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

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Vol.6, No.1.

Taken from an old letter ppress copy book.

Subject: "The Carolina Campaign 1865.

H. S. HOWARD,

SOLE AGENT

SPELTERINE HOOF STUFFING.

WASHINGTON RED CEDAR SHINGLES.

BURKE PATENT FLEXIBLE STAMPS.

156 COLLEGE STREET.

BURLINGTON, VT.,______189___

Taken from an old letter phress copy book. Subject: "The Carolina Campaign 1865.

Vol.6, No.1.

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Headquarters Army of the Tennesee, Goldsboro, 1 th Carolina, Apr. 1, 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 Tennesee, constituting the right wing of General Sherman's army for the campaign from Savannah, Ga. to Goldsboro, N. C. իր հարարարարարարի արևարև արևարարարարարարարարարարարարարար Jan. 1. 1865 On the 1st day of January of this year, the General-inchief, 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 3. F. O. No. 1 were issued from your headquarters. I set about Jan. 2, 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

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General Hoir, commanding 17th Corp commenced moving his

General H Lir, commanding 17th Corp commenced moving his corps on the 3rd of January. By the 11th the entire 17th Army Corps, and nearly one Division of the 15th Corps, had arrived at Beaufort Island, whereupon S. F. 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 Pocatiligo 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 reconncitred, 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 attillery. 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

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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.) 0. 0. 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 fortifie d. The main part had twenty-four (24) embrasures, and the march in front of the works was impassible. 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

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. sirew and squaster of on rot hab and no east out caw it division strongly entrenaped, while he makes a soquideralde despur with the other two, to turn the posts on. I have as possible. Lieutenant Chandler, Ceneral Leggett's Dieket officer was killed this evening, and Capt. Wellogg, iging the same duty on General G. A. Smith's staff , was seriously wondered et Carden's Comer. Eight (8) or ten (10) vill rober ouver the easualties of the day. (Signed.) O. O. Howard, .Latened-retaki The ender und not continue long enough to necessitate the contemplated attack. He kept up a heavy artiflery fire . till derk. At day-break we found he dad abandoned his work and netreated. I felt obliged to him for his ocition was a Bard one to carry, being thoroughly fort fred. The main william to account position . Sicion Stranger and to invita to Pocotaligo. He reconnoitred toward Salkehatchie, opened communication with General Foster's troops at Coosawatchie, felt forward toward Robertsville, hoping to communicate with General Slocum and back along the Union cause way 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 impassible, 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 Port
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

crossing of the Combanes. I contitled to state in confidention with the foregoing operation that the mour dustroyed three arbitralist and a desired and read on fifty or sixty foot in langth, and partially destroy - Course and Touch Cardon's Comor and Touchesten. They were quickly repaired by many simplement buildings. The first stage in the operations congress and large and al again interplanted, but from the utilized by getting tuppines through to do the continuents of more and the transport to the transport in the transport of that followed several ways of heavy rain, considerable delay -retail that reserver but to sing renje ht benetagood saw bitara to car lo accord on division of boundance depot faranco or released to all the 17th of Jensery, when he was unfounded Large what saight be left at Savannah by the Union Causeway. A portion of one division, General dobn E. Smith's succeeded in getting through by that route. The water soon flouded the road and it became perfectly impassible, therefore, the 3. C. Lill he had ferried over everything except his 4th Division under Ceneral Corse.

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 Jan. 30th8th, were issued, and the movements of the 29th and 30th Pocotaligo fo llowed. General Logan encamped near McPhersonville; 6 Miles General Blair abreast of him on the river road, reconnoitreing to Tenont's Branch.

