

We had arrived within about a mile of the city, when a carriage displaying a flag of truce approached containing Mr. Goodwin, mayor of Columbia, and the city aldermen, who came to offer terms of capitulation. I refused anything but an unconditional surrender, which, after few words, he consented to and unconditionally surrendered the city of Columbia. I joined the party in the carriage, accompanied by Major Anderson of the 4th Iowa and Captain Pratt of General Logan's staff and left the brigade under the temporary charge of Lieutenant Colonel Jenkins, 31st Iowa, and preceded the column about half a mile. When near the suburbs of the city I noticed some of the advanced skirmishers, say 15 in number, being driven back by apparently a battalion of rebel cavalry. I at once called a corporal and three men, who happened to be near me, and put the mayor and aldermen in the corporal's charge, and with Major Anderson took about 40 of my flankers and advanced on the cavalry. The corporal was instructed that in case one man was killed or wounded he should at once shoot the mayor and his party. Joining the retreating skirmishers with the 40 flankers we speedily dispersed the rebel cavalry, having no more trouble in gaining the city. I proceeded to the state house with Captain Pratt and planted the first U.S. flag on that building.

During the engagement the regimental commanders did their duty well, Major Abernethy and Lieutenant Colonel Jenkins on the left and center, and Lieutenant Colonel Roberts on the right. Lieutenant Colonel Palmer with the 25th Iowa, followed by Lieutenant Colonel Nichols of the 4th Iowa, supported the assault in a handsome manner. Lieutenant Colonel Roberts and his adjutant, 1st Lt. James M. Smith, deserve notice for the gallant manner in which they pushed their lines forward. Capt. A. B. Smith of General (C. R.) Woods' staff, accompanied me in the assault and also deserves notice for his gallant conduct. My thanks are due all my staff officers--Captain Bell, Captain Bowman, Acting Assistant Adjutant-General Snow, and Lieutenant Crane, for doing their duty well.

I was absent from the brigade about an hour in placing the flag on the state house, and when I rejoined my command found a great number of the men drunk. It was discovered that this was caused by hundreds of negroes who swarmed the streets on the approach of the troops and gave them all kinds of liquors from buckets, bottles, demijohns, &c. The men had slept none the night before, and but little the night before that, and many of them had no supper the night before, and none of them breakfast that morning, hence the speedy effect of the liquor. I forthwith ordered all the liquor destroyed and saw 15 barrels destroyed within five minutes after the order had been given.

Brevet Major-General (C. R.) Woods now sent me word to guard the private property of the citizens and take possession of all the public buildings. I did so immediately upon receipt of the order, distributing my five regiments throughout the city and appointing Lieutenant Colonel Jenkins, 31st Iowa, provost-marshal. A number of buildings were fired during the early part of the evening, but the fire was promptly put out before it had gained much headway. A great many drunken men were now showing themselves in the streets from, I should think, every regiment of our corps, the XVII Corps, and some even from General Kilpatrick's cavalry. My command was so scattered throughout the city I found it necessary to have a stronger guard, and therefore applied through my acting assistant adjutant-general to Brevet Major-General (C. R.) Woods twice, once in writing, for one or two more regiments for patrolling the city, but received no re-enforcements. About 8 o'clock the city was fired in a number of places by some of our escaped prisoners and citizens (I am satisfied I can prove this), and as some of the fire originated in basements stored full of cotton it was impossible to extinguish it. The fire engines were ordered out, but the flames could not be stopped; the buildings were old, nearly all wooden ones, and the wind blowing almost a gale. At 8 p.m. I received orders that I was relieved by Brevet Brigadier General (W. B.) Woods and I sent the brigade to camp about one mile out of town, but remained in the city myself, working all night to assist in extinguishing the fire.

Very respectfully, captain, your obedient servant,
GEO. A. STONE, *Colonel, Commanding*

HDQRS. 3RD BRIG., 1ST DIV., XV CORPS,
Near Goldsborough, N. C., March 26, 1865

CAPTAIN: In accordance with orders I respectfully report a summary of the part taken by this command in the campaign just ended: The campaign commenced on Jan. 10 and ended with my command on March 26, making the duration two months and 16 days. On Jan. 10 last I had orders to march from our camp, near Savannah, Ga., to Ft. Thunderbolt. On Jan. 12 I took shipping at Ft. Thunderbolt for Beaufort, S. C., with all the regiments of my command save one, the 25th Iowa, which was left behind to assist in fetching up the transportation of the division. This regiment reported to me in camp near Beaufort, S. C. on Jan. 14, 1865. On Jan. 27, we broke up camp and resumed the march. During this campaign this brigade has had four engagements with the enemy. First at Little Congaree Creek near Columbia, S. C. on Feb. 15.

The 2nd Brigade of this division had the advance on that day and commenced skirmishing with the enemy within two miles of the camp we had left that morning. They drove the enemy without further assistance until near Little Congaree Creek, when from the nature of the ground the enemy was enabled to make a stubborn resistance. Here my brigade was ordered up and went into position on the left of the 2nd Brigade, Colonel Catterson commanding. I was ordered to form in two lines of battle, two regiments front and the other regiment, the 4th Iowa, to cover the front as skirmishers and to move forward to effect a crossing of the Little Congaree Creek if possible. Immediately in front of the 4th Iowa was a swamp about waist deep and about 200 yards wide. The regiment did not falter at this obstacle, but gallantly plunged in, led by its commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Nichols. We were now about 500 yards above the position held by the rebels on Little Congaree Creek, and a branch of the same stream intervening between us and the creek itself. It was discovered our present position flanked an outpost of the enemy on the same side of the stream we were now on, and three companies of the 4th Iowa and four companies of the 9th Iowa were ordered to attack this outpost. Major Anderson, 4th Iowa, commanded the skirmishers making the attack, and Captain Bowman, 9th Iowa, commanded the reserve. The attack was made with great vigor and was entirely successful. The enemy could not withstand the impetuosity of the skirmishers and broke after a few minutes' fighting to the opposite side of the creek. I now moved my command forward to the branch of the Little Congaree, separating us from the main creek, and with the 4th Iowa went about three-quarters of a mile up the creek to a point beyond the enemy's right flank and in their rear. I ordered the 4th Iowa to cross here on a log as quietly as possible, intending so soon as that regiment had crossed to support it with two other regiments and attack the enemy from the rear. Had I succeeded in this arrangement I have no doubt I should have captured the enemy's artillery and many prisoners, but the men first over discovered themselves to the enemy and he immediately commenced preparations to leave. The skirmishers drove him off before the column could get over, and this opened the crossing to Little Congaree Creek. Lieutenant Colonel Nichols and Major Anderson of the 4th Iowa, and Captain Bowman of the 9th Iowa, deserve notice for the gallant manner in which they did their duty.

The whole division now crossed and formed a line of battle on a plateau about a mile from the creek. I again went into position on the left. Some rebel cavalry skirmishers threatening my front, I moved on them with four companies of the 25th Iowa, and we soon drove them back to their main line. The list of casualties has been already furnished you. My next engagement with the enemy was at the city of Columbia, captured by my command on Feb. 17, an