

Civil War Echoes

'We'd Kill All Copperheads'

The Union experienced tumultuous times in early 1863 while the Confederacy armies registered victories upon victories.

The war was heading toward a turning point on Pennsylvania soil, at Gettysburg.

The men of the 78th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry in Murfreesboro, Tenn., at this time, had no sympathy for those at home who whimpered for peace.

Rather, these men who saw a fourth of their army die as the result of the Battle at Stone River, were very bitter.

Abram Kipp of Allegheny Township wrote to his mother that the feeling among troops was that killing was too good for the Copperheads, those in the North who sympathized with the South.

The impending draft undoubtedly would catch many of the Copperheads and the soldiers were glad.

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In March of 1863, Pvt. Kipp wrote from Murfreesboro, where the 78th was provost guard while the army lay recuperating between the battles of Stone River and Chickamauga on the way to Chattanooga.

On March 14, Kipp wrote:

"All the troops are lying out in camp. A great many of them are dying. There is a large field at the edge of town where they bury most of them. It is almost full.

"What do the Copperheads think of the draft? I guess they found out the soldiers in the field didn't back them up like they expected. If some of them were to come out to the Army of the Cumberland, the soldiers would give them a grave in Tennessee.

"It would make your blood run cold to hear the soldiers speak their sentiments about the Democrats of the North. And I can't blame them. I back them up all I can. They want peace. If we stopped it, now there would be a Southern Confederacy.

"I look at it this way. The best men in the country are in the field and if they agree to give it up then I will be willing to stop. But on no other conditions.

"I would like if some of them men would have been on the battlefield of Stone River for only two days. I think they would alter their opinion. The soldier is the one who should complain.

"While we were in the field for eight days, most of us didn't even have overcoats. It rained almost all the time and it was very cold. At night, we mostly had to lie flat on the ground to keep from being shot.

"To hear the men at home complaining, in their dry homes and with plenty to eat. . . hanging is

too good for them.

"They cry for peace because they have to pay taxes."

Gardens Watched

Notes from the letter of March 17 said that the weather was beautiful and some of the Rebels (residents) were starting to make garden. "I suppose the soldiers will get the benefit of it," he said.

Rev. Richard Christy, the Catholic chaplain went home sick to recuperate. The troops started attending services in a Negro church across the street from their quarters in a building in Murfreesboro.

He said, "From what we can hear, the people of Westmoreland and Butler counties are arming themselves and taking to the woods to save themselves from the draft.

"It would do me good to hunt such boys as that. It is reported here the Rebs have evacuated Vicksburg and if it is so we will be apt to have some hard fighting here to keep them back but our army is in pretty good condition at present and all in pretty good spirits. When you hear from the Army of the Cumberland, you can expect to hear something good."
No Furloughs

In the letter of April 1, Pvt. Kipp dismissed talk his mother had heard that he might get a furlough. He said that the men were needed there and he didn't hardly think that any of the men would get furloughs.

"I don't see how the troops on the Potomac can get furloughs whenever they want them. It ain't the case here," he wrote.

By April 5, when another letter was received from Abram Kipp,



The Irrepressible Conflict.
"That's what's the matter."
(Replica of an emblem carried on stationery of Union troops).

the troops were really burned up about the northerners who would give up the war.

He talked about the prospects of the draft. He wrote:

'Pennsylvania has furnished plenty of men and probably won't have a draft. That doesn't suit my style at all for I would like to see a large number of the Copperheads drafted and sent out, even if they wouldn't use them, to keep them from preaching 'secesh' doctrine at home.

'I would like if the soldiers in the field had the say-so for about two months. If there wouldn't be some graves of traitors in the North, I don't know anything.

'Mother, you nor any person else has the least idea of the soldiers' feelings in the army at the present. I ain't only speaking of our regiment; I am speaking of the Army of the Cumberland.

Ferrent Desires

'Every regiment wants to go home to fight the Copperheads. I never saw the like.

'The soldiers are determined to go on with the war until the Rebels are whipped into the Union. And then, they say they won't ask any leave or anything else but lick the traitors at home.

'Mother, you haven't had the chance there to see how the people at home have used the soldiers in the field but the soldiers in the field can see and it makes their blood boil to read some of their speeches and of their (the Copperheads) meetings.

'I have seen letters sent to some of our company, telling them to desert and come home and they would protect them. But, if they didn't get back some good letters, I don't know anything about it.

'If the President would let one regiment go home, I do believe they would kill every traitor in Pennsylvania. If they wouldn't, it would be because they couldn't find them."

(Tomorrow: A Mother Chides Her Son).

