

1864

*Camp Near Dalton Ga
Jan 27th 1864*

"Dear Wife ...the health of my Company is good I had bade luck with my Clothing I washed all my Clothing but what I had on & hung them out to dry & neglected taking them in at nite & next morning When I got up and looked for them they was gone Some Roge Stolen them in the nite I lost the Shirte you made me while I was at home & I lost the cotton pants & one pair of drawers I Recd the Socks you Sent mee Samuel Doget was Court Marshaled & Shot last friday he belong to our Company he is the first man that has ben put to death in that way that belongs to our Regiment though thier is Several moore of our Company that If they was brought back here their is no doubt but they would get the Same punishment we are farring tolerble well at thi(s) time we get plenty of bread rations & 3 quarters of a pound of beef & Severel other little nourishments Sutch as Rise & Suger Sometime & onse & a while we get a little hog meet though It is Seldome their is a considerable excitement among the soldiers a bout Reinlisting their has ben Some fiew Reinlisted though they are but fiew as yet I think thier wil(l) be a grate many that will Reinlist for the ware Ambrose Doss to Sarah Doss" ⁹³

*Camps of 19th Ala Regt Near Dalton Ga
Feb 22th 1864*

"Dear Wife ...I believe I will Send the Shoes home that you Sent to mee as I had just drew a pair a fiew days before I got the one you Sent mee they are about one half a inch too Shorte for mee I want you to let frank Hiewet have them back if he will make mee another good pair I want them to be at lest one half a inch longer if he will not promise to make them you can ceep the ones that I Send back the Shoes that I have got will last untill my time is out & them I will Come home if i live A Doss" ⁹⁴

The army was much recreated in numbers, health, and spirits by spring, and delighted with the great leader General Joseph E. Johnston who had been placed over them, whom they had learned to love before operations began in the field, and which grew upon them as the campaign progressed. Before it opened, there was a splendid pageant in the way of a sham battle in which all arms of the service were engaged, the excitement being much like that of a real engagement. Just before the campaign opened, the whole army in full military equipment and formation was reviewed by General

Johnston with the regular bands and the field bands stirring the blood by their thrilling marches.

*Camp of 19th Ala Regt Near Dalton Ga
March 3rd 1864*

*"My Dear Companion ... I Recieved the meet that you sent by Mr vann hit (it) came in a good time We wor Just out for the first time sence we came to this place we hav(e) spent nearley \$100 Dollars for meet sence we hav(e) Bein at this place the yankeys maid an advance on us to try to cear (scare?) us But we Showd fight at them & they went Back after having A little fight with Clatons Brigaid they Killed 5 of Clatons men & wonded fifty one March Gill got his Rite arm Broke in the fight ... also you Stated in your letter you did not want mee to Reinlist I can inform you that I have not as yet Reinlistid nor I donte have any Idie (idea) I will be the next time you hear from mee ... O yes I had like to a forgot I Intend to gave you a kiss the first time I See you for Sending mee them Sausages Ambrose Doss to Sarah Doss "*⁹⁵

Early in May, the enemy started from their winter quarters around Chattanooga toward the Confederate encampment. The army moved out from Dalton about the 5th and 6th of May 1864, and met the Federals under General Sherman at Rocky Face Ridge.

The armies were engaged from the 8th of May to the 12th along the line of Rocky Face and corresponding lines, when the superior force of General Sherman enabled him to send a heavy flanking force to cut General Johnston's rear in the vicinity of Resaca, where he hoped to destroy the bridges over the Oostenaula River. This caused Johnston to fall back to Resaca for protection. Here there was severe fighting until the 15th of May, when the flanking tactics of Sherman again forced Johnston out of position. There is no report showing the action of the 19th Alabama or the brigade except in a general way, and even that is very meager. There is no report from the regiment, brigade, or division from the opening of the campaign until the siege of Atlanta had commenced. Even that of the corps, as given by General Hood,⁹⁶ is brief but shows that in the battle of Rocky Face it had no prominent part while at Resaca for part of the time the brunt fell on Hindman's division.⁹⁷ The action of regiment and brigade is to be supposed good as was true of all the army in the masterly retreat from Dalton to Atlanta.

There was almost constant fighting and skirmishing, in which the assaults of the enemy were always repulsed by the Confederates. They were never driven from position, but in all the falling back it was to meet the heavy flanking forces seeking the Confederate rear. The loss of the enemy was treble that of the Confederates during the campaign, being over 30,000 while the Confederate loss was less than 10,000. Johnston invariably held the enemy at bay until necessity demanded his withdrawal to protect his rear. This would take place at night, without confusion - trains, stores, and equipments all safely moved.

There was much rain for a good deal of the time which made muddy roads and difficulty in moving, and, of course, was very annoying; but the cheerfulness and promptness with which orders were obeyed was remarkable. This is even more remarkable remembering there was no regular time to eat or sleep, and nearly all marching in the night. General Black of the Federal army who was in command of some of Sherman's forces, said to Captain Brewer in Montgomery, that, "*the history of the world furnishes no superior movement to Johnston's retreat from Dalton to Atlanta, if it had an equal.*"

On April 30, 1864, about the opening of the campaign, it is found that the 19th Alabama was in General Hood's corp, Hindman's division, Deas' brigade, and Colonel McSpadden commanding the regiment.⁹⁸ From June 30 through at least July 10, 1864, Col. J. G. Coltart was in command of the brigade; and Lieut. Col. Geo. R. Kimbrough in command of the regiment, for Col. McSpadden was captured by the enemy at Resaca.⁹⁹

