

away by the battle, now live on the little farm, and one of them told me that he and his brothers found, upon returning home, in the then little "clearing" after the armies had gone, the dead bodies of three North Carolinians lying under the fallen tree and that they gathered twenty-eight pounds of bullets from the stump and limbs! Out of a large bucket filled with bullets, I was given by him as many as I wished as souvenirs. Many are still to be picked up all over the vicinity. Monuments to Union soldiers are numerous there, and conspicuous is the very striking one, inclosed with handsome iron railing, to General Sedgwick, whose corps was a famous one. Another interesting monument marks the spot where Texas soldiers refused to charge until General Lee, who had ridden to the front under fire, ceased exposing himself and retired to the rear. One of his men caught his bridle and turned his horse around, the soldiers all shouting, "Lee to the rear!" which he reluctantly obeyed.

NOTE.—This sketch has been penned largely from memory without technically correct historic data before the writer, but it is substantially correct and is hardly deserving of hypercritical comment.

ON HOOD'S CAMPAIGN INTO TENNESSEE.

BY T. G. DABNEY, NEW ORLEANS, LA.

The articles by Capt. R. N. Rea in the July and August numbers of the *VETERAN* are interesting sketches of his personal exploits during the war of the sixties, and he gives vivid pictures of many thrilling war scenes. However, Captain Rea's memory of those events is at variance with mine in some particulars, and I wish to offer some comment in all good will.

I was a sergent of Bradford's Mississippi Battery, Company F, first Mississippi Light Artillery. That command was in a state of disorganization as a result of the surrender of Port Hudson, La., in July, 1863, in which siege it bore its full part. Capt. J. L. Bradford, a very gallant officer, was so severely wounded during the siege that he was disabled from duty for more than a year after the surrender of his battery. All four of his lieutenants were under arrest for incompetency when the siege began, and none of them took any part in the fighting. The command of the guns necessarily fell upon the more intelligent sergeants.

In January, 1864, I, with thirty of Bradford's men, after being exchanged, was assigned to duty with Hoskins's Mississippi battery. This battery became attached to Cockrell's Missouri Brigade, of French's Division, Polk's Corps, which became Stewart's Corps after the death of General Polk, on Pine Mountain, in June, 1864. We were, therefore near neighbors of Sears's brigade, and participated in all the movements of that brigade from Rome, Ga., in May, 1864, to Atlanta, to Nashville, Tenn., and finally to Blakely, Ala., at the wind up, where we fired our last shots at the enemy before being overwhelmed by vastly superior numbers on April 9, 1865, the day that General Lee surrendered at Appomattox.

Comrade J. D. Harwell, in the September *VETERAN*, refers to a slight error of Captain Rea's in saying that Admiral Farragut commanded the Federal fleet in Milliken's Bend during the siege of Vicksburg. During the siege of Port Hudson, contemporaneous with that of Vicksburg, Farragut's fleet lay below Port Hudson, and gave us abundance of big mortar shells, which were disturbing to mental equanimity, but did no damage except in one instance, when a large specimen of that genus fell upon a gun in one of our water batteries, disabling the gun, with some casualties.

Captain Rea relates an exploit that he performed while in Atlanta just before the evacuation of that place, wherein he made a scouting excursion to the Chattahoochee river, accompanied by a small squad of his men. He brought back fourteen prisoners, and reported the enemy's movements to General Sears. He then proceeds to say: "The next day General Hood began moving his army to the left, leaving our brigade before Atlanta and stretching out our line until the men were thirty feet apart, and very soon the great battle of Jonesboro was fought. Every command in the army was engaged in that battle. In the meantime our brigade, after leaving a few men in the entrenchments, was in the city destroying the government and railway property. At 2 A.M. our brigade left Atlanta at a rapid gait, and just as we were leaving the suburbs the explosion of the magazines shook the city from center to circumference. As we marched along the streets, it seemed that every woman and child in Atlanta was standing in the doors or yards with sad faces and in tears," etc.