Admonished

Yank Adamant

Mrs. Eliza Bawn of Allegheny Township wrote to her son, Pvt. Abram Kipp, to admonish him for his bitter feeling about the Copperheads or Southern sympathizers in the North.

If you'll remember, Pvt. Kipp said that it was a general feeling among soldiers that they could kill these Copperheads if they were permitted to come home for two months.

Some of the things Kipp wrote from Murfreesboro Tenn., in early 1863 must have sounded un-Christian to his mother.

But, she didn't know him any more, really. He became a trained killer, embittered by hardships, just as the other 219 Alle-Kiski Valley men who volunteered to fight with the 78th Regiment early in the war.

They were serious when they said that they could kill all those in the North who wanted to quit the war and let the South form an independent state. Unbelievable hardships had changed these men.

Mrs. Bawn found out later that he was most serious. After her letter of admonition, her son wrote back:

"Well, my dear Mother, you want to know why I talk so hard about the Copperheads. Mother, if I could only talk face to face with you, I could satisfy you that I am doing right.

Expresses Feelings

"I have had a dear brother killed in this unholy war and then to think that the Copperhead will encourage the Rebels to carry on the war, which might cause myself to fall — or Walter (his other brother)— on their account.

"I could kill the last one of them and think I was doing no sin.

"You think I am wicked for this, but if I could only talk to you on this subject, I know I could convince you I am right. If Walter or myself should fall, you have no person to blame for it but the Copperheads for if they had been quiet, the Rebels would of given it up before this. This I know to be a fact.

"No person knows what encouragement they have given the Rebels but the soldiers in the field and I am one of them. If I live to return home, which I hope I will and all of my friend soldiers with me, they are the only true friends I know I can trust.

"Now, I hope you won't think I am so wicked when you read this letter and study over it."

He went on to say George Taylor had a strained leg but Dan Shearer, Johnson Reed and John Boyle were in good health.

Brother Walter, with the Army of the Potomac, was to be discharged soon and his mother feared that he would be drafted. Pvt. Kipp consoled her and said that he didn't think veterans would be drafted so quickly.

"When I think of Walter getting home so soon, it encourages me," he said.

On April 7, 1863, Pvt. Kipp wrote that Dan Shearer was detailed to wait on the sick in the regimental hospital. He was chosen for this duty because he was terribly rundown.

Pvt. Kipp paid Shearer a tribute when he said, "Dan was one of as good a soldier as was in the company. I must say Dan is a good

soldier and deserves something good.

At this time, the regiment again was serving on picket duty along the front toward Chattanooga. It was the normal duty, lying out in the elements with little to eat.

Speaking about a two - hour downpour while the men were on picket duty, Kipp said, "And just to see the boys stand around in all shapes and the rain beating down on them. But, we bore it all without a murmur and I didn't hear one of the men say, 'I want peace,' like the men at home.

Col. Sirwell, who headed the regiment since it was mustered at Kittanning, became brigade commander and Lt. Col. Archibald Blakely became commander of the regiment.

Kipp told about a John Hagens from Butler County who was killed in an accident. He hitched a ride on a train. When the train started, there was such a jerk that Hagens was thrown off and run over.

A Horatio Harris from Sligo died on April 4 in a hospital, Kipp said. He was married to a Jackson girl.

The regimental history must have been wrong or Pvt. Kipp mistook Hagens for Harris. The history says that Harris was killed in an accident at Dechered Station, Tenn., on April 4, 1863.

Kipp said that a battle was expected soon. The troops were guarding the railroad, which led to Chattanooga, and were on picket duty every day.

Kipp's mother had told him about a Union meeting to be held at Shearersburg. He wanted to know all about it.

Speaking again about the Cop-

perhcad and a little more optimistically about his own chances of coming home safe, Kipp said, "I hope the time will soon come when the soldiers can go home and then I want the Copperheads to keep their distance from me."

In late April, the regiment encamped a mile south of Murfreesboro in the countryside.

Kipp wrote that he was pleased with the duty in the beautiful countryside.

There was one haunting drawback that he wrote about:

"We have a very nice country to picket in but there is a great smell! for there are a great many dead horses lying around there since the battle.

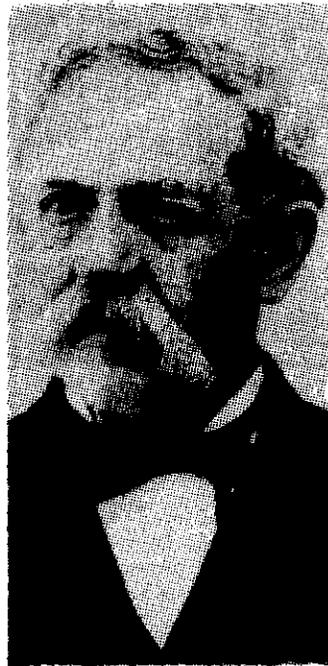
"But it is very hard to turn a soldier's stomach when we are on picket.

