

Pursuit of Floyd, West Virginia, November 1861

6th Ohio Cavalry - North East Company, Trooper J. Audet, Trooper B. DuBois, Trooper G. Smith

November 11, 1861

Arrived in Mumford, West Virginia by rail from Manassas, unloaded and set out on night patrol to loosen up the horses and scout the town of Genesee for Johnny Rebs. None found, town quite less a few locals outside their homes, some Yankee friendly some not.

November 12, 1861

First call at 5:00, feed horses, boots and saddle at 6:00. Tramped through the woods in the dark to locate Union Camp. First assignment, scout northeast side of turnpike. Update map and look for Rebs. Strict orders not to engage. By now 5 hrs in saddle no food for Troopers. Next assignment, head out under cover to East, turn north after passing cemetery, head North over turnpike. Protect east flank of Union Army. No Rebs found, searched town, watered horses in town, returned to Cav Camp, rehydrate.

Trooper Smith

Pursuit of Floyd November 12th *Afternoon....*

After a break to give the horses some "hay & water" plus rehydrate ourselves, we headed out in pursuit of the enemy. Our orders were to ride the perimeter and try to locate the Confederates. The trails at Mumford are vast & well maintained. We rode along the Otter Creek, a nice clear stream & past several ponds, saw deer & turkeys but no Confederates. We ended back in the village & started engaging the enemy. We had lots of encounters & were able to push them back. However, they came back again & pursued our infantry across the road. As cavalry we were able to ride quickly & give support & diversion. There was lots of action, shooting our carbines from our horses, darting around the buildings & firing. About 3 we headed back to our camp for dinner & a short rest.



Picture from Night Ride



Dinner

By 5:30 we were back in the saddle & rode to the Union headquarters in the dark. The headquarters had moved due to the Confederate attack & it took some expert night vision to find the new camp. Rode back in the dark & did a sweep through the village looking for Confederates. Full moon, the weather mild & clear---great end to a very long day of battles. We figured we had spent about 8 hours in the saddle.

Trooper Audet

Sunday 13 of November, 2011 at 6:00 AM finds us back in the saddle. The temperature was 52 degrees with sunny skies. Our orders from the infantry commander were to meet them in the lower village and provide flanking support while the infantry swept the village looking for the Confederates. When we got to the agreed meeting spot the infantry had actually showed up on time and had started to sweep. The 140th New York adjutant asked that we send out a rider to find one of his companies who were missing "over that way somewhere". Trooper Audet went to find the missing company with orders for them to meet the command staff at the Toll House.

The cavalry was then asked to ride ahead of the advancing infantry to search for enemy pickets as the Union forces moved towards the railroad cut and berm looking for the Confederate camp. No pickets were found and the decision was made to continue into the woods. The Cavalry was tasked to ride ahead and scout the trail. With Trooper Smith in the lead we quickly moved ahead of the infantry into the back area of the Nature Preserve. After riding several hundred yards into the woods we could smell wood smoke. After turning a corner of the trail we could see a small rise ahead with several people in blue and gray uniforms around a fire. We managed to get to within a hundred yards of them before we were noticed. As they gathered up their weapons to fire at us the troopers all fired their carbines at the enemy and fell back to report their findings to the infantry.

Back with the infantry we were told that based on the color of the uniforms that we had seen it was undoubtedly the company of the Confederate commander. Again the Cavalry was sent ahead to engage the enemy on the right flank as the infantry moved forward. We moved forward in a skirmish line and passed the enemy line. As we passed their line we wheeled right and engaged them with carbine fire. At the same time the Union infantry hit their center front pushing the enemy back up a small rise. The group that was being engaged by the cavalry also fell back to the top of the rise (Can you say "Last stand?") Due to the rough terrain in front of the horses we moved to the front of the line exchanging positions with an infantry company. At the command "Charge!" the troopers drew pistols and charged up the center with the infantry coming up on both flanks.

The Confederates rapidly fled the hill in disarray. At this time it was discovered that both Blue and Gray were out of ammunition to continue the battle and neither side really wanted to fix bayonets so the battle was ended.

All units marched out of the woods and a dress parade was held to thank all who participated, especially members of the New York State Guard who were there to be judges(a few who said they wished they had a horse to ride for the weekend). Good ground to ride on; interesting local beverages and some really good infantry commanders who used cavalry the way it should be. After traveling 6 to 11 hours we all got home. We would do it again. Hell Yes!!!

Trooper Brian DuBois