

Battle of Stones River

Note: Any reference to the 51st Indiana, Harker's (3d) Brigade, Wood's (1st) Division, or Crittenden's Corps should be assumed to include Sergeant Hurst.

HISTORY

OF THE

Fifty-First Indiana

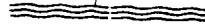
Veteran Volunteer Infantry.



A NARRATIVE OF ITS ORGANIZATION, MARCHES, BATTLES
AND OTHER EXPERIENCES IN CAMP AND PRISON;

FROM 1861 to 1866.

WITH REVISED ROSTER.



By WM. R. HARTPENCE,
SERGEANT MAJOR.

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“FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS”—“ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND.”

Buell was relieved of command by Maj. Gen. Wm. S. Rosecrans. This change occurred October 30, in compliance with General Orders No. 168, War Department, dated October 24, 1862. This order gave General Rosecrans the command of the “Department of the Cumberland,” which embraced that portion of Tennessee lying east of the Tennessee River, with a prospective enlargement from Georgia and Alabama. By the same order the troops of the same department were also designated as the “Fourteenth Army Corps.” This designation soon gave place to that of the “Army of the Cumberland”—the name which the original portions bore under Generals Anderson and Sherman.

We were glad to be delivered of Buell. We were also much encouraged by the recent emancipation proclamation of President Lincoln, and by the news of the traitor Lee’s request for an armistice. Also, we needed overcoats very badly, and Governor Morton had them forwarded to us a month in advance; whereby much suffering was relieved.

We continued to march, till, on Wednesday, Nov. 12, we were at Silver Springs, 18 miles east of Nashville. Our boys were mostly in fair health. We had been to Gallatin again, and had another little brush with John Morgan’s

guerrillas; routing them, and chasing them several miles. Colonel Streight wrote, on that date:

"I was sent to Gallatin with the 51st and 13th Michigan, and a section of Bradley's Battery; where we cut their forces in two, killed, wounded and captured 30. My boys, as usual, were both brave and lucky; and no one of them was hurt. We are idle now, but the enemy is in force at Murfreesboro."

Dr. Adams' resignation was accepted, and H. R. King was promoted to be Assistant Surgeon. There were 560 men in camp.

On the 24th, we were eight miles east of Nashville. At this place Capt. J. C. McGuire, Co. F. resigned.

At some point, about this time, our command assisted in building a trestle-bridge across the Cumberland River at Gallatin.

"OLD ROSY IS THE MAN!"

There came to the Army of the Cumberland, while encamped about Nashville, just before the battle of Stone River, an old man, a tall, old-fashioned, raw-boned fellow, who sang patriotic songs. He suddenly disappeared; but returned after the battle. He claimed the name of Wm. E. Lock, army poet and balladist, and he had a pass from Abraham Lincoln to travel through the western army, and make and sing patriotic songs. When selling his songs and stamps, and singing on a cracker-box, he would ask the boys to join him in the chorus; which thousands did eagerly. Again he disappeared; and while making his way to the rebel army, of which he was a notorious spy, he was shot and killed, while running the picket line. It was learned afterward, that he was called by Forrest's men "the crazy preacher." The following is a sample of his ballads, and one that was quite popular at one time, especially in the Fifty-First:

"Cheer up, cheer up, the night is past;
The skies with light are glowing;
Our ship moves proudly on, my boys,
And favoring gales are blowing;

The flag is at the peak, my boys;
Her decks are cleared for action;
The time has come—we're ready, boys,
To meet a traitorous faction.

CHORUS: Old Rosy is the man, old Rosy is the man;
We'll show our deeds where'er he leads;
Old Rosy is the man.

The lightning flashes through the West,
The glorious news repeating;
Of prairie hosts now tramping on,
And rebel hordes retreating;
Our conquering hosts with steady tread,
Their crafty foes defying;
O'er many a city, town and fort,
He set the old flag flying;

CHORUS: Old Rosy is the man, &c.

The Merrimac, all clad in steel,
Would make the Yankees wonder;
They'd crush our forts, and sink our ships,
And belch perpetual thunder;
But just as all the rebel crew
Grew jubilant—defiant!

There came a Yanke cheese-box craft,
Which whipped the mail-clad giant.

CHORUS: Ericson was the man, Ericsson was the man;
His little tug, and saucy mug
Ripped up the traitors' plan.

Old "Stonewall" came to Winchester;
He thought he'd find us napping;
But rebeldom has yet to learn
The art of Yankee trapping.
For when he met our gallant Shields,
His brain soon got to swimmin';
He cursed the day, and cursed his luck,
And d-d the secesh women.

CHORUS: Brave Shields was then the man ||:
His Irish wit, and Northern grit
Ripped up the traitors' plan.

They thought at Island No. 10
They'd first blockade the river,
And strike with such terrific blows,
That all the North would shiver.
But Captain Walk, down through their fire
His gunboats safely paddled;

FIFTY-FIRST INDIANA REGIMENT.

Then Pope got at them in the rear,
And all who could, skedaddled.

CHORUS: Brave Pope was then the man ::
From Walk and Pope the rebels slope;
Brave Pope was then the man.

New Orleans had three mighty rams,
And fire-ships also handy,
And thirty thousand fighting men,
To sink poor Doodle Dandy.
But when they came with gentle words,
For fear they'd speak them louder;
She thought she'd just capitulate,
And save her blood and powder.

CHORUS: Brave Foote was then the man ::
With lawyer But. * and Farragut,
Brave Foote was then the man.

At Murfreesboro, full of fight,
Old Bragg drew up his forces,
To make a meal of Western boys,
And gobble them by courses;
But when he met old Rosy there,
His appetite forsook him;
The Dutchman might be good to carve;
But he couldn't catch and cook him.

CHORUS: Old Rosy is the man, old Rosy is the man;
We'll show our deeds where'er he leads;
Old Rosy is the man.

A few more blows will close our work,
And homeward we'll be rushing;
And anxious hearts, that sorrow now,
With love and joy be gushing.
And when our heads are silvered o'er,
In telling this day's story;
Some lip of fame will say of us,
'They saved the Nation's glory!'

CHORUS: Old Rosy is the man, &c."

BATTLE OF STONE RIVER.

Christmas was a beautiful day; and we put it in with a foraging expedition. During the day we had some sharp skirmishing; and Perry Hollingsworth, Co. E, was killed,

* Butler.

and two others were wounded. We brought in 18 head of cattle. Next day we struck tents, and advanced to near Lavergne; skirmishing all day. At night it rained, and continued to rain most of the following week.

The first experience of the Fifty-First in this glorious campaign, dates from this skirmish at Prim's blacksmith shop, on the Edmonson pike, on Thursday, December 25, 1862. General Wood's dispatch of that date, says:

"Harker's brigade, which went out this morning for forage, is coming in. He filled his wagons with corn, but had to fight for it. He was attacked in front and on the flanks, and lost 1 man killed outright, and 2 wounded; 1 seriously, the other slightly. The casualties occurred all in the 51st Indiana. Col. Harker estimates the enemy at 600, infantry or dismounted troopers."

Our part of the Army of the Cumberland was organized as follows:

Left Wing, Gen. T. L. Crittenden, *Commanding*.

1st Div., Gen. T. J. Wood, "

3d Brig., Col. C. G. Harker, "

51st Indiana, Col. A. D. Streight.

73d Indiana, Col. Gilbert Hathaway.

13th Michigan, Col. Michael Shoemaker.

64th Ohio, Col. Alex. McIlvain.

65th Ohio, Lt.-Col. Alex. Cassil.

Maj. Horatio N. Whitbeck.

On Dec. 27, '62, Lt.-Col. Garesche', Gen. Rosecrans' chief of staff, dispatched to Gen. Crittenden, at 3:05 P. M.:

"Tell Wood to drive the enemy vigorously, and give them no time to breathe."

How thoroughly this instruction was obeyed, some of the proudest pages of history tell.

The Army of the Cumberland left Nashville with 47,000 men, and had 37,977 infantry, 3,200 cavalry and 2,223 artillery in the battle. It lost 92 officers killed, and 384 wounded; 1,441 men killed, and 6,860 wounded; about 2,800 missing. Lt.-Col. Garesche' was killed by the side of the commander.

The monthly return of the Army of the Cumberland for the month of December, 1862, gives the number in Wood's division, 3 brigades of infantry, 10,605; artillery, 395; total, 11,000.

General Rosecrans' report of this campaign, refers to our brigade very favorably :

"From Nov. 26 to Dec. 26, every effort was bent to complete the clothing of the army, provide ammunition and replenish the Nashville depot of supplies, to insure against want. On Thursday, Dec. 26, '62, the movement began. The left wing began its advance about 11 A. M., the 28th, driving a brigade of cavalry supported by Many's brigade of rebel infantry, to Stewart's Creek, saving the bridge, although the rails were fired. This was Saturday night. On Sunday they rested. On Monday at 3 P. M. a signal from Palmer announcing that he was in sight of Murfreesboro, and that the enemy was running, an order was sent to Crittenden to send a division to occupy Murfreesboro. He ordered Harker's brigade to cross the river at a ford on his left, where he surprised a regiment of Breckenridge's division, and drove it back on its main line, not more than 500 yards distant, in great confusion. He held the position till advised, by prisoners captured, that Breckenridge was in force in front; when, it being dark, he ordered the brigade back across the river, and bivouacked.

The battle began next day, on the left, by VanCleve, who crossed at the lower fords. Wood was prepared to sustain and follow him, but was directed to suspend action. Just then McCook was routed. Harker's brigade was sent further down the Murfreesboro pike, to go in and attack the enemy on the right of VanCleve. There our forces sustained an infantry and cavalry attack, leaving us masters of the original ground on our left. Our losses were :

<i>Losses.</i>	<i>Killed.</i>		<i>Wounded.</i>		<i>Captured.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	<i>Off.</i>	<i>Enl.</i>	<i>Off.</i>	<i>Enl.</i>		
51st Indiana.		7	2	32	9	50
73d Indiana.	2	22	3	48	36	111
13th Michigan.		17	2	70		89
64th Ohio.	1	23	3	61	17	105
65th Ohio.	2	33	8	92	38	173
6th Ohio Battery.		1	1	8	1	11
<i>Aggregate.</i>	5	103	19	311	101	539

From the Report of James Barnett, Chief of Artillery.

"Capt. Bradley, on the morning of the 31st, moved with Col. Harker's brigade in its advance to check the enemy on the right, and held with it, its position through the day. On the 2d he held a position on commanding ground near the right of the railroad. When the attack was made on the left, he changed front to fire to the left."

From the Report of Gen. A. D. McCook, Comdg. Right Wing.

"December 30, '62 * On arrival at the pike, I found Col. Harker's brigade retiring before a heavy force of the enemy. I immediately ordered Robert's brigade, of Sheridan's division, to advance into a cedar wood, and charge the enemy, and drive him back. * Col. Harker, commanding a brigade in Wood's division, performed gallant service."

From the Report of Gen. P. H. Sheridan, Comdg. 3d Division.

"On the 30th Schaefer's brigade was put in action directly to the front and right of Wood's division, on the left-hand side of the railroad. The brigade advanced through a clump of timber, and took position on the edge of the cotton field, close on the enemy's lines, relieving Wood's division, which was falling back under heavy pressure."

General Crittenden's Report.

"My command left camp near Nashville, Dec. 26, '62, and reached the point where the battle of Stone's River was fought just before dusk on the evening of the 29th. The march from Nashville was accompanied by skirmishing. The gallant and handsome things done by the several portions of my command during this march, have been mentioned in detail. * It was about dusk, and just at a moment when Wood and Palmer had halted to gather up their troops, that I reached the head of my command. These two generals had their divisions in line of battle, Wood on the left, and Palmer on the right, with the enemy in sight, and evidently in heavier force than we had yet encountered them; it was evident they intended to dispute the passage of the river, and fight the battle at or near Murfreesboro. At this moment I received orders to occupy Murfreesboro with one division, encamping others outside. I immediately gave the order to advance, and the movement commenced. Wood was ordered to occupy the place. * At this time it was dark. Gen. Wood had declared that he was hazarding a great deal for very little, to move over unknown ground, and thought that I ought to take the responsibility to disobey the order. * I suspended the order one hour. By this time Gen. Rosecrans came to the front, and approved what I did. In the meantime, Col. Harker, after a sharp skirmish, gallantly crossed the river. * As soon as possible I recalled Harker, * and he recrossed without serious loss.

On the morning of the 31st, when the battle began, I occupied the front near the pike, Palmer on the right, Wood on the left, and Van-Cleve in reserve, to the rear and left. * The right was driven back. The confusion of troops hindered forming. Being soon reinforced by Fyffe's and Harker's brigades, the enemy was pressed vigorously, too far. They came upon the enemy massed to receive them; who, outnumbering and outflanking them, compelled them to fall back. They did so in good order. From this time, the great object of the enemy seemed to be to break our left and front. When the troops composing the center

and right wing of our army had been driven by the enemy from our original line of battle, the 1st and 2d divisions of the left wing still nobly maintained their position, though several times assaulted by the enemy in great force.

Gen. Wood being wounded on the 31st, the command devolved on Hascall, on Jan. 1, '63. On the night of the 31st, he rested 500 yards in the rear of the former line, the right resting on the position occupied by Stokes' Battery. On the 2d, Hascall's division laid half an hour in the early part of the day under the heaviest cannonading we endured. Many were killed, but the men would not flinch. That night they encamped a little in advance of the position Beatty had occupied on the river. In this position the troops remained till Saturday night, when the river began to rise; and the rain continuing to fall, all recrossed the river. Sunday, it was learned that the enemy had evacuated Murfreesboro."

Gen. T. J. Woods Report.

"The country occupied by the bodies of hostile troops was favorable for a small force to retard the advance of a larger one. * The country between the cultivated tracts is densely wooded; and much of this is interspersed with thick groves of cedar. It is undulating also, presenting a succession of swells and subsidences. * On Saturday, Dec. 27, '62, I ordered Hascall to take the advance on either side of the pike. * Lavergne was the first object to attain. The enemy was strongly posted in the houses and on the wooded heights in our rear, and opposed us by crossfire.

Sunday, 28th, we remained in camp, waiting for the right and center to get into position.

On Monday, 29th, the advance was resumed. Harker's brigade was on the left of Wagner, in the advance, and Hascall's brigade was in reserve.

Arriving within 2½ miles of Murfreesboro, we found the enemy in force immediately in our front, prepared to resist seriously and determinedly our further advance. I halted the center, and Harker's brigade occupied the wood, in part of which Wagner was posted, and extended the left into an open field. * We remained in this position till Tuesday, 30th, the skirmishers keeping up an active firing.

On Wednesday morning, 31st, it was reported that the enemy was moving large bodies of troops to his left. My division was roused at 5 o'clock, got breakfast, and before daylight was ready for action. * I directed Harker to commence the movement with his brigade. * A long wooded ridge within a hundred yards of the stream extends along the southern side of Stone River. On the crest of this ridge the enemy appeared to be posted in force. During the morning some firing had been heard, but not sufficient to indicate troops seriously engaged; but a sudden and fierce roar and rattle of musketry burst on us at this moment, which indicated that the enemy had attacked the right wing in heavy

force; and soon the arrival of messengers confirmed the indications. I stopped crossing, withdrew Hascall's and Harker's brigades, and moved to the right and rear, to reinforce the center and right. * The falling back of the right wing, brought our lines into a crochet. * The enemy was seen concentrating large masses of troops in the fields; and soon they moved forward to the attack. * The artillery in our front line, as well as that in the rear of the center and left, poured a destructive fire on the advancing foe; but on he came, till within small-arm range, when he was repulsed and driven back." *

About 10 o'clock, Wednesday morning, 30th, General Wood was struck by a minie ball, on the inner side of his left heel, tearing open the boot, and lacerating the foot; a severe contusion was inflicted also, but he did not dismount till 7 o'clock that evening. After he arrived at Dayton, Ohio, on leave of absence, he wrote, referring to the evening of Monday, 29th, when Harker's brigade was ordered to cross the river, and the order was countermanded:

"Before, however, the order was suspended, Harker's brigade had crossed Stone River, under a galling fire, driven in the enemy's outposts, and seized a strong position, which it held until nearly 10 o'clock that evening."

Gen. Hascall's Report as Division Commander.

"When the command devolved on me, the division was considerably scattered, as Col. Harker's brigade had been in action all day on the extreme right, and had not returned. About 11 p. m. that day, Harker returned with his brigade. * The line was now nearly at right angles with the railroad, Harker's brigade resting on it. In this position we lay all next day, Jan. 1, '63, with nothing to break the silence, save picket firing and an occasional artillery duel. Each brigade was in line of battle; and occupying so much front, kept the men constantly on the alert. Most of the other divisions had reserves, to relieve some. We maintained this position till 8 o'clock on the morning of Jan. 2. At this time the enemy opened the most terrific fire of shot and shell that we sustained during the entire engagement. During the night they had massed several batteries in our front, with a line a quarter of a mile long, and all at once they opened on us. Bradley's battery opened a brisk fire, till Stokes' battery, in their rear, opened with grape, which took effect on Bradley's men, and compelled Bradley to retire. The infantry, however, kept their position, though suffering severely.

Col. John W. Blake, of the 40th Indiana, was so drunk and unfit for duty, that he was arrested and sent to the rear. When next heard from, he was in Nashville, claiming to be wounded, and a paroled prisoner. I recommend his dishonorable discharge."

Report of Maj. S. Race, Chief of Artillery.

"About 6 A. M., Dec. 31, '62, Capt. Cullen Bradley's 6th Ohio Light Battery and Harker's brigade moved to the extreme right, where they were engaged in a most severely contested battle. Before superior numbers of the enemy, the brigade and battery (after repulsing the first attack of the enemy,) were obliged to retire; but not without disputing every inch of ground."

Col. Harker's Report.

"The 3d Brigade, 1st Division, Left Wing, 14th Army Corps, Dept. of the Cumberland, formerly 20th Brigade, 6th Division, left Stewart's Creek about 10 A. M., Monday, 29th ult., marching most of the time in line of battle, with the right of the line in rear of the left of the 2d Brigade, Col. Wagner commanding. Our skirmishers soon came upon the enemy's cavalry, engaging them briskly, and driving them slowly before them. We proceeded in this manner, cautiously feeling our way, until our left arrived at the left bank of Stone River, which was reached about 4 P. M. Up to this time we had suffered no casualties from the enemy's skirmishers. We took up a position near Stone River, about 400 yards to the left of the Nashville and Murfreesboro pike, the 2d Brigade, Col. Wagner commanding, being on the right, and the 1st Brigade, Brig. Gen. Hascall commanding, being on the left, and somewhat to the rear, owing to the conformation of the ground. We remained in this position till about dark, when we received orders to proceed to Murfreesboro. Stone River being fordable in our front, we at once commenced crossing the stream. Throwing a long line of skirmishers over the stream, orders were given to the 51st Indiana, 13th Michigan and 73d Indiana to cross simultaneously, to form on the opposite bank, and to press forward and seize the commanding heights beyond; while the 64th and 65th Ohio, with Bradley's Battery, were directed to follow as rapidly as possible. The skirmishers had barely left the bank of the river, before they were vigorously attacked by those of the enemy, concealed in a thicket and behind a fence in our front. Our skirmishers in no way daunted by this fierce assault of the enemy, pressed gallantly forward, driving the foe, until they came upon the enemy in force. The skirmishers were soon supported by the front line of the brigade. The enemy seemed to have been entirely disconcerted by this bold movement of our troops, and fell back in confusion. In this movement our loss was two killed and three wounded. This slight loss must be attributed to the able manner in which the officers of the brigade conducted their commands. A prisoner taken, reported an entire division of the enemy on my front; and movements along the entire front and flanks indicated that a strong force was near me. I reported this to the general commanding the division; at the same time stating that I could hold the position until reinforced. I soon received orders to recross the stream; which I did; occupying the same ground as before crossing. This movement was so quickly execu-

ted, as not to excite the suspicion of the enemy. Too much praise cannot be accorded to the brave officers and men of this brigade, for their bravery and skill in driving a concealed enemy from a strong position, after night-fall, and holding their ground in the face of an enemy three times their numbers.