Meat Eaten Raw

"We ain't allowed any fire so we have to eat our meat raw if it was not cooked before going out, which is very seldom. But, I have gotten so that I can eat the very fatest meat raw and be glad to get it."

CASUALTIES — Pvt. Horation Harris, killed accidentally at Decherd, Tenn., April 4, 1863, and Pvt. Conrad Hipman, died at Nashville on May 1.

Monday: Preparing for the Chattanooga Campaign.)



COL. WILLIAM SIRWELL
Promoted to Brigade Commander

Troops Score 'Slackers'

In the spring of 1863, the men of the 78th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry were very discouraged, as well they might be.

They participated in a winning battle at Stone River, Tenn., and were getting set to move on toward Tullahoma, in a direct line with Chattanooga, the rail hub of the South.

They wanted to continue the war and felt that the Union would be victorious.

The troops were divided on permitting Negroes from the North to serve in the Union army and they were happy that the draft law was amended to stop the old procedure of permitting those with \$300 to dodge the draft by paying the amount to someone who would volunteer to serve in their place.

These things did not sit well with many in the North.

These are some of the gleanings from the letters of Pvt. Abram Kipp of Allegheny Township to his mother, Mrs. Eliza Bawn, during this crisis in the history of a young nation.

Many Quitters

And, it was a serious crisis for there were almost enough in the North who wanted to quit the fight and there were many who wouldn't serve in the army unless they were forced to.

Writing from Murfreesboro, Tenn., where the 78th was on picket duty at the time, Pvt. Kipp wrote:

"There is great talk here in the army about the raising of Negro soldiers. It is all the talk.

"Some say they (soldiers) will leave the army and some say it is all right. This is hurting our army very much. What shall we do?



"This army is made up of men just like myself. They haven't any property at home and the men at home who have property won't volunteer. If the government goes to draft, they will rebel.

"We volunteered to come out here to save the country, calculating the northern states are loyal to the Union. But it is plain to see they would rather see the southern Confederacy acknowledged than to go out themselves or to leave their sons go.

For Arming Negroes

"I know and every person knows that we haven't enough men in the field to crush out this war and if there aren't enough loyal men in the North to put down this war, I think it nothing more than right to arm the Negroes and send them along the coast.

"They (some people back home) are opposing us the worst kind of way. They will talk about them ornery men out there fighting themselves on an equal with the Negroes.

"Will we lay down our arms and leave the Rebels invade the North and abuse our loyal friends, sisters and mothers and brothers? On their account, no. We will try to whip them with what men we have and if we can use the Negroes, I say it is

no disgrace for the country is already disgraced.

"They call this the Lincoln Negro War. Why don't they come out and we wouldn't need Negroes.

"I think we will be the conquerors. There are a good many men here and they haven't any property and they think if the wealthy people at home don't care, they needn't. But if we did want to quit, how would it turn out?

"We would be shot like dogs. This is all true. We have 18 months more to stay but I don't think it will last that long for the people in the North will cry out for peace as they have already done.

"If they would shut their mouths and say nothing, it would be a good thing if it wasn't that the innocent people would suffer.

Invasion Lesson

"It would do me good to see the Rebel army invading the North. I think their sentiments would change fast. I do hope this will be over soon.

"I can tell some of them some things they won't want to hear if the Rebels are and have to be acknowledged. I am sorry for some of them men when the soldiers get home. . . And to lose the country on their (the men back home's) account, some of them will have to pay for it."

Later on, Pvt. Kipp said how he felt it was only right that the \$300 Act was abolished. This permitted a person to buy his way out of the service. It was repealed in favor of straight conscription.

"Rich and poor have to go now," Pvt. Kipp wrote agreeably.
Good News

"It does the soldiers more good to hear of that here than if we had

gained a victory."

He said that most of the regiments, originally 1,000 men, are down to 300 and 400 men and replacements are needed very badly.

He continued:

"It is the rich that has something to fight for.

"If we don't get more men inside of two months, we will have to acknowledge the Southern Confederacy for they have conscripted everything in the South. They made them (men) fight and we never fight the Rebels but what they have the most men and why is it?"

(This apparently was an exaggeration that was common because the confederate force usually was overestimated for generals.)

"Because they have every man that is fit for a soldier and why can't we do so and put it (the rebellion) down?"

Speaking about the unwilling draftees, Pvt. Kipp said that they would have to fight or be killed by the old troops.