A Division of General Foster's under General Hatch occupied the position near Pocotaligo and reconnoitred toward Jan. 31 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. Istthe 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 camp and skirmished all day. Whippy Swamp Creek was reached Swamp Miles

pluode Winnitocco as as soon as an oliver molionul a mol of .Tello read parters my Special Field Orders No. 25, dated January Joh. 30 28th, were insued, and the movements of the 29th and 30th ocotal 18 Dillowed. General Logan encamped near Mothersconville; in 1 2 3 3 4 6 Miles teneral Blair abreast of him on the river road, recommend ing to Tenont's Branch. A Division of Ceneral Poster's under Coneral Hagen occupied the position near Focotatico and reconnottred toward the Salkehatehie. bridge. The command remained substantially in the same position during the Sist of Januar , Stoupling that one Division of the 17th Corpt under Brig-General Corse, made a demonstration of crossing the Salkohatchie in the direction of our right rear. He effected this by odding wood, building fires, displaying a large skirnish line, the besting of drums, etc. The energy opposed a considerable force of infentry and artillery.

and Fort Royal Perry, wa

Special Field Orders No. 19. from your headquarters, sampling

about 1 P.M. Genl. Blair found the road abstructed 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 severe ly wounded in the skirmish at the creek.

The enemy's force was estimated at six hyndred (600) cavalry that took the direction of Whippy's 3wamp P.O., and some forty (\$0) 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 continously for five or six miles. Our men make short work of clearing these obstacles; going st it joyously, and declaring they can remove them quicker than the rebels can make them.

The next day <u>Genl.Blair</u> crossed one of his remaining

Divisions over Whippy Swamp, and sent the others (<u>Genl Force's</u>)

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 reconnaisance in force, developed a long skirmish line, a battery of artillery and brastworks. The bridge over the Salkehatchie at this point was a continous 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 descharge 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 severa L gallant charges against the enemy's cavalry, in one of which Lie= utant-Colonel Kirby of Genl. Blair's staff was wounded.

Feb. 2nd.
Wh ippy's Sw.
to Rivers'
Bridge.

14 miles.

is's woll (notelvic one box from al beyonebroo were one able asido of of enouge bevom Diout. Sm. M. Taylor, Asst. to My Children - to feet M. mm. Jue id same of J. deamxine off hi hoberon vi 1 00) I three se bedemides see some at whome off that took the direction of whitey's dwamp 7:0., and some fort (62) or fifty (50) more that defended the erone (50, v3717 to (62) .Jnort Barks EH Genl. Logan also met the enemy's dawling and cleared asset bollin new hear sid sinter it andisourised older bismoo troug continounty for five or six miles. Cur men make chort work of clearing these obstanics; going st it joyousky, and declaring they can remove them quieser than the rebels can make them. The next day wend. Blair orosed one of his remaining divisions over whippy Swamp, and sent the others (went Force). . so erossing 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 reconnecting Clina to gradian a anil deimite anol a begoloveb.coro; al Blad to midsted mile ont rovo exhirt off . Shrowteard bas was a continous one and thoroughly destroyed. Desting a regiment at this point to make a Division, Mower owning or IN to bir of a Bridge, five miles above, hindored the nome from by presence the recitable of bondost ear Jud . it privorse b muck the and artillery, bearing on the narrow was abuse and all from behind constructed on a bluff that men enough migner than the causeway to make the fire of

Feb. 3rd.

Salker hatchie.

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 roadway's 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 entranchments—he had his rear open, and succeeded in escaping with the exception of a few prisoners, (about thirty) (200) 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 Anglesleys 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 Be 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 corduroyed 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

Anglesley P.O.

Beaufort's Bridge 4th.

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the Salkentenic with its immense swamp and summare become the Salkentenic with its immense swamp and summare become wading, while Mower confronted the works directly, and out two wading, while Mower confronted the works directly, and out two infantry rowdeny's a mile and a healf in length, so enable out turn the enemy to the north. He the officers and men work a day in the water and mud often waist deep. Just at dark two knower's bright flank beyond his entrandaments and got amon we one open, and succeeded in escaping with the exception of a prisoners, (about thirty) (3 0) reported.

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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 sanctions 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 Salkehat-Salkehatchie. As soon as we had broken this line, now abundant chie. 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 exuming 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 The 6th, both Corps moved to the Little Salkebatchie. General Logan found the enemy in some force at his crossing near Duncan-11 miles ville, but soon dislodged him and then rebuilt the bridge, 100 ft. in length. General Blair did the same at Cowpen Ford, constructing bridges to the extent of (260) two hundred and sixty ft.