On Dec. 30, '62, * about 8 A. M., the enemy's battery, stationed on an eminence near the right bank of Stone River, opened a severe fire of shot and shell upon my camp. Bradley's battery was ordered into position, to engage that of the enemy. After a severe engagement of 15 minutes, Capt. Bradley succeeded in silencing the enemy's battery. My command sustained no loss in this engagement.

On the 31st, about 8 A. M., I received orders from Gen. Wood, to cross the river with my command. The movement was commenced, in obedience to Gen. Wood's order, but was suspended for a few minutes by an order emanating from Gen. Crittenden. While awaiting further orders, Maj. Gen. Rosecrans passed my command, and gave me direct instructions to proceed immediately to the support of the right wing of our army, which was yielding to an overwhelming force of the enemy at that point. We had hardly commenced moving toward the right, when a Confederate battery located on the south bank of the river, opened on us, killing 1 man and wounding 2. Not stopping to reply to this battery, we pressed steadily forward. On approaching the right, much confusion was visible; troops marching in every direction; stragglers to be seen in great numbers; and teamsters in great consternation, endeavoring to drive their teams they knew not whither. My progress was impeded by the confusion, while the enemy was pouring shot and shell upon us from at least three different directions, wounding several men in my command. The brigade was, however extricated from this perilous position as soon as possible, and pressed on to a position on the extreme right of our line; Col. Fyffe's brigade, of Gen. VanCleve's division, being immediately on our left. After reaching this last position, my brigade marched in two lines, the 51st Indiana on the right, 65th Ohio on the left, the battery a little retired and opposite the interval between; 64th Ohio on the right of the second line, the 73d Indiana on the left, with the 13th Michigan in the rear of the caissons. We marched in this order about half a mile, when our skirmishers came up with those of the enemy, and the fire became brisk in front. About this time a battery from the enemy, situated in a cornfield, and nearly opposite my right flank, opened upon my command with canister. In order to get a commanding position for artillery, and at the same time to guard well my right flank, which I was fearful the enemy would attempt to turn, I moved the command a little to the right. While this movement was being executed, an officer reported a strong force and a battery of the enemy in front. No sooner had I taken position on the crest of the hill, than a most vigorous engagement commenced. * When it had continued twenty minutes, it was reported that the troops on my left had given way, and the enemy was already in

the rear of my left flank, and about two hundred yards from it, pouring a destructive cross-fire on my troops. It became necessary to fall back.

My thanks are due to Col. A. D. Streight for valuable information of the movements of the enemy during this engagement.

On Jan 1, the 1st division was moved a little to the right and rear. My brigade occupied a central position in the division, on the front line of battle, and a short distance to the left of the Murfreesboro pike. We were hardly in position, before the enemy drove in our skirmishers. Bradley's battery, with others, opened a destructive fire of case-shot and shell, driving the enemy from our front, and sustaining no loss.

Jan. 2, Bradley's battery being in position on a small eminence on our front, supported on the right by the 64th and 65th Ohio, behind a small clump of trees, and on the left by the 51st Indiana, lying in a skirt of timber; while the 13th Michigan and 73d Indiana were in reserve, 3 batteries of the enemy opened on us. They were promptly responded to by Capt. Bradley and another battery on my right; when the most fearful artillery engagement ensued which I had yet had the experience to witness. The enemy having our range quite perfectly, poured upon us a most destructive fire, causing the battery on our right to be abandoned; but Capt. Bradley continued his well-directed firing, until the enemy's batteries were silenced. While this engagement was going on, Capt. Stokes' battery posted in our rear, opened upon us, mistaking us for the enemy.

* During the engagement we had 1 man killed, and 11 wounded. * About dark we were ordered to cross Stone River. My brigade was placed in the front line. We were hardly in position, before the enemy opened on us, killing 1 man of the 64th Ohio. During the night we constructed breastworks of rails, and remained on the front till 9 A. M., Jan. 3, when we were relieved and ordered to the rear in reserve, where we remained till about 3 P. M., when we were again ordered to the front, to relieve Wagner's brigade, and occupied a position on the left of the 1st Division. We remained in this position till about 1 A. M., Jan. 4, when we received orders to recross Stone River. We crossed the stream and took position in rear of the main body of our force, and about 500 yards to the left of the railroad, where we remained till the troops occupied Murfreesboro.

* * * * *
 Capt. Francis M. Constant, Co. G, and 2d Lieut. Alfred Gude, Co. H, 51st Indiana, were wounded.

From Dec. 29 to Jan. 2, inclusive, my brigade occupied some portion of the front, and during each day some portion of the forces under my command were engaged with the enemy, and sustained greater or less losses. For the cheerful manner in which they stood up under these fatigues and exposures, they are entitled to commendation. * I must also mention a circumstance worthy of notice, which occurred on Friday, Jan. 2. The enemy's sharpshooters, taking advantage of the woods in our front, and to the right and left, had crept up sufficiently near our camp, with the evident intention of picking off our general and field

officers. They annoyed me exceedingly, firing at every mounted officer or man who appeared near the front. Desirous of dislodging this concealed foe, I directed the skirmishers to advance, and clear the woods if possible. Capt. Chambers, of the 51st Indiana, had command of the skirmishers, consisting of 40 men from his own company, Companies B and D, 73d Indiana; Companies H, E and K, 65th Ohio; Company E, 64th Ohio. The little detachment numbered only 120 men. The enemy's force was much larger. Our skirmishers drove them until they were checked by the enemy's batteries. Thus these brave men not only drove a concealed enemy from a strong hiding place, but elicited valuable information concerning the position of his masked batteries. This act of gallantry elicited the praise and admiration of all who witnessed it."

Col. Streight's report agrees with those already given, except in a few details. It begins at about 4 p. m., Dec. 29, '62, when we arrived on the west bank of Stone River, half a mile north of the Murfreesboro and Nashville pike, and two miles from Murfreesboro. Here we were ordered to halt; and we remained till dark, when we got orders to cross the river, preparatory to moving upon Murfreesboro. As we were fully aware that the enemy occupied the opposite bank, and as none of our troops had up to that time crossed the river, it was necessary to proceed cautiously, to avoid running into an ambush. Companies A and F were deployed as skirmishers, and ordered to cross in advance, and engage the enemy briskly; and if possible, to seize the heights on the east side of the river. No sooner had our skirmishers crossed, than the rebels opened fire on them briskly, from under cover of a fence but a few yards distant. Our skirmishers rushed forward on double-quick, and charged upon the rebels, who instantly fled from their hiding places. At the same time it was discovered that a large number was concealed in a field of standing corn on the hillside; and fearing that they would overwhelm our skirmishers, the whole regiment was hastened forward at double-quick. Before the regiment had entirely crossed the river, information came that the rebels were advancing in line of battle just beyond the crest of the ridge, about 400 yards to our front. It was at once determined to seize

the crest before the rebels could get there, if possible; and we started on the run forward. The entire ridge seemed to issue forth a continuous flame of fire, yet not a man faltered, but each seemed to strive to reach the desired point in advance of his comrades. The boldness of the movement, and the alacrity with which it was executed, with a well-directed fire, struck terror to the rebels, who fell back in dire confusion. Orders came just then to advance no further, but to hold our position. The colonel ordered the men to lie down, so as to conceal them as much as possible; and in a few minutes the rebels were seen advancing on our position. They were allowed to come within thirty steps, when we opened fire on them with such effect, that they hardly waited for reply, but broke and fled again. In a few minutes reinforcements joined us on our right and left. We remained there, without further molestation, till about 10 o'clock that night, when orders came to retire to the opposite bank of the river. After waiting till the rest of the brigade had recrossed, the Fifty-First followed; at the same time withdrawing our skirmishers in good order. The regiment was marched about 500 yards from the ford, where it bivouacked for the night. Light skirmishing was all that occurred, till the morning of the 31st, when it was evident, from the terrific roar of artillery and musketry, that the rebels were turning the extreme right of our army. We were at once ordered at double-quick to the right and rear; but had only moved a short distance, when we came within range of the enemy's artillery; yet, though several of our boys were wounded, with no chance of striking at the enemy, we moved a distance of more than a mile, with as perfect regularity as if we had been on drill. And even when we came in contact with hundreds of excited, noisy, jangling teams and teamsters, every command was quietly and promptly obeyed, without confusion. After marching about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, we reached the extreme right of the army. We had hardly halted, before we were ordered forward in

line of battle across open cotton and corn fields. Companies A, B and F were deployed as skirmishers to cover our extreme right and front. In this order we proceeded half a mile, when our skirmishers, approaching the crest of a ridge in front, were fired upon by a large force of rebels, concealed in standing corn. Instantly the whole line was forwarded at a double-quick; our skirmishers soon came upon the enemy, when a well-directed fire sent them skurrying through the corn like the shoats at Gadara. Again we were fortunate in wresting from the rebels an advantage in position. We had a fine chance at them as they were skedaddling down those long furrows, for about 400 yards; large numbers of them falling under the superior marksmanship of our Hoosier boys. Shortly after we had taken possession of the ridge, Lieut.-Col. Colescott, in command of the skirmishers, sent word to Col. Streight that large masses of troops were seen moving toward a piece of woods to our left and front. Streight at once notified Col. Harker, and requested that the 6th Ohio Battery be sent to the ridge we were then occupying. The battery was soon on the ground, but not too soon; for by the time it was in position, the rebels had engaged the troops to our left. Capt. Bradley opened a most withering fire, enflaming them at a distance of not over 500 yards. They were in column four regiments deep. Their dead were literally piled in heaps, by the terrific fire from this battery. The battle had been raging about three-quarters of an hour, when word came that the division on our left was falling back. At the same moment Col. Harker ordered us to fall back; which we did in good order, taking off all of our wounded. Having no instruction where to form, we took possession of the first advantageous ground, expecting to give the enemy battle; but we were soon ordered to resume the position we first occupied on the extreme right. Companies H and C were now deployed as skirmishers. Again we were approached by the rebels, and had got fairly engaged, when they broke

and fled from the field in great confusion. It was nearly night now, and the contest was ended for the day. Other troops came up, and we were again ordered to the position we occupied the day before; where we bivouacked for the night. Early next morning, we were ordered into position about half a mile to our right and rear, where we remained through the day. Companies A and G, and one company from the 73d Indiana, were sent forward as skirmishers, to drive the rebels from a piece of woods half a mile to our front; which was accomplished in short order. We had nothing further to do that day.

On Jan. 2, Col. Streight took Co. H, with several volunteers from other companies, and drove the rebels from the woods formerly occupied by the 21st Brigade. The contest was very severe for a short time, but our boys finally got the advantage, and what was left of the johnnies, skedad-dled. Ten rebels were left dead on the ground, and their wounded were scattered in every direction. This was the last engagement in this campaign in which the Fifty-First participated.

We took 19 prisoners; 1 major and 1 captain. From careful observation made by Col. Streight, on the various grounds over which the Fifty-First fought, he said:

"I am convinced that we have killed not less than 60 of the enemy; and by adding five times that number, the usual proportion of wounded to those killed, we have a grand total of 360. These figures, though seemingly large for the amount of loss sustained by us, I feel confident could be fully verified by the facts. Most of the ground fought over by my regiment has not been covered by other troops, and in nearly every case we have been placed where it was easy to decide which were our killed. The success attending us, in most cases, and our small loss, I think is attributable in a great measure to the advantage taken of the ground.

Feeling grateful beyond expression, for the brave soldierly bearing, and prompt manner in which both officers and men performed every duty assigned them, I feel a great delicacy in mentioning names."

Captains Russell, Chambers and Flinn, and the men under them received mention for distinguished services.

Marion Fitch came to the regiment just as it was going into action on the first day. He had no knowledge whatever of a gun, save the little experience he had in hunting frogs and kildees down on the creek near his home; but he grabbed a rifle, and soon was cracking away with as good will as some of the veterans. Many other "troopees" who were equally inexperienced, made records in that fight.

While crossing the river on the night of Dec. 29, a ball from a rebel rifle passed over the heads of the men in front, striking George W. Holbrook, a recruit of Co. F, square in the forehead. He dropped forward in the river, but his body was recovered and taken back. He was very tall, his height being 6 feet, 7 inches. He had enlisted but six days before.

During a lull in the first day's fight, John Gasper, Co. C, sat down on a spur of a large tree to rest. On the second day, the fortune of battle brought him to the same spot. Just then a big solid ball struck the same tree, scattering chips in every direction. Gasper gave a big sigh, and an expression of relief.

"What's the matter?" asked a comrade.

"Come mighty nigh bein' shot!"

"How?"

"Why, that ball struck right where I sat yesterday!"

As we fell back, on the 31st, Martin Phillippe, Co. E, was struck by a bullet in the back part of the right calf, the ball splitting, and fitting itself so firmly around the bone, that the ball had to be chipped off. In the Raid, near Rome, Ga., the same soldier had a similar experience, a ball entering the left calf, exactly as in the first instance it entered the right.

As we moved over, on the morning of Dec. 31, to take position on the right, Capt. M. T. Anderson, Co. D, was seriously wounded in the head, by the concussion of a shell. At the same time, Orderly Sergeant David Denny, Co. E, lost the skirt of his overcoat, that was swept away by a

cannon ball. Many other comrades received similar little courtesies; and were thankful that they were no worse.

Among the many brave acts of our boys, was the capture of a rebel major, by Corporal Clements, of Co. C, who marched his prisoner to the rear, with 9 others, and turned them into the "bull-pen."

Up to this time, war had been more of a school—a sort of system of experiments, than otherwise. From this time on, we got down to business; and the reports show an enormous increase in the killed and wounded in battle. It was found much cheaper and better in the long run, than to chase around over the country after skeddaddling rebels, or to lie in camp, waiting for them to attack us. And, as usual, the common soldiers arrived at this point long before the generals did. It was found that strategy was only the method of cowards. More pluck was needed; indeed that was what conquered the rebellion. And right there comes in the point of comparison between the hobbling tactics of the Corinth campaign and the Bragg chase, with their respective originators and managers. Anybody could figure on the possibilities of a campaign; but it took real soldiers to fight. We had got the poor material weeded out pretty much; and when the order came to go in where the battle raged, every eye brightened, and every form straightened up to its full height, as the command rang down the line:

"Tention, Fifty-First! Load at will!—fix bayonets! —forward!—fire at will!—march!"

Quickly the bayonet flashed from its scabbard, and clicked as it was firmly fixed; then hands flew to cartridge-boxes, teeth tore off the end, the charge was thrust into the muzzle; the rammer slipped nimbly from its place, to drive home the deadly ball, and returned as swiftly to its socket; finger and thumb placed the cap, and all was ready in a moment, and the column was moving forward. They step cautiously, observing meanwhile the alignment; carefully inspecting cartridge-boxes, to see that they are well

supplied with ammunition. Then the balls begin to whiz about their heads; but they do not falter. Batteries are pounding away; trees and every other sort of shelter are taken advantage of; shells fall thick and fast, and general havoc ensues. Then the colonel again shouts:

“Attention, Fifty-First! Fire at will!—charge—with a yell!”

And no power on earth could withstand the awful combination of such a terrific volley, such a withering yell, and the gleaming of those murderous bayonets! A rebel flag is shot down. More yells follow; as the miserable rag is torn to pieces, to be sent home in the next letters.

Thus the battle rages, to the end; and our boys come up smiling after each sanguinary round.

Jan. 4 '63, was spent in burying the dead; and on the 5th our army occupied Murfreesboro, which was most elaborately fortified.

We were satisfied with fighting, and were glad to rest. We had had a hard time since Christmas; without tents, and fighting more or less every day, much of the time on short rations, and part of the time without any. It had rained most of the time, too; but amidst all these trials and hardships, the boys stood it well.

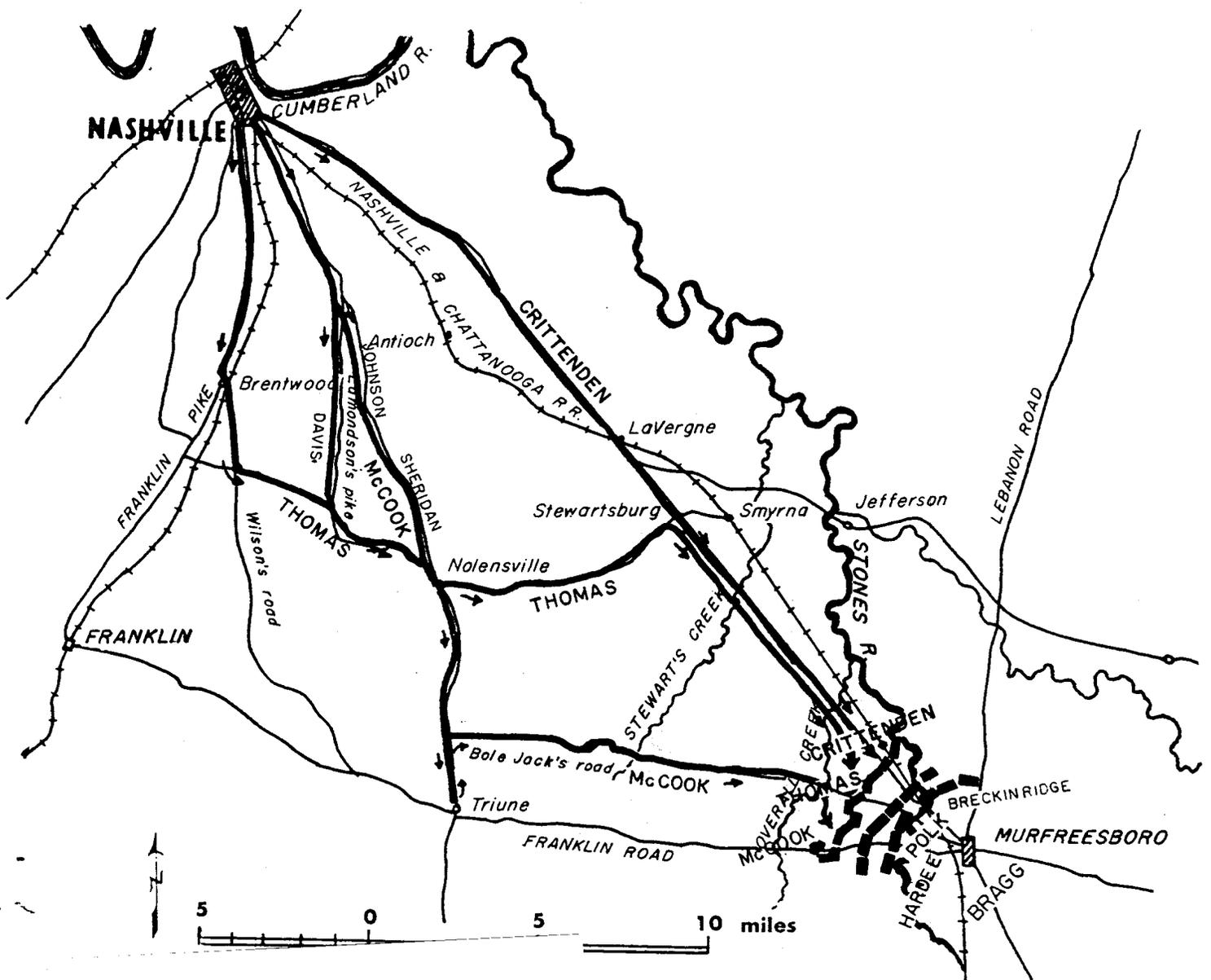
The fall of Murfreesboro, and the complete rout of Bragg's army, was a terrible disappointment to the copperheads of Indiana, who had planned to openly recognize the rebel confederacy, and to still further divide the Union by antagonizing the Northwest and the New England States. Their scheme was badly frost-bitten.