The comment I wish to make on the above is this: It must be inferred from Captain Rea's account that Sears's Brigade was the only command left in Atlanta at the time of its evacuation. I had always supposed that the whole of Stewart's corps moved out of Atlanta on that occasion. Certain it is that at about 2 A.M., on September 3, Hoskins's battery, along with Cockrell's Brigade, marched through the streets of Atlanta amid deathly stillness until the explosion of the magazines as we left the city. I saw no women and children in the yards at that early hour.

In the morning we found that extensive preparations had been made by the Engineer Corps for our retreat, roads being blazed out through the woods with sign boards directing the various commands which way to go. It is still my impression that Cheatham's Corps and S. D. Lee's Corps fought the battle of Jonesboro, while Stewart was left to guard Atlanta.

At sunrise on the morning of September 5, we found ourselves near General Hood's new firing line at Lovejoy Station, thirty miles below Atlanta, after a continuous march from Atlanta. A ten-day truce was proclaimed that day.

After relating the events of the attack on Allatoona by French's Division, Captain Rea proceeds: "I shall pass over the long, fatiguing march to Columbia and its incidents. We crossed Duck River ten miles above Columbia, and the other two commands crossed the river in front of the town, with Schofield's army before them and pressing them with energy."

Again: "Before Hardee's and Cheatham's corps could get across Duck River, our corps, commanded by Stewart, was over and very near Spring Hill, where we halted in line of battle and remained near the Spring Hill and Columbia pike all night long, sleeping upon our arms."

To begin with, there was no Hardee's corps at that time, General Hardee having retired some time before, and General Cheatham having succeeded him.

I had a conversation with Gen. A. P. Stewart in Biloxi, Miss., a short time before his death, with special reference to the episode here under review, and will give General Stewart's version of the sequence of events on that occasion. With a very distinct recollection of that conversation with General Stewart, he is thus quoted: "Hood had maneuvered very skillfully, and had got Schofield completely entrapped. He placed Lee's command in Schofield's front, and then ordered Forrest to cross Duck River and drive back Wilson's cavalry and uncover Schofield's left flank. He ordered Cheatham to follow Forrest, and advance on Spring Hill and occupy that

position. He ordered me to follow Cheatham, but when I had advanced a few miles above Columbia, I received orders from Hood to halt my command and take position in line of battle fronting the pike. I afterwards asked Hood why he halted me there, and he said he thought Schofield might try to escape that way. After remaining in that position about two hours, I was ordered to continue the march to Spring Hill. When I approached Spring Hill about dark, I saw Hood by a small fire on the side of the road, with a single orderly in attendance. As soon as I got in speaking distance of Hood, he began to inveigh against Cheatham for not obeying his order to attack at Spring Hill. It was on my tongue to ask Hood why he did not himself see that his order was obeyed, but I thought it would sound disrespectful."

The truth is, as the impression is firmly fixed in my mind, that Forrest drove Wilson's cavalry force, ten thousand strong, away to the northward beyond Spring Hill, and to the eastward, and sent a detachment across to Spring Hill to skirmish with the enemy until the infantry could be brought up to take the place. Cheatham's Corps reached Spring Hill early in the afternoon, and Brown's division of Cheatham's Corps was deployed in front of the place, which was occupied by a detachment of Schofield's army, guarding a large wagon train parked there, to make an assault upon them. But Brown's division was never ordered to advance to the attack.

Stewart's Corps reached the vicinity of Spring Hill, as above related, about dark; and we all lay supinely sleeping near the pike, without even a picket to challenge the approach of the enemy, while Schofield with his whole army quietly marched by us in the night; and by daylight Schofield's army and his large wagon train, posted at Spring Hill, were well on their way to Franklin, where he gave us, behind strong fortifications, the bloody fight that Captain Rea so vividly describes. It was currently believed at the time that Schofield's men did light their pipes at our camp fires as they marched by our slumbering hosts.

Of the retreat from Nashville Captain Rea, says: "General Hood succeeded in taking his army across the rivers of Harpeth, Duck, Shoals Creek, and Tennessee, which latter we crossed just above Florence, Ala. Three gunboats were shelling us as we crossed on our pontoon bridge to the Tusculum side of the river. They might as well have shot popguns at us as we got over without a single casualty."