Feb. 7th Bamburgh midway, 11 miles.

Little

Salkehatchie

> During the 7th, both Corps reached the Augusta and Charleston R. R., the 15th at Bamburh, and the 17th about four miles to the east of Midway. The 17th was hindered en route by a barricade felled trees and bridges, which were destroyed across Lemon Swamp.

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ditional de Antonia de La Maria de La Carte de La Car

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.

8th

The 8th was spent in destroying the R. R. The 17th Corps destroyed from the Edisto toward Bamburg, 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

Lowry's Station

9th Binnaker's Bridge 11 miles.

nade worse or a neary rain, all day, that he commerced on to serveral orders across the responsaissances were near to several bridges across the disto filelman's bridge and welver's continuence's, the see, bridge and welver's correct a verally destroyed by the among on the approach of the Correction of the destroyed from the disto toward hambarg, to a point about

And the 15th Cores from test coint on to blackville, and to distance about twenty-four miles. Hes were all curnt, and to rails for the most cart twisted.

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Intraday, Note the control of the moved of command to the vicinity of binnaker's tridge, and nead of column resentant that place about twelve noon. As soon as our troops operated the common defrom an intronound contition on the column with artillery and musketry. Control Mower, and had the advance, immediately constituted a reft and rendered as for when scoured a loducment on the other bank.

by six p. m. we had a contoor wid, over which he brown of the side store of the side of th

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idasker's bridge U miles 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 11th place.

North
Fork
Edisto,
15 miles.

On the 11th the command marched as follows: 17th Corps, followed by a Division of the 15th, direct toward Orangeburgh. 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. 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 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 12th, the 15th Corps moved to Skillings'

Poplar Springs and Skillings Bridge, Feb. 12th

Simultanious with this movement, Control Longer and sont Coneral Mason's Division to Holman's Bridge. He case to the Bis and work and appoint through busyland bus raving the more and fitten emplication registrat bemorten as many applied att. places of the story and left our front or ingliveb is orepared the erossing of the south fork of the Misto at the core ditte place. on the lite the command marched as follows : 17th Coron, followed by a Diwision of the 15th, direct toward branchon Julou omer and brawos errot addi and to enotaivib serns rando ent ուրերականականությունությունությունությունությունությունությունությունությունությունությունությունությունություն along the Holman's Bridge Road, Ceneral Porce's Division Led The right column and reacced the Orangeburge Bridge about 11 a.m. This bridge is over the Morth Fork of the disto. The whole sint me , writing what at mroate and he retorated omer and to down disto, caving several observed and bordered by wide swamps. To brown colim di in those swamps , wery many of them the eversen, wen for the most man emos sasibles and afford the grantegor scole free from visi sonie ,appoint obew of sen on fent retew yabom out to' noit are a good protection against musketry. On arriving in diget of the bridge Comeral Porce developed by bis skirming in, an his crimelal of Laura as befroque beer niem ed pulbrammos yest intranchments. after earcful reconnaismande, Canoral Blair but would only attack a vacano and to inches out berevocalb ber Januar and team men mentin hiem and atony bigit meno my bound of the enemy, Inc mounted infantry were and down to make a ... demonstration at lowe's bridge, and teneral blade moderatenom b at bound manod farenal gameous a chican to anolisage and colors and the day, and person and seems and seems

Bridge where General Logan effected a crossing at two paints, 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 hunded 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 incenduary'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 progress before its 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.

Orangeburg, 3 miles. Shows and below the pridge, using the Divisions of LajorCeneral Hagen and Prevet Maj.Cen. John S. Smith. He found the
Enemy strongly posted behind works across the river and swam
The enemy's cosition was completely turned and his retreat so
rearly out off that great numbers of his men threw away their
arms and rank. We captuted sighty erroners and about two surdred stand of arms, three of the enemy were willed and quite a
number wounded. Lengral Logan's loss was one willed and five
wounded.