At Chattahoochee River West Bank at fortifications July the 6th 1864

"Mrs Sarah Doss

Much Respected friend,

it(s) with sad heart that I this Moring take up my pen to Anounce to you the most painful Intelagence that could psable Be pened to you your husband is No more on Eath (Earth) forever Ambrose is gone to the spirit World he Was Killed yesterday About 1 oclock ... A Cannon shot it Struck him in the Right side Nearly Even With the Right Breast and passed Intirely through his Body and through his left Arm Killing him Instantly We had Been ordered to the left to suport that Wing of the Army We had to pass some Distance Along the lines under A terific Cannonade and hence the Above Named Causality. he has Been Sargt of the Infirmary Corps Ever Since the Commecement of this move and Was at the time of his Death marching in Rear of the Regt at post as usual I was in front But When I learned that he Was killed I Got leave from the Col and myself and James S. and John F Rogers and Geoge Eaton and C. hix Went Back and got the Body of our fallen Brother and Intered it With as much Decency as the Nature of the Case Would admit it Was Knot Done in as Nice a maner As We Would have perfered But fare better then is common with us Soldiers ----- he is Buried in 1 hundred yards of the chattahoochee River on the West Side in or Near the Edg(e) of the River Botum A pine sapling grows at Both hed and foot of his grave on the Bank on the 1 growing at the head of the grave his Rank Name Co and Regt is cut the plantation Where his Remains Rests is owned by A man By Name of Turner it is About 4 Miles Below the Rail Road Bridg(e) leading from Marietta to Atlanta ga in Fulton County Well Dear madam I Would in this letter Which is pened under the loud Roar of Artillery and Bursting shells Nearly in all Directions offer you Words of Consolation Knowing that consoling Words is Seldom of But

*little comfort to the Deeply Wounded heart yet I Do from my heart Sympathize With you in this your greatest and most heart rending trial of life While I can not feel the Irreparable loss in all its painful and heartrending power yet I feel my loss in my Departed Brother in Arms But While I mourn A Noble and Dear Friend I am free to Acknowledg(e) that you mourn the loss of A Devoted and Dear husband Ambrose has Been my Constant friend for years But 3 years in the face of the Enimys our Country hand in hand Battleing for the Rights of posterity has Double Indeared him to me I have looked on that Calm Soldiers face in Battle my last time he has Done his Duty Noblely and the thread of Life has Never yet Been but of A Braver man Brave and yet cool and composed in the hottest conflicts that it has Ever yet Been his lot to Engage in Which conflicts has been common in 3 years War life his conduct As A Soldier is unimpeachable in his life he had the confidence and Esteem of Both officers and men of his Intire Acquaintance Which Was Very Extensive for Such Soldiers as ambrose Doss is not common in No Army hence his Aquantance Was Saught By all good men
your friend J.W. Rouse to Sarah Doss " 100*

On July 31st, General George D. Johnston (recently promoted) was commanding the brigade, and Lieut. Col. Harry L. Toulmin was commanding the 19th Alabama.¹⁰¹ On August 31, 1864, General Deas was in command of the brigade, and Lieut. Col. Kimbrough of the regiment.¹⁰²

The strength and casualties in the records are not given in regiments and brigades but in divisions. Hindman's division had, on April 30, 1864, at the opening, present for duty 547 officers and 6213 men; with an aggregate present of 7614.¹⁰³ On July 10th after Johnston's battles had ended, there were present for duty 496 officers and 4931 men with an aggregate present of 6426 - showing a loss of those for duty to be only 1282 in all the campaign to the siege; and a loss from the aggregate present of 1188. On August 31, 1864, (not embracing the losses of that day at Jonesborough), Hindman's (now Anderson's) division had present for duty 314 officers and 3176 men; with an aggregate present of 4436 - showing a loss during the Atlanta engagements of 182 officers and 1755 men; and a loss of aggregate present 1990. General Anderson estimates his loss from the division in the Battle of Jonesborough on August 31st to exceed 500, which added to the loss from July 18th, when Hood took command, makes a loss in less than a month and a half of 2417.

The army under General Johnston crossed the Chattahoochee River on July 9, 1864, and closely guarded the crossings of the river below Peach Tree Creek, awaiting the further advance of the enemy. This began about the 16th or 17th of July. General Johnston's plan was to fall upon the enemy while crossing, and defeat him in detail. Gen. Johnston was giving orders to this effect on the night of the 17th of July to begin early next day, when, lo, the whole thing was frustrated by imperative orders from Richmond to at once turn over the command of the army to Lieut. Gen. John Bell Hood. The order was obeyed to the profound regret of the army and of all others except a few who were prejudiced against the great commander. A deep gloom overspread the army, and a loving family would not have been more depressed or sorrowful at the loss of a beloved

father. Almost without exception, every officer and soldier of that army would bear testimony that the statements of President Davis and General Bragg that the army was dispirited and demoralized is without truth. Never was an army in finer spirits. They had been well-cared for. Commissary, Quartermaster, and Ordnance Departments were held so closely in hand that neither food, clothing, or ammunition had been lacking during the whole time. The enemy never took the army by surprise, for its argus-eyed commander anticipated every move against him, and he and his men severely punished the enemy in every attempt to flank or drive; inflicting severe loss while suffering only lightly. The army had come to feel that they were almost invincible under their beloved "Old Joe."

