,
GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK.

The following orders were issued by the Adjutant General, late head of the War Department, and the present Secretary of War has continued the operations on the

HEAD OF DIVISION
1st Division, Maj. Gen. C. W. Hooper, N.Y.
2nd Division, Maj. Gen. M. N. Tome, N.Y.
3rd Division, Maj. Gen. T. G. Smith, N.Y.
4th Division, Maj. Gen. G. H. McFarland, N.Y.

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How to issue the

HEAD OF DIVISION
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2nd Division, Maj. Gen. M. N. Tome, N.Y.
3rd Division, Maj. Gen. T. G. Smith, N.Y.
4th Division, Maj. Gen. G. H. McFarland, N.Y.

I do not wish to mention the necessity of my application to

C. S. A. A. M. A. W. T. C. C. A. M. A. W. T. C. C. A.
C. S. A. A. M. A. W. T. C. C. A. M. A. W. T. C. C. A.
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C. S. A. A. M. A. W. T. C. C. A. M. A. W. T. C. C. A.
I feel deeply grateful to every member of my staff mentioned above, and shall make in their behalf special recommendations to the War Department and to the state authorities for their advancement.

Lieut-Colonel Howard, my senior aide, was for the first time during active work necessarily separated from me in Savannah and unable to resume his place during the campaigning as communication was severed on his arrival at Beaufort.

Capt. Samuel L. Taggart has conducted the business at Beaufort, S. C. to my entire satisfaction.

I cannot close this report without specially commending the commissary department of the army. Lieut-Colonel Remick, chief commissary, and his assistants, the division commissaries have been indefatigable in securing a proper distribution of what has been taken from the country, and running mills night and day whenever it was possible, in order to furnish the command with meal and flour.

The nature of the country has been particularly unfavorable for signaling, as it was flat, swampy, and very woody, for the most part. The signal officers, however, have rendered me no little assistance in the collection of supplies, making special reconnaissance and cheerfully doing
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST,

GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK.

I feel peculiarly prepossessed to speak warmly of my service

worthy service and splendid work in their part.

recommendations to the War Department and to the State authority.

free for rapid advancement.

That Colonel Howard, in support of the, was for the first

fine fortune solving work necessary, especially when we in

Secretary and myself to resume the place among the important

as communications war councils on the subject of

Capt. Samuels. It is necessary for continuing the business of

Pensions E. C. to my entire satisfaction.

I cannot close this report without especially commending

the commission department of this city. That Colonel Remick

after commending, and for suggesting the division; the

secretaries have been indefatigable in securing a proper effect

portion of which and been keen from the county, and remaining

with the right and can whenever it was possible in order to

for the commission with my best and heartiest

The welfare of the county has been particularly

speaking of farming as it has never been, and very much

for the worst part. The agents of this division, however, have

unrelied on for little assistance in the collection of

supplies, making special recommendations and operating with
Lieutenant McQueen was designated as my chief of scouts. He is universally beloved and it filled us all with extreme regret to be obliged on account of his wounds, to leave him behind.

The services of Capt. Duncan of the 15th, Ill Cavalry in the way of reconnoiterring and scouting have been invaluable to me.

Capt. J. L. King commanding my escort company was always ready for any enterprise. Capt. E. M. Carpenter, 16th Penn. Cavalry, escaping from prison, and joining my staff at Columbia, rendered me great assistance on the march to Fayetteville, where the way was open to join his own command.

I mentioned the cordial and prompt cooperation of Admiral Dahlgren, Major-Gen. Foster and their officers in the body of my report. I render my thanks to them.

Brevet Major-General Saxton and his officers gave us a hearty welcome to Beaufort and rendered us every assistance in the way of supplies, camps and quarters.

While I entertain great admiration for the officers, and men to whom we owe so much, I cannot fail to recognize and acknowledge the hand of God in all our success.
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST,
GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK

I have the honor to report that the material and supplies
in my charge are in good condition and ready for
immediate use.

The services of Capt. Dennis of the 11th III Cavalry
in the way of recognition and courtesy have been
invaluable to me.

Capt. G. T. King commanding 1st Cavalry Co.

I have the honor to report that the material and supplies
in my charge are in good condition and ready for
immediate use.

Ammon Daylor, Major-Gen. Foster and Chief of Staff

I have the honor to report that the material and supplies
in my charge are in good condition and ready for
immediate use.

Presidential Service and I am confident that the
material and supplies are in good condition and ready for
immediate use.

I have the honor to report that the material and supplies
in my charge are in good condition and ready for
immediate use.

I have the honor to report that the material and supplies
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immediate use.

I have the honor to report that the material and supplies
in my charge are in good condition and ready for
immediate use.

I have the honor to report that the material and supplies
in my charge are in good condition and ready for
immediate use.
and to express the conviction that He is conducting us steadily and surely through this mighty revolution.

It is by being and acting coincident with his mighty purposes that we shall finally prevail.
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST,
GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK.

and to express the appreciation that is soliciting in
affairs and army troubles the mighty volunteer.
It is for peace and safety connected with the mighty
branches first we shift military benefits.
Appendix.

Appended to this report will be found a statistical record of the amounts of captures, property destroyed and casualties. Accompanying it please notice the report of the Chief of Artillery, Chief Engineer, Medical Director, Chief of Ordnance, and that of the Provost-Marshal General.

Number of miles marched................... 463.
Average per day for whole time............. 8-19/100.
" actual marching.................. 13-23/100.

Casualties.
Killed, wounded and missing.............. 683.

Prisoners captured......................... 1,267.

Subsistence stores captured.
Breadstuffs.................................. 927,000.
Fresh beef.................................. 670,000.
Salt meats.................................. 797,500.
Sugar........................................ 1,900.
Salt......................................... 30,500.
Beans........................................ 1,400.

Total number of lbs. 2,428,300.

Forage.
Pounds of corn............................. 4,837,326.
Pounds of fodder........................... 2,785,721.

Ordnance and ordnance stores captured and destroyed.

Pieces of Artillery........................ 67.
Gun carriages and caissons................. 42.
Rifles and muskets......................... 13,929.
Cutlasses and sabers....................... 3,445.
Rounds of artillery ammunition........... 18,235.
" ammunition, small arms................ 1,230,000
Pounds of powder.......................... 79,350.
Property Captured.

Horses........................................3,049.
Mules...........................................3,766.

Property Destroyed.
Cotton (bales) about............................15,000.
Railroads (miles)...............................42.
Cars and Engines..............................25.
Car wheels.....................................300.

Refugees.

White............................................984.
Black...........................................4,202.

Total, refugees................................5,186.

Wagons and vehicles for Refugees...........349.
Horses and mules...............................738.

Bridging and Corduroying.

15th Corps.
Number of bridges laid......................31.
Yards of bridging laid.......................375.
Miles of Corduroying.........................136.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

(signed) O.O. Howard,
Major-General,
Commanding.
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST,
GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK.

Property Captured:

Horses .......................... 3,702.

Mules .......................... 8,780.

Property Delivered:

Cotton (ginned) bale........... 15,000

Kerosene (mineral)............. 1,000

Cane and Sugar.................. 88

Canister......................... 800.

Grenades:

White.................................. 88

Black................................ 49

Total, Grenades.................. 138.

We send my apologies for the above ...

[Signature]

Brig. Gen. (with endorsement)

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

W. Howard

Chief of Ordnance.