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Meanwhile, Coneral Blair continued his coerations, Ceneral Ciles A. Smith coerating with his Division woon the direct will visififie win of maly foor ban ymone and dilw maideimile by a battery carefully entremeded, whilet Comeral Rords quintily in it wasme and of rave beseere world neith ows ambird aid bist suddenly sociating upon the enemy's left flank and rear. In country was so open that the enemy were able to escale, o need Blair took some ten or twelve orisoners . Ceneral (iles & Smit to or howolfol bac ymone and to malblaky jerit and basijon touch and teen man loo gioono ferenced to beed and deem of as The 17th Corps immediately set to work destroying the Loward branchville, destroying about six miles in that discount doon after entering the town of Grangeburgh a fire broke out the more story of a store-building, the incenduary and ospeced viens sew one web a ve ench need even of befurer has isla easy balw off ... nottoo als bonnud bes valeved lader the fire suread rapidly consuming the society art's and of or its or the relation and between blucost or of the berghan ows omos . andre and begran edi bedrevera bas forsaco

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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 colums, one on Caw Caw the right and the other on the left of Caw Caw Swamp, reaching 12 miles Sandy Run P.O. on the evening of the 14th. General Blair closed up to the same point during the I4th. One division, Run P.O having gone on to improve the destruction of the road toward 14 miles Fort Mott, marched toward Sandy Run P. O. by the river road, along the Congaree.

> On the evening of the I5th, 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 advan-

cen at 7 a.m. to-day, his first Division, Maj-Gen-Woods leading. He came upon the enemy's cavaly 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.

Congaree IO miles

There the enemy opened with artillery upon our advance. Creek, 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

15th

Swamp

Feb. 14

Sandy

River. The rebels who were efending the railroad bridge net it on fire at their approach. Meanwhile, Cen. Logan marched in two columns, one on law Caw the right and the other on the left of Caw Caw Swamp, reaching IR the Sandy Ram F.O. on the evening of the 16th. General Blazz ablablate of the best of the b closed up to the same point during the 14th. One division, our P.O having gone on to improve the destruction of the road toward Fort Mott, marched toward Sandy Rum P. O. by the river road, along the Congares. On the evening of the 15th, I wrote to the deneral-in-Chief as follows: Mear Congaree Creek, S. C. Pobroary 15th, 1805. Major-General W. T. Shensen, Commanding Mil. Div. of the Miss., General:-General Logan advanced at 7 a.m. to-day, his first Diwision, Maj-Gen-Woods leading. He came upon the energ's cavaly a short distance from cand, and skirmished with them, (the rebels) driving them end bedeater year filly selly firm to senil installing morn

Congarce Creek.

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road, a distance of thirteen or fourteen miles from Opengolum

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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 ab ut 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) 0.0. Howard,
Major-General.

to our left, he doployed one brigade of Gen. Woody's division words a mile and a half to the left ofthe state trade and out of the move order a drugged below bed out determine odd first no the come upon the bank of the Congaros Creek, a section of DeGrase's way Jumme vom aid as Jaut Jun'l a vamene edd no beneco wreddad count on, on the flank. The rebels gave way, erosecu the bridge set it on fire, and fired on our skirmishers with artillery our Bunketry from their works on the other side. Soon the sainus r prosed the ereck as ut balf 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 burded was made passable for infantry and artillery in about ten minutes. The column commonced crossing and followed up the enemy , skirming and followed of the way. At dark, Ceneral Logan placed two Davisions in position on the bagh ground beyond the Congaree Greek. General blair noved his command to the vicinity of Taylor's will. The enemy has abandoned his front and he will repair the bridge across Congarce and be ready to cross in the morning. Casualties of to-day in Gen. Logen's Corps are six willed and eighteen wounded. Major Ferkins, picket officer of Cen. Woods, was wounded but not seriously. Buring the above operations, ten. J. E. Suith, made a diversion by threatening to cross the Congares at Bates' Ferry. The same vigor and boldness that have characterized our men during the hardships of this campaign were . Cab-od bediding nis

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(Signed) 0.0. Howard,

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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 fixed from a battery just south of Columbia, near the city, upon Gen. Hazen's sleeping camp, but no return shots were fired.

