

ted, I reached Buford's Bridge over the Salkehatchie River on Feb. 4. The road here had been much obstructed by the rebels, and before my column reached the river they had evacuated their well-constructed works covering the bridge and river crossing. Moving over the river on the 5th I advanced some four miles, crossing the Little Salkehatchie the next day. On Feb. 7 I reached Bamberg, a station on the Charleston and Augusta Railroad, and I immediately, in compliance with instructions received from the major-general commanding, directed one of my brigades, the 1st, Brevet Brigadier-General (William B.) Woods commanding, at work tearing up the track and destroying the iron and ties, while the remaining two brigades of my division proceeded about one mile north of the village, where I took up an intrenched position, covering the approaches to town from that direction. On the 8th I remained in the position taken near Bamberg, the 1st Brigade still continuing its work of destroying the railroad. On the morning of Feb. 9, I moved in the direction of Graham's, camping north of the railroad near that place. The 3rd Brigade, Col. George A. Stone commanding, was here sent forward to Blackville for the purpose of destroying the railroad in that vicinity. Feb. 10, I remained in camp again, the 2nd Brigade, Col. R. F. Carterson commanding, as well as parts of the balance of my command, being engaged in tearing up the railroad all day. Leaving my camp here on the morning of Feb. 12, I continued my march without interruption.

For the movements of my division for the ensuing ten days I respectfully call your attention to the official report rendered by me on Feb. 21 when encamped in the vicinity of Longtown, copy herewith inclosed.

Leaving my camp at the place last mentioned on the morning of Feb. 22, I marched to Peay's Ferry over the Wateree River. Crossing the river on the 23d, I moved forward by way of West's Cross-Roads to Tiller's Ferry over Big Lynch's Creek, reaching and encamping in the vicinity of the creek the evening of Feb. 26.

I did not get the crossing until March 1, and I was then obliged to build a heavy bridge of over 100 yards in length before I could move my command over. This was begun and completed the night of March 1, and at 7 a.m. the next morning my entire division had crossed the creek. Moving out of camp from the east side of the creek at 9 a.m. the 2d of March, I marched via New Market, encamping my division one mile north of Cheraw on the evening of March 4. Breaking camp again on the morning of March 6 I crossed the pontoon bridge over the Pedee River and continued my advance without any interruption from the enemy, crossing Lumber River the 10th instant, and encamped March 12 within three miles of Fayetteville on the main Fayetteville road. Leaving my camp near Fayetteville on the evening of March 14, I crossed Cape Fear River the same night, encamping about one mile beyond the pontoon bridge. At this point the 1st Brigade, Brevet BrigGen. (William B.) Woods commanding, was detached from my command and assigned to duty, by order of Major-General Logan, as escort for the trains of the army corps that were to march by a different route. Moving forward on the morning of March 16, I continued on the road as taken by the remaining divisions of the corps, reaching the neighborhood of Cox's Bridge over the Neuse River on the evening of March 19. I encamped my division in position about half a mile from the point of intersection as made by the Bentonville road with that on which I had been marching and intrenched my position the same night.

The next morning, the 20th instant, in compliance with the orders given me by Major-General Logan, with Colonel Catterson in the advance, I moved out on the road toward the bridge until reaching the point of intersection above referred to, when I took the road leading to the left toward Bentonville. I marched about four miles before I struck the outposts of the enemy, but from that time forward my advance had to be made under cover of a good line of skirmishers, and about 11 a.m., or when I had advanced some eight miles on this road, the 46th Ohio Infantry, then deployed as skirmishers, became so actively engaged with the enemy that I immediately deployed the two brigades of my division on either side of the road, selecting

the most advantageous ground and throwing up light rail-works in front of my line. The 46th Ohio Infantry having dislodged the rebels, and by a most gallant charge driven them from a strong and extensive line of rail pits that they had established covering the road at the fork leading toward Smithfield, in obedience to the directions received from Major-General Logan I immediately moved my lines up to this point and at once took position, extending my lines so as to include both roads beyond the forks. The 46th Ohio Infantry, still deployed as skirmishers, was moved down the road leading toward Smithfield, supported by the 100th Ind. Infantry. The 25th Iowa Infantry was promptly deployed forward, covering the road upon which I had been marching. The 46th Ohio Infantry soon struck the main line of the enemy, discovering him admirably posted behind well-constructed works. The right of the 25th Iowa also had not gone far before meeting the rebels behind their works. The left of this regiment, that had by this time connected itself with the right of the 2nd Division skirmish line, moved forward with it and gradually swung around to the right, leaving the road entirely in the rear, so that the enemy's line was now developed as running almost parallel to the road on which my column had been marching and extending across the Smithfield fork about one-fourth of a mile from where the main road branched. That night my lines were reformed and I built works anew, conforming them to the lines of the enemy as developed by my skirmishers, my right connecting with Brevet Major General Corse of the 4th Division and my left with Major General Hazen of the 2nd Division. The next morning, the 21st instant, a heavy skirmish line was advanced along my entire front, discovering the enemy still strongly posted in his works. Brevet BrigGen. (William B.) Woods rejoined me today with his brigade, and I at once placed him in position in the center of the line, the 2nd Brigade, Col. R. F. Catterson commanding, being on the right, and the 3rd Brigade, Col. George A. Stone commanding, having the left. My lines were advanced again during the afternoon, the skirmishers moving forward in handsome style, driving the rebel skirmishers out of their intrenched skirmish pits and forcing them back upon their main works, my skirmishers holding all the ground gained, and that, too, under volley firing from the main works of the enemy. I posted a section of the 12th Wis. (Light Artillery) Battery on my line in Colonel Catterson's front, and I cannot but speak of the admirable execution and service rendered. The firing enfiladed the enemy's line, and, as was afterward shown, the shots were all directed with great precision, the works giving every evidence of the battery's presence. At dark the new position I had gained was strongly intrenched. At daylight the next morning, the 22d instant, my skirmishers were again advanced and the rebel works discovered to be evacuated.

Colonel Catterson, having received instructions direct from Major-General Logan, moved out on the Smithfield road, passing beyond Bentonville as far as Hannah's Creek, where he skirmished considerably with the rear guard of the enemy. I followed up with the balance of my division, halting at Bentonville, where Colonel Catterson was ordered to return. Remaining here with my division during the entire day I withdrew to my position of the previous night at 6 p.m., leaving Colonel Catterson with his brigade at Bentonville to destroy the bridge over Mill Creek, with orders to rejoin the division at 4 a.m. the next day. Moving out at about 10 a.m. of the 23d, I crossed the pontoon over the Neuse River the afternoon of the 24th, and encamped in the position as assigned me around Goldsborough on the New Berne road.

I respectfully inclose a list of the casualties in my command during the skirmishing of the 20th, 21st and 22d of March. I also respectfully invite the attention of the major-general commanding to the amount of corduroying and bridge building as done by the pioneer corps and the several brigades of my division during the campaign recently closed, and also to the inclosed statement showing the amount of railroad and other property destroyed, and statistics showing the estimated amount of grain and forage captured from the country.