

SKIRMISH AT BLACK ROCK FARM  
DOWN FROM CHESTER GAP

16 Nov 1862

SET 1, OFFICIAL RECORDS . . . .  
V. 21, p 1

CIVIL WAR, RAPPK Co.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

OPERATIONS IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA, MARYLAND, AND PENNSYLVANIA.

November 15, 1862—January 25, 1863.

SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS.\*

- Nov. 15, 1862.—Action at Warrenton, or Sulphur Springs, Va.  
Skirmish on the Guyandotte, W. Va.
- 16, 1862.—Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker, U. S. Army, assumes command of the Center Grand Division, Army of the Potomac.†  
Maj. Gen. William B. Franklin, U. S. Army, assumes command of the Left Grand Division, Army of the Potomac.  
Maj. Gen. William F. Smith, U. S. Army, assumes command of the Sixth Army Corps.  
Brig. Gen. Daniel Butterfield, U. S. Army, assumes command of the Fifth Army Corps.  
Affair at United States Ford, Va.  
Skirmish at Chester Gap, Va.
- 17, 1862.—Skirmish at Falmouth, Va.
- 19, 1862.—Skirmish at Philomont, Va.
- 20, 1862.—Brig. Gen. John H. Martindale, U. S. Army, assumes command as Military Governor of the District of Columbia.
- 21, 1862.—Surrender of Fredericksburg, Va., demanded.
- 22, 1862.—Skirmish near Halltown, W. Va.  
Skirmish near Winchester, Va.
- 24, 1862.—Skirmish at Newtown, W. Va.
- 24-25, 1862.—Expedition from Sharpsburg, Md., to Shepherdstown, W. Va., and skirmishes.
- 24-30, 1862.—Expedition from Summerville to Cold Knob Mountain, W. Va., and skirmish (26th) at Lewis' Mill, on Sinking Creek.
- 25, 1862.—Maj. Gen. Samuel Jones, C. S. Army, assigned to command of the Trans-Alleghany, or Western, Department of Virginia.  
Raid on Poolesville, Md.
- 26, 1862.—Reconnaissance from Eolivar Heights to Charlestown, W. Va., and skirmish at Cockrall's Mill.
- 28, 1862.—Affair near Hartwood Church, Va.

\* Of some of the minor conflicts noted no circumstantial reports are on file.

† The Right, Center, and Left Grand Divisions were constituted November 14, 1862, to be commanded by Sumner, Hooker, and Franklin. See Series I, Vol. XIX, Part II, p. 583.

NOVEMBER 16, 1862.—Affair at United States Ford, Va.

REPORTS.

- No. 1.—Brig. Gen. George D. Bayard, U. S. Army.  
 No. 2.—Maj. Otto Harhaus, Second New York Cavalry.  
 No. 3.—Lieut. Col. William Irvine, Tenth New York Cavalry.

No. 1.

*Report of Brig. Gen. George D. Bayard, U. S. Army.*

RAPPAHANNOCK STATION, November 16, 1862.

GENERAL: The rebel cavalry from Falmouth surprised Captain Peck and his company, who were sent to picket Richards' and United States Fords. A sergeant and 4 men have returned. The captain also escaped. I will arrest him for gross carelessness when he comes in. The river is fordable all along toward Falmouth. Probably some 18 or 20 men were captured, with their arms and everything. I will send you Major Harhaus' report of this if you wish.

GEO. D. BAYARD,  
*Brigadier-General.*

Major-General BURNSIDE.

No. 2.

*Report of Maj. Otto Harhaus, Second New York Cavalry.*

MORRISVILLE, November 16, [1862.]

GENERAL: I have just received information that Captain Peck, of the Tenth New York, with the greater part of his command, has been surprised by the rebel cavalry coming in the direction from Falmouth, and that the captain and about 24 men of his company are missing. This command consisted of 29 men, besides the captain, and only 5 men and 7 horses have returned. The force which attacked them is said to have been at least 100 strong. One of the sergeants who was with Captain Peck is the bearer of this, and will furnish you all the information you may desire.

I have strengthened the pickets at Ellis', Barnett's, and Kemper's Falls Fords since the re-enforcements have arrived, and have picketed the road leading to Falmouth with one company and a half, and picketed also the road leading in the direction of Catlett's Station. Captain Ordner has returned from his scout, and found nothing, but learned that the river was fordable at a good many places, which it would be impossible for us to guard.

While writing this, 1 sergeant and 4 men of Captain Peck's command have arrived, and informed me that the captain would be here to-night.

I have the honor, general, to remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

OTTO HARHAUS,  
*Major, Harris Light Cavalry.*

General BAYARD.

No. 3.

*Report of Lieut. Col. William Irvine, Tenth New York Cavalry.*

HEADQUARTERS TENTH NEW YORK CAVALRY,  
*Rappahannock, November 16, 1862—7 p. m.*

GENERAL: Sergeant Reynolds, of Captain Peck's company (H), last sent to Morrisville, to report to Major Harhaus for picket duty, has just come into camp, and reports that Captain Peck, with 14 men, posted at the United States Ford, 12 miles below Morrisville, better known as the "Gold Mines," was attacked about 1 p. m. to-day by about 100 rebel cavalry from this side the river, who attacked Captain Peck's party in their rear. Captain Peck rallied his men, after being fired on, and made a stand, fired his carbines, then fell back a few rods, on the rebels advancing, and emptied his revolvers. By that time the party was nearly surrounded, the captain's horse shot under him, and the party undertook to cut their way through the rebel lines to the rear. Five of the men succeeded in doing so, and brought away 7 horses. Captain Peck escaped into the woods, and, the sergeant thinks, succeeded in escaping. The sergeant and 4 men were chased and fired on for 2 miles toward Morrisville, when the rebels gave up the chase. Nine men are missing, and 7 horses. Two horses were shot, including the captain's. Whether any men were killed the sergeant cannot tell. He has no idea where the rebels came from, but knows they did not cross at that ford. Captain Peck's rear guard was but a little way off, and the attack was a surprise.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM IRVINE,  
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Tenth New York Cavalry.*  
 General BAYARD.

NOVEMBER 24-25, 1862.—Expedition from Sharpsburg, Md., to Shepherdstown, W. Va., and skirmishes.

*Report of Col. Silas Colgrove, Twenty-seventh Indiana Infantry, commanding brigade.*

HEADQUARTERS THIRD BRIGADE,  
*Sharpsburg, Md., November 25, 1862.*

Having been informed by Adjutant-General Scott that you desired, if possible, that the band of guerrillas, under the command of the notorious Burke, should be captured, on the 24th I planned an expedition to cross the river at night and surround the house (in Shepherdstown) where the band made their headquarters. Through Messrs. Chapline and Grant I had made myself thoroughly acquainted with the place. I detailed Captain Cogswell, of the Second Massachusetts, and 75 men for the expedition, who were accompanied by Adjutant General Scott and three trusty guides. The party crossed the river about 1 mile above Shepherdstown, in boats, at 10 p. m. By a circuitous route they gained the rear of the town, and surrounded the house and captured the whole party, except one, who was absent. Burke himself undertook to make his escape, but was fired upon and killed. The two young Burkes, Leopold (who is a little less famous for his depredations than Burke himself), O'Brien, and Hipsley, 5 in number, were taken. Five horses, saddles and bridles, and their arms, were also taken. Papers found