Feb. 16"

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 Columba 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.

Saluda 3 miles The General-in-Chief directed me to cross the Saluda att 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 papidly, driving the enemy across the Broad River. The attempt was to save the bridge,

Broad River

but it failed, since the bridge had been covered with resin.

deline de de la contrada del contrada del contrada de la contrada del la contrada de la contrada deligio del la contrada del la contrada deligio del la contrada del la contrada deligio delig igh and very swift. The General-in-Chief directed me to cross the Saluda Saluda att 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. E. Reese, the cat rebau abules out secres epited a words reenigne lein 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 dastance. The mounted infanting orossed the Saluda first, supported by some infantry of Con. Maxen's Division, and Jushed on papidly, arrwing use energy

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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 remaint 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 them moved forward up the east bank sweeping everything before him. Several prisoners were taken during the advance Columbia. About IO a.m. the mayor of Culumbia with a flag of truce met Col. Stone and formerly surrendered the city to him.

> The General-in-chief had directed mem to destroy certain public buildings, but to spare institutions of learning, asylums and private dwellings. I transmitted these instruc-

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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 comple tely 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 attemding to their du ty 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

charge of the City. He alreated May. Gen. Toous to pixee solt.

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properly discharge their duties. Strenuous efforts were made, however, to a est 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 staid.

The next morning dhowed very little of Culumbia except the blackened surface. Peopled with numerous chimneys and occasional house that had been spared, As if by a miricle.

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 sufferingof 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

17

oldings general officers and they were taxing every nonstatio measure to stop the fire, and prevent disorder. Nevertheless some escaped prisoners , convicts from the pentientialer. mer erei les mesmurb bus "erewolle's vans" nege meserd Jang through house after house and were doubtless guilty of ailconverg I jady dem egeds saw ji bas , seinalliv to readen set new fires farther and farther to the windward in the me arbitelastackatarlastackatarbateckatarbateckatarbateckatarbateckatarbatecka cart of the city. Old men, women and children with everything they could get out were huddled together in the streets. At non philostore eralbler beirsed bald bas erapilio based ow sepsion Camilles from the insults and roughness of the oareless. Meanwhile the flames made fearful ravages, and magnifered residences and churches were consumed in a wery few minutes. o tree seemisud ent lie , with out to sprint-owt tuods retia town; including the old state-nouse had been completely desbiste new orll ond bne twee end of befilms bniw end beyond and Joseph eldmulub lo effill wrow boword printed ixon on! olackened nurface. Peopled with numerous chimneys and conours that had been spared, as if by a miricle. I believe that the rebels who blow up the depot sent test I the dotton ever the city and set fire to it, and took no recommend to ercoaution to prevent the destruction of columnia, are accordible for the sufferinged the cost of addisons

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origade and afterwards Cen. Hazen stall another.

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Feb. 19

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 shop, 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 railtoad 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, Hen. Blair was at work on the railroads northward.

20th

Muddy Springs

21st Winns boro Harrison S Cross

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. 19 miles 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 Winnsbord, 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.

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tty of Columnia and were engaged in destroyfor the needing the initiance, much and the railroad dauct, the armenals, machine shop, armory, with a large quantity of whoh hery, a condent that had everything in run ing order, three large store when dor amounttion and ordnance stores, &c.

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST.

GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK.

Feb. 22. The next day the I5th Corps moved in two columns to Pray's Ferry
II miles. the vicinity of Pray'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 I p.m.

Our crossing at that point did not seem to be anticipated. 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 Thursday, the 23rd of Feb. the 15th Corks reached Flat Flat Rock Liberty Hill 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 My headquarters with one brigade for guard, tokk an Cross
Road intermediate position near Patterson's Cross Roads.

12 miles

Before General Blair completed his crossing of the Wateree a heavy rain commenced and continued all the following 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

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Feb. 24

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

Meanwhile, Gen. Logan had moved the 15th Corps in three columns, one via McDowell's Mill, to a pount between Williams' Williams' and West's Cross Roads, and the left column by an and West Cross upper road to the same point, and the right column, consist-Roads 20 miles. ing 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 Rocks was for the most part sandy, with pine forests filled with numerous roads and cross roads.

miles from Flat Rock.

