

burn raised a cavalry regiment, and was commissioned as its colonel. In June, 1862, he was commissioned as a brigadier-general, and was assigned to the post at Helena, which he held till November, when, having been commissioned as a major-general, the entire cavalry force in Arkansas was placed under his command. About that time Gen. Grant made a movement south for the capture of Vicksburg and Gen. Washburn, with 2,000 cavalymen, dislodged a force prepared to obstruct the progress of the army, at the crossing of the Tallahatchie. In February, 1863, he conducted an expedition which opened the Yazoo Pass, soon after which he took command of the cavalry at Memphis, where he remained until May, when he proceeded to take part in the siege of Vicksburg. He was ordered with two divisions to hold Haines' Bluff, and to watch Gen. Joe Johnston, who was in the rear near by with a large force, hoping to be able to raise the siege. In August following, Gen. Washburn, in command of the 13th corps, joined Gen. Banks, for the purpose of taking part in the Texas campaign. At the battle of Grand Coteau, La., he, with his command, saved the 4th division, under General Burbridge from annihilation by an overwhelming force of rebels. On the 29th of November, Gen. Washburn landed on the coast of Texas with 2,800 men, and compelled the evacuation of Fort Esperanza, a bomb proof work, cased with railroad iron, surrounded by a deep moat filled with water, manned by 1,000 men and mounting ten guns. This movement was of much importance, as it gave the Union forces control of the entire coast of Texas, from Matagorda Bay to the Rio Grande. In January, 1864, becoming satisfied that there would be no further trouble in Texas, Gen. Washburn availed himself of a leave of absence for sixty days. At the expiration of this leave, he was ordered by Gen. Grant to Annapolis, to assist in the re-organizing of the 9th corps, to which he was assigned. He was afterwards ordered to again assume command at Memphis, where he organized and sent out several expeditions to hold in check a large cavalry force, which would otherwise have operated on the communications of Gen. Sherman. In December, he was ordered to take command of the district of Vicksburg, but soon after was recalled to the