

Another Expedition Towards the Weldon Railroad.

THE NEW CORPS ORGANIZATIONS.

Temporal Orders in Relation to the Subject.

Mr. Charles H. Hannam's Despatch. HEADQUARTERS, FIRST PENNSYLVANIA, Dec. 17, 1864.

Major General Meade has lately directed that each division of this army shall have a separate lot, securely packed in iron, for the interment of its dead. All isolated portions of deceased soldiers are to be disinterred with as little delay as practicable, and reinterred in the burial ground of the division to which they belonged.

THE FIFTH CORPS.

Mr. L. A. Hendrick's Despatches. HEADQUARTERS, FIFTH ARMY CORPS, Dec. 17, 1864.

BOARDS OF EXAMINERS FOR QUARTERMASTERS AND COMMISSARIES.

Boards for the examination of quartermasters and commissaries, as directed by act of Congress, are now in session—one at army headquarters and the other at City Point. The examinations are very thorough, and have reference not only to the business qualifications of the officers in these departments, but also to their general appointment and business merit.

For examining commissaries the board consists of Colonel Geo. H. Coale, Chief Commissary Ninth corps, president; Brevet Colonel Thomas Wilson, Chief Commissary Army of the Potomac, and Captain A. Gage, Commissary at Fort Monroe.

The board examining quartermasters is made up as follows:—Colonel R. N. Bacheelder, Chief Quartermaster Army of the Potomac, president; Lieutenant Colonel L. H. Pierce, Chief Quartermaster Ninth corps, and Lieutenant Colonel C. A. Stallenberger, Chief Quartermaster Fifth Corps, as examiners.

HEADQUARTERS, FIFTH ARMY CORPS, Dec. 21, 1864.

The shortest day of the calendar year has passed immeasurably long by reason of the tedious rain and gloom of overhauling decks bawling the sea and compelling confinement to tents. The storm has sadly interfered with building log huts and the roads are now in places almost impassably muddy.

Brevet Major General Ayres, commanding Second division, leaves in the morning on twenty days' leave. This is his first absence from the corps since the commencement of the present campaign.

Major J. B. Sinclair, late Assistant Adjutant General of the First Regiment, the Fourteenth Cavalry, is ordered to join his regiment, the Fourteenth Cavalry, at Fort Fremont, Va.

Lieutenant James R. Campbell succeeds Major Sinclair as Assistant Adjutant General.

Every few days we have returned to the officers wounded in the early part of the campaign. Among those just returned, and most heartily and warmly welcomed, is Brevet Major W. W. Swan, Assistant Adjutant General of the Second division. He was wounded in the Wilderness, and his wounds were very truly lethal.

THE CAVALRY.

Our Cavalry Correspondence. HEADQUARTERS, SECOND BRIGADE, SECOND CAVALRY DIVISION, Dec. 1, 1864.

The headquarters of the Second brigade, Second Cavalry Division, presented on Tuesday evening, Nov. 15, a scene rarely met with in the army.

The flag was presented to the brigade through its gallant commander, Brevet Brigadier General J. I. Gregg, by the loyal citizens of the Keystone State.

A large pavilion, erected for the occasion, was beautifully and tastefully decorated with the battle flags and colors of the brigade, as also the headquarters flags of the division and of the First, Second and Third brigades.

At the hour set apart by the committee of arrangements the officers began to assemble, and by seven o'clock the pavilion was filled. At that hour General J. I. Gregg and Colonel C. H. Smith entered the pavilion, and after the dashing cheers and music had ceased, Colonel Gregg first reading the letter received with the flag, presented to the officers the colors of the Second brigade, with the following appropriate remarks:

OFFICERS OF THE SECOND BRIGADE, SECOND CAVALRY DIVISION.—The very pleasant duty has devolved upon me of presenting to you, on behalf of some of your fellow citizens of Pennsylvania, as a testimonial of their appreciation of the services that you and the brave men under your command have rendered to your country, this beautiful battle flag; and I feel proud that the brigade to which I present is fitting an acknowledgment numbered at one time among its members the gallant sons of New York and Maine; for the Tenth New York and the First Maine Cavalry constituted a moiety of this brigade at its organization, and are entitled to share largely in the glory and honor that may be ascribed to the same inscribed upon this standard. In accepting this banner I make no promise of heroic deeds to be achieved, but point to the names inscribed upon it as a guarantee that it had not been committed to unworthy or swerving hearts; that it would be followed to the front and triumphantly victory or to the rear and immortal fame. Into your hands and to the brave men under your command I commit this sacred trust, with the proud consciousness that when this star is over, and peace again smiles upon our once happy country, you will hand it over to the chief Executive of your native State, to be placed among the trophies of our country's arms and blackened it may be, but with no laurels added to its bright folds; or that it be encumbered beneath your bodies, fallen in defence of the great principles which the blood-colored folds of our national flag every where represent.

