

From: Rebels Valiant  
Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles  
(Dismounted)

by  
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Lt. Col.  
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1964

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## HOOD'S REASONS FOR THE TENNESSEE CAMPAIGN

Hood realized, correctly, that Sherman's army in Atlanta was too large to be attacked as a unit. Hood's one chance to victory was to get into Tennessee and smash the small Federal army there before Thomas could concentrate enough men to hold the State.

Hood's plan was only partially successful. Sherman did divide his forces, but was clever enough not to be put at too great a disadvantage.

Instead of moving rapidly, Hood moved entirely too slowly, and arrived in Tennessee too late to accomplish his mission.

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On October 1st Hood's army crossed the Chattahoochee River on pontoon bridges at Pumpkin Town and Phillip's Ferry, and bivouacked eight miles north of Pray's Church, in the direction of Lost Mountain, west of Marietta, Georgia. By October 3rd the main body of Hood's forces had reached to within four miles of Lost Mountain.

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On this same day, members of the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles were saddened to learn that Pvt. Elias A. Belew, of Company "D", had been reported as a deserter in the vicinity of Lost Mountain.

To be listed as a deserter is something difficult for a man to live down, yet many of his "mess mates" and friends were genuinely saddened at the news. The thought that one of their bravest men had gone over to the enemy!

Belew had enlisted when only 19 years old; had been reported missing after the battle of Elkhorn Tavern, but had later reported for duty. In the battle of Murfreesboro he received a wound in the head after displaying conspicuous gallantry during the first day, and was sent to the hospital. So outstanding was his valor in this particular battle that he was elected to the Confederate "Roll of Honor" by his fellow soldiers (G. O. No. 131/3, October 3, 1863), and now he had deserted!

His closest friends insisted that it was the head wound he had received at Murfreesboro which was responsible for this act.

On October 31, 1864, Belew was persuaded by the Federals to sign the "Oath of Allegiance," and wisely suggested that he remain north of the Ohio River for the duration of the war. Confederates who signed the "Oath" were not particularly "popular" back home!

Whether Belew ever returned to his home in Benton County, Arkansas, is not known.

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Hood's forces struck the railroad at Ackworth, Georgia, on October 4th, the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles, part of Stewart's Corps, taking part in the movement. On the same day French's Division was sent from Ackworth to capture Allatoona, which was assaulted on October 5th.

Hood moved westward, crossed the Etowah and Oostanuala rivers by forced marches, and upon arriving at Big Shanty, destroyed about 15 miles of track.

By October 9th Sherman's troops reached Allatoona, where they had large quantities of stores, and on October 11th, Hood's army crossed the Coosa River, marched in the direction of Resaca and Dalton, and bivouacked that night 14 miles above Coosaville, and 10 miles northwest of Rome. By this time all the rivers and crossings were beginning to be more and more difficult.

On October 12th and 13th the corps of S. D. Lee and Cheatham captured and destroyed the railroad from Resaca north to Tunnel Hill, where it passed through Rocky Face Ridge, while Hood was smashing Dalton.

Hood was making good time, for this was the same country over which the Confederates had moved in the earlier stages of the Atlanta Campaign. This marked the end of Hood's campaign against the Western and Atlantic Railroad, when Hood circled

rally their commands and hold them in command for further orders."

It will be noted that the instructions given to the officers were very amateurish. It should be remembered that most of the volunteers elected their own officers, usually choosing men by personal popularity, instead of military skill and experience.

This lack of experience on the part of both officers and men can be clearly explained by referring to Company "H", Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles, originally known as "The Hempstead Cavalry."

On the same day Order No. 24 was issued (August 4, 1861), this company arrived at Crane Creek, Missouri, and was immediately sworn into the Confederate service by Lt. Col. Dandridge McRae. This newly arrived company had enrolled for "action", but the members little realized that they were to get it so soon. Little did they realize that the hard-fought battle of Oak Hills was only five days away!

Sad to relate, Sgt. James M. Carrigan, of Company "H", was killed, and William F. Bittick and J. D. Hardy badly wounded in this battle. Filled with eagerness, they probably were hit by enemy fire before they learned how to protect themselves!