About this time, the army was moved into the entrenchments around Atlanta. On the 20th of July, a sanguinary battle was fought without any fruit except to show the valor of the men and to reap a heavy harvest of casualties. In this the 19th Alabama nor the brigade participated. But on the 22nd of July an effort was made to turn the enemy's left along the line of the Georgia Railroad. In this affair, Deas' brigade and the 19th had a prominent part, but official records are scarce. The only one embracing the action of Deas is the report of Captain Napoleon B. Rouse, commanding the 25th Alabama. Colonel George D. Johnston was in command of the brigade, as incidentally learned.

The following is so much of Rouse's report as will give an account of the action in which the 19th participated:

"On the 22 [July] the regiment with the brigade upon the front line advanced to the attack, with orders to keep the left flank within 20 paces of the railroad (Augusta), but owing to buildings, impassable fences, and slight curves of the road, when the regiment arrived at the breastworks of the picket reserve of the enemy the left was about 150 yards from the railroad. The works were carried at a heavy loss to the left wing of the regiment, as there were no troops between our left and the railroad, and the fire received being both from the front and oblique. Two elegant stand(s) of colors and a large number of prisoners captured. The regiment continued the advance some distance farther and halted, reformed, and was placed in the second line with the balance of the brigade. It then advanced again and assisted in carrying the second line of works.

Carried into the fight 273 men. Killed, wounded, and missing 113, including 2 color-bearers."

The brigade participated in the constant skirmishing and under the steady cannonading until the 28th of July, when it was moved out of the trenches to the extreme left of the army, where it again went through the bloody ordeal on the Lick-Skillet road near the Poor House. The action of the 19th Alabama is allied with that of the brigade, and the division so the following quotation from General John C. Brown, commanding the division, will be given.¹⁰⁴

"I formed with Johnston's (formerly Deas') brigade on the right, Brantly's on the left, and Sharp's in the center, with Manigault's in reserve, and instantly moved forward. The enemy's skirmishers were encountered at the road and his advance line a little beyond, moving rapidly to possess

the road. It was routed and driven 500 or 600 yards and took refuge behind entrenchments. The woods were so dense that these works were not discovered until my line was upon them. In many places the works were carried, but the enemy re-enforced so rapidly and with such an immensely superior force, that my troops were driven with great slaughter from them. Brigadier-General Johnston in the first onset was severely wounded. Colonel Coltart, upon whom the command devolved, was in a few moments afterward also wounded, and Col. B. R. Hart, 22nd Alabama Regiment, the next in command was wounded immediately after assuming command. The command then passed to Lieut. Col. H. T. Toulmin. At this juncture I relieved it with my supporting brigade, but behaving badly, its demoralization was so great it could not be made effective. My left brigade being outflanked was compelled to retire, which made the withdrawal of the center indispensable. ...About midnight we moved and took position on the prolongation of the defenses of Atlanta, about two miles west of the Lick Skillet road."

"In the action Sharp's and Brantly's brigades acted with great gallantry. The major portion of Johnston's brigade behaved well."

"We found the enemy in overwhelming numbers, and if additional evidence were wanting to prove the fact his own reports of his force show we were engaging four of his corps."

"I must be pardoned for bearing testimony to the conspicuous gallantry of Brigadier-Generals Brantly, Sharp, and Johnston, all of whom had received notice of their promotion a few moments before going into battle. Lieut. Col. H. T. Toulmin was no less gallant and efficient."

The report of Lieut. Col. Toulmin, 22nd Alabama, upon whom command of Deas' brigade devolved during operations on July 28, 1864, is quoted here, because it appears to record the action resulting in the capture of the colors of the 19th Alabama.¹⁰⁵

.... "About 11 a.m. of that day the brigade, under the command of Brig. Gen. George D. Johnston, took position on the south side of the Lick Skillet road, the right resting on the road, forming an acute angle with it, and the left connecting with Sharp's brigade. As soon as the line was formed and guns loaded it advanced to attack the enemy, the guide being left. Moving forward some 200 yards through a thick undergrowth, the brigade emerged into an old field, where it was subjected to a severe fire from the enemy's skirmishers. Owing to the dense woods through which it had passed, and the several fences it had encountered in the advance, the line became much disorganized and scattered. Here it was ordered to move by the left flank some 250 yards, then halted, the line partly reformed, and men made to lie down. After remaining in this position some ten minutes, and being all this time under the fire of the enemy's skirmishers, the brigade was ordered to charge, which it did in a gallant style, driving the enemy from their skirmish line, and from another and stronger position protected by rails and earth-works, to his regular line of works, here capturing a few prisoners. It was in this first charge that General Johnston was wounded and retired from the field, and the command devolved upon Colonel Coltart. He was soon after wounded and retired, when the command of the brigade was turned over

