

and James Garman they were not dead a few days after the battle the(y) were taken prisoners the(y) had carried them to Mound City in Mosauria (Missouri) They were advertised in the northern papers as prisoners from the 19th Ala Regt... Ambers Doss to his wife Sarah Doss and family" ⁴⁴

Hospital Corinth Miss May 26th 1862

"... I got hear one (on) the (illegible) day of this month and tucke (took) the Juandia (Jaundice?) I have line Verry Sick With them but are up and about againe I Strat (start) this Morning to the Holley Speings Hospitale to Stay afew days untill my health get better ... Wife if my life is affeard untill the 16 of July visit I Will bed at hom(e) for I an C lure (clear?) by the conscrip law at time" ⁴⁵

On May 26th, it is still in the same organization except that the 25th Ala regiment is not mentioned.⁴⁶ On May 28-29th, Col Wheeler, commanding 1st Brigade, with detachments from the 19th, 21st, and 26th Alabama Regiments, with about 200 men from some Mississippi Regiments, in all between 300 and 400 men, had an engagement with the enemy at Bridge Creek, in which the enemy were put to flight, losing 5 killed and 9 wounded. The Confederate loss was 8 killed, 28 wounded (4 mortally), and 7 missing. Among the killed was Captain W.R.D. McKenzie.⁴⁷

On June 30th, the 19th appears in Reserve Corps, commanded by General Withers, and in 1st Brigade commanded by General Frank Gardner; the brigade consisting of the 19th, 22nd, 25th, and 39th Alabama Regiments; and a company of Sharpshooters; and Robertson's Battery.⁴⁸

Saltilo Miss July 19th 1862

"Dear Companion ... the health of our Company is tolerble goode at This time ... if you can find any way to make me a colered (colored) Shirte I wante you to Sende it to me though I donte wante it without is colered and I woulde like to have one or twe pai of drawers I have been making Some inquiry a boute getting out under the conscript (Conscript Law) and I donte Se any chance for mee to git out yet though I thinke that as Soon as the conscript is brought into fill up the plases of those that is over and under the age I will come home their is four men from evry Regt that is to be Sente out after the conscript men and I wate (want) you to tell William Henderson if he has to coome to the war I woulde like for him to come to This company ... we havente drawed any money Since I come backe we have a bout 5 months

(illegible) ... We have no vegetable attal all that we have is beef & bred and Some Molases ...
 Ambrose Doss" ⁴⁹

Camp Near Saltito
 this July the 27th 1862

"Mrs Sarah Doss ... I will Say that Wee will leave this place perhaps today Wee ar(e) ordered to Chatanooga it is thought that thair will Be A Battle up thair Before long and from presant indacations it looks Verry Reasonable Wee will leave the Western Army in this country But the Main forces Will Be drawn off in the direction of Chatanooga if the presant orders is knot Countermanded Quickly"

"Dear Wife and children they Refuse to let men out that is over thirty five years of age it is Still thought to Be Said for all over that Age to Be Discharged tho the Head officers overrules the laws Nearly as they pleas I do knot know under presant circumstances When I will Be at home Again Whether Ever or knot I can only Say for you to do the Best you can whether I come or knot ... I hope that this Cruel War will Soon Cease But the prospects of any Such thing looks Sloomly at this time And we Still hope for A Speedy Close of Hostilitys and have A homerable peace So that all can Return to the imbraces of those loved ones at Home to Remain in the undisturbed posesion of All our Rights While life Remains

Nothing more yours till death

"Ambrose Doss to Sarah Doss" ⁵⁰

Cames (Camp) near Chatnooga Tenassee Aug 8th 1862

"To Mrs Sarah Doss ... We ar(e) in camps about thirtey miles north East of Chatnooga but I do not know how long We Will Stay hear but I do no think long We aspect to goe to _____ville Tenasee before memey days ... (illegible) got back this morning that Was taken in the Shilogh battle he says Demsey Waren & James Garman & D W (illegible) are all Dead ... Ambroe Doss" ⁵¹

Camp Near Tymersville Jenn this August 13th 1862

"Mrs Sarah Doss ... Dear Wife I can not Write anything Acurate in Regard to the Mooments of this Army But I have thought that Word (would?) Be Sent to Richmond tho the prospects looks at presant as if Wee Would Go to Some other point Gen Brag(q) Says that he aimed to Winter in Yankedom if he does that I am Satisfied that We have Some considerable fighting to

do Before We Reach Cinanata it is thought By Some that thair Will be But (little?) more fighting done But I think it Will last for Some months and perhaps years tho I hope how Soon it may Terminate ... I do not care about your Sending me them Cloths that I sent Word for untell November I Would like to have A pear of pants and one or two of drawers I have Bought Some Shirts Ambros Doss Yours till death to Sarah Doss"⁵²

On August 20, 1862, the organization of the brigade was the same as on June 30th.⁵³

Camp Near Chatanooga this August the 29th 1862

*"Mrs Sarah Doss ...Dear Wife I suppose We Will March today towards Mcminville it is Reported that the Yankees ar(e) falling Back Rapidly Which I think is So But am inclined to think that they ar(e) only concentration thair forces and that We Will have A Bloody meeting With the Insolant invaders of our Soil and if So I hope that We Will Be intirely Successful and that the Blood Hands Will Be forced to Quite our Soil in hast if these hope is Realalized I could hope for A Cesation of hostilitys and perhaps the Smilings of peace one time more Be Realized ... I have Sold my Watch for 40 dollars I will Send you one hundred and twenty dollars the first Good chance ... I dislike to Keep it hear one of our men John Buttler Brother to Lathams Soninlaw Stole 70 dollars and 37 cts from J.K. Love While they Sleeping together and make A search and found it Behind the lining of his Hat he is under Suard and Will Get Ruff treatment I Suppose ... if you have A Good chance Send me A Shirt & Jeans par (pair) of pants and par drawers By Cold Wether Ambrose Doss to Sarah Doss"*⁵⁴