## 4.

### BATTLE OF OAK HILLS (Also called "Wilson's Creek")

On August 9, 1861, Brig. Gen. Ben McCulloch and his combined forces from Arkansas and Missouri, moved up to Wilson's Creek, Missouri, near Springfield, intending to advance upon the Federals at Springfield. However, Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Lyon, of the Federal Army, had anticipated him, and was already moving up in three heavy columns.

For some time prior to this battle the Confederates had been subsisting almost exclusively upon green corn, and on the day of the battle were almost prostrated for want of proper food. They fought all day without breakfast and without dinner.

To add to their troubles, insects of various kinds were almost running them wild. Some of the soldiers washed the insects from their bodies *by riding naked in the rain*. Veterans said that whiskey poured down a man's back, and also down his throat, discouraged the pests!

Gen. N. B. Pearce, leading the newly mustered Arkansans, was a graduate of West Point, and had served eight years in the Indian Country before resigning to enter the mercantile business. He was "back in the saddle again", ready to devote his military experience to the Southern cause. The Arkansans were half-drilled and only

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The General continued, in part:

"... To this point McIntosh's Regiment (Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles—WTL), under Lt. Col. Ben T. Embry, and Churchill's First Arkansas Mounted Rifles, on foot, Gratiot's Regiment, and McRae's Battalion, were sent to their aid. A terrible fire of musketry was now kept up along the whole side and top of the hill upon which the enemy were posted. Masses of infantry fell back and again rushed forward. The summit of the hill was covered with dead and wounded. Both sides were fighting with desperation for the day.

Col. McIntosh was slightly wounded by a grape shot while charging with the Louisiana Regiment."

Following the battle, Col. James McIntosh, Commanding the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles, submitted the following official report to Brig. Gen. Ben McCulloch:

"I have the honor to state that at the opening of the battle of Oak Hills I left you to lead my regiment into action. I moved forward with it to the front, going through a terrible fire of grape-shot and shells, until I reached the Louisiana Regiment.

I immediately dismounted my men, and ordered them to face to the left, and attack the right of the enemy. I led them through a dense thicket surrounding a cornfield, where we became closely associated with the enemy. My men and those of the Louisiana Regiment were suffering from a deadly fire. I rode forward to the latter (Louisiana) regiment, and told it, with my regiment, to charge the enemy. I was followed by a greater portion of both regiments, and we drove the enemy before us and swept them from the cornfield (Hurrah! The corn was saved!—WTL) and back to their rear.

A portion of the Louisiana Regiment was then called for by Gen. McCulloch, and he requested me to assist him in moving other regiments. The command of the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles then devolved upon Lt. Col. Ben T. Embry, who gallantly led it through the fight to victory.

My officers behaved in this first fight with great bravery and coolness.

Captains Gipson ("A"), Parker ("B"), King ("C"), Arrington ("D"), Flanagan ("E"), Witherspoon ("F"), Brown ("G"), and Gamble ("H"), all deserve great credit for the manner in which they led their companies.

(Note: Companies "I" and "K" had not yet been enrolled at the time of this battle—WTL.)

The regiment lost 10 killed and 44 wounded. Captain King, of Company "C", was wounded. Ordnance Sergeant

Spencer was conspicuous for his gallantry. He was wounded while leading on his men.

I submit Lt. Col. Embry's report with mine."

Lt. Col. Ben T. Embry, second-in-command of the regiment, submitted the following report:

"We lost 10 killed, and 44 wounded. Of the 54 men killed and wounded, were:

Wounded: 1 Captain, 2 Second Lieutenants,

8 Non-Commissioned officers

Killed: 1 Non-Commissioned officer."

Total casualties—Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles, Battle of Oak Hills (From Department of Archives, Washington, D. C.)

