

On the 2nd of May, Captain Oakes, 2nd Cavalry, with a detachment of that regiment, from Fort Mason, came upon a party of Indians on the Concho, and killed one.

About the first of July, Brevet Major Van Dorn, 2nd Cavalry, with his company, under the orders of Brevet Colonel Lee, 2nd Cavalry, during an expedition to the sources of the Colorado and Brazos, surprised a small party of Comanches, killed two of the number, took one prisoner, and captured twelve animals and other property.

III. . . . On the 5th of September, 1854, Captain Llewellyn Jones, with eleven men of his company D, Mounted Riflemen, overtook and attacked a party of Indians near the Rio Grande, killing one Indian, wounding two others, and capturing eight horses and other property. In the fight Corporal Calhoun was killed, privates Wehlman and Reese were wounded, and the detachment had five horses wounded. The conduct of the troops was highly praised by their Captain.

On the 13th of October, last, Captain Carpenter, 1st Infantry, being out with four men of his command (one of them a teamster, unarmed,) near Camp Lancaster, for the purpose of procuring timber, was unexpectedly beset by fifteen or more Indians; and it is due to him to say that he saved his party by his judgement and good bearing; being himself wounded and receiving three arrows in his clothes. The conduct of Musicians Dennin and Beardall, of company K, and private McCullough, of company H, 1st Infantry, (the latter being wounded,) was highly commended by Captain Carpenter.

The mention of the last two affairs at this time is justified by the credit which they reflect upon the officers and soldiers engaged in them, and by the approbation which they received from the Department Commander at the time, though, inadvertently, not announced in orders.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL ALBERT S. JOHNSTON:

D. C. Bull,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEAD QUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, September 13, 1856.

ORDERS: }
No. 62. }

I. . . . The Colonel commanding the Department takes pleasure in making the subjoined mention of the services of troops in this Department:

On the 17th of February, last, Captain Oakes, with a portion of his company C, 2nd Cavalry, from Fort Mason, struck the trail of a party of seven or more Indians, whom he overtook on the sixth day of the pursuit, and the ninth day from his post, killing one and wounding others of them, and capturing their animals and other property. In the fight which took place, Sergeant Reis and private Kuhn were severely wounded, privates Farrer and Fleegel received several arrows in their clothes, and five of the horses of the troops were wounded. In returning, the detachment discovered another trail, which it followed three days, and only abandoned when its horses were no longer able to carry their riders. The troops were exposed to very cold and wet weather, and for more than seven days from the time of taking up the second trail, subsisted on two day's allowance of bread and coffee, such game as they could kill, and the flesh of horses they were obliged to abandon.

In consequence of intelligence that a party of Lipan Indians, escaping from the pursuit of the Mexican troops, had crossed into Texas, between Fort McIntosh and Fort Duncan, various detachments of troops from those posts, and from Fort Clark, were sent out to intercept them. The trail was first found on the morning of the 8th of April by a detachment of company F, 1st Artillery, from

Fort McIntosh, under Lieutenant George H. Elliott. This, during the day, was joined by a portion of company D, Mounted Riflemen, also from Fort McIntosh, under the command of Brevet Captain Gordon Granger, who took command of both. On the evening of the 9th, Captain Claiborne, with part of company B, Mounted Riflemen, from Fort Duncan, having found the trail the preceding night, came up with Captain Granger; and the pursuit was then continued by these two officers with their respective commands. The Indians, about fifty-five, of all descriptions, were overtaken on the 13th, on the head waters of the Nueces, at least one killed, four made prisoners, and their camp and all their animals, fifty in number, captured. The vigilance of the Indians, and the character of the country, which enabled them to discover the pursuit at a great distance, prevented a more complete success.

In this case, from the time of leaving their posts until the termination of the pursuit, the troops marched some three hundred and fifty miles in eight days; crossing the Nueces at a point where the height and steepness of the banks and miriness of the bottom made it a formidable obstacle. They suffered for the want of water, and for four days, two in the pursuit and two after its termination, had no provisions excepting a little rice and coffee which they luckily obtained in crossing the El Paso road. They were finally relieved by supplies sent them from Fort Clark. The Mayor of Laredo, Sr. Don Santos Benevidas, Mr. Edward Jordan, and some twenty-five others of the citizens of that place, participated in this pursuit, and rendered valuable service. The dispositions made by Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Magruder, 1st Artillery, commanding Fort Clark, Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Ruggles, 5th Infantry, commanding Fort McIntosh, and Captain Wallace, 1st Infantry, commanding Fort Duncan, to intercept the Indians, although the troops of the former did not take part in the pursuit referred to, were judicious and prompt.

It is unnecessary for the sake of commendation to add to the foregoing any commentary upon the conduct of the troops, both officers and soldiers, in these two scouts. The facts present creditable ex-

amples of that energy, tenacity of purpose and cheerful endurance of hardship, which afford the best evidence of good soldiery, and the surest promise of success.

II. . . . With the above may be mentioned other scouts that have been attended with success against the Indians, from among many that without it, have been perhaps equally arduous and praiseworthy. On the Rio Grande, especially, the efforts of the troops have too frequently failed of that success to which their activity and zeal entitled them; from the facility with which the Indians, coming in suddenly from Mexico, could make their escape by crossing back.

In the latter part of February, Lieutenant George H. Elliott, with a detachment of company F, 1st Artillery, pursued a party near the Rio Grande so closely that they were compelled to abandon their animals and other property to effect their escape.

On the 8th of March, Captain Brackett, with a portion of his company, I, 2nd Cavalry, surprised a party of Indians on the Guadalupe, and captured their animals, together with valuable papers and other property which they had taken in a recent foray.

On the 21st of March, Corporal William Fletcher and six privates of company F, 1st Artillery, from Fort McIntosh, overtook and attacked four Indians on the Rio Grande, wounding two of them and capturing three horses.

In the latter part of March, Lieutenant A. T. A. Torbert, 5th Infantry, with detachments of company D, Mounted Riflemen, company F, 1st Artillery, and company A, 5th Infantry, pursued a party of Indians near the Rio Grande, so closely that they were compelled to abandon their animals and other property to make their escape.

About the last of March and early in April, Captain Selden, 5th Infantry, with detachments of company D, Mounted Riflemen, company F, 1st Artillery, and company A, 5th Infantry, pursued as many as two parties between the Nueces and Rio Grande, with similar effect.