“INDIANAPOLIS, IND., Jan. 3, 1863—9:20 P. M.

HON. E. M. STANTON, *Secretary of War*:

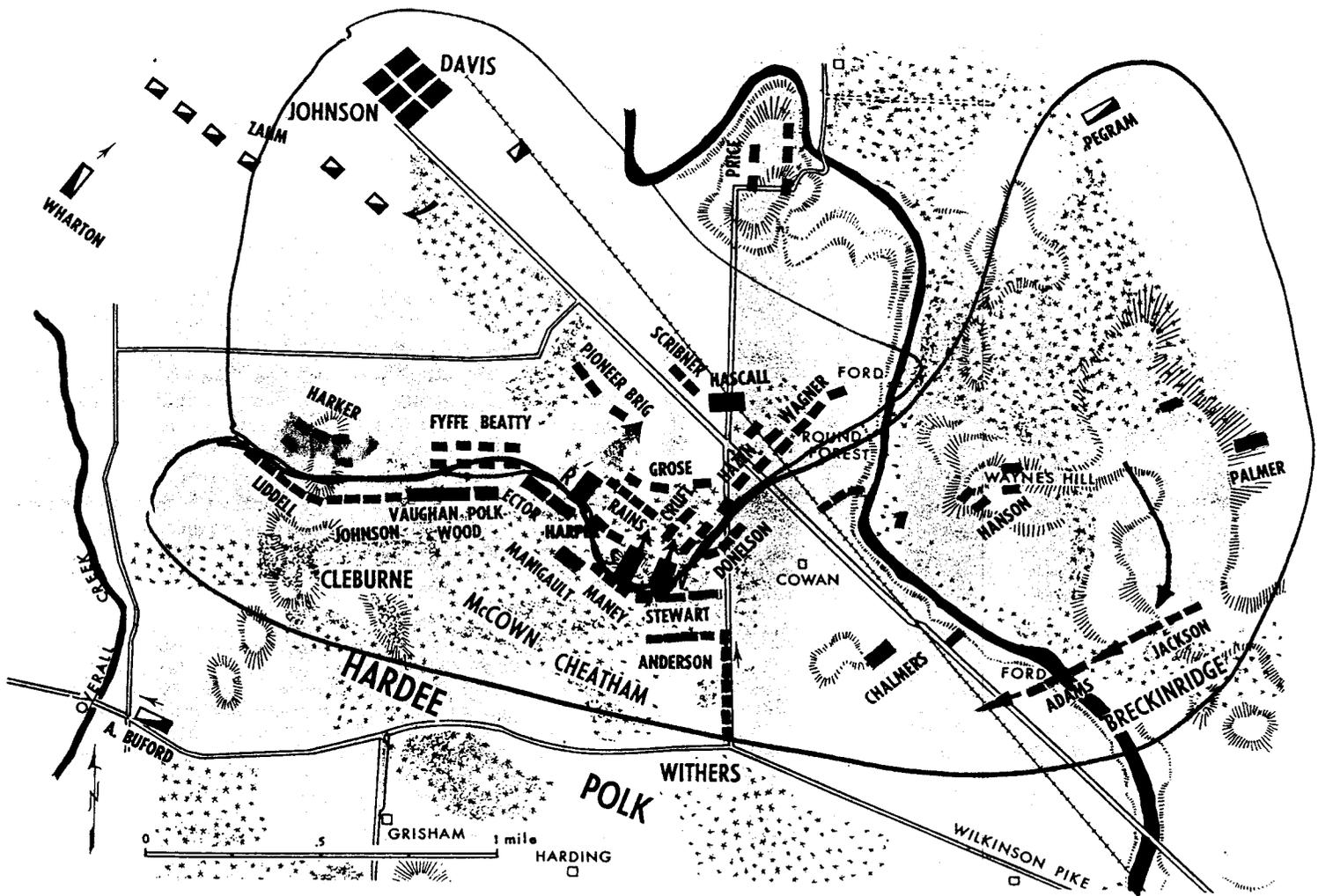
I am advised that it is contemplated when the Legislature meets, to pass a joint resolution acknowledging the Southern Confederacy, and urging the States of the Northwest to dissolve all constitutional relations with the New England States. The same thing is on foot in Illinois.

O. P. MORTON,
Governor of Indiana.”

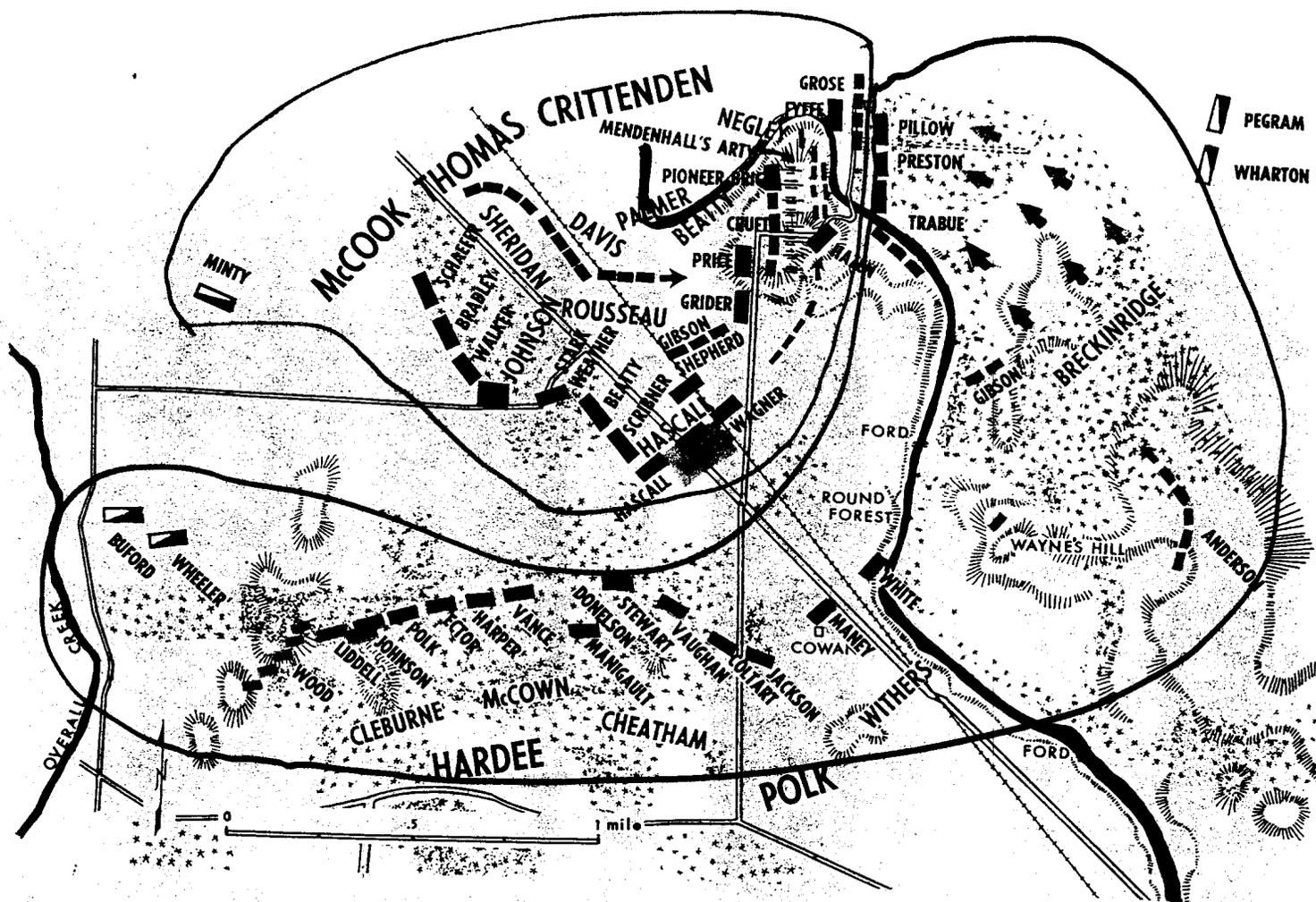


NOTE: I APOLOGIZE FOR THE BLACK & WHITE MAPS. THE MASTER COPIES (I MADE 2, ONE FOR MYSELF AND ONE FOR MY BROTHER) OF THIS BOOK CONTAIN COLOR MAPS. I JUST DID NOT HAVE TIME TO DUPLICATE THEM IN THIS COPY.

MAP I—This general map shows the routes of Rosecrans' three wings from Nashville to the vicinity of Murfreesboro. The march, which started on December 26, 1862, was retarded by Wheeler's cavalry, so that Rosecrans did not arrive northwest of Murfreesboro until December 29. On the 30th both sides made some moves preparatory to attacking on the 31st. Bragg, intending to attack the Federal right, moved two of Hardee's divisions to his own left, so that on the evening of the 30th the major elements of both armies were disposed generally as shown on this map. The topography—roads, streams, and towns—is from a modern Geological Survey map, because the old maps are highly inaccurate. To this, however, have been applied the obscure roads and some villages that have now disappeared, so that the over-all effect is to portray the area as it was in 1862. Routes are taken from the reports of the commanders.



MAP 3—Situation at noon, December 31, 1862. Bragg obtained his first objective by 10 a.m., having driven the Federal right back to the line of the Nashville pike, and put to flight Johnson's and Davis' divisions; these divisions at noon are reorganizing and drawing ammunition where shown. McCook's third division, Sheridan's (S), however, retained its cohesion and conducted a fighting withdrawal. Rousseau (R) and Negley (N) are also withdrawing, but Rosecrans has assembled five brigades that, with artillery, are holding a salient around the Round Forest. Chalmers' Confederate brigade, in assaulting this position, lost heavily from artillery fire and Chalmers was wounded. At noon his leaderless brigade was milling around, vainly waiting for someone to take command. Donelson's brigade attacked, capturing the artillery in the salient, but was thrown out by a counterattack. The Confederates were unable to deliver a knockout punch, although Breckinridge's troops were being brought across the river to join in the assault. At the lower left of the map, Buford's cavalry brigade has just arrived and is en route to join Wheeler's brigade at Wilkinson's Cross Roads.



MAP 4—Situation at 4:45 p.m., January 2, 1863. Breckinridge, reinforced by Anderson's and Chalmers' brigades of Withers' division attacked the Federal left at 4 p.m. and drove the Federals from their high ground east of the river to the other side. Here Mendenhall assembled 57 guns to dispute further Rebel advance. The massed fire of these guns was disastrous to Breckinridge, ending the battle and giving virtual victory to Rosecrans.

Since the battle began, casualties have caused the replacement of several units' commanders. On the Federal side, Wood's division was taken over by Hascall, whose brigade is now commanded by Col. George P. Buell. Col. W. H. Gibson commands Willich's brigade of Johnson's division. Schaefer's brigade of Sheridan's division is under Lt. Col. Bernard Laiboldt. Col. L. P. Bradley commands Roberts' brigade. For the Confederates, Col. Trabue has replaced Hanson, who was killed; Brig. Gen. Preston Smith has taken command of his brigade, temporarily under Vaughan.

Streight's Raid

Note: Any reference to Company B, 51st Indiana, or the Provisional Brigade should be assumed to include Sergeant Hurst.

THE RAID TO ROME.

ORGANIZATION OF THE PROVISIONAL EXPEDITION.

Then comes the "Provisional Campaign," in which is included the voluminous history of the capture of the regiment, and incarceration in Libby Prison, as well as the romantic escape of some, and death of others.

Van Horne's report of this campaign, says:

"April 7th, Gen. Rosecrans organized a provisional brigade of 1,700 men for independent service, and assigned Col. A. D. Streight to its command, with instructions to repair to Nashville and prepare to make an expedition into Alabama and Georgia to interrupt communications and destroy property of all kinds useful to the enemy. Having obtained a partial supply of unserviceable mules, Col. Streight proceeded to Palmyra, and thence across to Ft. Henry, gathering on the way as many serviceable animals as possible. At Ft. Henry he embarked for Eastport, Miss. He left that point on the 21st, reached Tuscumbia on the 24th, and moved thence on the 26th for Moulton. Leaving that place at midnight on the 28th, he pressed forward through Day's Gap toward Blountsville. While passing through the Gap, his rear-guard was attacked by Forrest's cavalry. The enemy followed him through Blountsville, Gadsden, and on toward Rome. He defeated Forrest repeatedly, but his men and his animals becoming jaded, he lost heavily by capture. With diminished ranks and in almost utter destitution of serviceable ammunition, (his ammunition had been injured by fording streams,) he moved on, and crossed the Chattooga river, in hope of destroying the bridge at Rome. But in this he failed, as the enemy pressed upon him so closely, that his men became exhausted, and many having been already killed and captured, and there being no hope of accomplishing the object of his expedition, he surrendered to Forrest on the 3d of May. This enterprise was boldly conceived, and there was no lack of bravery and energy in its conduct, but the contingencies were not clearly apprehended, and the actual results did not compensate for the loss of so many men and so much material. But failure though it was, it was the type of enterprises which, undertaken under better conditions, resulted in brilliant success. It was a mistake to start with a half supply of poor animals, depending mainly upon captures to mount half his command at the start. This

plan caused delay in starting, and the result was that the enemy was encountered in superior numbers soon after Col. Streight had passed beyond the reach of support. The enemy's partisan leaders in their raids in Tennessee and Kentucky, had citizens of these States for soldiers, could always depend upon the friendship and assistance of a large portion of the inhabitants, and, besides, were themselves thoroughly acquainted with the country, and consequently were hardly ever ignorant of the strength of the forces operating against them, or of the short routes to safety. The conditions of success were very different subsequently, when the national forces undertook to interrupt the enemy's communications and make destructive raids. Such enterprises were given an unheralded start, and were prepared for quick movement, or else had such strength as to defy ordinary opposition. These conditions were wanting in Col. Streight's adventure."

All of which is true, and leads to the moral: You can't jump into the king-row, when it's full. Also, it is easy to stand off and tell how.

The following, which is compiled from the testimony of those who participated in that famous expedition, and from the Official War Records, tells the story more fully; and it also exposes the perfidy of the notorious guerrilla, and sneaking cutthroat, Forrest, to whom Colonel Streight surrendered his command, and who telegraphed to the rebel authorities a very sensational and lying account of the affair, in which he praised himself greatly.

In the spring of 1863, Colonel Streight applied to Gen. Rosecrans for an independent mounted brigade, with which to engage the guerrilla bands of Forrest and Wheeler and other rebel organizations that infested the banks of the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers, and caused a great deal of annoyance to our transportation. This enterprise was favorably received by General Garfield, who was then chief of General Rosecrans' staff, and who presented the matter to the department commander in such manner as to gain his consent to its organization. It was designated as the "Independent Provisional Brigade," designed for special secret service.

On April 7, '63, Colonel Streight received orders from General Rosecrans to proceed with the Provisional Brigade,

about 1,700 officers and men, composed of the following:

51st Indiana, Lt.-Col. Jas. W. Sheets.

73d Indiana, Col. Gilbert Hathaway.

3d Ohio, Col. Orris A. Lawson.

80th Illinois, Lt.-Col — Rogers.

Middle Tennessee Cavalry, (2 companies,)

Capt. D. D. Smith.

They were to go to Nashville, and fit out as speedily as possible for an expedition to the interior of Alabama and Georgia, for the purpose of destroying the railroads and other rebel property in those States. He was to draw about one-half the mules necessary to mount the command at Nashville, and seize in the country through which they passed a sufficient number of animals to mount the rest.

On arriving at Nashville, Colonel Streight organized the following staff:

Capt. D. L. Wright, 51st Ind., A. A. A. G.

Maj. W. L. Peck, 3d Ohio, Brigade Surgeon.

Quartermaster J. G. Doughty, 51st Ind., A. Q. M.

Capt. E. M. Driscoll, 3d Ohio, A. A. I. G.

Lieut. J. W. Pavey, 80th Illinois, Ordnance Officer.

Lieut. A. C. Roach, 51st Indiana, A. D. C.

It is proper, at this point, to introduce the following correspondence, relating to this expedition:

Rosecrans to Hurlburt:

“MURFREESBORO, April 2, 1863—11 P. M.

Col. Streight, with near 2,000 picked men, will probably reach Eastport by Thursday next. Dodge, with the Marine Brigade and the gunboats, can occupy or whip the Tuscumbia forces, and let my force go directly to its main object, the destruction of the railroads. This great enterprise, fraught with great consequences, I beg you to commend to Dodge's care, enjoining on him to despatch Streight by every means to his destination. Nothing, if possible, should arrest his progress.”

Crittenden to Garfield:

{ “HDQRS. 21ST ARMY CORPS,
Murfreeseboro, April 6, 1863.

Brig. Gen. J. A. GARFIELD, *Chief of Staff:*

SIR—On more than one occasion I have had

some brief conversation with the commanding general in regard to the enterprise proposed by Col. Streight, of the 51st Indiana Volunteers, for cutting the enemy's communications in his rear. This is certainly a most important movement, and if it could be crowned with anything like a reasonable amount of success, would undoubtedly lead to great results. * My object is to offer some suggestions, supposing that the commanding general should decide Col. Streight's scheme to be feasible.

* * * * *

Garfield to Streight—Assignment:

“April 7, 1863.