<i>Company "A"</i>	
Wounded:	Hicks, Isaac C.
Barnhardt, Harlan	Hornbarger, Jefferson
Dilday, S. J.	(Dangerously)
	King, James M. (Captain)
	(Dangerously)
	Scaborn, John (Dangerously)
	Shillings, Perry C.
	Winfrey, George W. (Dangerously)
<i>Company "B"</i>	
Killed:	
Bunker, Joseph S.	
Ford, John R. B.	
Sweeten, John L.	
Wounded:	
Breeden, Pompey O. (Dangerously)	
Cleveland, William E.	
Falls, Thomas L.	
Hill, Lawson R.	
Woods, Charles W.	
<i>Company "C"</i>	
Killed:	
Ashley, Andrew (Died 9-12-61)	
Barker, William A.	
Hardin, Henry C.	
Harville, George C.	
Kelly, Andrew J.	
King, Pinkney M.	
Kitchens, John	
Mayberry, Benjamin F.	
(Died 9-14-61)	
Wounded:	
Beecham, Robert W.	
Crutcher, Dudley S. L.	
Darby, William J. (Dangerously)	
Dorris, William J. (Dangerously)	
Ford, Garrett (Dangerously)	
Hallum, George	
Hicks, Hynson M.	
<i>Company "D"</i>	
Wounded:	
Henry, John A.	
Smith, Robert C.	
<i>Company "E"</i>	
Killed:	
Flanagan, George	
Malone, John G.	
Wounded:	
Andrews, George H.	
Gorham, Thomas	
Holder, John	
Holder, William F. (Permanently Disabled)	
Ridgway, J. C. (Dangerously)	
Trapp, A. D. (Dangerously)	
White, A. R. (Dangerously)	
<i>Company "F"</i>	
Wounded:	
Ashby, George	
Mosley, Marvel H. (Dangerously)	
<i>Company "G"</i>	
Wounded:	
Flanagan, William G.	
Holman, Henry B.	

Jetton, William  
 Park, James Monroe  
 White, Joseph (Dangerously)  
 Wilkins, J. Thomas  
 Wright, James

*Field and Staff*  
 Wounded:  
 DeBerry, William L. (Surgeon)  
 (Dangerously)  
 McIntosh, James (Colonel)

<i>Company "H"</i>		<i>Embry's Report</i>	<i>Official Report</i>
Killed:			
Carrigan, James M.	Killed:	10	13
Wounded:	Wounded:	11	11
Bitrick, William F.			
Hardy, J. D.	Total:	51	51

The First Arkansas Mounted Rifles were also outstanding in this battle. This regiment was commanded by Col. Thomas J. Churchill (later Brig. Gen.), who had organized this regiment in and around Little Rock earlier in 1861.

Oak Hills, or "Wilson's Creek", was the second *real* battle of the war, the first having been the first battle of Manassas, (or "Bull Run"), July 21, 1861. The troops were not yet seasoned and steady, but they proved to be extremely brave when well led, and losses on both sides were heavy.

For a time this Confederate victory freed the whole of Southwestern Missouri from Federal control.

On the day following the battle of Oak Hills, the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles remained at Oak Hills, Missouri, under the active command of Lt. Col. Ben T. Embry. The next day, August 12th, Brig. Gen. McCulloch established his Brigade Headquarters at Camp Weightman, near Springfield, Missouri. The Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles, now under the active command of Col. James McIntosh, rested here at the same time.

On August 15, 1861, Captain Henry K. Brown, Company "G", Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles, was promoted to Major, retroactive to July 27th, and First Lieutenant Allen T. Pettus was promoted to the rank of Captain, succeeding Brown, being succeeded in turn as First Lieutenant by William H. Elstner.

Company officers of Company "G" were now as follows:

Captain: Allen T. Pettus  
 1st Lt.: William H. Elstner  
 2nd Lt.: James T. Smith (Formerly 4th Sgt.)

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On August 17, 1861, The Fourth Arkansas Infantry was organized at Miller's Springs, Lawrence County, Missouri, with Col. Evander McNair, of Hempstead County, Arkansas, in command.

Henry G. Bunn was appointed Third Lieutenant of the new organization.

While not a part of the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles, this particular regiment is mentioned because Col. McNair later became Brig. Gen. McNair, commander of McNair's Arkansas Brigade, of which the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles were an important part. Lt. Bunn was later to become Colonel Bunn, commanding the First Consolidated Arkansas Mounted Rifles, which included survivors of the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles at the time of the surrender at Greensboro, North Carolina, April 26, 1865. Col. Bunn was later to sign the paroles issued to one-time members of the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles after the surrender.