to me. Occupying the temporary works from which the enemy had been driven, the brigade engaged him behind his strongly fortified position some twenty-five or thirty minutes, when a reserve line commanded by General Manigault, advanced to our support. As this line approached, and order to charge was given, which was gallantly responded to, and a portion of the brigade, being parts of the Nineteenth, Twenty-second, and Fiftieth Alabama Regiments, succeeded in reaching the enemy's position, the first [19th Alabama] and last [50th Alabama] planting their colors on his works, and the enemy's position being very strong, our lines much depleted, and our right flank exposed to his enfilading fire, which was pouring destruction into our ranks, forced us to fall back, with a loss of many killed and wounded and a few captured, some 250 yards to the road. Here the troops were halted and the line reformed, and, after a few minutes' work on a temporary breast-work of rails, again moved forward, and a second time occupied the enemy's first line of works. An engagement of fifteen or twenty minutes here ensued, in which the brigade was again forced to retire. I must do it the justice, however, to say that during this short engagement it fought nobly, and the right of it, which was at that time under my personal observation, did not give way until the enemy had moved around its flank and was marching in its rear. This created considerable disorder, and was the cause of much difficulty in rallying the men and reforming the line. The brigade now retired sixty yards behind the crest of the hill, where it was at last rallied, and, under the fire of the enemy, which was still heavy and destructive, advanced to the crest of the hill, where ordered to lie down. Remaining at this point about an hour, a reserve line, under command of General Walthall, came up. This command was then relieved and ordered to retire beyond and near the road, and there await orders. Here it replenished ammunition; was soon after moved by the right flank about half a mile, halted, stacked arms, and ordered to be in readiness to support General Clayton whenever called on. It remained in this position until 1 o'clock that night, when moved by the left flank to a position on the present line of works. Took into action - officers, 101; enlisted men, 1042; aggregate 1143. Killed - officers, 8; enlisted men, 26. Wounded - officers, 16; enlisted men, 173. Missing - officer, 1; enlisted men, 45. Loss - officers, 25; enlisted men, 244; aggregate, 269."

On the 30th of July, General Patton Anderson having recovered from the wounds so long disabling him returned and took command of Hindman's division, and so had command of Deas' brigade.¹⁰⁶ In his report he speaks in the highest terms of the gallantry, courage, skill and determination of Deas' brigade, that for several days in succession, were so engaged with the enemy in heavy skirmishing, that it amounted almost to a battle.¹⁰⁷

In General Orders No. 63, dated Aug. 12, 1864, General Stephen D. Lee, commanding the corps, expresses his gratification at the gallantry and determination of the men of the corps, and says in evidence, "*In one of the charges of the enemy some of Deas' and Brantly's skirmishers allowed themselves to be bayoneted in the pits rather than be driven back.*"¹⁰⁸

The skirmishing and cannonading along the lines continued until about the 26th or 27th of August, things became quiet. The skirmishers were advanced, but found the enemy gone. His whereabouts was unknown until the day of the 30th. Then hurried arrangements were made for General Hardee to take command of his and Lee's corps and prevent the enemy from getting possession of the Macon Railroad which he was approaching toward Jonesborough, having moved southwest, crossing the West Point road in the vicinity of Fairburn.

The two corps started in the evening of the 30th, and were from then until late in the morning of the 31st August, in reaching the grounds, and had to make and execute their plans hurriedly, for the enemy were upon them. Formations were soon made; and there was some good fighting done, and some not so good, but all creditable, when the hurry and the exhaustion of the men in constant motion for about 17 hours is considered, without time to eat or refresh themselves, and just following the inactivities of being in trenches for the preceding 30-odd days.

From the report of General Anderson, it is learned that in the front line of the division from the right to the left was Sharp's, Deas', and Brantly's brigades; while Manigault's was in the second line about 200 yards in rear of the first.¹⁰⁹ The action began about 2:30 p.m. At the word, the line moved forward deliberately, driving the enemy from his first line upon the second and main line. Here the enemy were sheltered by strong works in good position, and subjected the Confederates to a very heavy fire where there was but little to cover from its severity. For a time it seemed by the determination of the assailants that the lines would be carried. But the odds were too heavy, and the second line not coming up promptly to the assistance of the first it was compelled to fall back with heavy loss; estimated by him at 500 out of about 2000 carried into the action. No regiment is specifically named. He says, "*A deep sense of the obligation I am personally under to the four brigade commanders above named, renders it no less my duty than a pleasure to express my thanks for their cheerful and cordial cooperation and assistance on all occasions, whether in the trenches, on the march, or upon the battle-field.*" General Anderson was wounded in the battle.

That night Lee's corps, to which Deas' brigade and the 19th Alabama belonged, was ordered back to Atlanta, and again resumed the march, making two nights, a whole day and part of another without rest or sleep.

On September 1st, owing to Gen. Anderson's wound, Maj. Gen. Edward Johnson was assigned to the command of Anderson's division.¹¹⁰

About the 2nd or 3rd of September, the command fell back to Lovejoy's Station. In a few days a 10-day armistice was agreed upon between Hood and Sherman, the latter falling back to Atlanta. At the expiration of the armistice, the army of General Hood moved to Palmetto. Here President Davis visited and reviewed the army in hopes of inspiring them with more zeal in the service, and confidence in Hood. Dissatisfaction with leader and conditions was getting quite manifest. There was a purpose in the minds of many of the men to cry out, "Beef! Beef!", "Johnston! Johnston!" as the President passed them in the review. It became so well known, that on the evening preceding the

review, at dress parade, public orders were read out to the commands positively forbidding such demonstration under threat of punishment to perpetrators. This scarcely restrained it. The President passed in the review awakening no enthusiasm - mute and sullen countenances usually prevailed, and the effort of a few to awaken a cheer was so feeble as to rather emphasize the dissatisfaction.

The command was to start on the 2nd of October, 1864, on the Nashville campaign by which it was hoped to either force Sherman to fall back from the country he had overrun, or starve him out by isolating him.¹¹¹ It was a very defective plan as events proved; and it would seem a tyro even ought to have reasoned better; for the fields and barns were filled with the bountiful harvests of the year, and the hogs and cattle in good condition for use; and no scruples on the part of Sherman to take all he wanted even if it left the rightful owners to starve.