"Some of them may as well come out here and be killed as to stay at home and get killed by some of the soldiers when they get home for talking such talk. You may think this is only talk but if you would hear the soldiers express their opinion about them, you would be satisfied."

Pvt. Kipp expressed surprise about the Union army losing so many battles. He said that the Army of the Cumberland fared better.

He placed the blame on the generals, saying that he felt the generals were more concerned

about advancement and prestige than with winning the war.

He spoke of hearing of the rough going for the Army of the Potomac in its march toward Richmond, the Confederate capital. The nine-month men, including his brother, Walter, were kept in 60 days longer.

Pvt. Kipp said that he felt the army in Tennessee was waiting to see what would be done along the Potomac before advancing.

He also said that a lot depended on Grant's campaign at Vicksburg. It was expected that word of a Vicksburg victory would come soon. There was hope that Grant's forces then would re-inforce the Army of the Cumberland.

It was apparent, it was written in the regimental history, that the victory at Vicksburg was not as important as at first thought.

After the Vicksburg victory, Grant's forces did come into Tennessee to move against what was the more important target, the Chattanooga rail hub. It was felt that rail travel rather than river travel, controlled at Vicksburg, was more important to the Rebels.

It was written afterward that if Chattanooga had been taken first, Vicksburg probably would have been evacuated without the great Union effort put out there.

LOSSES — Reuben A. Haslett, discharged on surgeon's certificate on June 2, 1863; Pvt. Robert R. Garrison, discharged on certificate on June 3; Pvt. John Darin, discharged on certificate on June 6; Pvt. Turney Henry, discharged on certificate on June 22; Pvt. James McCain, discharged on certificate on June 23.

(Tuesday: On To Tullahoma)

Troops Cheered By Gettysburg

Word of the Union victory in the Battle of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863, was well received by the 78th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers in southern Tennessee.

Pvt. Abram Kipp, writing to his mother, Mrs. Eliza Bawn, Allegheny Township, said in a letter of July 14:

"I tell you mother, I do think this rebellion now depends all together on that great battle in Pennsylvania. We can drive them (Rebels) here and Grant has shown his duty (at Vicksburg) so I do sincerely believe the war will soon go down.

"If Lee is whipped bad in Pennsylvania, which I hope they will, we have had some good news from Pennsylvania. But we can't cheer for it till we hear more particulars about it.

"As you know we get some big news always when there is a battle going on."

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And a battle was going on at the front where the 78th was in Tennessee.

The Union forces under Gen. Rosecrans had been resting after the Battle of Stone River. The Confederate forces under Gen. Bragg pulled back toward Chattanooga, the rail hub, and set up a supply depot at Tullahoma.

On June 21, Col. William Sirwell assumed command of the brigade and Lt. Col. Blakeley became commander of the 78th.

On the 24th, the campaign against Tullahoma began.

It was won with the loss of less than 100 men killed and less than 500 wounded. The skirmishes were mostly between opposing cavalries.

In the end, the Union Forces succeeded in flanking the Confederate forces on both sides. The territory that the Rebels had so meticulously fortified had to be evacuated because they could not fight the Union army from anywhere but head-on at this point.

The Rebels retreated from Liberty Gap and then Hoover Gap.

Hardest Marches

There were long, hard marches in the wettest weather that the 78th had seen. Lt. Col. Blakeley wrote, "The Tullahoma Campaign really gave us the hardest marching in our military experience. The mud was deep and tough."

Because the roads were so muddy, the troops had to move through the woods along the roads, which became quagmires. Separate paths had to be cut through the woods for the artillery pieces.

The flanking movement was highly successful and it was written that Gen. Bragg's army could have been wiped out had the weather not been so bad that the Union army couldn't take advantage of its strategic victory.

The Union forces took approximately 2,000 Rebel prisoners and captured eight pieces of field artillery and three rifled siege guns. Many supplies were captured, also.

Halt at Mountains

The Union army advanced to the base of the Cumberland Mountains and halted there to make preparations for the campaign south of the Tennessee River.

The Union force now had possession of a region extending from

Murfreesboro to Bridgeport, Ala.

Lets get filled in on the movements of the 78th during this time from the letter's of P v t. Kipp.

On July 18, 1863, he wrote from the foot of the Cumberland Mountains:

"The army moved from Murfreesboro on the 24th of June and was on the road to the 8th of July, when the army had to stop to get supplies and fix the railroad so we can get grub.

"The troops fought slightly all along the road but our brigade was not in any of it.

"The Rebels had intended making a strong stand and could of made a good stand if we would of had to fight them from the front. They were fortified in that position. But old Rosecrans flanked them and when they found out they were flanked, they evacuated the place.