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 I5th 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

Feb. 24

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South. 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

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
Bridge
and Little Lynch. The pontoon train with its guard closed up to the Lynch.

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.

Bridge across the Lynch and Gen. Logan marched xixk 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-

Huff's The 17th Corps reached Huff's Bridge over the Little Bridge and Little Lynch. The pontoon train with its guard closed up to the Lynch.

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 abouta a hundred rebel militia, partly armed and partly not.

26th. The next day, the 26th, Gen. Blair moved to Young's Bridge across the Lymch and Gen. Logan marched wikk 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.

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 impassible 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 includ ing Lieut. McQueen, very severely.

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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 approach es to the main stream, and crossed part of his command just at evening.

Gen. Logan had a fool bridge constructed from main land to main land. The pontoon was put down on the west dide; 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.

Tillersville was sondered, 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 Ist. March Ist the water had subsided so much that a roadway completely practicable was exempleted 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 HEYDONYBLEBS DEBYBLWENI OF THE EAST, extent. But owing to a want of sufficient breadth to the

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Kelleytown I accompanied two of Gen. Hazen's leading Brigades as I3 miles.

far as Kelleytown. The accident at the bridge prevented the remainder of Mazen's column from getting up. We found the country at this point very rich, furnishing plenty of provisions for horses and men.

2nd.

New Market

Rocky FordMarket, excepting Corse's division ten miles above at

14 miles.

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 encamped near Rocky Ford.

McDowell's Gen. Blair had moved forward via McDowell's to within thirteen or fourteen miles of Gheran.

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 Cheve.

March 3rd

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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 Chest. 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.

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

The pontoon was laid over the Peedee, directly opposite the town, and <u>Gen. Mower</u>'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 I2th 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

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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, Gardnen's and several other mills in that

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10 miles.

Another terrible accident occurred at Chevan 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 surpose of being destroyed.

Gen. Wood's Infantry was resting near by at the time, and a number of teams waiting to cross the iver. 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.

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GOVERNOR'S ISLAND NEW YORK

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March 7th. Corps, one column to Brightsville, and the other to a point

Creek

Brightsville
6 miles

March 8th. Two columns of the I5th Corps united at

Laurel Hill Laurel Hill, sending forward mounted men to secure and hold

The Bridge, if possible.

N. Carolina

Bivision across the Lumber River at at Campbell's Bridge.

During the march of to-day we crossed the line from South

Hill into North Carolina. We found plenty of forage and there

Church

I5 miles. 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, I5th Ill. cavalry and private Quimby 32nd Wisconsin Infantry. Gen. Sherman sent despatches by them.

The Sergeant was directed to cross the river at Campbell's Bridge and proceed as directly as possible to Wilmington, avoiding Lumbertona and Elizabethtown. He travelled night and day, succeeded in deceiving parties of the enemy that he met, and accomplished his journey in forty-eight hours.

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST of bevome

GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK. March 7th. Corps, one column to Brightsville, and the other to a point Beaver Dam Creek

where the direct road intersects Crooked Creek. Brightsville

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST.

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Meh. 9th.

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, andwhat 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

Gilchrist's Bridge

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

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Raft's Swamp division under Cen. Giles A. Smith. His two columns halted near Raft's Swamp, Alsi 2'90 MREVOD

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
I4 miles.
Mch. IOth
Dan's
Bridge
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Gen.

I encamped near Randallsville.

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 destroy ed 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 Dans' 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.

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Meh.10th
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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 Fayettebille.

The I4th Corps entered the City from the morthwest, 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

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

As soon as I saw Maj-Gen. Slocum, 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.

The enemy made very slight resistance to our crossing March. Cape Fear. 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 wat er 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 Plantation made a bridgehead near Cades | Plantation.