The route is traced along the course of the retreat from Dalton up as far as Resaca, then turning to Billanow, Cedartown, Cave Spring, Gadsden, Tuscumbia, and Florence, reached in the early part of November 1864.¹¹² Here the command remained going through ordinary camp duty and drilling until the 20th of November. Johnson's division had spent some days at Shoal Creek, a few miles out from Florence.

General John T. Croxton of the Federal army in a report tells of two brigades of Johnson's division, on the 30th of October, 1864, crossing the Tennessee River near Bainbridge, and fought Croxton's forces, and he admits that his forces were driven back, and the Confederates held the Huntsville and Florence road near Judge Posey's. And again at Shoal Creek on Nov. 5th, they attacked him and forced him to retire.

On the 20th the march was resumed for Columbia, Tenn., which was reached on the 27th of November. That night the enemy evacuated Columbia, crossing Duck river, and fortifying at the top of the slope leading up from the river; having a strong set of rifle pits running along the river. There was some skirmishing here, and some casualties, but not heavy.

On the 29th, General Hood had crossed the Duck River a few miles above Columbia, with Cheatham's and Stewart's corps, and Johnson's division of Lee's corps, reaching General Schofield's rear at Spring Hill, some miles toward Franklin on the Columbia and Franklin Pike, Schofield's way of retreat. The remaining divisions of Lee's corps were left to confront the enemy at Columbia and command his attention while Hood was flanking him.

The movement was a perfect success, and Schofield's army was surrounded and at the mercy of the Confederates. But, with complete success in his grasp, Hood's army bivouacked along the line of the pike and let the enemy pass them unmolested. A strange affair for which no reason has been given or attempted. See report of General S.D. Lee, Serial 93, pages 686-90.

The Battle of Franklin

force that was in Schofield's rear, being detached from Lee on the 29th of November. This put them in the Battle of Franklin, that horrible field of blood, following what might have been so easily an almost bloodless victory.

From Serial 93, page 663, while the strength of the subdivisions of the army is not given, that of the army on Nov. 6, 1864, of present effective infantry was 25,880; total

On December 10th, a month later, and before the Nashville battles, present effectives in the army 18,342; total 27,222; and aggregate 29,826. This shows a loss from the Franklin battle of 7547 effectives.

As stated the enemy were allowed to pass Spring Hill unmolested, and then in the early morning hours of the 30th of November were pursued by the Confederates and overtaken in their strong works at Franklin. Contrary to the advice of other officers, General Hood decided to attack the enemy in his works, which was done with a courage, daring, and determination unsurpassed on any other field during the war; and at a cost in valuable lives unsurpassed in proportion to numbers engaged in any other battle of the war. The 19th Alabama went with the brigade in Johnson's division on the left later in the engagement, and its conduct elicited the following from Gen. S.D. Lee in his report, found in Serial 93, pages 686-90. *"The brigades of Sharp and Brantly (Mississippians) and of Deas (Alabamians) particularly distinguished themselves. Their dead were mostly in the trenches and on the works of the enemy, where they nobly fell in a desperate hand-to-hand conflict. Sharp captured three stands of colors. Brantly was exposed to a severe enfilade fire. These noble brigades never faltered in this terrible night struggle."*

From page 691 it is learned that Deas' lost 13 killed, 101 wounded, 5 missing, total 119.

From Serial 93, page 678 on Nov. 6th (and it was practically the same on the 30th Nov., the day of the battle) it is found that Johnson's division had present for duty 303 officers and 2882 men; aggregate present 4029. From page 679, on December 10, 1864, (nine days after the Battle of Franklin) it had present for duty 219 officers and 2530 men; aggregate present 3688; showing a loss of 341. The Confederate loss was heavy in men

The Battle of Nashville

After burying the dead on the 1st of December, the army moved on to Nashville, the enemy having left during the night. Nashville was reached on the 2nd of December, and was invested, Lee's corps occupying the center, and across the Franklin Pike. The weather was cold, having snow part of the time, but was during the night.

absolutely barefoot, and many nearly so. There was some skirmishing and cannonading going on until on the 15th of December, when General George H. Thomas, commanding the Federal forces, had gathered in reinforcement until he was much stronger than Hood, made a feint on the right, and a real assault on the left with a much superior force. In the afternoon, Deas' brigade with the division was moved from the right to the left to strengthen the left against its heavy assailants.

There are no reports from the officers of the regiments, brigades, or division. In Serial 93, page 709, General A. P. Stewart (to whom they were sent), in his report does not speak favorably of its action. The enemy drove so many of the Confederates out of position that a new alignment became necessary, and was made during the night, so that on the morning of December 16th a new line was occupied about a mile in rear of the former. The night of the 15th had been spent in the move and entrenching, so that at an early hour of the 16th the Confederates were ready for the advance, which came in due time.

Lee's corps was on the right, crossing the Franklin Pike, Clayton on the right of it; Stevenson to the left; and Johnson's division with the 19th Alabama to the left of Stevenson. Every assault was handsomely repulsed on the right, inflicting heavy loss on the enemy. Sometime after 3 p.m. on General Bate's part of the line some command gave way, letting the enemy pour in their forces upon the flanks and rear. The line swinging back in quite a curve from the left of the right wing, made it very favorable for the enemy, as it placed him not only on the flanks, but really in the rear of much of the line; and near the Franklin Pike, the only way of retreat. There is but little in the records to show how the regiment, brigade, or division behaved in the action.

General A.J. Smith claims to have captured General Ed Johnson and his whole division on the 16th, which was only partially true.¹¹³ He did capture the General and a good portion of the command.