"And then Rosecrans tried to outflank them at the foot of the mountains but, the roads being so bad, he failed in doing so and the Rebels got to the mountains. But, they left some of their artillery at the foot of the mountains.

"We are now lying at the foot of the mountain. When the Rebels retreated, they cut timber in the roads so that it will be impossible for us to advance fast from here. The Rebels have crossed the Tennessee River and burned the bridge behind them."

He described the march in the mud. By this time, though, the soldiers had oil cloth blankets to protect them. Pvt. Kipp was ill and remained behind at first but caught up with his regiment at the foot of the mountains.

Out-flanking Chattanooga

With Gettysburg and Vicksburg victories won by other armies and the tide of the war turning, the 78th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry was moving on to Chattanooga, the rail hub of the South.

After the victory at Stone River by the Army of the Cumberland, of which the 78th was a part, there was a lapse from January, 1863, to July, when Tullahoma, the fortified depot before Chattanooga, was outflanked and evacuated by the Rebels.

Chattanooga lay ahead and the Confederate army under Gen. Bragg retreated there in great haste through the mountains. Mountain warfare was tougher and Union forces had a hard time following because the Rebels cut timber across access roads and Chattanooga was well fortified from this approach.

So, the Union's Gen. Rosecrans sent a part of his army, including the 78th and the more than 200 men from the Alle-Kiski Valley, south in a great flanking movement.

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On Aug. 16, the troops left Decherd Station, Tenn., and marched five miles south to Crow Creek, crossed the creek and marched five miles farther the next day. On the 18th, they marched 16 miles in the summer heat.

However, on the 19th, they camped in Crow Creek Valley in Alabama and established a very comfortable camp, called Camp Cave Springs, in the beautiful creek valley. They stayed there until Sept. 1.

Makeshift Bridges

When they left the valley, they crossed the Tennessee River on a pontoon bridge and headed three miles south.

By Sept. 3, they had reached the Summit of Sand Mountain or Raccoon Mountain. Across an impassable ravine, Company C in 10 hours built a bridge 160 feet long and 35 feet high so that the 14th corps could cross.

If we look at a map, we can see how this flanking mission was working out.

By going south through Alabama, crossing the Lookout Mountains into Georgia and coming up Chickamauga Valley to the Tennessee border again, the Rebels in Chattanooga would be outflanked.

Apprehensions About Dust

The 78th reached Lookout Mills on Sept. 5 and reached the summit of Lookout Mountain on Sept. 9.

From the summit, the Union forces could see for many miles. They could see the dust of Rebel troop movements. Something was underfoot, but what was it? There was a retreating Rebel army but where was it retreating and more important, why?

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Let's back up and think along with Gen. Rosecrans as he surveyed the Chattanooga stronghold.

Taking it with a frontal attack through the mountains was impossible. Jefferson Davis, the Confederacy president, had said, "Let the fool beat his head against the granite rocks of Chattanooga."

Gen. Crittenden's force was sent toward Chattanooga to the Sequatchee River. They built boats in sight of the Rebel army to give the impression that a frontal assault via the river would begin. The Confederates under Gen. Bragg got ready.

Gen. McCook's corps and Gen. Thomas Corps, including the 78th, sneaked south through the mountains for the down-and-under campaign through the Chickamauga Valley.

By the time Thomas corps was on the summit of Lookout Mountain on Sept. 9, word was received that Bragg's army was evacuating Chattanooga.

Union forces were entering the town. Bragg had observed the flank movement but he recognized that his army was not large enough to stay in Chattanooga.

The impression was that a great victory had been gained, but it was the most critical time in the history of the campaign. Up to this point, the commander of the Confederate forces had been out-generalled.

If Gen. Rosecrans had recalled his forces and gathered the three corps in Chattanooga to defend it, there wouldn't have been a Chickamauga battle. Gen. Thomas was said to have urged this action. He felt that the Chattanooga victory should be made secure.

Strategic Retreat

But, Gen. Rosecrans thought that Gen. Bragg really was retreating. He wasn't, though. He was making a strategic retreat with a small force and was succeeding in his purpose for the Union now was not going to concentrate in Chattanooga.

Bragg felt that he could gain a tactical victory and ease back into Chattanooga as easily as he left, after defeating the widely separated Union forces.

Rosecrans ordered full pursuit by all three of his forces. From atop Lookout Mountain, the dust of the Rebel maneuvers in the distance brought great apprehension.

One corps was in Chattanooga, another under McCook down the valley 20 miles and another corps 24 miles farther down.

The Rebel strategy was to attack and destroy one corps before the other two could help. Bragg had re-enforcements now

from other parts of the South. He simply had retreated behind the Pigeon Mountains to await arrival of these re-enforcements.