The Invasion of Kentucky and the Siege of Munfordville

The Regiment participated in the Kentucky Campaign in the Fall of 1862, and aided in the capture of Munfordville, but was without loss. The brigade, which had been known as Gardner's had changed to Deas' brigade, he having been in command since Gardner had been ordered to Port Hudson before the Kentucky campaign began.⁵⁵

Camp Near Bardstown

Nelson County Kentucky this October the 2cond 1862

"Mrs Sarrah Doss ... We ar(e) lying on our oars(?) doing Nothing But drilling A little the Northern forces has mostly fell Back to Louisville and ar(e) fortyfying that place We Suposed that Brags Intentions Was to move on that place Before this time from Some cause unknown to

me the Attack has Bin delayed and I think it Now uncertain Whether Wee move on that place or is Some other direction tho I think if Louisville is to Be the place of Attacks (illegible) Every hour of time delayed Will Add to the Number of Brave Soldiers that must inevitable fall Before that place is taken By us ... We have marched over at least 3 hundred miles Since We left Lynesville Tenn many of our troops fell Sick on the march and Some of them Was Left Behind and fell into hands of the yankee cavetry We Suppose that 6 or 7 of our Com(pany?) has Bin taken priseners as they Was left Behind Sick tho they Will Be at home on parole Before this Reaches you if they Was taken and thairs But little doubt But what they ar(e)

We took 43 hundred priseners at Munfordville all thair arms and acoutermints We Should knot have lost A man if it had knot Bin for the Rash conduct of Gen Chalmer he was Sent in front With his Brigade of Mississippi Troops to go as fare as Cave City and thair Await the Main Body knowing the yankees Was Behind Intrechments at Munfordville the intention Was to Aproach them on all Sides and insure Victory With But little loss But Gen Chalmer pushed Madly on With one Brigade of 12 or 13 hundred men and Ataked the fortifications over 4000 Strong and the Result Was he Was Repulsed With Heavy loss Without doing the Enemy much damage But marched on to his Asistance and planted ar (our?) Artilery Nearly all Round the Works in the Night and found out that Amediate distruction Was thair doom unless they Surrendered Which they did Before We opened on them if Gen Chalmer had knot Bin So hot headed We Would knot have lost Any men of consaquence But if We Always come out as Will as We have on this march We Will knot complain

Dear Wife it is Reported that Gen Buell of the Northern Army has Resigned his commision in consaquence of Lyncolns late proclamation and J.C. Davis Brig Gen in the yankee Army killed Maj Gen Nelson at Louisville the other day the(y) disagreed the Affairs of thair Goverment and then fell out About thair Work on the intrenchments Gen Nelson commanded the forces that Kirby Smith Whiped out So Badly he Retreated to Louisville and come to his death as Above stated our officers and men is in fine Sperits and many of them think that this cruel War Will Soon Close I hope it may Be So tho God knows What Will Be the final Issue of things or thing ... the company is generaly in tolerable heth (health) We ar(e) orderd to cook 2 day Rations I Suppose We Will leave tomorow But in what dirrection I dont no Ambrose Doss to Sarah Doss and Children ⁵⁶

The 19th Ala did not participate in the Battle of Perryville following which Bragg ordered his army to retreat back into Tennessee.

This campaign promised much, and in the early part of it the advantage was on the side of the Confederates decidedly. They brought out of Kentucky much that was valuable, and inflicted a loss of about 25,000 troops upon the enemy with comparatively slight loss on the part of the Confederates. The entrance by Bragg's Army was from Chattanooga; that of General Kirby Smith was from East Tennessee. Both armies in the

retreat came back through Cumberland Gap, and passed into Tennessee again about the last of October.

*Camp Near Knoxville Tenn
this October the 29th 1862*

"Mrs Sarrah Doss ... I can Say the (that) I do Knot think thair has Bin much made By our Kentucky Trip it Seemed that our Generals could Knot Be kept from Runing All tho the officers and men Was Anxious to fight Bragg) Will knot fight if he can find any Ground to Run on ... many of our Soldiers has and Will die from hard Marching and Suffering We Went 3 days A time or two Without any provision only What parched corn We Could git Which Was A Small Amount you can Amagin our Suffering ... We Was Skirmising and in line of Battle for many days and Nights With Nothing like half Rations None of the time ... Thomas C. Hudelston of our com(pany) died the day after We Reached hear of pueinomia feavor and Many of the Boys is unwell and A few of them Very Sick ... as to Clothing I Need two Colered Coten Shirts and two Janes par of pants and 2 par of drawers and 2 par of Socks ... I Need A par of Good Strong Shoes if you can Gen them made if knot try to Send me A Good par of letters Ambrose Doss to Sarrah Doss and Children"⁵⁷

Brig. Gen. Arthur M. Manigault reported that the length of the march from Harrison's Ferry on the Tennessee River to the close of the Kentucky campaign in Knoxville, TN, was 518 miles.⁵⁸ See Fig. 2 for the route of march during this campaign. Note that from the time the Army of Tennessee crossed the Tennessee River until the arrival back in Knoxville, the infantry travelled on foot.

Bragg concentrated his forces in the vicinity of Murfreesborough; and Buell gathered his in the same section. They were thus confronting each other in the latter part of December 1862.