The result of the battle on the 16th was to shatter Hood's army, and it retreated in much confusion. All organization except in a few commands was much disrupted. The army fell back by way of Franklin, Columbia, Pulaski to Bainbridge on the Tennessee River, where the army crossed the river on a pontoon bridge laid on Dec. 25-26; and the crossing took place on the 27-28th. The retreat was continued to Tupelo, Miss., which was reached about the 6th of January, 1865. Deas' brigade is mentioned in the records of the period but once, that in the order of the march on Jan. 2, 1865.

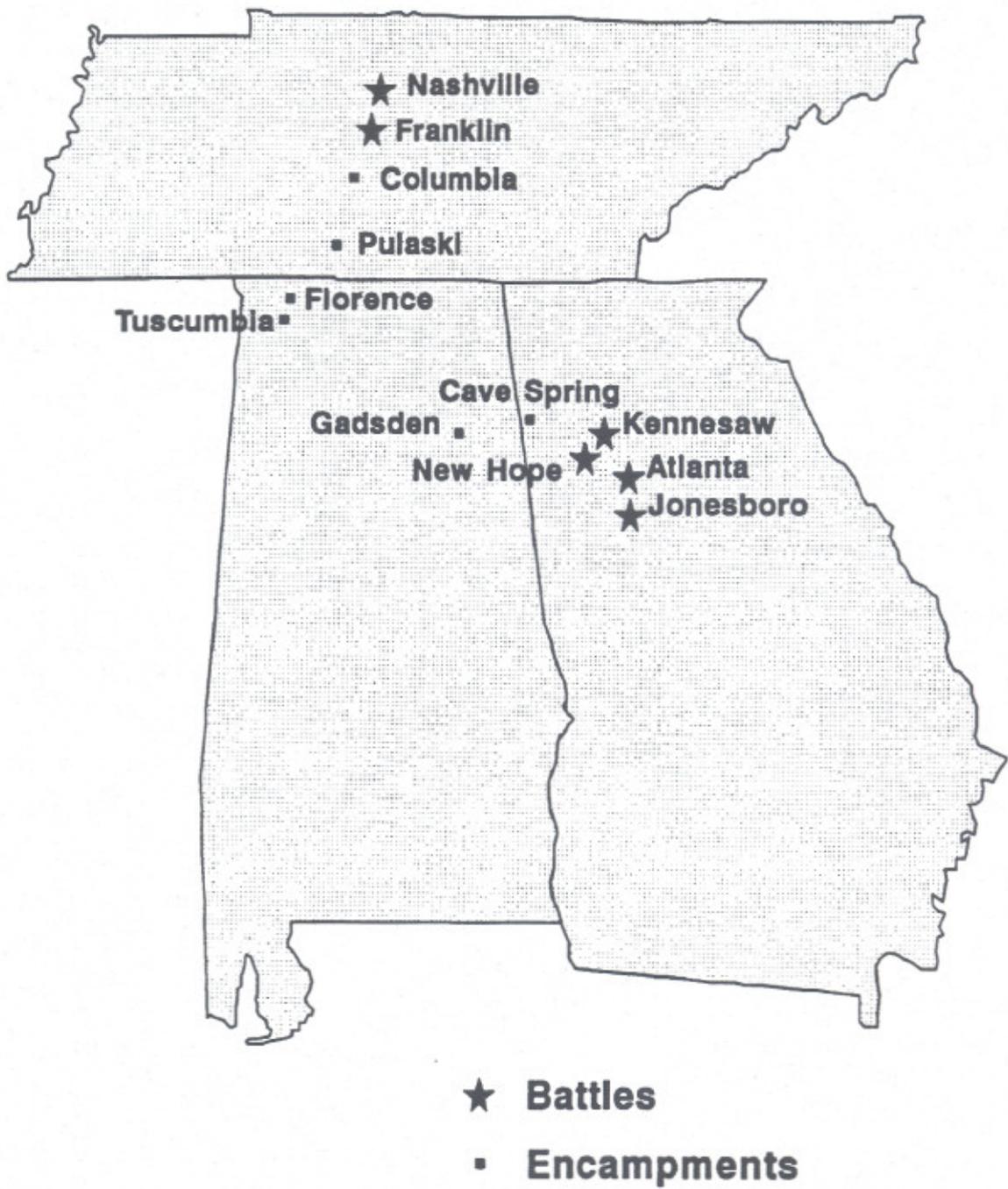


Figure 6. 1864 Encampments & Battles of the 19th Alabama

1865

The army remained around Tupelo until January 20, 1865, when the larger part was ordered and began the move to the Carolina's. A good many were furloughed, but very many more left the trains as they reached the nearest points to home. Many of them thinking to return to duty after spending a few days at home. Some got back before the end, but many who tried failed because of want of facilities for travel, the enemy between them and their commands, and other causes.

The first official notice of Deas' brigade after the Nashville catastrophe was in Serial 99, page 1061, January 30, 1865. It is said to be at Green's Cut, and directed to report to General G.W. Smith, by General D.H. Hill, commanding Lee's corps; and it is reported 900 strong. On page 1101, *ibid.*, on Feb. 5th it is at Binnaker's Bridge near Branchville, S.C. Again on page 1106-7, on Feb. 7th it is relieved from Binnaker's Bridge by Col. Johnson, commanding Stovall's brigade, that it might go to Holman's Bridge. From pages 1124-5, on the 8th of February, Deas is instructed that if it becomes necessary to retire from his position, to move toward Columbia, S.C. Page 1137 reports Deas to have moved his headquarters to near Duncan's Bridge, and from Serial 111, page 409, on Feb. 10th, 1865, Deas reports the enemy to have crossed the Edisto. From Serial 99, page 1147, on Feb. 10th Deas was ordered to where the Columbia road crosses the North Edisto, and a part of the cavalry were ordered to report to him.