COLONEL—By Special Field Orders No. 94, Paragraph viii, you have been assigned to the command of an independent provisional brigade for temporary purposes. After fitting out your command with equipments and supplies, as you have already been directed, in the verbal instructions of the general commanding this department, you will proceed by a route, of which you will be advised by telegraph, to some good steamboat landing on the Tennessee River, not far above Ft. Henry, where you will embark your command, and proceed up the river. At Hamburg you will confer with Brig. Gen. Dodge, who will probably have a messenger there awaiting your arrival. If it should then appear unsafe to move farther up the river, you will debark at Hamburg, and without delay, join the force of Gen. Dodge, which will then be en route for Iuka, Miss. If, however, it should be deemed safe, you will land at Eastport, and form a junction with Gen. Dodge.

From that point you will then march, in conjunction with him, to menace Tusculumbia, but you will not wait to join in an attack, unless it should be necessary for the safety of Gen. Dodge's command, or your own, or unless some considerable advantage can be gained over the enemy without interfering with the general object of the expedition.

After having marched long enough with Gen. Dodge to create a general impression that you are a part of his expedition, you will push to the southward, and reach Russellville or Moulton. Thence your route will be governed by circumstances, but you will, with all reasonable despatch, push on to Western Georgia, and cut the railroads which supply the rebel army by way of Chattanooga. To accomplish this, is the chief object of your expedition; and you must not allow collateral nor incidental schemes, even though promising great results, to delay you so as to endanger your return. Your quartermaster has been furnished with funds sufficient for the necessary expenses of your command. You will draw your supplies, and keep your command well mounted, from the country through which you pass. For all property taken for the legitimate use of your command, you will make cash payments in full to men of undoubted loyalty; give the usual conditional receipts to men whose loyalty is doubtful, but to rebels nothing.

You are particularly commanded to restrain your command from

pillage and marauding. You will destroy all depots of supplies of the rebel army, all manufactories of guns, ammunition, equipments and clothing for their use, which you can without delaying you so as to endanger your return.

That you may not be trammelled with minute instructions, nothing further will be ordered than this general outline of policy and operation. You are authorized to enlist all able-bodied men who desire to join the Army of the Union."

Streight to Garfield :

"NASHVILLE, April 9, 1863.

SIR—Your instructions of to-day are received, among which are the following: * * *

The destruction of manufacturing establishments engaged in manufacturing directly for the use of the rebel army, I consider a duty which I would have no right to leave undone, when in my power, even in the absence of any instructions. Every cotton mill, tannery or other manufacturing establishment, and all quantities of corn, bacon, salt, or other supplies for the use or subsistence of an army within rebel lines, is indirectly supporting the enemy. Now, while humanity would dictate that such necessaries of life as were intended only for immediate family use should be spared, yet it is clearly my opinion that all large quantities of anything necessary for the use of an army, as well as factories producing such articles, should be destroyed, whether such be private or public property. I think I fully understand the course you desire me to pursue in relation to this matter; nevertheless I would prefer you send me written instructions.

Second, the rebels not having regular uniforms, would it be violating the rules of war, should I see fit to dress any number of men—say two companies, after the promiscuous Southern style? Something of this kind might be advantageous, should you not think it an improper course to pursue."

He probably got a strong refusal to his latter proposition, as no indication appears, neither in the Official War Records, nor in the conduct of the expedition, of any indorsement of it. His last communication to the chief of staff, was on April 9:

"We can start within three hours from the time of receiving orders, provided Col. Taylor sends the paulins in time." * *

As soon as possible, all hands were at work to supply the command with the necessary clothing, ordnance and equipments for an expedition of this kind; and on the 10th Col. Streight received orders from Gen. Garfield, to embark

at once on steamers then at the landing, and proceed down the river to Palmyra; land there, and march across to Fort Henry; and to seize all the horses and mules found in the country. Everything was speedily put on board, although it was late in the evening before the mules were brought to the landing for shipment.

As soon as everything was ready, the command started for Palmyra; where they arrived on the evening of the 11th, and disembarked at once. Colonel Streight sent the fleet, consisting of eight steamers, around to Fort Henry, under the command of Colonel Lawson, 3d Ohio, and gave him four companies from the Fifty-First, as guard. He had orders to stop at Smithland, and take on a quantity of rations and forage for Gen. Dodge's command.

As soon as it was light next morning, all hands were set at work to catch and saddle the mules. It was then discovered for the first time, that the mules were nothing but poor, wild and unbroken colts, many of them but two years old, and that a large number of them had distemper. Forty or fifty of the lot were too near dead to travel, and had to be left at the landing. Ten or twelve died before starting; and such as could be ridden at all, were so wild and unmanageable, that it took the boys all that day and part of the next to catch and break them; but in the meantime parties were sent out to gather in horses and mules; and had succeeded in getting about 150 very good animals, though mostly barefooted.

On the 13th, the command left Palmyra, and marched about 15 miles in a southwesterly direction, and camped on Yellow Creek. The scouting parties did not succeed in finding many horses or mules. The people had got warning of the movement, and the stock was mostly run off.

Early next morning, the march was resumed, and the command arrived at Fort Henry about noon on the 15th. They had scoured the country as far south as it was safe, on account of the proximity of a large force of the enemy,

under Woodward; and although about 100 of the mules gave out and had to be left behind on the march, yet when they reached Fort Henry, the animals numbered about 1,250. Those collected in the country, were mostly in fair condition, but were nearly all barefooted. Contrary to expectations, the boats had not arrived; nor did they reach there until the evening of the 16th; having been delayed in getting the rations and forage above referred to.

Gen. Ellet's marine brigade and two gunboats accompanied the fleet to Fort Henry: with orders to proceed as far as Eastport, Miss. Gen. Ellet assumed command of the fleet, and the command embarked as soon as possible; but the pilots declared that, at the existing low stage of the river, it would be unsafe to run at night; hence, they did not start until the morning of the 17th; reaching Eastport on the afternoon of the 19th.

Streight to Dodge:

{ "HDQRS. PROVISIONAL BRIGADE,
Savannah, Tenn., April 18, 1863.

I will move up the river at daylight to-morrow morning. We have 130,000 rations on board for you. Will halt at Hamburg, for messenger for you, and if I do not hear from you there, I will proceed to Eastport, where I shall endeavor to open communication with you. Ellet's Marine Brigade and four gunboats are with us."

Streight to Mrs. Streight:

"April 18, 1863.

Steamer Hazel Bell, Tennessee Fleet, 40 miles above Pittsburg Landing. * I am in command of a fleet of some 20 boats, including several gunboats, also a large force of infantry, cavalry and artillery. * I am entering into a most difficult and dangerous service. My command is curious to know where we are going. The general has trusted to my hands a very important command. I hope I will not disappoint him."

Immediately on arrival at Eastport, Colonel Streight left Col. Lawson in command, with orders to disembark, and prepare to march; while he went to see Gen. Dodge, who with his command, some 8,000 strong, was awaiting his arrival twelve miles up Bear River. After an interview with Gen. Dodge, the colonel returned to Eastport about

midnight, to discover that a stampede had occurred among the animals, and that some of them had escaped.

Daylight next morning revealed the fact that nearly 400 of the best animals were gone. All that day and part of the next was spent in scouring the country to recover them, but only 200 of them could be found. The rest fell into the hands of the rebels.

The loss of these animals was a heavy blow; for in addition to detaining the command at Eastport to hunt the stock, it caused still further delay at Tuscumbia, to supply their places. Quite a number of the mules drawn at Nashville, had to be left at Eastport, on account of distemper. Several died next day.

Gen. Hurlburt to Gen. Halleck :

"MEMPHIS, April 20, 1863—3 P. M.

The enemy at Tuscumbia has been largely reinforced by infantry. Delay in Streight's coming compelled Dodge to attack. He did so, and drove them from Bear Creek to Cahey Creek, with heavy loss. Our loss 100 and one piece of artillery, that was disabled, but saved. Streight is now in Eastport, in communication with Dodge and the gunboats. I reinforced Dodge to-day with 2,000 men, and with instructions that, if he finds the enemy too strong to be dislodged from Tuscumbia, Streight should proceed in rear of Dodge, by Tupelo, and then across the country. I sent cavalry on Friday, to cut the Mobile and Ohio Railroad below Tupelo, and also to push down to the Jackson and Vicksburg Railroad, and cut that. I recommend a strong demonstration on the enemy's left, to relieve the movement on Tuscumbia. * Col. Streight did not come up until four days after the time agreed upon for the movement to commence."

Oglesby to Hurlburt :

"CORINTH, April 21, 1863—12 M.

* * Dodge will move Wednesday morning, to strike the enemy at Tuscumbia on Friday. Streight is to move on this night, to go to his work, if Dodge will not require his support. Dodge will have to remain there two weeks, to cover Streight's operations."

Dodge to Oglesby :

"TUSCUMBIA, April 24, 1863—11 : 20 P. M.

I have taken this place, without any severe fighting. The enemy steadily opposed our advance. It was a pretty little fight. I shall go forward in the morning, and help Streight in his movement all I can.

They ran cars in here two days ago, and repaired the railroad. * I think the entire force ahead does not exceed 5,000 men. * I shall take Florence to-day. Our advance creates great consternation. They are in full belief that this is a flank movement on Johnson, and so informed him. I do not dispute it, and will make him back out if possible."

Colonel Streight to Mrs. Streight :

"TUSCUMBIA, ALA., April 26, 1863.

Leave here to-morrow morning at 1 o'clock for parts unknown. My whole command is now mounted, excepting about 200 men, which I hope to be able to mount to-morrow. * I am confident of success, but may fail; in which case I may be taken prisoner; but I trust all will come out right. If I succeed, it will aid our cause more than everything that has heretofore been done by our entire army."

Streight to Garfield :

"TUSCUMBIA, ALA., April 26, 1863.

After numerous difficulties and delays, I am at last supplied with animals to mount all but 200 of my command. I have met with a great drawback on account of mules drawn at Nashville being such poor ones. I shall start at 1 o'clock to-morrow morning for Russellville, and from thence to Moulton, and find what facts I can gather relative to the condition of things on the route. I have strong hopes of procuring the necessary animals to supply me. I wrote you fully from Eastport, and sent it by Capt. Fitch, commanding the gunboats. I learn since, however, that he is still there. Gen. Dodge has let me have nearly 400 animals, and has done everything in his power to aid me; but the people throughout the country here run off most of their horses and mules. This, with the worthlessness of those brought from Nashville, together with what Col. Lawson lost in the stampede in my absence, as referred to in my last, has put me to my trumps; nevertheless I am very hopeful and confident of success. I shall push on as fast as possible, and rest assured that nothing shall be left undone on my part to insure success; though there is something of a force between here and Decatur, variously estimated from 1,500 to 4,000 men. I hope to get two or three days the start of them; and should they chase me too fast, I will turn upon them and give them battle in the mountains. Col. Hathaway joined us on Friday last. He will be of great help to me. * *

Gen. Sweeny to Col. Morton, Comdg. 2d Brigade :

{ "HDQRS. RIGHT WING,
Town Creek, Ala., April 27, 1863.

* All inquiries of the inhabitants will be answered with the idea that the column is falling back on Tusculmbia for reinforcements, and great pains taken to impress them with that idea; the object being to mislead them as to our intentions. Keep them employed with watching

this column, in order to give time to Col. Streight's command to reach the mountains."

The "Provisional Brigade" left Eastport on the afternoon of April 21, and reached Gen. Dodge's headquarters the following morning about 8 o'clock. From there they proceeded in rear of Gen. Dodge's forces, which were continually skirmishing with the rebels as they advanced, as far as Tuscumbia; scouring the country to the river on the left, and to the mountains on the right, and collected all the horses and mules that could be found.

The command arrived at Tuscumbia about 5 p. m., on April 24. Here Gen. Dodge supplied our men with about 200 mules and six wagons; the latter to haul ammunition and rations. The surgeon was directed to carefully examine the command; and all who were not fit for the arduous trip, were sent with Gen. Dodge to Corinth, and afterward to Chattanooga. This reduced the command to 1,500.

General Dodge was positive that Forrest had crossed the Tennessee River, and was then in the vicinity of Town Creek; and he agreed to advance as far as Courtland, on the Decatur road, and if possible drive him in that direction; but to pursue him, if he turned off toward Moulton.

With this understanding, our command marched from Tuscumbia at 11 o'clock on the night of the 26th, in the direction of Moulton, by way of Russellville. It was raining very hard, and the mud and darkness combined made progress difficult and slow. One hundred and fifty men had neither horses nor mules, and those of fully as many more were unable to carry more than their saddles; hence at least 300 men were on foot.

It was expected that the greater portion of our force would reach Moulton, some forty miles distant, by the next night; but, owing to the heavy rains, and consequent bad condition of the roads, it was impossible. It was therefore determined to halt at Mount Hope, and wait for those on foot to come up. Accordingly, the first night after leaving

Tuscumbia, the entire mounted force bivouacked at Mount Hope, a village in Lawrence county, Ala., having made a march of 34 miles, over mountainous and almost impassable roads. Col. Streight took up his quarters at the house of a wealthy old rebel; whose daughter, however, claimed to be loyal, and did all in her power for the comfort of her guests. She so thoroughly impressed the colonel, that he ordered the quartermaster to pay her for a fine horse taken by one of the boys on foot.

They were continually scouring the country for horses and mules; but so many of those drawn at Nashville were failing, that, although successful in collecting very many, still a large number were without anything to ride.

On the night of the 27th, at Mount Hope, word came from General Dodge that he had driven the enemy; and he directed our command to push on. Our boys had not all come up yet; nor did they until about 10 A. M., next day; when the command proceeded to Moulton, the county seat, where they arrived about dark. Up to this time they had skirmished occasionally with small squads of guerrillas, but could hear of no force of any consequence in that part of country. All of the command but about fifty were now mounted.

The advance consisted of Captain Smith's two companies of cavalry, who charged into the town about sunset, putting to flight and capturing a small company of Roddy's command. In the jail many loyal citizens had been confined for defending the old flag. Many of these had been friends and neighbors of Captain Smith's command, who themselves were refugees from Southern intolerance and malignity. It was with difficulty, therefore, that they were prevented from tearing to the ground the building, whose damp walls and filthy cells had confined their dear ones so long, for no other cause than their fidelity to the principles on which our Union is based, and for which we were then fighting.

The Provisional Brigade left Moulton in the direction of Mountsville, by way of Day's Gap, about midnight on April 28. The two previous days it had rained most of the time, and the roads were terrible; though on the evening of the 28th it bade fair for dry weather; which gave great hope for better times. The command marched on the 29th to Day's Gap, about 35 miles, where they bivouacked for the night. Every man was now mounted; and although many of the animals were very poor, they had no doubt of being able to supply all future demands. During the day a large number of wagons, belonging to the rebels, and filled with provisions, arms, tents, etc., that had been sent to the mountains, to avoid capture, were destroyed. Our command was now in the midst of devoted Union people. Many of Captain Smith's men were recruited near here, and many were the happy greetings between them and their friends.

Nothing could be learned of the enemy, save of small parties who were hunting conscripts. Thus far, progress toward the prime object of the expedition had been slow; the foot soldiers merely keeping along with the mounted force, that was scouring the country for horses. Now, that enough had been secured, the command was ready to push forward the next morning with rapidity. But, alas! the golden opportunity had passed; and many brave souls who responded to the call on that lovely last day of April, were never to see the dawn of another day.

Our command moved out next morning before daylight. The men had been worked very hard, though, in running over the country in search of animals, and being unaccustomed to riding, were by this time illy prepared for the trying ordeal through which they were to pass. They had not proceeded more than two miles, before the rear guard was attacked, and at the same moment the boom of artillery was heard in the same direction. The gap which our force had entered was easily flanked by other passes in

the mountains, both above and below. Orders, therefore, were sent to the rear to hold the enemy in check until our command could prepare for action. The head of the column was on the top of the mountain; the column moving through the gap. So, the enemy was easily held in check.

The rebels had moved through the gaps on the right and left of our command, and were endeavoring to form a junction in advance; our forces therefore pushed ahead as rapidly as possible, till they passed the roads intersecting on either flank. It was Colonel Streight's intention to avoid an engagement, if possible; as the ultimate object of the expedition was of such vastly greater importance, than a victory here could possibly be. But the rebels continued to press so closely, throwing heavy shot and shell into the Union ranks, that a battle was unavoidable. The country was composed of open sand ridges, thinly wooded, affording fine defensive positions. As soon as our command had passed the intersection mentioned—about three miles from the top of the mountain, they dismounted and formed a line of battle on a ridge circling to the rear. Their right rested on the summit of a precipitous ravine, and the left was protected by a marshy run that was easily held against the enemy. The mules were sent into a ravine to the rear, where they were protected from the enemy's bullets. Also, a line of skirmishers deployed on the right and left flanks, encircling the rear, in order to prevent surprise from any detached force that might approach from that direction, and also to prevent straggling either of animals or men.

In the meantime, Captain Smith, who had command of the rear guard,—now changed to the front, held his position until the enemy pressed him closely, when he drew them to our lines, concealed immediately back of the top of the ridge. The lines were left sufficiently open to allow Capt. Smith's command to pass through near the center. Two 12-pound mountain howitzers were stationed near the road, concealed. Scarcely had our men completed their

arrangements, when the rebels charged Captain Smith, in large force, following closely; when, as soon as he passed through our lines, the whole brigade arose and delivered a terrific volley at short range. Our men continued to pour a rapid fire into the rebel ranks; which caused them to give way in confusion. Their reinforcements coming up, they dismounted, formed, and made a persistent charge. Our skirmishers were soon driven in; and about the same time the enemy opened with a battery of artillery.

The rebels soon attempted to carry the Union lines; but were handsomely repulsed. During their advance, the rebels had run their artillery to within 300 yards of our lines, and as soon as they began to waver, our men prepared for a charge. The 73d and 51st Indiana, on the left, charged first, in order to draw the attention of the battery; then immediately the 3d Ohio and 80th Illinois advanced rapidly, hoping to capture the battery. The enemy, after a short but stubborn resistance, fled in confusion; leaving two pieces of artillery, two caissons, about forty prisoners, representing seven different regiments, a large number of wounded, and about thirty dead upon the field. Among the former was a brother of the guerrilla leader, Forrest. Our loss was about thirty killed and wounded; among the latter Lieut.-Col. Sheets, of the Fifty-First, who died June 21, and Lieutenant Pavey, of the 80th Illinois.

Our command remained on the field some time, anticipating another attack; as the enemy being strengthened by an additional brigade, felt confident of making an easy prey of the devoted little Union army. It was now about 11 o'clock, fighting having continued since 6 o'clock in the morning; the enemy was in heavy force, fully three times our number, with twelve pieces of artillery, under the personal command of the guerrilla chief, Forrest. They were making an effort to get around the Union troops, to attack them in the rear; hence it was decided to hasten forward. Everything was shortly in readiness; and the Provisional

Brigade moved out, leaving a strong guard, dismounted, in the rear, to check any immediate advance the rebels might make while the column was getting in motion. The column had marched only about six miles, when Forrest's guerrillas were seen advancing on the left. At Crooked Creek, which is about ten miles south of Day's Gap, sharp skirmishing began, the rebels pressing so closely, that our command was again compelled to prepare for battle. A strong position was selected, on a ridge called Hog Mountain, about one mile south of the crossing of the creek. The entire force soon became engaged. It was about one hour before dark. The rebels tried first to carry the right of our column; then they charged the left; but with the aid of the two pieces of artillery captured in the morning, and the two howitzers, all of which were handled with fine effect by Major Vananda, of the 3d Ohio, the enemy was handsomely repulsed.