Figure 3. The Kentucky Campaign

*Camp Near Murfreesborough Tenn
Decr 12th 1862*

"Dear Wife ... I have no news of Importance to write to you we are camped in one mile of Murfreesboro we do not expect to Stay here long we have not built any winter quarters yet ... we have got no commissined officer with us Hagood Reed has gone home and the Capt has not Come yet

Jessee Young has got Back to his Regt but I have (not?) Seen him it is reported that they have the Smallpox in that Regt and I have not been over to See him ... Send me Some potatoes as I have not had a (illegible) this fall & winter ... the Company is in Very good health at this time we

have not drawn any money Since Sept we will draw Soon again I recon A. Doss to Sarah Doss " 59

December the 15 1862 Camp near Murfreesbor tennessee

"Dear Wife an children ... we all ar(e) faring vary well at this time liut Rous (Leutenant Rouse) got in yisterday and brought all you Sent me but the brandy the Shous (shoes) that you Sent me i can make out vary will with an was very proud that you Sent them to me ... Sary (Sarah) i will state to you that i had the honor of Seaing the presadent davis last Saturday Corn an meat is cheaper hear than its is thear corn can bee bought hear at 100 (one dollar?) per bushel porke is wrth from 12 to 15 cts per pounds you rate to me to get you Some Salt but ther is no chanss Sary for me to get a bit we Suffer vary mutch fer Salt hourSelvs but i am going to Send you 25 dollars buy Robart dickinson and i want you to buy Salt enough to do you let it cost what it will we havent drawd no money in near 4 monts A Doss to Sary Doss " 60

*Camp Near Murphreborough
this December the 16th 1862*

"Mrs Sarah DossI Recd all you sent But the Brandy the Bottle come to hand But it was Emty Luet Rouse put the Bundle on top of the Boxes and Clothing fearful the Bottle mought get Broke tho thair Was Several With him tho they had plenty of Brandy all the Way and No Cause for drinking mine he can not Account for it Without A Soldier took it he took half galon from Lieut Rouse tho the Brandy is Gone and I Send you the Bottle to fill up and try Again ... We Will leave to day on picket 12 miles towards Nashville We Will take 3 days Rations with us ... I have Clothing plenty to Do me this Winter tho When you can Do So make me a Suit of Gray Janes thos Dont Be in any hurry About it ... Ambrse Doss to Sarah Doss " 61

The Battle of Murfreesboro

The 19th, with Deas' brigade, was engaged in the fierce Battle of Murfreesboro, or Stone's River, from the evening of December 29, 1862, to January 4, 1863. There are from this brigade neither reports from regimental nor brigade commanders, and its only record is that of division commanders. Deas was not present, and at the commencement of the battle, Col John Q. Loomis was in command, and General Cheatham in his report speaks of several gallant charges of the brigade under Col Loomis prior to his being wounded on December 31st.⁶² The command of the brigade then devolved upon Col John G. Coltart, and its action is highly commended by Generals Cheatham and Withers.⁶³



Figure 4. 1862 Encampments & Battles of the 19th Alabama

1863

Of the action on January 3, 1863, Gen Withers says, "Colonels White [Commanding Chalmer's brigade] and Coltart proved themselves deserving of commendation by the admirable conduct of their commands throughout the harassing period of their occupancy of this important and almost isolated position." The losses of the 19th Regiment and the brigade respectively were of the 19th, 8 killed, 143 wounded, 3 missing; among the killed was Captain Robert J. Healey; and the brigade had 67 killed, 445 wounded, and 36 missing.⁶⁴

Sah Doss

January the 18 1863 Camp near Shelbyville tennessee

"Dear loving wife an children ... Sarah i dropt you afiew lines the 8 of this month whitch will give you a small Sketch of the battle that i was in if you get it tho Sarah i will Say that the Shilow battle was not a comparason to this an sicke as i was for i saw more dead men in one field that i Saw in the hole Shilow battle but we drove the ennimey all the time that we faut we was in the line of battle from Sunday morning till 12 o clock the next Saturday nite the fite on Saturday nite beetwint 8 and 9 o clock in the nite was the hardest contest we had but we Stod (stood) hour (our) ground and drove the enemy back an then we reseod (received) orders to face back whitch (illegible) all this time that we was out was the worst cold an rainest time ever expsearnst (experienced) all most in life

*... Sarah i was from the time that we left camps we was Some 20 days tell we got back to whear i cold (could) get my napsack and when i got it Some one had taken my new jeans pants out of it and i havant Sean them yet but i bought a par from capt hanby and had to pay 10 dollars for them clothing is vary dear and hard to get Sarry (Sarah) i want you to make me a Sheall (Shell) jacket an line it thru and dont put aney buttens on it i can take the butens off of my old coat an put on it i want you to put 9 buttens holes up the brest A Doss to Sarah Doss "*⁶⁵

January the 26th 1863

Camps Near Shelbyville

*"Dear Wife & Children ... I think that the men that is liable to the Conscript had better volinteer if they will volinteer they will get their bounty & they will be allowd to join any Company that they choose to join A Doss "*⁶⁶

*Camp Near Shelbyville
February the 14th 1863*

*"Dear Wife & Children ... We hav got ten conscripts in our Company & they hav bin grunting around the Doctor for a dis charge ...
... we air (are) expectin order to leave here Everyday but I Dont know wheir we will go ...
A Doss to Sary Doss" ⁶⁷*

The Regiment remained with the Army in the vicinity of Tullahoma, Tenn. until the summer of 1863, in comparative quiet after the Murfreesborough battle, while the fires of battle were raging around Vicksburg in the West, and Richmond in the East. Brigade strength on April 1, 1863, was total effective 1998, total present 2393. Deas was in command of the brigade, and Col McSpadden of the 19th Ala.⁶⁸

The following are extracts from letters from E. W. Treadwell, a Confederate soldier with the 19th Ala., to his wife during the period April 5 - May 10, 1863, and Ambrose Doss.