Colonel C. H. Smith, First Maine Cavalry, commanding the Third brigade, received the flag on behalf of the Second brigade, in the following remarks:

GENERAL GREGG.—In accepting this beautiful flag in behalf of my fellow soldiers of the Second brigade, from the loyal and appreciative citizens of Pennsylvania, through you, I feel incapable of giving utterance to the feelings that arise in my own breast, while I despair of being able to approximate an expression of the lively emotions that I know are excited in every heart in this command. The citizens of Pennsylvania have been pleased to honor this command, and in a manner most gratifying to a true soldier. The flag of his country is to a soldier a symbol of all that is noble, of loyalty, patriotism, courage, and every element of character that contributes to a true type of manhood; and when, for its protection he bares his breast to the murderous assault of the enemy, the battle flag becomes his watchword; it conveys an intimation that leads him on and inspires him to action, and when he is hurled in the midst of the din and carnage of the battle field, there he will follow with an undaunted spirit, and for its protection will risk his fortune and his life. But in receiving this flag from the citizens of Pennsylvania, we recognize that it is through you that we have been brought to their favorable notice. Under your leadership this brigade has been organized, disciplined and guided through many hard fought battles, and under your leadership it has achieved a reputation and made a history for itself that is imperishable, and through you our good name has found its way to your native State, has quickened the hearts of its people, and elicited from them the most gratifying expressions of their esteem and through you, General, it stands as the doer of this beautiful banner our warmest and sincerest thanks for the very high compliment they have paid us; and we believe it was their satisfaction with the past that prompted them to this high consideration, so we pledge that the future shall in no wise diminish their expectations. But in committing this banner to the charge of this brigade I cannot try to express my sentiment. It is not given on trust, with a feeling of uneasiness as to the result; for the long scroll of achievements already inscribed upon it are the guarantee of the confidence for its protection and preservation. As the flag of this flag the face of every soldier will glow with patriotic pride, and sooner than see

it detached he would sacrifice a thousand lives, and he that may give, for his defense with pride we look upon that great record of events, and find that the name of the country has been changed, and a name that calls for a blunder a feeling of remorse; but we cherish every word in our memory as a part of our sacred honor. The sight of this banner will inspire every soldier with renewed courage, and as he traces upon it the purity of those stainless colors lead him to the altar of the country, there to renew his vows of patriotism, and, taking courage from that brilliant record of the past, resolve that he is able still to endure, still to conquer. And, in conclusion, General, allow me to express for yourself the unfeigned wish of this command that you may be blessed with a full measure of health to continue the work you have gloriously begun and prosecuted with such unrivaled success, and may you still lead on from victory to victory, until the cause of this mercurial strife shall no longer exist, and peace may again kiss the hills and dale of our common country.

After Colonel Smith had closed his remarks the bands in attendance performed the "Star Spangled Banner." An appropriate address was next delivered by Colonel M. Kerwin, of the Thirtieth Pennsylvania Cavalry, which was well received.

Other addresses were delivered during the evening by Colonel Ayres of the Sixth New York Cavalry; Captain R. R. Corcoran, of the Twenty-fourth Army Corps; A. White, Eighth Pennsylvania Cavalry; Lieutenant W. A. McDowell, Sixteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry; Lieutenant Barr, of the Fourth, and Dr. J. F. Everhart of the Eighth Pennsylvania Cavalry.

Several toasts were proposed and drank to during the evening, of which we "Our Heroic Dead," and "Brevet Brigadier General J. I. Gregg."

Refreshments were plentifully supplied, and the bands of the Fourth and Eighth Pennsylvania Cavalry during the evening discoursed appropriate and stirring music.

The whole affair passed off in the most pleasant manner, and will ever be remembered by those assembled as one of the bright recollections of their military history.

BUTLER'S HEADQUARTERS.

Mr. William H. Merritt's Despatch. IN FRONT OF RICHMOND, Dec. 20—A. M.

Nothing of public interest has occurred in the army up to this writing. There are few if any indications of any formal observance of the holidays, though I believe the rebel army of Lee is to be treated to a dinner by the Richmondites on New Year's Day. It will be a sorry meal.

Many Union officers attached to General Butler's army have leaves of absence to visit their families and friends at the North during Christmas and New Year's week.