By February 23, 1865, Lee's corps, commanded by General Stevenson is near Charlotte, N.C.; and the reported strength of Deas' brigade is 277 effectives present, and aggregate present 443.¹¹⁴ On the 27th, from page 1285, it had 317 effectives, but the same aggregate.

From Serial 98, pages 1087-9, from General D.H. Hill's report of the Battle of Kinston, N.C., from March 8-10, 1865, it is learned that General Hill is in command of Lee's corps; Col. Coltart in command of Hill's division (formerly Johnson's); and Col. Toulmin in command of Deas' brigade. He says, "The troops all behaved most handsomely with the exception of Stovall's and Jackson's brigades." The brigade had 277 effectives; and lost 3 killed and 20 wounded. On the night of the 10th, the main body of the army retired early to Kinston, where they bivouacked for the night. Captain Brewer, in command of the skirmishers was left to hold the attention of the enemy from the movement until 12 o'clock at night, and then fall back with his skirmishers, rejoining the rest of the army on its way toward Raleigh. The army fell back through Goldsboro and met the enemy again at Bentonville, N.C., where an engagement was had from March 19-21st.

The Battle of Bentonville

There is not much in the record of the action of the brigade as such, and nothing of the 19th Alabama. Deas' brigade, with Palmer's, Stovall's, and Jackson's, commanded by Lieut. Col. Kyle of the 46th Alabama, constituted the first-line. The brigade was commanded by Col. Toulmin. General Hill, commanding the corps, says in his report,

"Our men fought with great enthusiasm in this engagement."The corps claims the capture of one Napoleon gun and 339 prisoners."My thanks

are due to the division commanders, Major Generals Stevenson, and Clayton, and Coltart. I was struck with the soldierly bearing of Brigadier Generals, Pettus, and Palmer, Colonel T. Coulmin, Lieutenant Colonel Carter

Page 1093 shows the loss in Deas' brigade to have been 3 killed, 32 wounded, 1

On the 22nd of March, 1865, the army fell back to Smithfield, N.C., where it was comparatively quiet until after the 9th of April, on which date the army was reorganized; Ezekiel S. Gulley as Lieutenant Colonel; and the consolidated regiment was attached to the brigade of General E.W. Pettus.¹¹⁶

by Major Solomon Palmer on the 31st of March, 1865, just prior to the consolidation.

On April 10th the army started from Smithfield to Raleigh, North Carolina, on the immediately following day, by an urgent dispatch from Greensborough, N.C., where President Davis and Cabinet were, for additional force to protect Greensborough from a threatened raid, General Pettus' brigade, 1200 strong, were sent at once by rail in well protected against the raid. The raid, under Stoneman, then deflected to Saulisbury where there was a quantity of government stores. The following day, Pettus' brigade was ordered by rail to Saulisbury.¹¹⁷ On reaching the Yadkin River it was learned the enemy from there toward the river. The brigade debarked on the east side of the river to protect the bridge. Captain Brewer commanding the consolidated 23rd and 46th Alabama Regiments, was sent to the west side. This force caused the enemy to stop the with the regiment to Saulisbury, where the consolidated 19th and 40th were also sent. Col. Kyle was made commandant of the place, while the rest of the brigade guarded the Yadkin Bridge and other points.

General R.E. Lee had surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia on the 9th - the President and Cabinet were about Greensborough and Charlotte, N.C., and soon, April

On the 26th of April, the terms of surrender were agreed, by which the officers and men of the army were to lay down their arms, be paroled - the troops to march under their officers to their respective States, and there be disbanded, all retaining personal

their arms for protection on the march home, there to be turned over to the proper State authorities.

Of the coin on hand, it was agreed, April 28th to pay \$1.17 48/100 to each man.¹²² Actually, \$1.00 was all that was paid.

From page 851 it would appear that one-fifth of arms was to be allowed, but subsequent events show only one-seventh (page 864). It also shows that the field transportation of the army was to belong to the troops, and distributed to them at the end of the march. Page 869 shows that General Pettus, after retaining one-seventh, turned in 1017 arms, on May 3, 1865 at Saulisbury.

The brigade started from Saulisbury on the afternoon of May 4th for Charlotte, and from thence on to Alabama. At Union Point, GA, there was a final disbanding of the brigade as such, allowing the subordinate commands to take their choice of routes home.

Epilogue

Thus was ended the career of a regiment which did valiant service from the first great battle of the Western Army at Shiloh, April 6-7, 1862; sharing in nearly every hard-fought battle to the very last, and always maintaining the fine reputation first made.

Its first Colonel, Joseph Wheeler, became one of the world's most famous cavalry commanders. Its second, Col. McSpadden, was widely known in Alabama as a statesman, lawyer, and chancellor.

The history of the 19th Alabama Regiment will be closed with the farewell address of its last brigade commander, General Edward Winston Pettus.

*Hd Qrs Pettus Brigade
Salisbury April 28th/65*

Soldiers

You have now served your country faithfully for more than three years.

On many hard fought fields your steady determined valor has been proved.

In camp, and on the march your cheerful endurance of privations and labor, has won the admiration of the army and the country.

Your prompt obedience of orders has justly won the admiration of your commanders.