*Shelbyville Tenn
Apr 5th 1863*

"Dear Mattie

...Things are very quiet here at this time. Forest captured near a thousand federals a few days since and I understand that we lost some at or about the same time (captured) Our boys are are getting more than tired of the army and desertions are becoming quite common even in our own Regt [illegible word]. Some two or 3 nights ago we lost 2 from our Regt and 3 from 22nd and 8 from 25th and one from sharp shooters and by the way James McHail is now reported here as a Deserter. ...I am fearful that desertions will prove disastrous to our army It is now a common saying amon[g] the men that they will desert as soon as the foliage are large enough to hide them good they speak it as though they were gesting but I fear many of them will carry it too far for a joke Our cavalry now seem to think that the Federal army have fallen back to even beyond Murfreesburro. Some are fearful that they will flank us to the left and extend their lines from Columbia towards Tenesee River but from what I can gather I think that will hardly be their pollicy Luke Aubury has died from the wou[n]d he received in the late Donaldson fight this is sad news I presume to his wife and an irreparable loss to his little children who are left now without a kind fathers protection. God bless the fatherless and keep them with a fathers hand I now look away to the top of yonders knole and see the mounds that mark the last resting places of may who no doubt have left many dear little ones behind to mourn their loss. they have fell

victims to disease and are now done with the cares of Earth. nothing marks their resting places
Except a mound of clay

...I sent in the letter that contained your ring a dollars worth of shimplasters if I am not mistaken. I also sent some envelopes and some stamps in other letters which you never acknowledged I would like to know if you got them I wrote you some time ago that one of my shirts were worn out thinking that I had brought but 2 but I found I had 3 My shoes are nearly worn out a[[s]ready. my pants are both worn through on the seat and I burned a considerable hole in the tale of my knew coat but have patched it. I have drawn no money yet We get about enough to live on now meal bacon & a little pork and poor beef now and then a little syrup. we are verry scarce of something to cook in we have nothing in our mess to cook in. we depend entirely upon borrying. You spoke in your letter concerning whiskey as though you thought I would do best without whisky I left it to your discretion. but you need not suffer uneasiness in regard to my using to much of it my self. If I had one gallon of good spirits I could get for it by to morrow night \$100. it sells here at one dollar per drink I don't want it to drink. I would like to have one of your ovens if I could possibly get it I can't get one here for love nor money McSpaden [Commander of the 19th Ala] is drunk every time he can get liquor I stood guard around his tent the other night and he was quarreling with our [word illegible] until bed time & then puked & something else all knight

[no signature]

King is here I may send this by him He starsts wendsday I will send a letter by him
-- your letters comes in 3 or 5 days

Pepper Sauce is worth \$5.00 a qt and Pickles in proportion

Seventyfive men left one Regt of Cavalry two or three knights ago " 69

Shelbyville Tenn

Apr 7th 1863

Dear wife

...I was on guard 9 o clock at night. He Bindermen brought me the letter I chunked up my little handful of fire and read your letter I then silently walked my post to and fro and meditated on things of the past and those of the future with nothing to disturb my sad thoughts but the cold north wind ...

Your husband in love

E W Treadwell

Rumor says the Feds are evacuating Murfreesborough -- my Box had been carried to Rome and back, and the Clerk knew nothing about it there was 6 or 8 Doz of eggs in it and 2 Balls of splendid butter -- Clerk told B that he had used some of the eggs and pretended to

replace them -- nearly one 3rd of them were broke -- hen Eggs all broke -- Send me an oven by Wm Anderson if Possible also a tin cup a nife and fork -- ... I havent missed a day of duty since I returned to camp -- S Hampton is waiting on McSpaden (cook) I made an effort for ass [assistant] surgeon CSA refused to sign my first papers and modified them so that I never will get an answer -- Write by mail every week without fail" ⁷⁰

Camp Near Shelbyville Tenn --- this April the 21st 1863

"Mrs Sarah Doss

Dear Wife and Children ... Well Sarah I do Knot Know anything About Whether I Shall Be able to get to come home anytime Soon or Knot tho if I live I Shall try for furlough after Awhile But the prospects is Good for A powerful Battle in this Vacinity Between the two Armys in A Short time ... Good for A Avance of the yankeys in Short time General Johnson is in Command of this Army I hope We Will Be Victorious Dear Wife I aim to do my duty What time I live ... the Boys is in only tolerable helth thair is more sickness then thair Was sometime Back they Suffer Greatly for Greens and Vegatables of all Kinds ...

Amber Doss Sarah Doss (1861) "71"

Camps near Shelbyville Tennessee April the 24th 1863

Dear wife and children ... I was vaccinated again and my arm made me sick it was a great deal more than it was this I ... here about something to eat we get plenty of meat and bread ... We are expecting a battel here every day I have missed duty 2 days which is the first time I have missed duty since I was at ...