The fighting continued until 10 p. m., when the rebels were driven from our front; leaving a large number on the field, of killed and wounded. Colonel Streight ordered the brigade to at once resume the march; and the movement was made as quickly as possible. By this time the ammunition captured with the two guns, was exhausted; and being very short of horses, our men spiked the guns and destroyed the carriages. The 73d Indiana, Colonel Hathaway, was detailed to act as rear guard; and the command had gotten fairly under way, when information came that the rebels were again advancing.

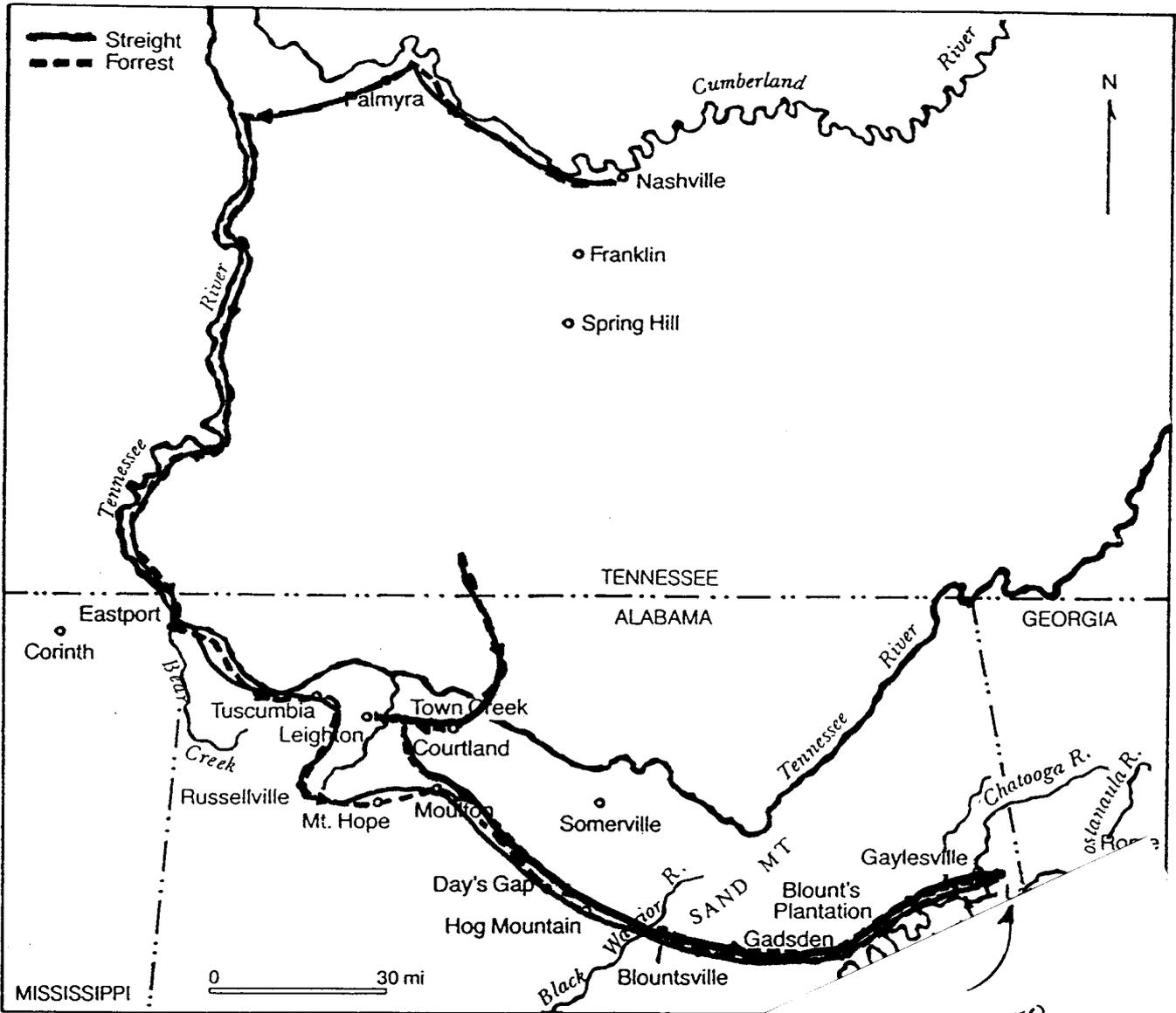
The best provision was made for those our command was compelled to leave here in a field hospital, in charge of Ast. Surg. Wm. Spencer, of the 73d Indiana, who was furnished with such comforts as the equipment afforded; but no sooner did the vandals come up to our hospital, than they robbed both officers and men of their blankets, coats, hats, boots, shoes, rations and money; and subjected them to the most brutal and humiliating indignities. Not only

was the bread, meat, sugar and coffee taken, but even the medical stores and instruments were carried off; leaving our poor wounded boys in a half naked and starving condition. Even combs, pocket-knives and other articles of use were forced from the helpless sufferers by those gallant and chivalrous representatives of that most phenomenal "uprising of the people," whose souls had been fed on the fallacious conceit that one of their half-caste soldiers was equal to five Northern pure-blooded freemen. They were, in villainy. In consequence of such brutality, many laid there and suffered horrible agony from undressed wounds and starvation, until death put an end to their misery; who, by a little kind treatment, might have recovered in a short time. The loyal citizens would have gladly afforded all the comfort and relief in their power; but the brutal rebel guard would not allow the poor sufferers to receive a cup of milk even, nor a piece of bread, from that source. The ingenious tact of woman occasionally was too much for the vigilance of the rebel sentinel; and some of our boys were the grateful recipients of some kind favor, or of some article of food smuggled to them. The loyal citizens were also subjected to gross indignity and inhuman treatment. Mrs. Penn, a widow residing in that vicinity, who had two sons in Captain Smith's company, seemed to be a special object of their fiendish barbarity. She and her daughters were robbed of everything, even their clothing; and they were driven from home, their house was sacked, outhouses burned, and mules turned in on growing crops.

Proceeding from Day's Gap several miles, without further evidence of pursuit, about 4 o'clock in the evening the rear of the Provisional Brigade was again attacked; yet to avoid losing time, the column was kept in motion; skirmishing, however, all the time. Captain Smith's handful of cavalry kept the guerrillas at bay for over two hours; but they were pressing so closely, that Colonel Streight at length resolved to halt and give them battle.

Streight's Raid

April 11 - May 3, 1863



CAPTURED AND SENT TO
 LIBBY PRISON (OFFICERS) AND
 BELLE ISLE (ENLISTED) IN
 RICHMOND, VA

The moon shone very brightly; and the country being an open woodland, with an occasional spot of thick undergrowth, afforded great advantages for ambushing. In one of these thickets the 73d Indiana laid down, not more than twenty paces from the road, which was in plain view. The rebels came on. The head of their column passed without discovering the position of our men. At that moment the entire regiment opened a most destructive fire, causing a complete stampede of the guerrilla horde. They rallied, however, and soon a bloody strife raged with all the fury of desperate and determined foes. Charge after charge was made by the enemy, and was as often splendidly repulsed by our brave boys, who drove them back with most terrible destruction. The clash was terrific; the flashes from rifles and artillery lighting up the hillsides, rendering the scene of carnage one of grandest sublimity. It was now about 10 o'clock; and the hearts of our comrades were cheered by seeing the enemy waver and fall back; unable to contend longer against the terrible fire our men were pouring into their ranks. Our command was not again disturbed until it had gone several miles, when the rebels again came upon the rear guard, attacking it vigorously. Again they were ambuscaded; which caused them to give up the chase for the night.

So far, the Provisional Brigade had been victorious; though they had lost some brave and valuable men. The enemy had engaged his entire force; yet by bravery and skill, our forces had repulsed them at every point. Our artillery consisted of only two small howitzers; the pieces taken from Forrest's men the morning before, having been spiked and cut down.

The country from Day's Gap to Blountsville, about 40 miles, being mostly uninhabited, there was nothing upon which to subsist man nor beast. Colonel Streight hoped, by pushing ahead, to reach a place where they could feed before the enemy came up, and by holding him back where

there was no feed, compel him to lay over a day at least to recuperate. The rebels had been on a forced march from Town Creek, Ala., a day and two nights previous to their attacking our men.

Doctors Peck and King were active in collecting and caring for the wounded. Before this was accomplished, however, the command was in motion. In fact, a rebel regiment had already formed and started in pursuit; and our surgeons had to pass along the entire length of that guerrilla regiment. After our doctors had passed the head of the rebel column, it dawned on the johnnies that they were Yanks; and instantly half a dozen started in pursuit of them, yelling at the top of their voices. Dr. Peck got away; but they soon overtook King, whom they made a prisoner.

The march was continued; and about 10 o'clock in the morning Blountsville was reached. Many of the mules had given out, leaving their riders on foot: yet there was very little straggling behind the rear guard.

At Blountsville our command found sufficient corn to feed the tired and hungry animals. Ammunition and rations were hastily distributed to the men, the remaining ammunition put on pack mules, and the wagons burned; as it was now very plain to all, that it would be impossible to take them further. After resting here about two hours, the march was resumed, in the direction of Gadsden. The column had not gotten fairly under motion again, before our pickets were driven in, and a sharp skirmish ensued, between Forrest's advance and our rear guard under Capt. Smith, in the town of Blountsville. The enemy followed closely for several miles, continually skirmishing with our rear guard; but were very badly handled by small parties of our men, stopping in the thick bushes at the side of the road, and firing at them at short range. When our men reached the east fork of Black Warrior River, the ford was very deep; and the enemy pressed them so closely, that

they were compelled to halt and stand a fight, before they could cross. After some maneuvering, a heavy skirmish line was advanced, who drove the enemy quite out of sight of our main line; when the troops, except the skirmishers, crossed the river as rapidly as possible. The skirmishers were then quickly withdrawn under cover of the howitzers, and a heavy line of skirmishers thrown out on the opposite bank for that purpose. It was about 5 P. M. when the last of the command crossed the stream; and they pushed on toward Gadsden, without further interruption, except by small parties, who were continually harassing the rear of the column, until about 9 o'clock next morning, May 2, at which hour the rear guard was furiously attacked at the crossing of Black Creek, near Gadsden. After a short but sharp fight, the rebels were repulsed. The bridge was then burned; and it was thought this would delay Forrest long enough to enable the Provisional Brigade to reach Rome, before the guerrillas could again overtake them; as the stream was very deep and unfordable at that point. But among a lot of prisoners captured by our men that morning, was one named Sansom, a low-browed brute; who, in common with others, as was the custom, was immediately paroled; and who, as soon as he was set at liberty, made his way direct to Forrest, and piloted him to a ford, where the whole rebel force soon crossed. Sansom, the perjured scoundrel, was with Forrest, when our command surrendered; and notwithstanding his oath of parole, was fully armed and equipped; and boasted that it was a bullet from his gun that killed Col. Hathaway, of the 73d Indiana.

Our scouts reported that a large column of the enemy was moving on the left, and parallel with the route of our forces, evidently with the intention of getting in front. It became necessary, therefore, for our command to march all night; though neither men nor animals were in a condition to do so; and to add still more to their embarrassment, a portion of the ammunition had been damaged in crossing

Will's Creek, which at that time was very deep fording. Our command remained at Gadsden only long enough to destroy a quantity of arms and commissary stores found there, and proceeded. Many of the animals and men were entirely worn out; and unable to keep up with the column, gradually they fell behind the rear guard, and were taken prisoners.

It now became evident to Colonel Streight, that if he would save his command, his only hope was in crossing at Rome, and destroying the bridge over the Coosa River; as that would delay Forrest a day or two, and give our men a chance to rest and to collect horses and mules, without which it was impossible to proceed.

The rebels followed closely, and kept up a continuous skirmish with the rear of the column, until about 4 P. M., at which time our command reached Blount's farm, about fifteen miles from Gadsden, where it was designed to obtain forage for the animals. It was impossible to continue the march through the night, without feeding and resting; although to do so, was to bring on a general engagement. Accordingly, the command was dismounted, and a detail was made to feed the horses and mules; while the balance of the command formed in line of battle on a ridge southwest of the farm.

Meanwhile, the rear guard, in holding the enemy in check, had become seriously engaged, and was driven in. The enemy at once attacked our main line, and tried hard to carry the center, but was gallantly repulsed by the 51st and 73d Indiana, assisted by Major Vananda, with the two howitzers. The rebels then made a determined effort to turn the right of our line, but were met by the brave boys of the 80th Illinois, assisted by two companies of the 3d Ohio. This action lasted nearly three hours; the rebels charging from right to left repeatedly; but so determinedly did every part of our noble brigade maintain its position, that the enemy recoiled in greatest confusion; our boys

pouring a perfect hail-storm of lead into their retreating columns. Our heroes won the day, by their indomitable courage and desperate fighting.

The enemy, with the exception of a few skirmishers, then fell back to a ridge half a mile distant, and appeared to mass his force, as if preparing for a more determined attack. It was becoming dark; and Colonel Streight concluded to withdraw unobserved, if possible, and conceal the command in a thicket half a mile away; there to lie in ambush, and await the enemy's advance. In the meantime, Captain Milton Russell, of the Fifty-First, was sent forward with 200 of the best mounted men, selected from the whole command, and directed to proceed to Rome, and hold the bridge until the main force could come up.

The engagement at Blount's Farm, which was henceforward to possess special historic interest, revealed the alarming fact that about all of the remaining ammunition was worthless, on account of having been wet. Much of that carried by the men also, had become useless, by the paper wearing out and the powder sifting away.

It was in this engagement also, that the gallant Col. Gilbert Hathaway, of the 73d Indiana, fell with a mortal wound, and in a few minutes expired. The Union army possessed no braver nor more valuable officer than he. To our devoted brigade, his loss was irreparable. His men almost worshiped him; and when he fell, it cast a heavy gloom of despondency over his entire regiment, that was difficult to overcome. Those of them who yet remain, will remember how cheering and inspiring was his presence in their midst; how his coolness steadied them, amid greatest excitement; and his voice of encouragement, was a herald of victory. His character so frank and open; his bearing so modest, and so full of simplicity, conciliated and captivated all hearts, and made every one who knew him his devoted friend.

Charles McWilliams and George Bilheimer, of Co. C,

were detailed immediately after the Stone River fight, in the 8th Indiana Battery. When the Fifty-First started on the Raid, McWilliams was returned to the regiment, and was given a position under Major Vananda, in charge of the battery. In this battle, he had his head shot off by a rebel cannon ball, while faithfully performing his duty.

Affairs were now rapidly approaching a crisis. Every one felt that the next twenty-four hours would decide the fate of the provisional expedition. The brigade was now within sixty miles of Rome, where it was designed to cross the Coosa River; and if they could reach there before the rebels could intercept them, complete success was assured. Once on the opposite side of the river, and the bridge destroyed, Forrest would be effectually beaten. Much was, therefore, hoped for from Captain Russell's demonstration.

The Provisional Brigade had been in ambush but a short time, when the enemy, who by some means had been informed of their whereabouts, commenced a flank movement, which was discovered just in time to check. It was then decided to withdraw as silently as possible, and push on in the direction of Rome. As a large number of men were dismounted, their animals having given out, and the remainder of the stock was so jaded, tender-footed and run down, their progress was very slow; yet, as everything was depending on their reaching Rome, before the rebels could throw a force sufficient to prevent our brigade crossing the bridge, every possible effort was made to urge the column forward. They proceeded without interruption, until they reached the vicinity of Center, when a scout brought the intelligence that a force of the enemy was in ambush but a short distance ahead. Immediately a line of skirmishers was advanced, with orders to proceed until fired upon, and then to open a brisk fire on the enemy, and hold their post till the command had time to pass. The plan worked admirably; for, while the skirmishers engaged the enemy, the main column made a detour to the right, and struck

the road three miles further on. As soon as the main force had passed, the skirmishers withdrew, and fell in the rear of the column. They were then hopeful that they could reach Rome before the enemy could again overtake them. Colonel Streight's principal guide had thus far proved all right; and he assured the commander that there were no difficult streams to cross, and that the road was good; the command therefore approached the Chattooga River at the ferry, without any information as to the real condition of things. Captain Russell had managed to ferry the last of his command across about an hour before; but the rebels had seized and taken the boat away before the main force could reach there.

It was then ascertained that there was a bridge, seven or eight miles up the river, near Gaylesville; and securing new guides, the command pushed on as rapidly as possible in order to reach the bridge, before the enemy should take possession of it. In doing this, our men had to pass over an old coal chopping for several miles, where the trees had been cut and hauled off for charcoal; leaving innumerable wagon roads in every direction. The men were so nearly worn out and exhausted, that many were asleep; and in spite of all that could be done to prevent it, the command got separated, and scattered in different directions. It was nearly daylight, when the last of the command had crossed the river. As soon as the brigade had crossed, the bridge was burned, and the iron works at Gaylesville, where the rebels were manufacturing munitions of war, was also destroyed. The illumination was magnificent. Time now was precious: and the brigade hastened toward Rome. It was evident, however, that they could never reach there, without halting to rest and feed the animals. Large numbers of the mules were continually giving out; in fact, it is probable that not a score remained, of the mules that were drawn at Nashville; while nearly all of those collected in the country, were barefooted, and many of them had such

sore backs and tender feet, that it was impossible to ride them. In order, though, to get as near as possible to the force that had been sent ahead, they struggled on until 9 A. M., when they halted and fed the animals. The men, being unaccustomed to riding, had become so completely fagged out, and had lost so much sleep, that it was almost impossible to keep them awake long enough to feed.

In the meantime the vanguard, under Capt. Russell, arrived in the vicinity of Rome, about 8 o'clock the next morning after the battle of Blount's Farm; having ridden their badly jaded horses all night. By this time the town was full of armed men. Forrest had dispatched a citizen of Gadsden to inform them of the approach of our men; and a large number of troops had been hurried there from Atlanta, Kingston and Dalton; besides, the citizens were put under arms, and several pieces of artillery had been placed in position. The floor of the bridge was torn up, and piled with straw saturated with turpentine, ready to ignite at a signal.

The Provisional Brigade had halted but a short time, when word came that a heavy force of rebels was moving on their left, on a parallel route: and were then nearer to Rome than our men were. About the same time our pickets were driven in. The command was immediately called into line, and a strong effort was made to rally the men for action; but nature was exhausted, and a large portion of them actually went to sleep while in line of battle, under a severe skirmish fire. After some maneuvering, Forrest sent in a flag of truce, with a demand for the surrender of our troops. The regimental commanders had expressed a conviction already, that unless our force could reach Rome and cross the river, before the enemy came up with them again, they would be compelled to surrender. A council of war was called, and the condition fully canvassed. It was learned meanwhile, that Captain Russell had been unable to take the bridge at Rome. The ammunition was ruined,

horses and mules exhausted, men overcome with fatigue and loss of sleep; and, confronted with at least three times their numbers, in the heart of the enemy's country, the situation seemed so utterly hopeless, that it was decided to surrender on the following terms:

1. Each regiment to be permitted to retain its colors.
2. The officers to retain their side-arms.
3. Both officers and men to retain their haversacks, knapsacks and blankets; and all private property to be respected, and retained by the owner.