THE RECENT VICTORY OF GENERAL THOMAS. Major General Ord, commanding, has issued the following order, bearing date at these headquarters, in reference to the recent victory of Major General Thomas.

General Ord says:—"A great victory has been gained. The enemy in front of Nashville were attacked in their intrenchments, and, by the blessing of God and the ardor of our troops, driven at all points. On several portions of the line all their men and all their guns were captured."

Hereafter officers leaving to be sent to the front of the States, are permitted to dispense with shoulder straps and the prescribed insignia of rank on their horse equipments. The marks of rank prescribed to be worn on the shoulder straps will be worn on the shoulder in place of the straps. Officers are also permitted to wear overcoats of the same color and style as those of the enlisted men of their command. No cravat will hereafter be required on the overcoat, hat, or forage cap, nor will sashes or epaulettes be required.

THE CASE OF LIEUTENANT W. R. GRAY. That portion of general orders disbursing Second Lieutenant William B. Gray, of the First United States Cavalry, has been revoked by command of Major General Butler, it appearing that Lieutenant Gray, who is an excellent officer, acted under a misapprehension of his duties and rights.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR'S (KENT) DIVISION. Hoke's (rebel) division, of Longstreet's corps, left this front yesterday, probably to reinforce Bragg at Wilmington, or the army at Charleston.

For the first day in some time there was very little firing on General Ludwig's canal yesterday.

THE TWENTY-FOURTH CORPS.

Mr. William H. Merritt's Despatch. MAJOR GENERAL ORD'S HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE JAMES, Dec. 8—Evening.

The consolidation of the Tenth and Eighteenth army corps into what is hereafter to be known as the Twenty-fourth corps of United States Volunteers, Major General R. O. C. Ord, commanding, has been quietly effected, and the organization is amply ready to respond to the enemy.

The original division of this corps were all that could possibly be desired in respect of military efficiency and gallantry, and in this view it is not too much to expect that, under its new name, it will do the tasks of the country signal service.

A FAREWELL ORDER FROM GENERAL FOSTER. The following order of General R. S. Foster, now Chief of Staff, upon relinquishing command of his old and honored division in the late Tenth corps, could have been so appropriately read to the Twenty-fourth corps upon the assumption of command by Major General Ord that I give it in full as a fitting introduction of the new corps to the country.

General Order—No. 83. HEADQUARTERS, SECOND DIVISION, TENTH ARMY CORPS, IN THE FIELD, NEAR RICHMOND, VA., Dec. 4, 1864.

In obedience to orders from headquarters, Army of the James, the Brigadier General commanding takes leave of the Second division Tenth army corps, to be assigned to another position, and to the performance of other duties. In relinquishing the command of this gallant division, he would do violence to his own feelings did he not embrace this opportunity of expressing his thanks to the officers and enlisted men for the gallantry so frequently displayed by them, and for the energetic and zealous manner in which they have always performed their duty.

To your courage, bravery, energy and zealous application to all the different details of the service is due the proud reputation you have won, and the high state of discipline and efficiency which you have attained. It is not necessary to call your attention to the numerous engagements in which you have taken so prominent a part, or to recall the many days and nights spent in the trenches around Petersburg; but among the last of these grand carnivals of death in which you displayed such gallant and unflinching bravery, (the assault upon Fort Fisher, on the 23d of September), when so many of your brave comrades found soldier's graves; when, amid the lead and iron hail, you were so gallantly and bravely (although unsuccessfully) assaulted one of the strongest works on the continent; were thus I learned of what material you were composed, and of what gallant deeds you were capable of performing.

In taking leave of you, I am glad to be able to congratulate you upon the fact that my successor in the command of the Second division is that gallant young soldier and able officer, Brigadier General Ames, of whose brilliant reputation you are already well aware.

Trusting that the "God of War" may always smile upon you, and that your future reputation may be as brilliant as the past, I bid you an affectionate farewell. Brigadier General United States Volunteers.

GENERAL ORD'S ORDER. The following is General Ord's order upon assuming command:—

General Order—No. 1. HEADQUARTERS, TWENTY-FOURTH ARMY CORPS, Dec. 6, 1864.

In compliance with orders from headquarters, Department of Virginia and North Carolina, dated December 2, 1864, the undersigned hereby assumes command of the Twenty-fourth army corps.

The following officers are announced as constituting the staff:—Brigadier General R. S. Foster, Chief of Staff; Major Theodore Bledsoe, Assistant Adjutant General; Major P. O. Ord, Assistant Adjutant General; Major S. B. Seward, Aid de Camp; Captain H. G. Brown, Aid de Camp; Lieutenant T. G. Wells, First Connecticut Cavalry, Assistant Aid de Camp.