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Let's trace the letters of Pvt. Abram Kipp of Allegheny Township through this march leading up to Chickamauga.

Writing from Decherd Station, Tenn., he told his mother not to send any more cotton socks for him. "We can wear them out in our coarse shoes in one day's march," he said.

Writing from Crow Valley, Ala., at Camp Cave Springs, on Aug. 23, 1863, he said:

"We have had another march. It was as hard a march as I ever made. The march lasted only three days but it was all on mountain roads and I never saw the weather as hot as it was.

"Our supply trains broke down coming over the mountains. We had our knapsacks to carry and we sweated so much that our backs where the knapsacks laid were as raw as pieces of beef. I saw a good many of our boys fall out of ranks because of the heat.

Dusty Road

"The road was very dusty and so many men marching along made it raise like a fog. Sometimes, I couldn't see the man in front of me."

There were 10 men sent home from the regiment to bring out enough drafted men to fill up the regiment at this time.

Writing from the pleasant surroundings in Crow Valley, Kipp said:

"We are lying in a valley with a large mountain on both sides.

But we have very good water here, which is a nice thing for us for when we were on the march we suffered a good deal for the want of water. I tell you I often think of the good water at home when I am on a march.

"We often march till late at night and then have to go and hunt water and make some coffee. And, at daylight, the drums would beat to get ready to march again and a great many of the boys wouldn't get a bite to eat and have to march hard all day. I tell you — soldiering is hard."

Kipp told about receiving a letter from his brother, Walter, who was home on a furlough from the Army of the Potomac, fighting between Washington and Richmond.

He told about the crops on farms in Alabama looking good.

"The corn is splendid but the Yankees are taking all of it and burning all the rails. I tell you we ain't going to leave the Rebels much after we get through this time."

He said that the feeling of the troops was that they would not be stopped at Chattanooga and would march right on into Georgia.

"Well, I would like it if our drafted men were here for the long march," he said.

A letter of Aug. 27 was the last received until Oct. 12. Pvt. Kipp's letters stopped during the most critical periods in the campaign.

We've drawn on accounts in the regimental history to bring us to the summit of Lookout Mountain, ready for the descent into the Chickamauga Valley for the battle to re-occupy Chattanooga.

(Tomorrow: The Running Battle of Chickamauga.)

Civil War Echoes

Running Battle At Chickamauga

Yesterday, we left the Union army in dire straits in the battle for Chattanooga.

Gen. Rosecrans had split his Union army into three corps to outflank the strongly fortified town.

Two went south, then east over Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge and were going to go north again up Chickamauga Valley to attack from the south.

This was in early September, 1863. By the 11th, however, Gen. Bragg withdrew his Confederate army from Chattanooga and withdrew behind the Pigeon Mountains to await re-enforcements.

Instead of occupying Chattanooga, Gen. Rosecrans ordered full pursuit of the Rebels and he was tricked into a pursuit that might have been disastrous. Bragg intended to attack the widely separated Union corps, destroy them before they could be helped and re-occupy Chattanooga. The corps of Gen. Crittenden, nearer Chattanooga, was 20 miles from Gen. Thomas and Thomas was 20 miles from McCook.

During this campaign, Pvt. Abram Kipp of Allegheny Township, whose letters are supplementing written history in this series of articles, did not send letters to his mother. They were on long, circuitous marches and probably didn't have outgoing mail or it may have been captured.

History books, however, give a long and detailed account of the battle. It was one of the greatest in the Civil War.

The 78th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, including the more than 200 men from the Alle-Kiski Valley, were in this battle but didn't come under much fire. There is though, a

monument to the 78th in Chickamauga Valley in the national park there.

The regiment was used primarily in reserve and the battle shifted down the creek valley to the left of the 78th for the most part in an unexpected turn of events.

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There are pages and pages of history that tell about the preparations for the fighting of the Battle of Chickamauga.

We will try to condense it so that our readers can understand how and under what circumstances the letters of Pvt. Kipp resume in Chattanooga.

Gen. Rosecrans was successful in concentrating his separated Union forces. This was accomplished from Sept. 11 to 17 under the wary eyes of Rebel re-enforcements. But, Gen. Bragg wasn't sure what the Union arm was up to and he didn't know how strong it was. As it was, the separated corps could have been defeated.

The two-day battle started on Sept. 19 at Gordon's Mills. Gen. Bragg was going to try an end run around the left of the Union line, which was strung out on ridges along the west bank of the Chickamauga Creek.

In this way, he would have his army between the Union Army and Chattanooga, which he really wanted to re-occupy. But, Gen. Rosecrans wanted to occupy Chattanooga, too, and in concentrating his widely separated corps had them move in the direction of the city.