These terms were fairly and fully agreed to by Forrest; and our brigade stacked arms, and were prisoners of war. The surrender occurred at noon, Sunday, May 3, 1863.

OPERATIONS ELSEWHERE.

At the same time operations were going on elsewhere, which indicated the unusual importance that was attached to this expedition; yet how little was really known of its wonderful character and experiences.

Dodge to Oglesby:

“ May 3, 1863.

* * * Finding it impossible to obtain stock to mount Col. Streight's command, I took horses and mules from my teams and mounted infantry, and furnished him some 600 head, mounting all but 200 of his men. I also turned over all my hard bread, some 10,000 rations, and he left me at midnight on the 26th ult., with the intention of going through Russellville, Moulton and Blountsville, to Gadsden, then divide, one force to strike Rome, and the other Etowah Bridge. * That night I communicated with Col. Streight, and ascertained that he was all right.

Col. Streight reached Moulton Tuesday night, and commenced crossing the mountains Wednesday, having got nearly two days start of them. They supposed he was making for Decatur, and only discovered Wednesday that he was crossing the mountains toward Georgia. * I have no doubt he would have succeeded, had he been properly equipped, and joined me at the time agreed upon. The great delay in an enemy's country necessary to fit him out, gave them time to throw a large force in our front. Although Col. Streight had two days start, they can harass him. * If he could have started from Bear Creek the day I arrived there, my movements would have been so quick and strong, that the en-

emy could not have got their forces together. The animals furnished him were very poor at the start. Four hundred of them were used up before leaving me, and those furnished him by me, were about all the serviceable stock he had, though I hear he got 200 good mules the day he left me, in Moulton Valley."

Oglesby to Hurlburt:

"JACKSON, TENN., May 3, 1863.

* * Col. Streight left Tuscumbia Sunday night, 26th; moved to Mt. Hope on Monday, and to Moulton on Tuesday. He was supplied with very poor animals; 400 of them broke down between Palmyra, on the Cumberland River, and Tuscumbia. With those Dodge turned over to him, he had 1,600 on leaving Moulton, Tuesday night, April 28. At that time no enemy was after him, as Dodge had engaged them up to that time. Roddy and Forrest then heard of Streight's movement, and supposing it a flank attack on Decatur, instantly fell back to that place. Streight thus had two days start, but his men were so badly mounted, he would have to lose some time to pick up 200 animals at Moulton. From there he proposed to go by the way of Blountsville, and strike the Coosa River. Dodge supplied him with rations to last him to Coosa Valley, where it is supposed he can help himself."

Hurlburt to Rosecrans:

"MEMPHIS, May 5, 1863—1 P. M.

The following is just received from Dodge:

'The rebels came up with Streight, between Moulton and Blountsville, eight miles south of Somerville. Streight ambushed and whipped them badly. The rebels sent word from Decatur to Chattanooga that Streight was making for that place. Forrest and Roddy are on his track. I think Streight is far in advance of them. I will keep free south of Corinth, to enable Streight to get back.'

Rebel A. A. G. to Pegram, Comdg. Cavalry Brigade:

"KNOXVILLE, May 4, 1863.

A cavalry force of the enemy, estimated at 4,000, has moved from Corinth, Miss., across Northern Alabama, and on the 2d, destroyed the depot at Gadsden, Ala., and was threatening Rome, Ga. Gen. Forrest was pursuing them, and it is thought that they may endeavor to return through East Tennessee, to their own lines. * [Rebel Gen. Maury, commanding Knoxville, was warned to intercept them.]

From Rebel Gen. Bragg's Report:

"TULLAHOMA, May 5, 1863.

* Forrest, falling back on the 28th, discovered a heavy force of cavalry under Col. Streight, marching on Moulton and Blountsville. Gen. Forrest pursued this force with two regiments, fighting him all day and night at Driver's Gap, at Sand Mountain, with a loss of 5 killed and

50 wounded. * The enemy left on the field 50 killed and 150 wounded; burned 50 of his wagons; turned loose 250 mules and 150 negroes, and pursued his way toward Blountsville, Gadsden and Rome, Ga. On May 3, between Gadsden and Rome, after five days and nights of fighting and marching, Gen. Forrest captured Col. Streight and his whole command, about 1,600, with rifles, horses, &c."

Hurlburt to Rosecrans :

May 6, 1863.

Dodge reports by letter to me that Col. Streight left Tusculumbia on Sunday night, 26th; * * * If his animals hold out he will succeed, as the enemy cannot follow him fast, the mountains being between them. All things being favorable, he has done his work by this time. Grierson, with his regiments of cavalry, has destroyed the railroad east and south of Jackson, and gone into Gideon, the enemy having gathered near Okolona, to intercept his return. I have sent, two days ago, five regiments to break them up, and draw attention from Streight."

Rebel Bragg to Cooper, A. I. G. :

"TULLAHOMA, May 7, 1863.

Between Rome and Gadsden, a party of 1,600 of the Federal army surrendered to Gen. N. B. Forrest, after several days' fighting, in one of which he forced them to burn their wagons, and turn loose a large number of negroes. Shall I send them as prisoners of war to Richmond, or deliver them to the Governor of Alabama?"

Reply of Cooper :

"RICHMOND, May 8, 1863.

The slaves captured by Gen. Forrest should be sent for safe-keeping, with sufficient guard, to the nearest camp of instruction."

"RICHMOND, May 13, 1863.

Send at once to this city, all captured officers and men."

PRISONERS OF WAR.

Let us now go back to where we left our unfortunate command, in the hands of heartless, jubilant victors.

Notwithstanding Forrest's most sacred promise, made in the terms of surrender, no sooner were our troops turned over to the rebel authorities, than a system of robbing was instituted, which soon relieved our boys of everything of any value in their possession. Blankets, knapsacks, haversacks, overcoats, money, side-arms, colors and everything

followed each other as fast as the brutal guards came to them. The following is a specimen of the paroles issued to each prisoner :

PRISONER'S PAROLE.

I, of Co. of the United States Army, captured by BRIG. GEN. FORREST, solemnly swear before Almighty God, the Sovereign Judge, that I will not bear arms against the Confederate States Government, nor help, aid or assist, either directly or indirectly, any person or persons, in making war against the same, until regularly exchanged as a prisoner of war, and that I will not, at any time, communicate to any person, information received within the Confederate lines, detrimental to the same.

Sworn and subscribed to before me at }
 } (Prisoner's name.)
 A. Insp. Genl.

The next day the command was marched under guard to Rome. The citizens were delighted to see the boys, and thronged the streets to greet them. The prisoners stayed in the town till Tuesday morning, May 5, under orders of Forrest ; enduring every insult that such a low, ignorant, unprincipled, ill-born people only could invent. The vile creatures crowded around the cars, the women flaunting themselves in the most indecent manner ; and all boasting of the superior chivalry of the South.

INCIDENTS OF THE RAID.

Many humorous incidents of the raid, as well as sad ones, are revived. Sergeant Wm. P. McClure, of Co. H, drew a most obstreperous mule, that had an ugly habit of "tilting up behind," and by a simultaneous and dextrous movement to the right or left, would land his luckless rider on his head. Nobody therefore would risk his neck on the beast ; so, to utilize him, half a dozen camp-kettles were strapped on the saddle, and he was turned loose. He made the grand rounds of the camp at lightning speed ; then, thrusting his head into a brush-heap, he laid down and

brayed in a most mournful way. The kettles were taken off, and two boxes of cartridges (1,000 rounds in each,) were substituted. With these he started off on the march all right; but it rained that day, and the mule slipped off of the road, and was precipitated to the bottom of a deep gulley, heels up, where he died in a short time.

While the command camped at Buzzard Roost, Will Jordan and Caleb Smith, of Co. A, went across the railroad after night, for water. Clambering down the steep bank of the stream, Jordan took hold of a bush, to steady himself while he filled his bucket. The bush pulling out by the roots, he was thrown into the stream, which was very deep, and he would have drowned, had not Caleb fortunately found a pole and reached down to him.

One day "Mother" Richeson and Alex. Ward, of Co. G, got into an altercation, and kept it up until the other boys prevailed on Captain Wallick to make them step out in front of the company, and "have it out." On the Captain's invitation, they both stepped promptly to the front, and, with their haversacks and accouterments on, went at it like tigers, till they had it out. From that moment no one ever heard a word from either of them. When they arrived at Columbus, after they were paroled, a number of the boys, including our two heroes, took a "French furlough" and started for home in advance of the rest. After two or three days one of them took sick, and had to be left with a farmer; the rest proceeding on their way. When they had traveled two or three miles, discussing their sick comrade on the way, they concluded they had not done right to desert him; but no one was willing to go back, till the former enemy declared he could not go home and leave him. So he went back; and after three weeks' nursing, the sick comrade was restored, and the two went to their Indiana home together. They were ever after close friends.

One of the sad incidents of the fight at Day's Gap, was the wounding of Wm. Jelf, of Co. C. After the first fire,

the command arose to make a charge, when the rebels fired again, and he fell. At the same moment, Lt.-Col. Sheets and another man fell, immediately behind him; and all were supposed to be mortally wounded. Calling John P. Smith to him, Jelf delivered to him a silver watch, with a small chain attached, with a request that if he got through safely, he would take them to his mother. As John P. anticipated search and robbery by the rebels, in case they were captured, he tore the chain loose, throwing it away, and concealed the watch on his person. Soon afterward, securing a pone of corn bread, about the size of his hand, he carefully cut out a circular piece of the top crust, then removed just enough of the inside to receive the watch, replaced the disc of crust, and on examination, after capture, so innocently exposed the corn pone, as to entirely elude discovery; and so he carried that watch through all the vicissitudes of subsequent imprisonment and exchange, to Jelf's home in Indiana, where he delivered it in good condition, to Jelf's mother. Charles Cox, who was among the last who saw Jelf, gave him a canteen of water, and left him with the citizens to die. Jelf recovered slowly; and when John P. returned to camp at Indianapolis, he was almost the first person he met.

"For God's sake! Will," said John P., "go to your mother as soon as you can. I have just been to see her, and I told her you was dead!"

Jelf hastened home; and the meeting was to his grief-stricken mother, as though he had been raised from the grave; rejoicing her crushed heart beyond measure.

When Captain Russell's advance guard came to the Chattahoochee River, his guide and Corporal Gibson, of Co. A, started in to ford or swim their animals across the stream. The guide reached the other shore all right; but Gibson's horse would not go forward, after his hind feet touched bottom. It began turning round and round; and Gibson slipped off, to let it raise and get out. But being

weighted down with his accouterments, gun, overcoat and heavy boots, he could not swim himself, but was pulled under, and began a struggle for life. Captain Anderson, who was second in command, saw Corporal Gibson's peril, and springing from his horse, rushed onto the old scow at the ferry, and with the aid of the young man in charge, pushed off toward where the unfortunate comrade had gone down. Placing himself at the forward part of the scow, the captain watched for the reappearing of the corporal; when plunging his arm full length into the water, he succeeded in catching the drowning man by the hair, raising him out and taking him to shore. The boy was hastened off to the nearest point for brandy, while the corporal was rolled on the bank. He was then rubbed vigorously for an hour and a half, when he was again able to ride. By this time the detachment had all been ferried over, and they moved on. But for Captain Anderson's prompt action, Comrade Gibson would certainly have been lost.

STARTING FOR RICHMOND.

All are agreed as to the barbarity of the rebel authorities, and the inhuman treatment by the citizens of Rome, and other places through which our men had to pass: the jeers and taunts of women, who spit on them, and offered such indignities as only degraded females of the viler sort would be guilty of. And Forrest's fiends felt "perfectly at home" there.

After paroles were presented to the men, in accordance with the stipulation of surrender, every one was searched for valuables. A number of gold and silver watches were taken, and a large amount of money. The commissioned officers were not searched so closely, but their swords were taken, and most of their money.

Hospital Steward Smith was ordered to accompany 54 sick and wounded of the brigade, in the custody of Dr. Curd, the Medical Director of Georgia, to Richmond; and

Peter Phillippe, of Co. E, was detailed to assist him. All of these were sent to Libby, and confined there until they were exchanged.

The command was first taken to Atlanta; where they remained two days. By the time they arrived there, they had been prisoners three days and nights, yet had received nothing to eat. On the morning of the fourth day, quarter rations were issued for three days; which were instantly devoured. That night about dark, the prisoners boarded a train; and at daylight next morning were at Knoxville, Tenn. The trip thus far was unmarked by any event of sufficient importance to mention. At Knoxville, the prisoners changed cars and guards; and a most fortunate and merciful change it was.

A detachment of the 54th Virginia rebel regiment was camped near the railroad; and they kindly divided their rations with our starving boys. This was a most gracious thing for them to do; and proved that even out of Sodom some good might come. And while it went far to modify the hardships incident to this journey, it also united the hearts of otherwise enemies by an inseparable bond. This band of hardy and big-hearted mountaineers was detailed to conduct the prisoners from Knoxville to Libby and Belle Isle. They saw at a glance the wasted condition of our poor comrades, from fatigue and hunger and exposure and outrage; and they opened their big hearts and their haversacks; and for the first time in many days our boys enjoyed the rare pleasure of rest and plenty of food. This hearty and unexampled kindness continued till the prisoners were delivered to the rebel authorities at Richmond.

Before taking the cars, quarter rations were issued for two days; and our boys received no more till they arrived at their destination; five days. At points along the route, ladies presented the boys with bouquets; and at Farmersburg, Va., the guards allowed the boys to go into the negro quarters, and buy food; and many a half-starved soldier

got a nice corn pone, accompanied by a hearty "God bless you, sah! wish we-uns cud feed ye all!"

The rare treatment by the 54th Virginia boys was not forgotten; and when, on the final surrender of the traitor Lee, his misled and dishonored followers came to us up in East Tennessee, the 54th boys were received with genuine joy, by the remnants of the old Provisional Brigade, and supplied with the best of everything the camp afforded.

THE LOSSES COMPARED.

It is quite impossible, with the data at hand, to report the exact casualties in the command; but from the best information obtainable, there were 15 officers and about 130 enlisted men killed and wounded. It was a matter of real astonishment to all, that so much fighting should occur, with so few casualties on our side; but our command acted purely on the defensive, and took advantage of the nature of the country as much as possible. From actual personal observation made by Colonel Streight and others, when the enemy had been driven from the field, and from reports of surgeons, left with the wounded, there is no doubt that our men killed more rebels than we lost in killed and wounded together.

Previous to the surrender, our command had captured and paroled about 200 prisoners; and had lost about the same number, in consequence of the animals giving out, and the men breaking down from sheer exhaustion, falling into the hands of the enemy by necessity. But in no case were Forrest's guerrillas able to capture a single man in a skirmish or battle.

ARRIVAL AT RICHMOND.

Arriving at Richmond, the officers were taken to the old pork house of Libby & Son, that was used by the rebels as a military prison; and none of them saw their men any more for months; in some cases not for years.

At Belle Isle, a few old rotten tents were given to the

boys, and quarter rations again issued. The day's allowance was scarce enough for one meal. The lieutenant in command was a low, vile, drunken wretch; who had only abuse for his captives.

Belle Isle was a barren, sandy tract of land, several acres in extent, situated in James River, opposite Richmond, Va. The prisoners had no barracks nor shelter of any kind, except in winter, when a few old worthless tents, too ragged to keep out snow or rain, were furnished. The prisoners made excavations in the dry sand with bones and sticks, or with their fingers: and into these the poor fellows would huddle for warmth. Lost to all sense of pride and cleanliness, energy wasted, minds almost gone, they would lay for days together, till the sand worked into their skin. They had been already robbed of their hats, shoes, coats, pants and socks: and when they came to this lousy island, had but their underwear to cover their nakedness. This was nothing, however, to the misery occasioned by their want of food. This became so great as to deprive the men of their reason; and many a poor comrade shared the fate of Tilman McDaniel, of Co. C, who in his delirium, staggered over the "dead-line," and was shot down by the inhuman rebel guard.

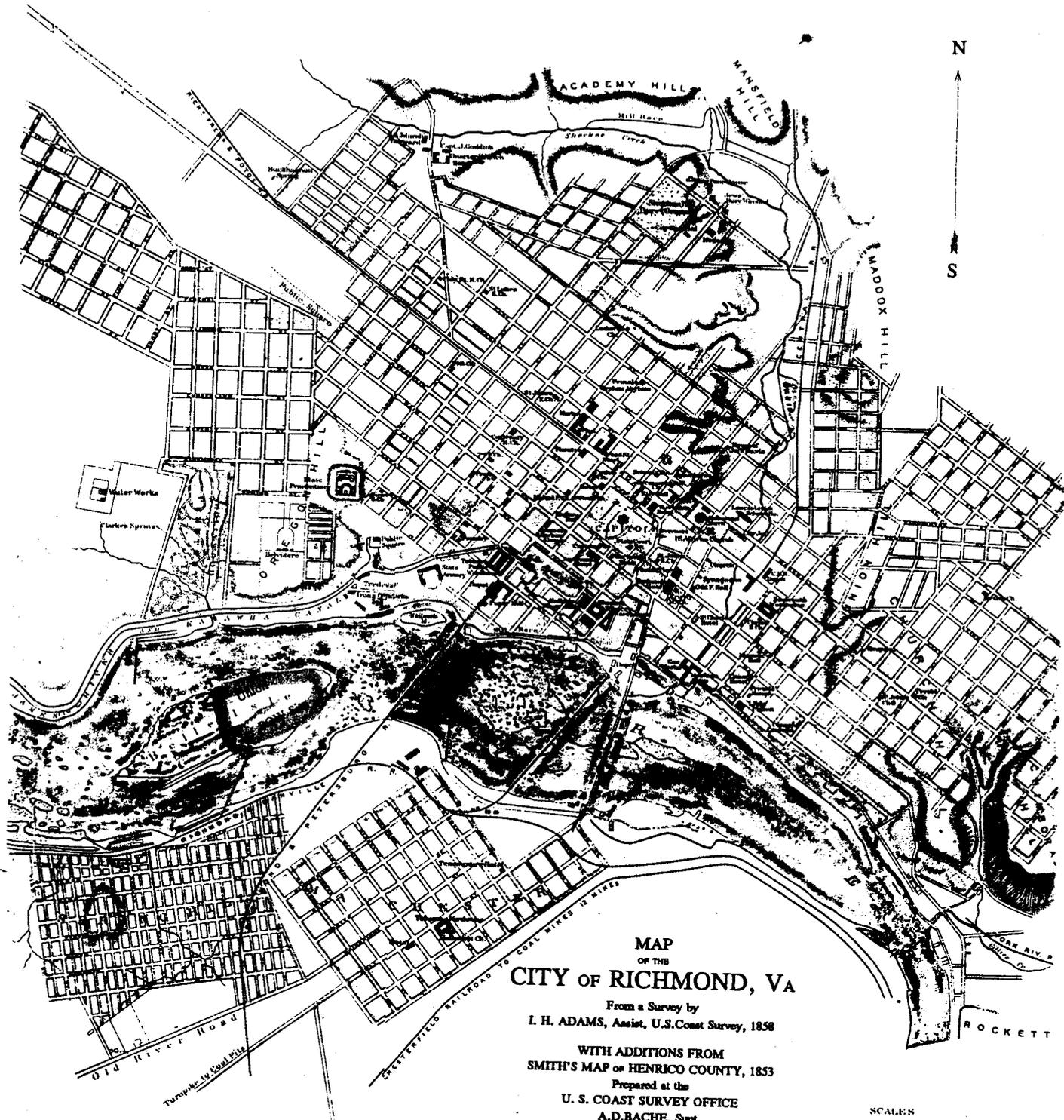
As Sergeant McClure, Co. H, was "counting off" his company for rations, one day, he became dizzy from weakness, and fell to the ground in a semi-conscious state.