Captain A. R. Sharps, Aid de Camp and Assistant Provost Marshal. Surgeon Livingston Quick, Medical Director; Surgeon J. M. Rice, Medical Inspector; Major G. C. Abell, Tenth New York heavy artillery, Chief of Artillery and Acting Assistant Inspector General; Lieutenant Colonel J. R. Howard, Chief Quartermaster; Major Wm. P. Acton, Acting Chief Quartermaster; Lieutenant H. P. Gerrick, Acting Assistant Quartermaster; Captain M. A. Hill, Chief Commissary of Subsistence; Lieutenant C. W. Wells, Assistant Commissary of Subsistence; Lieutenant D. T. Wells, Commissary of Musters; Captain D. F. Eganard, Chief of Ammunition.

R. O. C. ORD, Major General United States Volunteers, Commanding. MONUMENT TO THE LATE MAJOR GENERAL BIRNEY. The officers of this army have inaugurated a subscription looking to the early erection of a suitable monument over the grave of the late lamented Major General David B. Birney. This melancholy subject is presented to the troops in a timely and touching order from the pen of the Commanding General.

THE TWENTY-FIFTH CORPS.

Mr. William H. Merritt's Despatch. MAJOR GENERAL WATKIN'S HEADQUARTERS, Dec. 9, 1864.

The new colored corps, the formation of which has recently absorbed the military attention of the armies operating against Richmond, is now an accomplished fact, and has been numerically designated the Twenty-fifth corps United States Volunteers, Major General Godfrey Weitzel commanding. This is inaugurated a new era in the war quietly and unobtrusively.

GENERAL WATKIN'S ORDER. I appointed the staff of the new corps directed to pay \$5

important a part on these fields and hold as important a place in the eyes of the nation.

General Order—No. 1. HEADQUARTERS, TWENTY-FIFTH ARMY CORPS, ARMY OF THE JAMES, IN THE FIELD, VA., Dec. 4, 1864. In accordance with orders from headquarters, Department of Virginia and North Carolina, dated December 2, 1864, the undersigned hereby assumes command of the Twenty-fifth army corps, which includes all the colored troops of this department except the First North Carolina heavy artillery. The following officers are announced as constituting the staff:—Lieut. Col. R. H. Jackson, Assistant Inspector General and Chief of Artillery; Lieut. Col. A. C. Warberg, Acting Assistant Inspector General; Major A. J. H. Buzard, Medical Director; Major A. H. Stevens, Jr., Provost Marshal; Capt. W. V. Hinchings, Chief Quartermaster; Capt. C. M. Robins, Chief Commissary Subsistence; Capt. G. F. Howard, Ordnance Officer; Capt. D. D. Wheeler, Assistant Adjutant General; Capt. Lewis Weitzel, Aid de Camp; Lieut. E. K. Greaves, Aid de Camp; Lieut. H. B. Fitch, Aid de Camp; Lieut. Wm. F. Shreve, Commissary of Musters; Lieut. E. M. Phillips, Assistant Provost Marshal; Lieut. C. O. Phillips, Chief of Ammunition; Lieut. Earl Thomas, Acting Assistant Quartermaster; G. WITZEL, Major General Commanding. Official:—D. D. WENZEL, Assistant Adjutant General.

Deaths in Rebel Prisons of Men of the Fifteenth New York Artillery.

HEADQUARTERS, FIFTEENTH NEW YORK ARTILLERY, EDGEWATER, N. Y., Dec. 3, 1864.

The following information is taken from a private letter from Edward Grossway, Company C, Fifteenth New York Artillery, recently a prisoner.—He states that he was one of a party of thirteen who were captured at Magnolia Swamp, Va., on the 6th of June, 1864. The remainder of his comrades have all died, with the exception of three, who joined the rebel army rather than be starved to death. He gives the names of five of those who have died—viz: Corporal Voerling, private Abel, Zoeller, Fisher and Bussong. The names of the others are not given. These men were all members of the Fifteenth New York Artillery. The names of those who have joined the enemy will be given as soon as ascertained.

Rebel Accounts. A FORCE FROM GRANT'S ARMY THREATENING WELDON.

[From the Richmond Dispatch, Dec. 22.] Our scouts report that General Palmer, with a division of infantry and a battalion of artillery, has occupied Bower Hill, eight miles east of Portsmouth. It is suggested that this force is intended to operate against Weldon.