During the night of the 18th, Rosecrans had Gen. George Thomas' corps move under the cover of night to occupy a new position farther down the valley. He wasn't going to let Bragg turn the left of his line. Bragg didn't

know this and when he attacked on the morning of the 19th, Gen. Thomas' troops opened fire two miles farther down stream than expected.

Running Battle

Thus, the onslaught on the end position wound up being a charge into the center of the Union army. The slaughter was great on both sides.

On Sept. 20, the second day of the battle, the Union army's line was cracked by the Confederate forces. The Rebels were fighting desperately for Chattanooga was the last stop before Georgia and to cut through Georgia, which was ultimately done, would be to cut the Confederacy in half.

This is the day that Gen. Thomas distinguished himself.

The 78th Regiment was behind fortifications when it was ordered to the left onto foothills to support Gen. Thomas' troops. Gen. Negley's order was to move his troops and his place was to be taken behind the fortifications by others.

The others did not come immediately to relieve. When Gen. Negley received another urgent call from Gen. Thomas for his assistance, he moved the 78th in support of Thomas.

Col. Blakely said that in marching from the first to the second position, "I saw the enemy break through the line we had held in the morning, and this enabled him to cut off the right wing of our army, which produced the great disaster of the day. The 78th went to the support of a battery on the foothills. Before long, the battle swept before them, and on to the left.

Lt. Col. Blakeley said that he could see no Union troops, went to the rear to locate Indiana and Ohio companies, could not find

them, returned, found the Rebels closing in, ordered the men back and ran into Gen. Negley, who posted the men in a ravine.

From cover, the Regiment could see Rebels advancing in a field below. Although Maj. Bonnaffon wanted to attack, Lt. Col. Blakeley, said it was useless for the Regiment was without support.

The regiment was by-passed by the battle now sweeping to the left down the valley.

A staff officer of Gen. Thomas appeared on a horse on the hillside at this time, saw that the right wing was lost and directed the regiment down the hollow.

Writing in his official report, Col. Archibald Blakely, then commanding the 78th Regiment, said that the regiment could see the battle "wheeling down the valley" to its left from a vantage point in reserve on the ridges of the valley."

The Alle - Kiski Valley troops saw hundreds of broken men, horses and artillery pieces in the valley below. Much of the battle was hidden by trees but the destruction left by the wheeling armies was something to behold.

En route, the regiment stopped several disorganized units and helped reorganize them. In all, seven batteries and 5,000 unhurt men were stopped and reorganized near Rossville in a line of defense to cover the retreat.

* * *

After the Union line was broken on the 20th, there was great confusion. Gen. Rosecrans felt that his whole army was in a general retreat. He saw his troops before him being swept back.

From orders in his official report, it was evident that he didn't know what the condition of his army was. He ordered a retreat. He sent a dispatch to Gen. Thomas to retreat to Rossville "should he be retiring."

But Gen. Thomas was holding and actually covering the retreat of the Army of the Cumberland through Ross' Gap in Missionary Ridge, in the direction of Chattanooga.

The Union army was retreating to Chattanooga. But the Confederate aim was to have turned the end of the Union army and itself

re-occupy Chattanooga and its rail hub.

That immovable end was Gen. Thomas and his corps. From that time on, Gen. Thomas was known as "The Rock of Chickamauga."

At 5:30 p.m. on the 20th, Gen. Thomas ordered withdrawal of his lines. The advance of Gen. Bragg's right wing was checked easily by the retiring troops.

By midnight of the 21st, the Union army had retired to Chattanooga and had secured a strong defensive position. The Rebels swarmed over Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge and could look down into Chattanooga. Thus, the Battle of Chickamauga gave way to the siege of Chattanooga.

To survey the results of the battle, we must understand that the occupation of Chattanooga was the ultimate aim and the Union army did this. It was then, a victory for the Union army.

But it was a battered Union army that had retreated into Chattanooga and some felt that the battle, the first on Georgia soil, was a victory for the Confederacy.

Charles A. Dana, assistant secretary of war, according to

his own admission, telegraphed a message to the War Department in Washington. It read, "Chickamauga is as fatal a name in our history as Bull Run."

But, he overlooked that the occupancy of Chattanooga was the reason for the battle and the Union had really won.

It was estimated that each army had lost 25 per cent of its total force killed, wounded or missing.