On the morning of December 17, after the rout of Hood's army before Nashville, this writer (who had been fighting gunboats on the Cumberland river below Nashville, with two ten-pounder Parrott guns of Hoskins's battery, one of which was lost during the night march by a broken axle) approached the Franklin pike about sunrise. The pike was filled with a disorganized mob of soldiers without weapons. I pursued my solitary way down the Franklin pike amid most dismal surroundings, with rain and sleet overhead and icy slush underfoot. When I had proceeded about ten miles down the pike, I encountered General Hood, riding entirely alone, his countenance haggard and weary. After some questions, I was ordered by General Hood to turn back to a creek about five miles behind, turn out to the right and report to Colonel—somebody. I obeyed orders, of course, and, on arriving at the point designated reported to the colonel, and position was taken alongside of about three hundred infantry and two guns of Cowan's Mississippi battery, under Lieut. George Tompkins, of Vicksburg. We remained in this position about two hours, expecting the enemy to advance upon us; but the colonel learned that our position was being flanked, and we

I never saw nor heard of General Hood after that interview with him, and supposed that he had dropped out of sight. (General Hood was with his army until in January, 1865, when relieved.—ED.)

As to the crossing of the Tennessee River, near Florence, under the fire of three gunboats, the pontoon bridge over which Hood's fragmentary army crossed the Tennessee River was located fully five miles above Florence. When we got there, Lieut. George Tompkins, with two Napoleon guns of Cowan's battery, and I, with one Parrott gun of Hoskins's battery, were ordered by General Stewart in person to proceed down to Florence to intercept a Federal gunboat that was coming up the river to cut our pontoon bridge. We reached Florence about dark, and reported to a colonel of Roddy's Cavalry. We were ordered to place our guns in a small lunette work but a little above the water surface. Having had experience in gunboat fighting, I knew that the lunette work was a death trap, so I suggested to the colonel that, having a rifle gun, I could use it more effectively on a more elevated position. He then ordered me to place my gun on the spur of a ridge a little farther down the river, and several hundred yards from the river bank, which order I was not slow to obey. About daylight next morning I was awakened by the sentinel, who reported that the gunboat was coming up the river. There were also two wooden boats, one on each side of the large double-turreted monitor that was turning the bend below. The engagement began at once from our side, and the wooden boats dropped back down the river. The gunboat steamed slowly up and came directly across to our side of the river, stopping exactly opposite to my gun, and not over two hundred yards from Tompkins's guns, which were about on a level with the guns of the gunboat.

Tompkins gallantly pitted his twelve-pounders against the 11- or 12-inch Columbiads of the monitor. My gun was too much elevated for the Columbiads to be brought to bear upon it, and she did not fire a shot at me. But poor Tompkins's guns were smashed, and fifteen of his men killed or wounded, Lieutenant Tompkins being among the badly wounded.

About the middle of the afternoon, when the fifty rounds of ammunition of the Parrott gun had been fired at the gunboat, probably without doing her any material damage, the gun was withdrawn and taken back up the river to the pontoon bridge, where it was crossed over the river about midnight, along with a remnant of Forrest's Cavalry. The gunboat did not proceed any farther up the river and did no more firing, I believe.

IN BY-GONE DAYS—RICHMOND, VA., 100 YEARS AGO (1822).

"Edward Coles, formerly of Virginia, is elected governor of the State of Illinois by a majority of about 500 votes over his opponent, General Phillips."

(Edward Coles, son of Col. John Coles, was born in Albemarle County in 1786. He was educated at Hampden-Sidney and William and Mary, and from 1809 to 1815 was private secretary to President Madison. In 1816 he went on a mission to Russia, and in 1818 settled in Illinois. He was always strongly opposed to slavery, and in 1819 freed his slaves and gave to each head of a family 160 acres of land. Before his term as Governor was over he was tried for failure to give bonds that his emancipated slaves should not become public charges. He was heavily fined, but the State supreme court overruled the decision of the lower court. In 1833