"What's the matter?" inquired his alarmed comrades.

"I'm starving to death!"

His cousin, Noah P. McClure, Co. E, took from his waistband a \$2 greenback secreted there, and purchased a couple of small loaves of bread. In a few hours after eating some of this, and drinking some water, he was able to sit up.

Next day the number of prisoners was increased by a great many from the 11th Corps, and the misery of all was correspondingly augmented. Quarter rations continued,



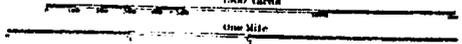
MAP
OF THE
CITY OF RICHMOND, VA

From a Survey by
I. H. ADAMS, Assist. U.S. Coast Survey, 1858

WITH ADDITIONS FROM
SMITH'S MAP OF HENRICO COUNTY, 1853

Prepared at the
U. S. COAST SURVEY OFFICE
A.D. BACHE, Supt.
1864

SCALE



and the severity of the brutal guards became more intolerant. But God was merciful to our boys; and relief came.

BACK TO GOD'S COUNTRY.

In a few days an order came for the removal of the lot of prisoners to which our boys belonged, to City Point, 35

or exchange. The march was a weary one, but was buoyed by anticipation of speedy delivery. At night they bivouacked within ten miles. The next day, the remainder of the journey was made. The hearts of our delighted boys swelled with a gladness and unspeakable joy, as they beheld the vessels floating aloft.

The boys stepped on board the Federal transport, and received coffee and bread and meat. Soon they were sailing down James River, and thence by way to Annapolis, where the vessel touched. They proceeded to Baltimore; where the boys took the Ohio Railroad for Columbus, Ohio.

Apparently a mistake made at Belle Isle, in the exchange; and the government ship at City Point a moment too soon. After it had a small steam-tug came splashing alongside the vessel to stop. A rebel officer, with a pistol in his hand, sprang on board, and presented a dis-
 tinguished Davis to the master of the ship, ordering the entire command to Belle Isle. To this

the captain replied:

"These men are in my charge now; and I am not subject to Jeff Davis' orders!"

The pompous rebel sprang back to the tug; and the ship was soon beyond recapture.

At Camp Chase, Columbus, O., the boys drew clothing, and fixed themselves up to go home. Some of the Fifty-First boys were too impatient to wait for furloughs, and started in advance. They had one or two days' visit, and

CAME VERY CLOSE TO
 REMAINING A POW

returned to Indianapolis before the regiment arrived there. The command finally separated at Camp Chase, and were furloughed from their State capitals.

At the expiration of their furloughs, the Fifty-First boys returned to Indianapolis, where they were employed for some time in guarding rebel prisoners at Camp Morton, the present site of the State Fair Ground.

It is quite impossible to give any further account than has already been given, of those who were wounded on the Raid. Most of those who survived, doubtless made their way back to Tusculmbia, and remained with Dodge's forces until otherwise disposed of.

Dodge to Rosecrans :

“CORINTH, May 17, 1863.

Surgeon Abbott, of the 80th Ill. Inf., has arrived here with some of the wounded from Tusculmbia. The wounded I left there were badly treated, and one Wm. Cooper, of Roddy's command, shot a prisoner by the name of John Chambers, who died of his wound. He was a member of the Alabama cavalry, and had just been discharged. It was a cold blooded murder. * * * * *

POW EXCHANGE FORM

MEMORANDUM (This bla

NAME: ~~Robert J. S.~~ *Robert J. S.*
 RANK: *6*
 Captured at *Rome Buffalo, Va May*

Admitted to Hospital at
 where he died
 Paroled at *City Point Va N*
Sent to Camp Chase May
See First, J.

No.

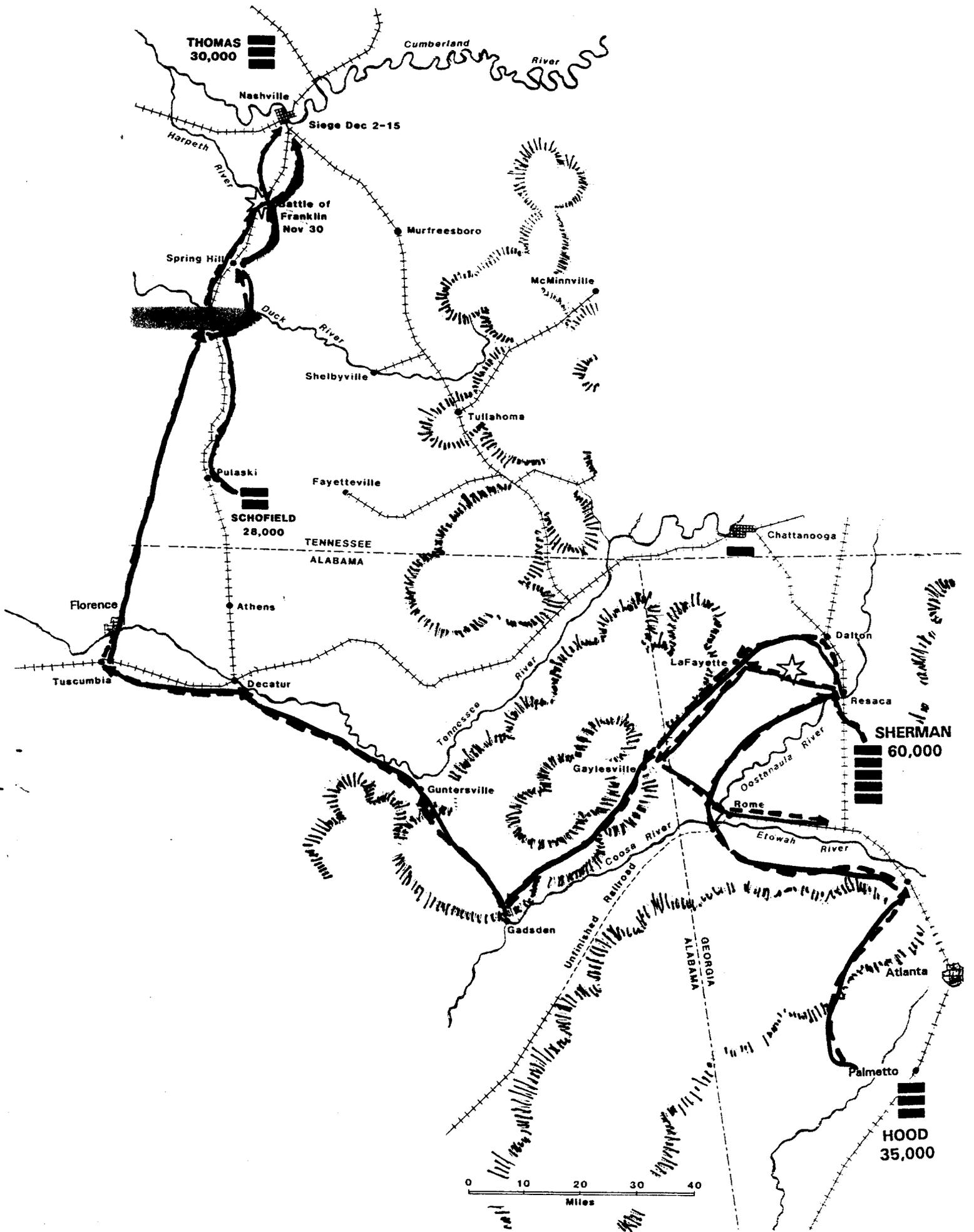
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Hood's Invasion of Tennessee

Note: Any reference to the 51st Indiana, Mitchell's Brigade, Steedman's Division, or Granger's Corps should be assumed to include Sergeant Hurst.



Hood's Offensive

September-December, 1864

After abandoning Atlanta on September 1, Hood's Army of Tennessee—reduced to 35,000 effectives—retreated southward and concentrated near Palmetto (1). Hood knew that he lacked the strength to engage Sherman in a set-piece battle, but he believed that by operating against Sherman's lines of communication he could lure the Federal army northward, away from Atlanta. On September 25 Jefferson Davis visited the army at Palmetto and approved Hood's plan in principle. A few days later the Confederate army re-crossed the Chattahoochee southwest of Atlanta (2), and started north.

Hood reached the Georgia Central Railroad near Allatoona (3) on October 1 and for the next four days his men tore up tracks and cut telegraph lines. On the sixth, Hood left the line of the railroad and marched his army northwestward, avoiding Rome, which was guarded by a Federal garrison, and crossing the Coosa a few miles downstream (4) on October 10. Two days later Hood struck the railroad again near Resaca. He demanded the surrender of the city on the threat of giving no quarter if he had to storm it. But when the Federal garrison called his bluff, Hood marched away northward, gobbling up smaller Federal garrisons on his way to Dalton, where he set up his headquarters on October 13.

Hood's activity drew Sherman's attention, as planned, and the Union army moved out of Atlanta in pursuit. Hood fled westward, fighting a skirmish at Snake Creek Gap (5) on October 15 on his way to Gaylesville. Sherman pursued him there, but when Hood marched even further west toward Gadsden, Alabama, "Uncle Billy" decided that Hood was leading him on a wild-goose chase and he returned to Atlanta. He dispatched Thomas and Schofield to defend Tennessee and began to make offensive plans of his own (see Map 41).

Hood now concocted a truly desperate scheme. He would strike north through Tennessee and into Kentucky, defeat Union forces there, and then turn east along the Ohio River into Virginia, where he and Lee would cooperate to crush Grant. The scheme ignored the manpower and logistic realities of the situation, but Hood was never one for detail. He hoped that somehow an aggressive spirit would restore success to Confederate fortunes. Hood did not submit his plan to Beauregard who, as theater commander, was his nominal superior, or to Davis. He simply started his forces westward, arriving outside Decatur on October 26. Deciding that Decatur

was too strongly garrisoned for him to force a crossing of the Tennessee there, Hood moved further west to Tuscumbia (off the map to the west) where the army arrived on October 30.

Though his scheme would require speed if it were to have any chance of success, Hood did not order a crossing of the river until November 18, by which time Schofield and Thomas had reached middle Tennessee to contest his "invasion." On November 26 Hood approached Columbia, Tennessee, (7) only to find his way blocked by Schofield. Hood outflanked the Federal position upstream and Schofield fell back. Hood then directed his own forces toward Spring Hill (8) where he expected to cut off Schofield's retreat. His own carelessness and sloppy staff work, however, enabled the Federals to march past the Confederate position unmolested. Characteristically, Hood blamed others for the lapse, even the men in the ranks, who he believed had forgotten how to fight.

In this angry mood, Hood started out in pursuit on November 30, and came up on Schofield's new position at Franklin that afternoon (see lower inset). The Federals were posted behind stout breastworks with a clear field of fire in front of them. Nevertheless Hood ordered his two corps (S. D. Lee was still coming up) to attack. Twenty thousand men, more than at Gettysburg, made the charge at about 3:30 P.M. The attack overwhelmed two outlying Federal brigades, and pursued them into the works. But the Federals counterattacked and hand-to-hand fighting went on until dark. That night, Schofield pulled out of the city, as he had intended to do all along, and continued on the road to Nashville. Hood's losses were grievous: over 6,000 men, including no less than twelve generals, six of whom were killed outright.

Hood had only about 23,000 men left after his bad-tempered assault at Franklin, but he chose to follow Schofield to Nashville where he hoped to entice the combined Union armies to attack him. The Army of Tennessee arrived outside Nashville on December 2, but they were too few to surround the city (see upper inset). For two weeks the Confederates suffered terribly from the weather, especially from an ice storm that hit the area on December 10. Then, on December 15, a fiercer storm broke over them when Thomas's men charged out of the city and overwhelmed Hood's left flank. Hood withdrew two miles and made another stand the next day, but the game was up. His army retreated southward through falling snow, and by the end of the year the remnants—about 18,000 ragged men of all arms—were at Tupelo, Mississippi. Though Hood put all the blame on others—his superiors, his subordinates, and most unjustly of all, the men in the ranks—he was almost solely responsible for the disaster. On January 23, still unrepentant, he was removed from the command of the army he had ruined. The war in the West was all but over.

HISTORY

OF THE

Fifty-First Indiana

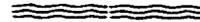
Veteran Volunteer Infantry.



A NARRATIVE OF ITS ORGANIZATION, MARCHES, BATTLES
AND OTHER EXPERIENCES IN CAMP AND PRISON;

FROM 1861 to 1866.

WITH REVISED ROSTER.



By WM. R. HARTPENCE,
SERGEANT MAJOR.

HARRISON, OHIO.:

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR. 577-2

CINCINNATI, O.:

THE ROBERT CLARKE COMPANY, PRINTERS AND BINDERS.

1894.

THE HOOD CAMPAIGN.

At 4 o'clock, on the morning of November 13, '64 the furloughed men arrived at Bridgeport, Ala., where the rest of the command had been since October 18, guarding the Tennessee River fortifications, about half a mile below the town. Three gunboats lay near us, in the river, their dark sides and turrets looming above the banks, like so many huge monsters. Hood had left Sherman to wend his way to the sea, and was swinging around toward us. We felt wonderfully encouraged by the glorious victory at the polls, and regarded it the precursor of more glorious conclusions with rebels in arms. We were eager for it. Nor had we long to wait. The 23d Corps, under Schofield, at Resaca, was directed to concentrate at Pulaski, and was on its way, in the rear of the 4th Corps. On November 5, Schofield, with the advance of the 23d Corps, arrived at Nashville, and was ordered to join the 4th Corps at Pulaski, and to assume command of all the troops in that vicinity.

On November 14, the Fifty-First got orders to prepare for marching. Hood was expected to make an attack on Chattanooga or Pulaski; and our regiment was a part of a large force lying convenient to either point, and ready to rush promptly to either, when Hood should make his appearance. We had had very heavy rains at Bridgeport, and the river was booming. About all we could do was to drill the recruits, which in the dreadfully muddy condition of our camp, was very unpleasant. Most of the original officers were preparing to be mustered out on December 14,

at expiration of service, and the non-veterans expected to go at the same time.

Bundling up in a hurry, we proceeded to Nashville at once, where, after a tedious wait till 8 o'clock that evening, we started for Pulaski, landing there in mud knee deep, with a fine prospect of a battle before morning. Fortunately for us, Hood was delayed. According to his report, he had contemplated a grand flourish, that would astonish the world. Going on from his defeat at Atlanta, he says:

"From Villanow, the army passed through the gaps in the mountains and halted at Cross Roads, 9 miles south of Lafayette [about half way between Chattanooga and Rome].

After halting two days at Cross Roads, I decided to make provision for twenty days' supply of rations in haversacks and wagons; to cross the Tennessee at or near Gunter'sville, and again destroy Sherman's communications at Stevenson and Bridgeport; to move on Thomas and Schofield, and attempt to rout and capture their army before it could reach Nashville. I intended then to march upon that city, where I would supply the army and reinforce it if possible, by accessions from Tennessee. I was imbued with the belief that I could accomplish this feat, afterward march northeast, pass the Cumberland River, and move into Kentucky. In this position I could threaten Cincinnati, and recruit the army from Kentucky and Tennessee."

And so on, for quantity. What a wonderful dreamer! Like "Weasel," he would have done something awful and desperate — "*if possible!*" There was in Hood a gorge of crust with a grudge of filling. He was the victim of misplaced self-confidence; and discovered, long before he was through, that he had bitten off more than he could chew. Hood went to Gadsden, where he met Beauregard; and on weighing their combined brain, concluded that they "were not competent to offer pitched battle to Sherman," nor to even follow him, lest the movement might be construed into another disgraceful retreat, "which would entail desertions." After two days' deliberation, Beauregard told him to go into Tennessee. Hood proceeded to Gunter'sville, where he intended crossing the river; but learning that Forrest, on whom he depended largely, was near Jackson, Tennessee, and could not cross the river, he pushed on to

Florence. This move gave us a chance to straighten up at Pulaski, and to have things ready for their reception. Special rations of sourkrout, onions and a superior quality of bacon were issued to us, and we were happy and defiant. Our regiment had recently been recruited, and numbered now 951. Capt. Will Searce was in command of the regiment; and felt like making up for his sad experience in "Libby." He ordered the erection of "shebangs" from the wreckage of houses torn down for fortifications, putting up comfortable bunks, and supplying the boys with everything the country afforded. Patterson, the "skinner," was there, to fret our souls; but even he proved a blessing in the end. For, when we had to move, the call was so short that he had not time to load his stuff in his wagons; so he told the boys to help themselves; which they did.