> My headquarters moved across to the vicinity of Cades' house during Monday, March 13th. MEM AOKK

The 13th and 14th were spent in crossing the command March 13" and in distributing what few supplies reached us from Wilmington by steamers.

Cades'

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST,
The very day we arrived at Fayetteville, we heard the
GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK.

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 ofrom
the large number of refugees, white and black, that had
joined us at Columbia, and during the march.

We sent down as many as whe could by the steamers above
mentioned. The rest by special direction from your headquarters were carefully organized with a guard of men going

the little children and the sick.

It was a singular spectacle, - that immense column of

15th every color, and every possible description that drew out of

camp on Wednesday the 15th of March, and set out for Wil
mington via Clinton. There were four thousand five hundred

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the troops that he could gather from Hood, Hfrom Hardee, and from Bragg, 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. Slacum'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 fun of Gen.

Logan's Corps, took the road next south owhile Gen. Blair with the pontoon train and surplus headquarter wagons pursued the route via Owensville. Gen. Logan's head of Mch. I5th column, Gen Corse leading, reached the South River on South River. Wednesday the I5th. He found the enemy's cavalry occupying a strong position on the other bank.

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Gen. Blair sent forward the 9th Ill. mounted infantry.

and drove Aback the enemy from his bridge All 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 I5th Corps with a small guard of
one brigade chosed 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 sooro Road and quite a battle ensued, in which the enemy was driven from one line of works and quite a number of prisoners captured.

March 17th, being yet uncertain as to the results

of the en

17th.

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.dainring GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK 1000110

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ne 6/13 30

I7th.

of the engagement of the day before. I moved forward toward NAOY WHU, DELAND, NEW YORK Bentonville but six miles. Gen. Logan's command wenr into camp at Jackson's Cross Roads, and Gen. Blair reached Beeman's Cross Roads.

My command was then upon the Averysboro 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 18th Benton 12 miles Troublefield

The next day, the 18th, Gen. Logan marched toward

Bentonville and encamped near Alex Benton's about eleven

miles south of Bentonville proper. Gen. Blair wis not far

from Troublefield store.

Gen. Stair 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 be fore 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 appeare d to be fair, but the ammunition wagons of the leading division rendered it almost impassible. On arriving at Falling Creek

19th

Church, the General-in-Chief sent me word that my column

was very much straggled owing to the bad roads, The leading

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Church, the General-in-Chief sent me word that my column

brigade consisting of three regiments under Col. Weaver with a few wagons reaching that point 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 impadsable. A Reviouville

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 enroute, the General had just received a message from Genl. Slocum, and that the had then only a Division of Cavalry in his front, and was driving them. As soon as I received the message, Tool. Weaver's regiments, 10th. Iowa Infantry as rapidly as possible to a 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 o continous sound of the artallery firing, but it was sun-set 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. W

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. Bogan sent Hazen's Division by the most direct route to Genl. Slocum's position. This Division reached him by day-light 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 continous column. We very soon encountered the enemis'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.

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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 Aversboro.

Benton Col. Stone's Brigade of Genl. Wood's Division had a brisk
skridch at this point but quickly disloged the enemy'srom this position.

14 miles. We were to the rear and left of Johnston's position while fighting
ing Slocum the day before, but being appraised of our coming he
had thrown back his left flank so as to form a bridge-hand, 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. Sherby, Signal Officer, Capt-Gilbreth of my staff, and Capt. Hower of Genl. Logan's with the scouts and what other mounted men they could gather, made a reconnaisance 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 intthe 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 posttion 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.

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GOVERNOR'S ISLAND. CEW YORK

The moment I heard of Mowers 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 Mentonville, killed wounded and missing, is as follow 15th. Corps. One hundred and eighty nine, (189.)

17th. Corps. Two hundred and ten,

399.

Total loss

We reached Goldsboro by two easy marches. The 17th Corps crossed the Neuse one 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 al, ost 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.

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GOVERNOR'S ISJOND, NEW YORK.

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. F. 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 Pocotaligo, when severe illness forced him to leave the field.

I will now mention the several members of my staff; who have so cheerful 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. Remick, 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. E. P Pearson, Jr. Chief Commissary of Masters.