April 30 1863

the State of Tennessee Bedford Co murrurborow

"Dear Wife & Children

*Picket Camp Shelbyville Tenn
May 7th 1863*

"Mrs Sarah Doss

My Dear wife ... everything is moderately quiet here though we is ready or being made so for an other fight Should the Federals choose to advance

... My arm has been Vary bad for three weeks past but is much better now. So much so that I am able for duty. My geneal health is good. I will make application for a furlough but it is altogether uncirten whether it will be granted me.... Ambros Doss " 74

*Picket camps above ShelbyvilleTenn
May 23 1863*

"Dear Wife ... My health is better than it has been for six weeks. My arm has got about will (well) I made an application for a furlough a few days ago & it has returned disapproved I dont know now when I will get a chance to come home probably not until my time is out. ... I want you to bring me all the eggs & butter that you can get if you can buy any in the settlement any where do so for eggs are worth two dollars a dozen & butter two dollars a pound here & as many onions as you can spare providen they are ripe enough to pull up when you come ... Ben Skinner joined our Company & started to the Hospital & he was exanined by the Doctors at Shelbyville & thes turned back & told him to come back to his company & he deserted he is the first man that has ever deserted from company ...when you come bring me a pr of pants a pair of drawers & a shirt the first ala cavalry had a fight up above here yesterday there was some killed some wonded & about 80 of our men taken prisoners our men cought the man that pilots the yanks through & hung him this morning at 8 o clock Ambrose Doss to Sarah Doss " 75

Camp Near Shelbyville this June the 11th 1863

"Mrs Sarah Doss

Dear Wife and Children ... it has Been Reported that the yanks has Advancing and I supose they did Start and come part of the Way But all is Quiet at presant But I Do not Know how long they Will Remain so it is thought By, Some that We Will have to fight in Short Time While others think that it Will Be Some time Before A Battle here But all Seem to think that thair Will Be A Heavy ingagement some Where in the Section of country Sooner or later I can only say I am as Ready for it one time as nother I can only hope and feel like the hand that has

protected me thorough So many Dangers and trials and troubles is Still Able to perserve and protect me through all Dangers to come ... Well Dear Wife thair is tolerable helth in the Army at presant But thair has Been 4 Deaths in our company Since the 1st of May ----- Lafayett Parham and Jesse Burns has Deserted and the Allwise Ben Skinner left first thair is A Good Deal of Desserting from this Army at presant ... Ambrose Doss to Sarah Doss and Children " 76

June the 20 1863

Camp near Shelbyville tennessee

"Dear loneing (loving?) Wife and Children ... everything is Still along hour (our) lines at this time and has bin nearley ever Sen (since) the Murfresborow fite but we hear of powerful fiteing at other points an agreeable to the reports We have bin vary Sucksesfull So far but We cant get no news that is reliable from (Vicks?)burg and i fear that is you and all So hour hole army ... Sarah if you can get 2 or 3 gallons of liquer and fetch with you i will make you 50 dol out of it while you say Sarah i want you to bring me all the onions and eggs an butter that you can spare but i dont you to disfurnish you an the children buy no means and bring me Some honey to if you can by it Sheap (cheap) enough honey is worth one dollar per pound here butter \$100 (one dollar?) an 50 cts eggs 200 (two dollars?) dollars per dosen ... Silas glover is Still under gard yet wessley lesher has Sev'd his time of imprisnment out and has come to the Co and gon to duty Som (Sam?) doget was brought in the other day and was put under gard and i dont no what they will do with Sam i fear it will go vary tite with him he was furlow'd from enterprise in July last and he would not com back and the cavarley brought him in A Doss to Sarah Doss " 77

The brigade, with the Army, moved to the vicinity of Chattanooga from June 27th to July 4th, during which movement there was some skirmishing.⁷⁸

Camp ner Chattanooga Tennessee July 13th 1863

"Dear Wife ... we hade a very harde time on the march from Shelbyville ... I have a pare of Socks that I am going to Send backe as I donte ware Socks in warm weather and you can bring thim backe if you come to See me I Still ame (aim) to come home if I can get off if I See that I cante come home I will write and let you (k)now I cante tell how long we will Stay here we may Stay here Some time I cante tell Some thinks we will go to mobile ... "
A Doss to Sarah Doss " 79

On July 31st, Col Coltart is in command of the brigade, and Col McSpadden of the 19th Ala; and the 26th had changed to the 50th Alabama.⁸⁰

Camp 4 Miles South Chattanooga Tennessee

*with mee for staying over my time nor I donte Suppose they will I am on garde to day little
bin Shelling Chattanooga they Shelled the Town all day yestoday there was one Woman cilled
(killed) & one littlee Girl got here arm Shot off & Severel men cilled and Wounded It is reported
while and I hope we may be able to contend with them and drive them away from this plase I
cant think that we will Evacuate this plase without giving them a fite we are fortifyng this plase
Strongly I think we will be able to gawe (give) them a Warm reception if they cillase to advance
on urs (us) ... Ambrose Doss*

*NR the artillery has comenced roaring Since I comenced writina
Yours as ever
A Doss ⁸¹*

The Battle of Chickamauga and the Siege of Chattanooga

Hindman's Division.⁸² September 19-20th was the Battle of Chickamauga; in which the whole army distinguished itself for its valor, its severe losses, and complete victory, but no advantage taken of its opportunities. In the report of Col McSpadden he says:

*"About 11 a.m. [20th] we were ordered forward. Scaling our
until, reaching the borders of another open field, the enemy were discovered
behind some houses, potash-works, and rail breastworks. At this point
there was not even a temporary hesitancy, but with an increased shout and
rapidity of step, we drove the enemy from these works with great slaughter,
and pursued them through the open field some 250 yards to an elevated*

being no horses near, we were compelled to leave the pieces of artillery on the ground. "...During the next morning, we were enabled to gather about 50 prisoners, two or three wagons of rations, ammunition, etc., with one piece of artillery, and many small-arms.

"...My regiment entered into battle with about 469 guns. My loss was: Killed 34; Wounded 158; Missing 12. Total loss 204."...."My regiment deeply mourns the loss of many gallant comrades, and especially of a good man, a consistent Christian, and excellent officer, in the person of First Lieut. Joseph B. High, Company H, who was in command of and fell while gallantly leading his company at the enemy's third breastworks."...."While I cannot specify the many acts of gallantry exhibited by the different officers and men under my command, there was one instance of valor and daring so extraordinary as to demand my attention. On the second charge in the evening, when the troops on my right gave way and my right wing began to waver, Captain Hugh L. Houston, Company B, sprang to the colors, and, rushing with them to within 30 steps of the enemy's cannon, gallantly waved them and urged the men to follow their country's banner. But finding he was supported by only 40 or 50 men, they were compelled to retire, which they did in good order."

