

of truce. The surgeon had a boat containing the party was opened fire simultaneously from the boat, and before the party was captured. Among the party was Lieut. Deford. He then he was exchanged.

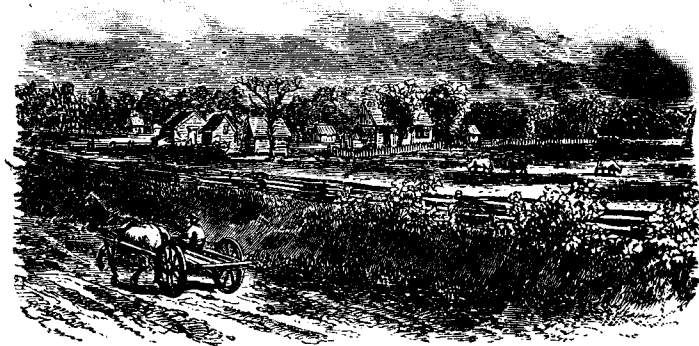
The fire upon the stations of and McNary was very severe. The advanced station than it though immediately screened and.

erved was pouring its fire doing good service when a opposite direction, drove the the abandoned field. The sion and smoke incident to a e commandant of the battery appearance of the large force e accurately trained, and the r cried out, "Hold, Captain." time to stop the gunners, in g. "I think they are our al flag, he sent the following ar men on the hill?" When e battery exclaimed, "Thank r."

date from the time at which Bridge, May 26th. By the the Potomac had advanced oint beyond Fair Oaks. The es occupied the south side of l by the corps of Generals al party serving on the south Johnson, had been working umstances. They were shut s; there were no points from itage; the generals did not he officers had yet to learn by oloy themselves. There were,

however, stations along the railroad connecting Gen. Heintzelman's headquarters at Savage's station with the front beyond Fair Oaks. On the northern side of the river, the field telegraph was extended along fences and in trees from headquarters to near Mechanicsville. The soldiers had ceased to cut the wires; patrols had been established; and the line was working successfully and with little interruption.

During the battle of Seven Pines, May 31st, no use could be made of signals. Some of the officers joined the staffs of different generals and rendered individual service worthy of notice. The following day the battle was continued at Fair Oaks. Gen. Sumner had already crossed the Chickahominy; Generals Franklin and Porter were directed to cross in three columns on the three bridges near New Bridge at daylight, the marching columns to be covered by the numerous batteries



BATTLEFIELD OF SEVEN PINES.

posted on the rising ground north of its banks. Four officers with their men reported to the commander of each column. Two were intended to cross with the troops and two to remain with the batteries. Of the officers crossing at each bridge with the first troops, one was to carry the white, the other the red, signal flag. The white flag was to transmit messages relating to the general service. The red flag was intended to direct the fire of the artillery. The officers stationed with the batteries were similarly equipped and had similar instructions.

An attempt was made to open communication with the gunboats in the James river. Lieut. Franklin Ellis was ordered to perform this duty. Application was made to Gen. Hooker for an escort, as the territory passed over was infested with the enemy, but it proved unsuccessful. Lieut. Ellis's party consisted of Lieutenants Kendall, Herzog, Wiggins, and Keen, with their assigned flagmen. The part