Capt. F. W. Gilbreth, Aide-de-camp,

Capt. P. A. Taylor, Chief Signal Officer,

Capt. A. M. Van Dyke, Asst. Adjt. General,

ist. Lieut. J. P. Sampson, Signal Corps, U. S. A.

1st. Lieut. Wm. N. Taylor, 1st. Ill. Light Arty, A. A. D. C.,

ist. Lieut. Amos Stickney, Engineer Corps, U. S. A.,

1st. Lieut. John A. Mills, Acting Asst Quartermaster.,

Lieut Joseph A. Sladen, Act'g Asst Adjt Genl.,

Asst Surg. D. C. Huntington, U. S. A. Asst. Medical Director, A. A. Surg. J. L. Hoover, U. S. A., Staff and Escort Surgeon.

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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 spparated from me in Savannah and unable to resume his place during the campaing 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 undavor able 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 wash.

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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 I5th, Ill Cavalry in the way of reconnoitering 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.

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.

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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.

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST,

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GOVERNOR'S ISLAND NEW YORK.

Appended to this report woll be found a statistical Record of the amounts of captures, property destroyed and casualties, Accompanying it please notice the report of the Chief of Artill ery, Chief Engineer, Medical Director, Chief of Ordnance, and that of the Provost-Marshall General.

Number of miles marched			
Average per day for shole time8-19/100			
" actual marching13-23/100			
Casualties.			
Killed, wounded and missing 983.			
Prisoners captured			
Subsistence stores captured.			
Breadstuffs927,000.			
Fresh beef			
Salt meats797,500.			
Sugar 1,900.			
3alt 30,500.			
Beans 1,400.			
Mat - 3			
Total number of 1bs. 2,428,300.			
Forage.			
Pounds of corn			
Pounds of fodder			
Ordnance and ordnance-stores captured			
and destroyed.			
Pieces of Artillery			
Gun carriages and caissons 42.			
Rifles and muskets			
Cutlasses and sabres			
Rounds of artillery amunition 18,235.			
Smunicion, Small arms1,230,000			
Pounds of powder			

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463.	marched	refin 3	Number of
time8-19/100			
rohing18-28/100		**	P
	.malties.	Cas	
ng983.	and missi	cunded	Willed, w
	bet	s captur	Prisoner
es captured.	tojs sons.	3ubsist	
927,000.		ffs	Breadstu
		îs	Fresh be
797,500.			Salt mea
.000.1			
80,500.			
.000.1			
000 900 5 000 5 0			
r of 1bs. 2,428,300.			
	age.		
2,785,721.			
stores captured			Ordner
	destroye		
67.			
.S 42.			
13,929.			
3,445.			
tion 18,235.			Rounds of
arms1,230,000			11 11
70,850.		rebwog ?	Pounds of

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST, GOVERNOUS 1STAND NEW YORK.

	Property Captured.
	Horses
	Mules3,766.
	Property Destroyed:
	Cotton(bales) about
	Railroads (miles)
	Cars and Engines 25.
	Car wheels 300.
	Kefugees.
	White 984.
	Black
	Total, refugees5, 186.
	Wagons and vehicles for Refugees349.
	Horses and mules
	Bridging and Corduroying.
s.	Number of bridges laid 31.
	Yards of bridging laid875.
	Miles of Corduroying

15th. Corp.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(signed) 0.0. Howard,

Major-General,

Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST, GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK.

Property Captured.	
Horaes8,049 .	
Mules8,766.	
Property Destroyeds	
Cotton(bales) aboutt5,000.	
hallroads(miles) 42.	
Cars and Engines 25.	
Car wheels 300.	
kefeges.	
.886	
Black	
Total, refugees5, 186.	
Wagons and vehicles for kefugees349.	
Horses and mules7361	
Bridging and Corduroying.	
. Number of bridges laid 31.	Abth. Corps
Yards of bridging laid875.	17th. "
Miles of dorduroying106.	

I have the honor to be, Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(signed) 0.0. Howard,

Major-General, Commanding.