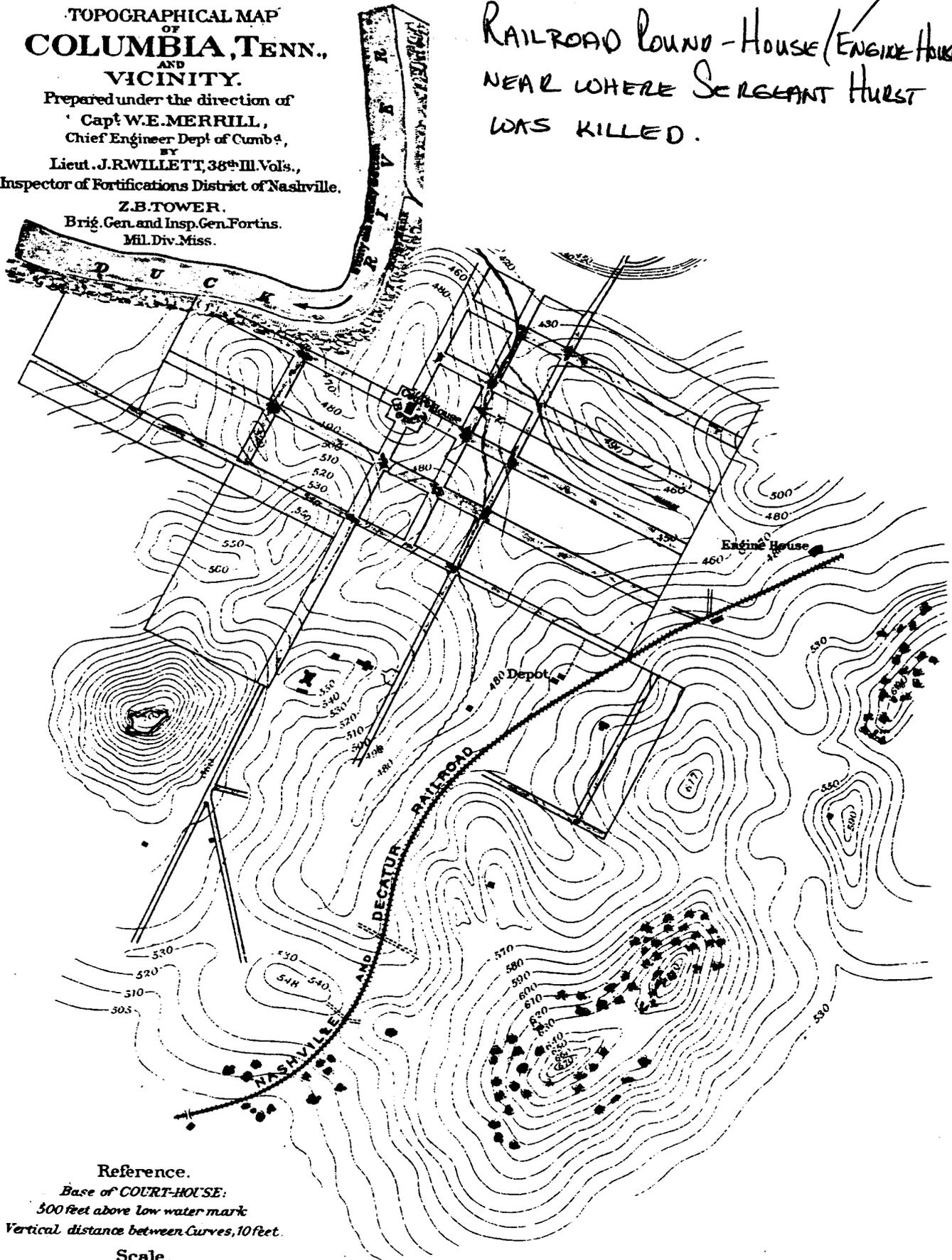
Hood, with his army replenished, and rested up, then crossed the Tennessee, and on November 21 was in motion. His army consisted of 45,000 infantry, and 12,000 to 15,000 cavalry. His hope was "by a rapid march to get in rear of Schofield's forces, before they were able to reach Duck River." The available force of Thomas was less than half that of Hood, comprising only about 12,000 under Stanley, 10,000 under Schofield, about 4,000 cavalry under Hatch, Croxton's brigade of 2,500, and Capron's of 1,200; in all about 30,000. The forces engaged in battle, were at least three rebels to one Union.

Hood commenced his move northward from Florence, on parallel roads; and on the 23d a portion of his force took possession of Pulaski, with but little resistance. As he advanced, Thomas and Schofield, who were directly in the way of his march, covering the approaches to Nashville, retreated slowly and in good order in that direction. The whole Union force was not yet concentrated; and the chiefs at both Washington and Richmond seemed persuaded that it was not likely to be in time to save our little army. But Thomas was sufficient for the occasion. He wisely deter-

**TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP
OF
COLUMBIA, TENN.,
AND
VICINITY.**

Prepared under the direction of
Capl W.E. MERRILL,
 Chief Engineer Dept of Cumb^d,
 BY
Lieut. J.R. WILLET, 38th Ill. Vols.,
 Inspector of Fortifications District of Nashville.
Z.B. TOWER,
 Brig. Gen. and Insp. Gen. Fortns.
 MIL. Div. Miss.

RAILROAD LOUNGE - HOUSE (ENGINE HOUSE)
 NEAR WHERE SERGEANT HURST
 WAS KILLED.



Reference.

Base of COURT-HOUSE:
 500 feet above low water mark
 Vertical distance between Curves, 10 feet.

Scale.

0 500 1000 1500 2000 feet.

— Union

Traced by W^m C. Rogers,
 15th Penna. Cav.

Accompanying Inspection report of Brig. Gen.
 Z.B. Tower U.S. Army, dated June 10, 1865.
 SERIES I VOL. XLIX.

mined to fight the decisive battle of the campaign with all the troops his department could furnish, and as near his base as possible.

As we approached Columbia, Cos. C and I, under command of Captain Hamilton, were thrown out as skirmishers in the neighborhood of the railroad round-house. The rebels attacked them, and firing was kept up all night. In the morning our skirmishers were driven in, when Cos. B and K, commanded by Lieutenants Arnold and Scarce, were sent to reinforce them. They drove the rebels back, and burned several residences the johnnies had taken refuge in. While doing this, Sergeant Hurst, of Co. B, went to a well to get a drink, when he was shot dead. He was taken back and buried in the camp.

Inventory of the effects of Jeremiah S. Hourst late
 a Sergeant of Captain W. R. Lewis Company B of
 the 15th Regiment of Incl. Infy Volunteers, who was enrolled as
 a Private at London in the State of Tennessee on
 the 12th day of January 1864, and mustered into the service of the United
 States as a Private on the 12th day of February 1864, at Chattanooga Tenn
 in Company B, 5th Regiment of Incl. Infy Volunteers, to serve Three
 years or during the war; he was born in Boone County in the State
 of Ohio; he was 32 years of age, 5 feet 6 inches
 high, Red complexion, Blue eyes, Sandy hair, and by occupation, when enrolled,
 a Carpenter; he died in was killed in action, at
Columbia Tenn on the 26th day of November 1864, by
 reason of _____

INVENTORY.					
ARTICLES.	No.	ARTICLES.	No.	ARTICLES.	No.
Hats.....	/	Pairs trousers.....	/	Knapsacks.....	/
Caps.....		Pairs flannel drawers.....	/		
Forage caps.....		Pairs cotton drawers.....			
Great coats.....		Flannel shirts.....	2.		
Uniform coats.....	/	Cotton shirts.....			
Uniform jackets.....		Pairs boots.....	1		
Flannel sack coats.....		Pairs shoes.....			
Blouses.....		Pairs socks.....	/		
Stable frocks.....		Blankets.....	/		
Fatigue overalls.....		Haversacks.....	/		
				MONEY.	
				Specie.....	\$
				Notes.....	\$

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, that the above inventory comprises all the effects of Sergt
Jeremiah S. Hourst, deceased, and that the effects are in the hands
of were lost on the Battlefield near Columbia Tenn.
 _____ to be disposed of by a Council of Administration.

(DUPLICATES.)

STATION: Huntsville Ala.

DATE: January 21st 1865

U. S. G. O. No. 1044

W. R. Lewis Capt
5th Regt Incl Infy
 Commanding the Company.

ARTICLES OF WAR.

ART. 95. When any non-commissioned officer or soldier shall die, or be killed in the service of the United States, the then commanding officer of the troop or company shall, in the presence of two other commissioned officers, take an account of what effects he died possessed of, above his arms and accoutrements, and transmit the same to the office of the Department of War, which said effects are to be accounted for, and paid to the representatives of such deceased non-commissioned officer or soldier. And in case any of the officers, so authorized to take care of the effects of deceased officers and soldiers, should, before they have accounted to their representatives for the same, have occasion to leave the regiment or post, by preference or otherwise, they shall, before they be permitted to quit the same, deposit in the hands of the commanding officer, or of the assistant military agent, all the effects of such deceased non-commissioned officers and soldiers, in order that the same may be secured for, and paid to, their respective representatives.

ARMY REGULATIONS—EDITION OF 1863.

DECEASED SOLDIERS.

Par. 152. Inventories of the effects of deceased non-commissioned officers and soldiers, required by the 95th Article of War, will be forwarded to the Adjutant General, by the commander of the company to which the deceased belonged, and a duplicate of the same to the colonel of the regiment. Final statements of pay, clothing, &c., in duplicate, will be sent to the Adjutant General with one copy of the inventory. When a soldier dies at a post or station absent from his company, it will be the duty of his immediate commander to furnish the required inventory and final statements, and, at the same time, to forward to the commanding officer of the company to which the soldier belonged, a report of his death, specifying the date, place, and cause; to what time he was last paid, and the money or other effects in his possession at the time of his decease; which report will be noted on the next muster roll of the company to which the man belonged. Each inventory will be endorsed, "Inventory of the effects of _____, late of company (—) _____ regiment of _____, who died at _____, the _____ day of _____, 186—." If a legal representative receive the effects, it will be stated in the report. If the soldier leave no effects, the fact will be reported.

Par. 153. Should the effects of a deceased non-commissioned officer or soldier not be administered upon within a short period after his decease, they shall be disposed of by a Council of Administration, under the authority of the commanding officer of the post, and the proceeds deposited with the Paymaster, to the credit of the United States, until they shall be claimed by the legal representatives of the deceased.

Par. 154. In all such cases of sales by the Council of Administration, a statement in detail, or account of the proceeds, duly certified by the Council and commanding officer, accompanied by the Paymaster's receipt for the proceeds, will be forwarded by the commanding officer to the Adjutant General. The statement will be endorsed, "Report of the proceeds of the effects of _____, late of company (—) _____ regiment of _____, who died at _____, the _____ day of _____, 186—."

NOTE 1.—The effects in all cases, when called for, should be turned over to the legal representative, without further authority from the Adjutant General. When the effects are turned over to the relatives of the deceased before these inventories are sent to the Adjutant General, their receipts therefor should be attached to the inventories. In all other cases, one copy will be sent with a letter of transmittal direct to the Adjutant General, and a duplicate retained by the officer.

NOTE 2.—Particular care should be taken to take receipts in duplicate from the Paymaster for any funds turned over to him; one copy should be sent direct to the Adjutant General and one retained by the officer.

INVENTORY OF THE EFFECTS

OF

Sergt Jeremiah S. Howard
Late of Company "B"

5th Regt of Ind Veterans

Volunteers, who died at *Columbia Tenn*

on the *26* day of *November* 186*4*

1914
FINAL STATEMENT

OF

Sgt. Giovanni A. Durant

21st Reg't of Incl. Vol. Inf.
Co. 104

VOLUNTEERS.

Mustered Nov 26, 1864

Said Soldier has received
three installments of
Veteran Bounty. (\$160⁰⁰/₁₀₀)

NOTE 1.—Two of these certificates (or duplicates) are to be given to each Volunteer Soldier or drafted man who may be discharged previously to the discharge of his company, that he may at once receive from the Paymaster the pay, &c., due him, and the captain or other COMMISSIONED officer commanding the company will certify to the act of the delivery of the duplicate certificates; on these certificates the Soldier is "entitled to" his discharge, and should also present his discharge to the Paymaster to have the payment endorsed on it. The discharge is to be given back to the Soldier by the Paymaster; the latter only retaining as his voucher the duplicate certificates.

NOTE 2.—If the Soldier is entitled to pay for the use of his horse, the Company Commander will certify to that fact on the back of both these final statements, and also to the time he has pay due for having been so mounted on his own horse.

NOTE 3.—When a Soldier is furnished with final statements, his descriptive list, if he has one, should be taken up by the officer who gives the Soldier these statements, and endorsed with a statement to this effect by the officer. This endorsement should exhibit a full statement of the time for which the Soldier was allowed pay on his final statements, the clothing account, and all other charges against him or in his favor, so as to comprise a complete exhibit of his account. It will then be transmitted to the company commander of the Soldier, who will enter all the data necessary to a full understanding of the Soldier's account on the muster roll upon which the Soldier's discharge is reported. The descriptive list will then be destroyed. The object of this is, that the remaining portion of the Soldier's account may be settled upon the receipt of these muster rolls, and the Soldier receive any pay or allowances that may be due him at the time of his discharge, and which may not appear on his final statements from the fact that his descriptive list is incomplete. These accounts for back pay, &c., are settled by the 2d Auditor of the Treasury Department.

NOTE 4.—Charges for loss or injury to ordnance, horse equipments, and other miscellaneous charges, should appear under the heading of "Other Stoppages."

NOTE 5.—Bounty paid by State authorities, and not by the United States, will not be entered on this statement.

NOTE 6.—Amounts due the Sutler and Laundress must be entered on the muster roll on which the discharge, death, desertion, &c., is reported, as well as on the final statement, otherwise the amount cannot be collected from the United States.

NOTE 7.—This blank will be used for deceased volunteers and drafted men, as well as for others.

NOTE 8.—Where a Soldier dies in Hospital or on detached service, his descriptive list, if he has one, should be sent with his final statements, in duplicate, to the Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
FEB 2 1865
DUPLICATE WITH INVENTORY SENT 2d AUDITOR

I certify, on honor, that Jeremiah S. Hurst a Serjt of
 Captain W. B. Lewis Company (B) of the 21st Regiment of Ind. Inf.
VOLUNTEERS, of the State of Indiana, born in Ross Co., State
 of Indiana, aged 32 years; 5 feet 6 inches high; Red complexion,
Blue eyes, Sandy hair, and by occupation a Carpenter, having joined the company on
 its original organization at 9 Nov Ind., and enrolled in it at the muster into
 the service of the United States at Indianapolis, Ind. on the fourteenth day
 of December, 1861, (or was mustered in service as a recruit, by re extra vol capt
Snyder, at Chattanooga, Tenn. on the twelfth day of February,
 1864 (or was drafted and mustered into the service of the United States from the
 Enrollment District of the State of _____, at _____,
 on the _____ day of _____, 186), to serve in the Regiment, for
 the term of three years: and having served HONESTLY and
 FAITHFULLY with his Company in _____ to the present date, is now

entitled to a **DISCHARGE** by reason of Death, said Soldier was
Killed in Action at Columbia Tenn. Nov. 26 1864

The said Serjt Jeremiah S. Hurst was last paid by Paymaster
Wm. Knapp to include the 30th day of June, 1864, and has
 pay due him from that time to the present date; he is entitled to pay and subsistence for
 TRAVELING to place of enrollment, and whatever other allowances are authorized to volunteer
 soldiers, drafted men, or militia, so discharged. He has received from the United States **CLOTHING**
 amounting to \$46.33 dollars, since the 21st day of December,
 1863, when his clothing account was last settled. He has received from the United States
\$160.00 dollars advanced **BOUNTY**.

There is to be stopped from him, on account of the State of _____, or other
 authorities, for **CLOTHING** &c., received on entering service, _____ dollars; and
 for other stoppages, viz: _____
 _____ dollars.

He has been furnished with **TRANSPORTATION** in kind from the place of his discharge to
 _____; and he has been **SUBSISTED** for **TRAVELING** to his
 place of enrollment, up to the _____, 186 .

He is indebted to _____, **SUTLER**, _____ dollars.
 He is indebted to _____, **LAUNDRESS**, _____ dollars.

Given in Duplicate, at Huntsville Ala, this 21st day
 of January, 1865.

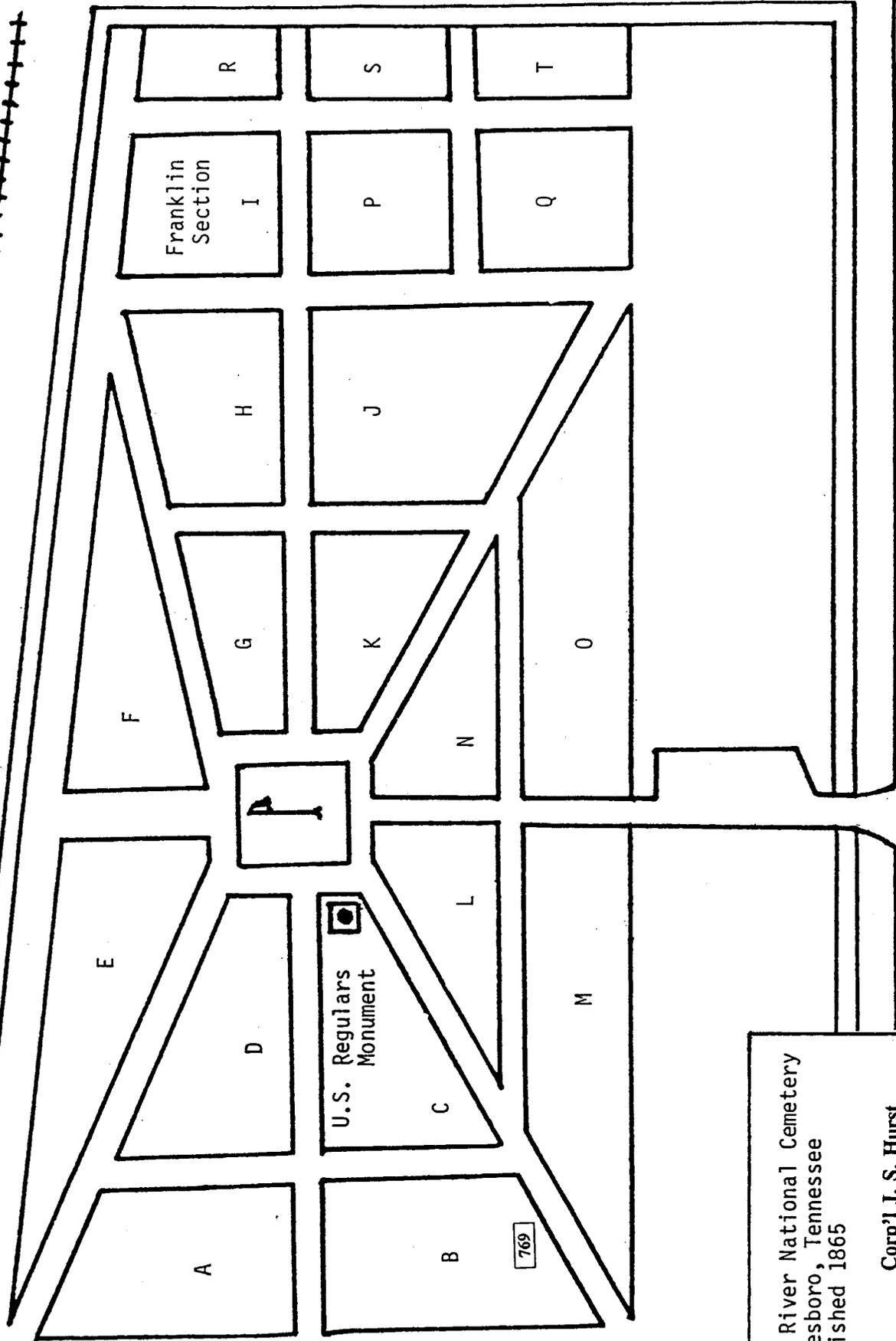
W. B. Lewis Capt
21st Regt Ind Vols
 Commanding Company.

Internment



**Stones River National Cemetery
Section B, Grave 769
Murfreesboro, Tennessee**

Louisville & Nashville Railroad



Rostrum Site

U.S. Regulars Monument

769

Stones River National Cemetery
Murfreesboro, Tennessee
Established 1865

Name: Corp'l J. S. Hurst
Section: B
Grave No.: 769

Old Nashville Highway

Descendants

Descendants of JEREMIAH S. HURST