Camp Near Chicamauga Tenn

Sept 23 1863

"Dear Wife ... I am well and come through the Battle Safe tho there was Sevversl of the Boyes killed and wounded in our company there was fore (four) killed James Robins Tom Love John fortes Frank Warmick is though to be ded (dead) by this time ... I havent no news to write only we whiped them badly and they fell back to chattanooga ...

A Doss" ⁸³

in Line of Battle Near Chatanooga Tenn this oct the 5th 1863

"Mrs Sarah Doss

Dear Wife and Children ... We are sheling Chatanooga at presant ... most of the time Since We Whiped the yanks thare has Been Shelling More or less We ar(e) in line of Battle in plain View of federal Army (illegible) some 2 or 3 Miles from the main yanky force But We Will Be on picket tomarow and Will Be in A Short Distance of them I hope However that I Will come out all Right as I have Done on all former ocasions Dear Wife I hope to pass through all coming fields of Blood safe and that the South Will finaly Suced and Be permitted to Return to the imbraces of Loved ones at home But of this ther is no certanty for all Will Adnit that No man Can tell the Day of his Death We only look and hope to Be favored With the protection of the Same Allwise Being that has Been our Kind protector in all past Dangers and that Very

thought and hope is Almost the Existance of All men that has A Loving Wife and Children at home tho these hopes May Be Blasted at A Single Stroke as has Been the case in thousands of cases Since this Bloody War Commenced if that is or Was to Be the case the Best Way is to submit calmly to the fate that Awaits us Ambrose Doss to Sarah Doss" ⁸⁴

Line of Battle front Chattanooga

Oct 25th 63

"My Dear Wife ... we are Still lying in line of Battle a waiting the advance of the enemy though I donte hardeliy think they will chose to come as we have Strange (strong?) fortification to defend mrs ... Well Salley we are living very harde we are barley getting half rashins we have had our cooking done 3 or 4 Miles from the Regt ever Since the fite & it is managed very badely though our cooking vessels is ordered into urs (us) to day & I think we will fare better whene we git to doing our own cooking I would like very mutch for you to Send me a fiew Potatoes & Some dried fruit also a fiew onions if you have any chance & have them to Spare I want you to tell Brother Joel if he has any notion of joining the armey I want him to come here if he will come & join this company I will get a furlough & recompence him besids old Bragg will give any man a furlough that will get a recrut in his plase I want you to be shure and write I have to write with a pensil as I got my ink Bottle Broke & cante borrow no ink their is no ink in the company ... I want you to number your letters So I can tell how many you have Wrote Ambrose Doss to Sarah Doss" ⁸⁵

November the 13th 1863

Camps Near Chattanooga

"Dear Wife ... the helth of our company is vary good at the present time But I Dont know how long hit (it) will Remain so we hav(e) agrate (a great) Deal of Duty to Do we hav(e) to Drill three hours a day & hav(e) to stand Picket every five Dayes we stand in three hunded (hundred) yards of the yankeys their is agate many men Disertin & going to the yankys their was 32 men went out of one Brigaid yesterday & last night to the yankeys their has several left our Regt since the Battle of Chicamagga they has been severl left Capt Hewets company ther was 4 left the other night ... the Reason that they air Diserting so is for the want of Something to Eat we get But vary little meet these times we have got onley 1 pound for the last 4 Dayes past I will try to stay with them untill my time is out I want you to send mee a half Bushel of white pees if you hav(e) got them or can get them without putting your self to towo much truble ... I wood like for you to Send mee one shirt the first chance if you can with out Disfurnishing your Self or the

*children too much I got one sleeve of one of my shirts Burnt off or I would of had close (clothes) plenty to of (done) mee this winter if con federate money will Do you any good I will Send you all that I can spair whin I Draw I think that I will Draw it About the last of this month ...
A Doss to Sarah Doss" ⁸⁶*

The Battles of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge

The army continued to invest Chattanooga. The organization of the brigade and regiment was the same on Nov. 20th, when the further stirring events of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge were being inaugurated.⁸⁷ In the affair of Lookout Mountain, Nov. 24, 1863, neither the 19th nor the brigade had a part. What part it had in Missionary Ridge on the 25th of Nov. cannot be learned as there are no reports from regiment, brigade or division. It was in Hindman's division which was to the left of the center, and along that part of the line not engaged until afternoon. There seems to have been no vigor in defense along that part of the line. On a part of it, the Confederates were mainly left in trenches at the base of the Ridge instead of being formed on the crest; and the space of a brigade length without even a skirmish line on the crest, as is learned from the report of General Bate.⁸⁸ Along this part it appears that the enemy got to the crest of the Ridge in some force without opposition, took possession of the Confederate artillery, and turned it upon them. A panic ensued; confusion prevailed, and all the glorious work of the right wing was lost, and the Confederate Army falling back from the ridge began that retreat ending only at Dalton.

Sam R. Watkins, 1st Tenn. Infantry, in his book, "Co. Aytch" provides a personal account of this panic, although he refers to Deas' brigade as Day's brigade.⁸⁹

"...I saw Day's [Deas'] brigade throw down their guns and break like quarter horses. Bragg was trying to rally them. I heard him say, 'Here is your commander,' and the soldiers halloed back, 'here is your mule.'