You have won a reputation, as regiments and as a brigade of which you and your dear ones at home are and ought to be proud.

Now you are to be subject to a new trial.

The fortune of war has made you prisoners. You are to be marched in a body to your State, and there disbanded on parole. Your valor and good conduct was my greatest joy and pride; and it is confidently expected that the reputation of this command will be still preserved in this new trial.

Though others may desert and disgrace themselves, & their kindred, let us stand together and obey orders. In this way we best contribute to our safety, and comfort; and preserve our characters untarnished.

Let our motto be, "Do our duty trusting in God."

*E. W. Pettus
Brig Genl*

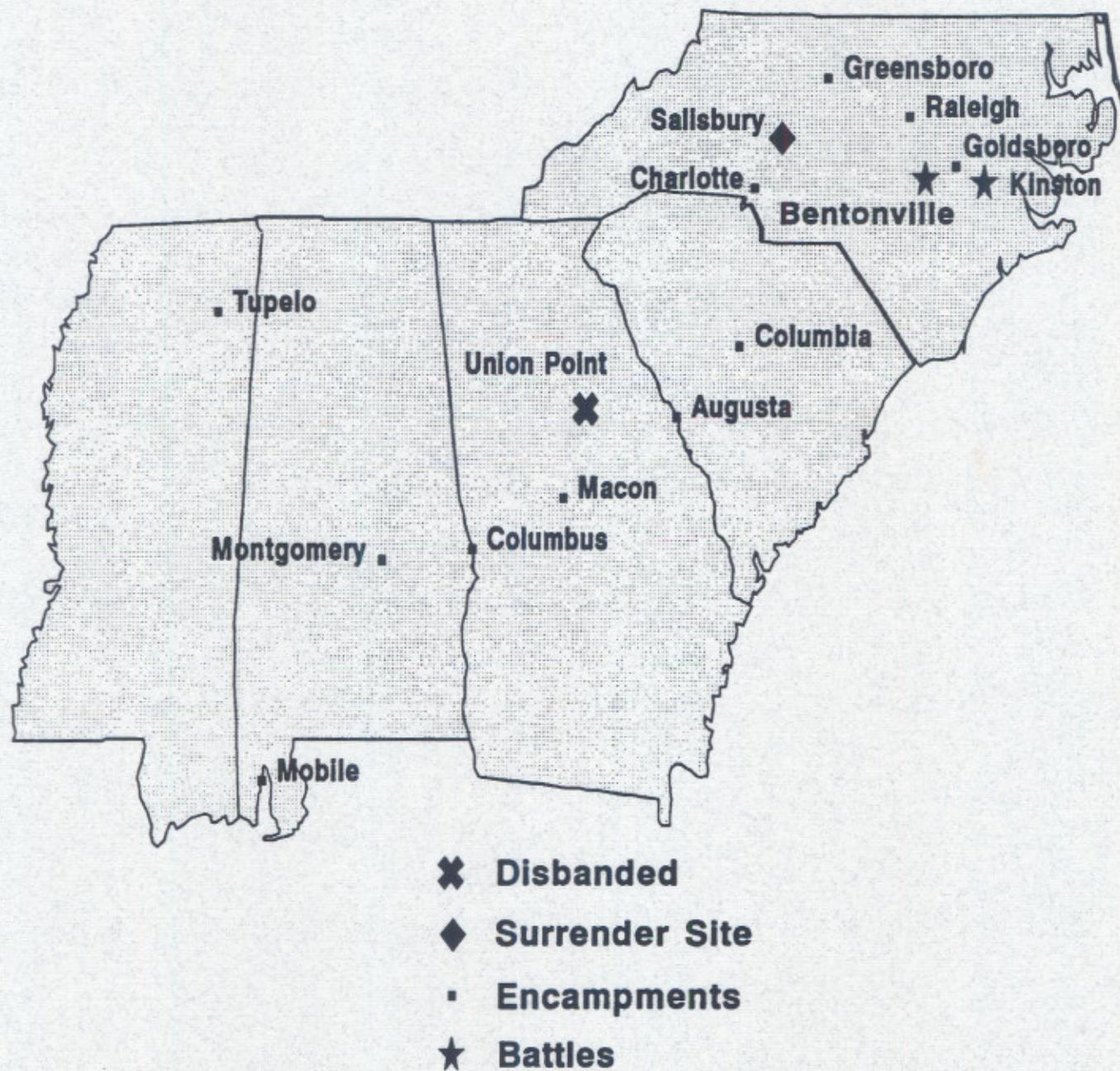


Figure 7. 1865 Encampments & Battles of the 19th Alabama

APPENDIX A - PHOTOGRAPHS OF ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THE 19TH ALABAMA

19th Alabama Infantry Regiment

Army of Tennessee

CSA

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William A. Hoss
Co. H & I, 19th Alabama Inf. Regt.



Ambrose Doss
Co. C, 19th Alabama Inf. Regt.



James H. Savage
Co. I, 19th Alabama Inf. Regt.



Marcus E. Westbrook
Co. E, 19th Alabama Inf. Regt.



William G. Westbrook
Co. E, 19th Alabama Inf. Regt.

19th Alabama Infantry Regiment Army of Tennessee CSA



William J. Nichols
Co. E, 19th Alabama Inf. Regt.



David Young
Co. I, 19th Alabama Inf. Regt.



Paris P. Casey
Co. I, 19th Alabama Inf. Regt.



Anual King
Co. B, 19th Alabama Inf. Regt.



George C. King
Co. B, 19th Alabama Inf. Regt.