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While camped at Pond Springs, Missouri, a 24 year old private, named James Philip Eagle, was enrolled in Company "C", Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles, after traveling 300 miles. Less than 60 days later this same recruit was to be elected Second Lieutenant of his company, and by the end of the war, after having been captured and imprisoned, and being gravely wounded, was to become Commander of the regiment.

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On August 27, 1861, James McIntosh finally got around to the matter of formally accepting the rank of Colonel, which rank had been extended to him on August 1, 1861, retroactive to May 1st. Colonel McIntosh was later to become a Brigadier General before his death, but it was said that many of his admiring soldiers called him "Captain" up to the hour of his untimely death in the battle of Elkhorn Tavern, March 7, 1862.

Abstract from Monthly Report of McCulloch's Brigade, Provisional Forces, C. S. A., commanded by Brig. Gen. Ben McCulloch, dated August 31, 1861, included the following:

"Cavalry: McIntosh's Regiment Arkansas Riflemen  
 Present for duty:  
 Officers 32, Men 114  
 Aggregate present 620  
 Aggregate present and absent 662"

On September 14, 1861, Captain George E. Gamble, Commanding Company "H", Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles, one of the original organizers of the original "Hempstead Rifles", died at the residence of a Mr. Wilkes, near Marionsville, Missouri. It is

presumed that he died of natural causes, since there is no record of his having been wounded at the battle of Oak Hills.

On September 23, 1861, the promotion of First Lieutenant James A. Williamson to Captain, Company "H", was formally approved. On this date the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles were in camp at Camp Jackson, Arkansas, not far from the Missouri line.

On October 4, 1861, the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles were stationed at Camp Cooper, near Granby, Missouri, where they were guarding the lead mines nearby.

On October 9, 1861, the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles were camped at Camp Holloway, Missouri. On this date Henry G. Rind, already 51 years of age, was enrolled in Company "G" by Colonel McIntosh after traveling 300 miles on horseback. Private Rind was later to be elected Captain of Company "G" at the reorganization of the regiment the following spring, but in August of 1862 was forced to resign, due to the fact that at his age he could not hold up to the rigorous life of a soldier.

On this same date a 20 year old farm boy, James Monroe Park, was sworn in as a private in Company "G". Young Park had left his home at Paraclyfta, Arkansas, on June 28, 1861, to enroll with the Arkansas State Troops, and had been wounded slightly at the battle of Oak Hills. Following the battle the State Troops had been disbanded, and now young Park had joined up with the regular Confederate volunteers.

James Monroe Park was the first of five brothers who was to join up with the Confederate forces, one of whom was to lay down his life in the last charge of the last battle at Bentonville, North Carolina, three years from the day of his original enrollment.

Eighty five years later a prominent Arkansas lawyer and writer had this to say about the Park family:

"In the list of outstanding families in the social and civic life of the town of Paraclyfta in the early days, was the popular Park family, at whose head stood honest, adamantean old Jim Park. He was the father of several wonderful boys, and a number of girls.

Jim Park was a model citizen and an ideal farmer. He reared a remarkable family of beautiful women and successful business men, and he always had money to loan.

If the nation today were populated with men of the type of James A. Park, the people generally would have little need for Social Security, or Old Age Pensions or a Welfare Department, or perhaps for jails and peace officers.

This man, however, was always as public spirited and

generous with his friends as he was frugal. His faith in his fellow man was illustrated in an incident that occurred one day in a lawyer's office in the town of Paraclyfta. On this occasion he made a loan of \$200.00 to a fellow townsman. As soon as the note was drawn and duly executed, he handed it back to the borrower and said: 'Now, John, you keep the note so that you will remember when it is due.' (How many people would we dare try that on today?—WTL)"

—"Out of the Dust of Old Paraclyfta" (Will Steely)  
*Arkansas Gazette*, July, 1916.

On October 11, 1861, Brig. Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith was promoted to Major General. Even if they heard of it, few of the members of the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles paid any attention, for they did not know that in less than twelve months they would be serving under General Smith in "The Kentucky Campaign."