"I felt sorry for General Bragg. The army was routed, and Bragg looked so scared. Poor fellow, he looked so hacked and whipped and mortified and chagrined at defeat, and all along the line, when Bragg would pass, the soldiers would raise the yell, 'Here is your mule;' 'Bully for Bragg, he's hell on retreat.'"

"Bragg was a good disciplinarian, and if he had cultivated the love and respect of his troops by feeding and clothing them better than they were, the result would have been different. More depends on a good general than the lives of many privates. The private loses his life, the general his country."

"When we had marched about a mile back in the rear of the battlefield, we were ordered to halt so that all stragglers might pass us, as we were detailed as the rear guard. While resting on the road side we saw Day's [Deas'] brigade pass us. They were gunless, cartridge-boxless, knapsackless, canteenless, and all other military accoutermentsless, and swordless, and officerless, and they all seemed to have the 'possum grins, like Bragg looked, and as they passed our regiment, you never heard such

fun made of a parcel of soldiers in your life. Every fellow was yelling at the top of his voice, "Yaller-hammer, Alabama, flicker, flicker, flicker, yaller-hammer, Alabama, flicker, flicker, flicker." I felt sorry for the yellow-hammer Alabamians, they looked so hacked, and answered back never a word."

The reported casualties for Hindman's division in these engagements was 69 killed, 463 wounded, 1088 missing.

In vindication of troops who had been so effective in former battles, and so defective as appears in this, a quotation will be made from the "History of the 10th Regiment S.C. Vols. Confederate States Army" by C.J. Walker, Lieut. Col. of the regiment, pages 104-106:

"At Missionary Ridge we had two lines of works, one at the foot of the Ridge, behind which were the tents, huts, and other shelters; the other at the crest. The entire slope between the two was covered by the fire from the forts around the city, and often the enemy inconsiderately forced us at unreasonable hours to seek the protection of the breastworks. But gradually every one became accustomed to this state of things. On the 23rd November, the enemy was seen moving in force on our front, and everything was made ready to receive him.During the night, the 24th and 28th Alabama Regiments of our Brigade had been moved to the line on the crest of the ridge. The 10th and 19th S.C. Regiments (then consolidated) and the 34th Alabama Regiment were left in the works at the foot, with instructions to retire to the second line as soon as the enemy advanced in force. We had no attack until afternoon, when the enemy advanced in strength. It was a splendid sight from the top of the ridge - the valley swarming with myriads of blue coats, all advancing in splendid order. One man in the Regiment said of this, that he was willing to fight the Yankees two to our one, but when he heard old Grant command "Attention World! by nations right and left wheel," he thought it was about time for him to retire.

"The front line was abandoned, under the order to do so, (the same disposition was made in all the brigades of our division, and we think of the corps), and the regiments dragged slowly up the tedious slope under a terrible artillery fire, the men arriving at the summit, completely exhausted. Men dropped, as if shot, from sheer fatigue. The enemy follow, attack, are easily repulsed in our front. Again attack and again repulsed, they seek what shelter can be found on the hillside. But a crowd is gathering opposite the centre of the brigade to our left, under the hilltop not commanded by the fire from their breastworks. Dent again with us, exhausts his ammunition on them. So complete has been the success of our brigade, that the 34th Alabama is spared to assist Deas on our right. What means the broken lines in the distance beyond our Division? No longer molested by Dent's fire, the Yankees gather under Anderson's center, charge, drive his men away, capture his battery and turn the guns on our left. Everything to the left of our Brigade was now gone. The enemy form to attack us, press on our flank - press it in front, rear and side, and when only capture could be the result of

longer holding out, our gallant Alabamians retire. Meanwhile, the enemy have pressed Deas from his position and bear down on our right. Almost surrounded, Col. Pressley reluctantly orders the retreat, and the Regiment retires from the Ridge."

The army in its retreat from Chattanooga reached Dalton about the last days of November, and there went into winter quarters. The camp of the 19th Ala. with Deas' brigade and the division was about 2 miles southeast of Dalton, and next to Stevenson's division.

Camp Near Dalton Ga.

December 2th/63

"My Dear Wife ... I come threw the fite safe or Skir which ever it is called we did not fite mutch though we (illegible) manfully ... I recd a letter & some beef & 2 apples ... We had one man wounded in our company & three that was taken prisoners Champ Langford was the man that was wounded he was shot in the leg I donte think as a general thing we had many men killed though the yanks captured a grate many of our men I am faring very well consdering every thing I have ben trying to draw a blanket for some time though have failed I want you to send me a blanket if you can cononintly & i got one of shirts burnt & if you can I want you to send me a shirte also a pair of socks I want you to send J.H. Hewit word to make me a number one pare of shoes I want them to be No 11 We are building winter quarters though donte no how long we will stay here ...

Ambrose Doss to Sarah Doss" 90

On December 10, 1863, the organization was the same ⁹¹, and the 19th Alabama had on December 14, 1863, 304 effectives, with 347 present; and present and absent 634 (page 825). There were only 171 arms in the hands of the 304 effectives, which shows that in the flight many must have thrown away their guns.

