

The Battle of High Bridge - April 6th, 1865

"To the sublime courage of General Read and his Spartan band is due the immediate result that followed... The capture of General Lee's army." ~ General E. O. C. Ord, Commander U. S. Army of the James



The High Bridge near Farmville - from the Album of Virginia by Edward Beyer, 1857

Critical River Crossing

Lee's cavalry was given the crucial job of preventing the destruction of the High Bridge and maintaining the important crossing point for Confederate infantry and artillery. Over 800 Federals were captured at a severe cost to both sides.

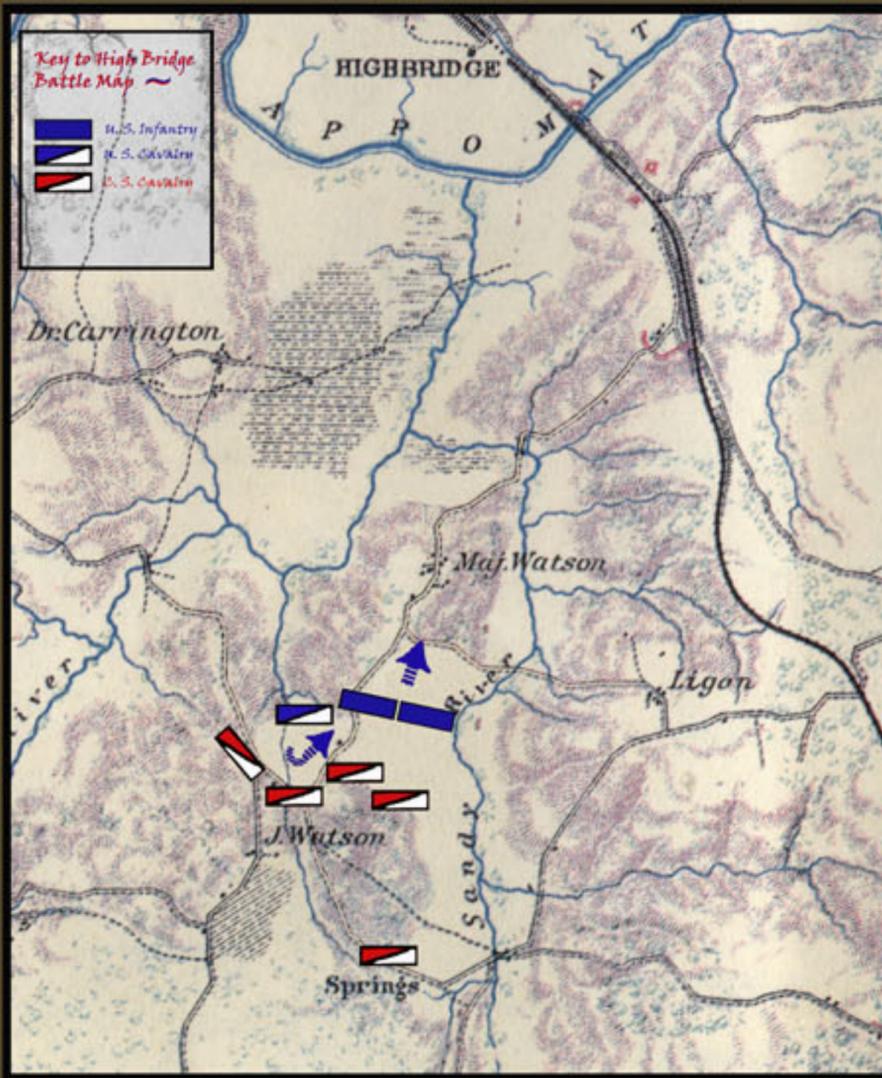


Brig. General Theodore Read
A.A.G Army of the James
Killed



Brig. General James Dearing
(left) was mortally wounded.
Died April 23rd, 1865

General Grant credited "this gallant little band..." with slowing down the head of Lee's column and creating the opportunity for the victory at Sailors Creek.



Major James W. Thomson, Stuart Horse Artillery,
Killed in action



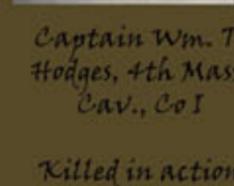
Major James Breathed, Stuart Horse Artillery,
fought Cpt. Hodges in hand-to-hand combat at High Bridge.



Pvt. Edgar Chyle
54th Pa., Co. C
captured



Colonel Washburne
4th Mass. Cav.
Killed in action



Captain Wm. T. Hodges, 4th Mass. Cav., Co I
Killed in action



Cpl. Strange (killed) & Pvt. Pratt

The 4th Massachusetts Cavalry crashed through three lines of Confederate cavalry in a headlong charge, led by Colonel Francis Washburne, prior to being nearly decimated.

Some men of the 4th Mass. Cav. captured at High Bridge



Cpl. Barry



Pvt. Brown



Lt. Capen



Lt. Carter



Surgeon Garvin



Lt. Lathrop



Lt. Stockbridge