Three days later, October 14, 1861, Private James Philip Eagle was promoted to Second Lieutenant in Company "G". As in the case of General Smith, few of the men ever dreamed that this lanky Lieutenant would some day become their Regimental Commander and afterwards Governor of the State of Arkansas.

About this same time William P. Lewis, 18, was enrolled in Company "G" as a private at Camp Pineville, some 22 miles north of Bentonville, Arkansas, by Col. McIntosh. No one knew that in less than two years this 18 year old boy would become their First Sergeant, and would later lay down his life at Ezra Church, Georgia.

On October 31, 1861, the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles were camped on Flat Creek, in Missouri. Muster Roll for that date shows the following officers in Regimental Headquarters:

Colonel: James McIntosh  
Lt. Col.: Ben T. Embry  
Major: Henry K. Brown  
Adjutant: William H. Elstner  
Q. M.: M. H. Keene  
Surgeon: William L. DeBerry  
Asst. Surg.: W. A. C. Sayle  
Sgt. Major: J. W. Head

Abstract from the monthly report of McCulloch's Division, Provisional Force, C. S. Army, commanded by Brig. Gen. Ben McCulloch, on this same date included:

Cavalry: Second Arkansas Mounted Riflemen (McIntosh)  
Officers 37, Men 404-441  
Aggregate present 553  
Aggregate present and absent 728

On November 9, 1861, the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles were camped at Camp Sevier, Missouri, and the next day moved to Camp Stephens, near Bentonville, Arkansas.

While at Camp Sevier, Col. McIntosh enrolled on the same day, October 9, 1861, Privates James W. Caughran and Levi C. French in Company "G". Caughran was later to become Captain of Company "G", and French First Lieutenant. Near the close of the Georgia Campaign, due to death and injury of so many Field Officers, French served for a time as Acting Commander of the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles, and was later to die on the field of battle at the bloody battle of Franklin, Tennessee, November 30, 1861.

On November 19, 1861, Daniel C. Cowling was enrolled in the 19th Regiment, Arkansas Infantry, popularly known as "Dawson's Regiment", and was commissioned First Lieutenant. Two days later the regiment was re-organized and Lt. Cowling was promoted to Captain, Company "G", 19th Arkansas Infantry, succeeding P. R. Smith, resigned. At the same time, Joseph Jasper Park, brother of James Monroe Park, Company "G", Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles, was enrolled as a Private in the same company with Captain Cowling.

While these regiments were entirely separate, members of the 19th Arkansas Regiment will be mentioned from time to time for the reason that two Park brothers were enrolled in the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles, and two other Park brothers were enrolled in the 19th Arkansas, and their paths crossed so many times during the war it is felt that mention of the 19th Regiment from time to time will add something to this story.

On November 21, 1861, Company "K", 19th Arkansas Regiment, was mustered into the Confederate service. A third Park brother, Burrell J. Park, was enrolled in Company "K" this day. Since his path crossed that of his brothers from time to time, he will be mentioned several times in our story.

On November 29, 1861, Brig. Gen. Ben McCulloch left Fort Smith, Arkansas, for Richmond, Virginia, leaving Col. James McIntosh in command of the Arkansas troops. Gen. McCulloch was not to return to Arkansas until February 10, 1862, and in his absence, January 26, 1862, Colonel McIntosh was promoted to Brigadier General, due in great part to the efforts of Ben McCulloch. Ben T. Embry was, in turn, promoted to Colonel, and placed in command of the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles.

On December 4th, in the absence of Gen. McCulloch, McIntosh went into Winter Quarters at Van Buren, Arkansas, across the

Arkansas River from Fort Smith. Col. McIntosh advised the Adjutant General in Richmond that the move from Fort Smith to Van Buren was necessitated by the prevalence of small-pox in the vicinity of Fort Smith. He included the following information in his message to Richmond:

"My brigade is now at its stations on the Arkansas River below this and a distance of 60 miles. The companies are busily engaged in erecting huts for winter quarters."

On December 21st Richmond was advised as to the total strength of the forces under Brig. Gen. McCulloch in Northwest Arkansas. Strength of the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles was shown as follows:

Present Strength—772  
Present for duty—553