Camp Near Dalton Ga

December 13th 63

"Dear Wife ... the health of our Armeys is uncomon good we havent had a man on the sick reporte in 10 days in our Company it is thought we will Stay at this plase during the Winter we have got urs (us) all very nise little shanties built sence we came to this plase the Rogers Boys & myself Stays together We have lived Tolerble well since we came to this plase we draw bread rashins Tolerble plentyfuley though our meat is very scanty we only draw three quarters of a pound of beef & it is very pore they have got to Ishuing the (awfullist?) of all the beevs we draw the head &

feet & tounge & horslets Which we are glad to get Well Sarah I seen a site day before yestoday that I never Saw before I seen 4 men Shot to death for disertion they was all Setting on ther coffins when they was Shot It was a awful Site though I have Seen So mutch It did not excite mee a gradeal ... Thomas Graham was sent to the 28 Ala Regt & died soon after he got there Thomas James was captured in the fite & about half the Regiment was captured at the Same time I wrote in my other letter about wanting some clothing & shoes you need not to troble your self about getting me a shirte as I have drew one since I wrote before though I woulde like to have one pair of Socks also I woulde like for you to get L.H. Hewit to make me a good pair of Shoes I want them to be high quartered & No. 11
Ambrose Doss to Sarah Doss " 92

Lieut. Col. George R. Kimbrough was in command of the regiment on December 31, 1863 (page 886). Though the winter of 1863-4 was a very cold one, the army had a comparatively comfortable time. They had good huts or tents, with fireplaces attached, and in a large forest where fuel was plentiful - rations good and of good quality - often boxes of food from home - a liberal system of furloughs gave many an opportunity to visit home - many of the home people visited their friends in the army - there were frequent religious services conducted by chaplains and army missionaries - secret fraternities were established - and in short much to make it the most pleasant part in the whole of that struggle of years. There was time for reading and social enjoyment. Occasionally fun would be had by a snow-balling. On one occasion during a heavy snow, a battle began in Pettus' brigade, and after enjoying the fun among themselves for a time, they had the General and his staff to lead them to the nearest brigade which they attacked; and after it continued between them for a time, the two joined and attacked the next; and then the three joined and attacked the next division, which gave them a good fight. It was exciting and highly interesting, for it was done in regular organizations, with the war yells and cheers; and the soldiers had all become boys again.

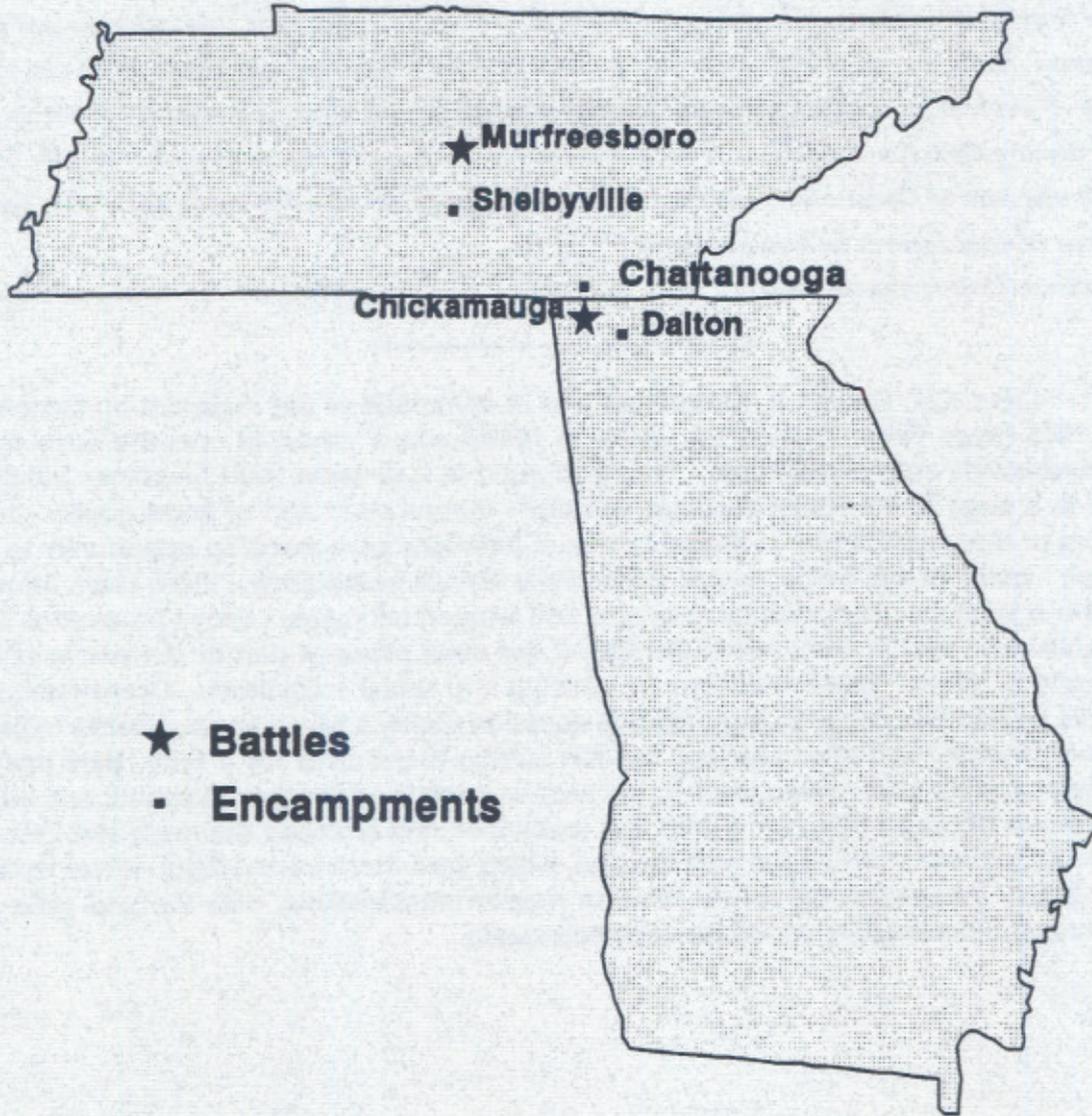


Figure 5. 1863 Encampments & Battles of the 19th Alabama