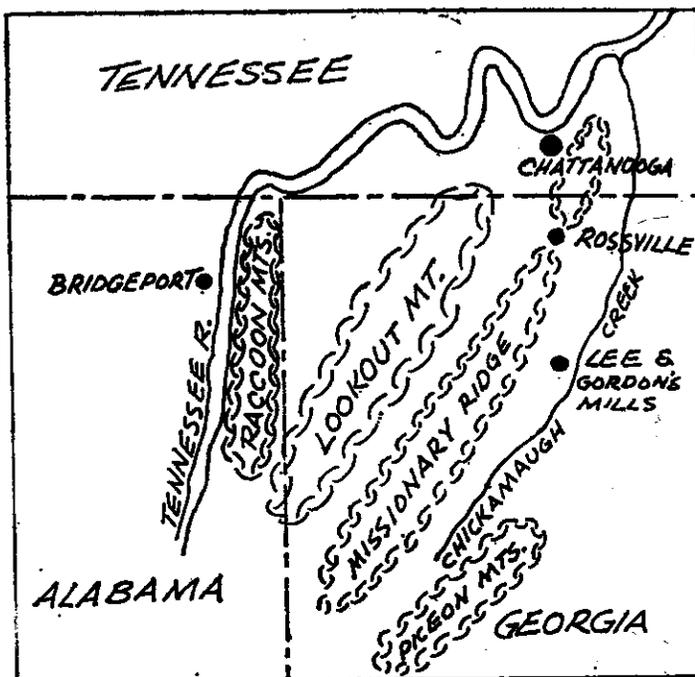
Also, it was estimated that casualties among the troops actually engaged ran to 33 per cent. Some Confederate divisions had casualties ranging from 35 to 52 per cent.

Of the 120,000 fighting on both sides, there were about 3,000 to 4,000 killed outright and 25,000 wounded or missing, according to official reports.

J. T. Gibson wrote in the regimental history:

"The name Chickamauga means River of Death but nature gave no hint that morning (Sept. 19, 1863) as to the harvest death would reap in the valley of Chickamauga on that and the following day."

(Tomorrow: The siege of Chattanooga by the Rebels.)



Under Siege In Chattanooga

During the siege of Chattanooga by the Confederate forces on Lookout Mountain, the Union army there learned what it meant to be really hungry.

That was the admission of troops in the regimental history. They had been hungry before but not as hungry as they were in Chattanooga from Sept. 25 to Nov. 1, 1863.

In November, Gen. Hooker arrived with a force and opened up what became known as the "Cracker Line."

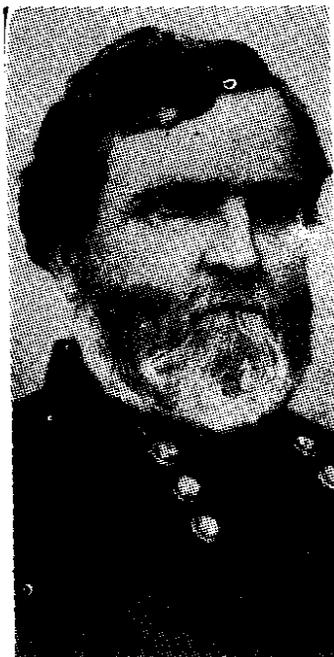
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This was the plight of the 78th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry with Gen. Rosecrans' forces in Chattanooga: They had been chased from Georgia soil down the Chickamauga Valley, past the points of Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain and into a town that they had once passed through to pursue the Rebels.

Chickamauga was a victory, though. But, with the Rebels perched on the mountains, the siege was under way. Supply lines were cut. Big guns, including two "84 pounders" were placed on Lookout Mountain to pour shells onto troops around Chattanooga.

The Union troops kept their spirits up, though. Each side wanted to hide the fact that its troops were practically starving. J. T. Gibson wrote in the regimental history that the Rebels claimed they were starving.

Pickets talked to each other across Chickamauga Creek, which flows into the Tennessee River just north of Chattanooga. He said that whenever Rebels talked of starving there always was a Union soldier willing to toss over a cracker, even though he wanted it very badly himself.



Gen. George Thomas
... 'Rock of Chickamauga'
placed in command ...

The pride of the men was something to behold even though they were on one-fourth rations.

They traded coffee for tobacco, though. Both sides exchanged newspapers.

Gen. Bragg and his Confederates were trying to take by siege what they couldn't take by assault. It was said, however, that the siege guns didn't inflict much damage to the Union troops.

There were two changes of command in Chattanooga. Whether they were justified is a question that we cannot discuss intelligently.

Gen. James Negley of Pittsburgh was relieved of his command of a division on Oct. 11 by Gen. Rosecrans, and Gen. George Thomas, the "Rock of Chickamauga," re-

placed Gen. Rosecrans as commander of the Army of the Cumberland on Oct. 19.

Col. William Sirwell, former commander of the 78th and later a brigade commander, resigned on Nov. 22 because of illness.

Gen. Negley got and received a court of inquiry and was cleared of a charge of cowardice in battle after the retreat at Chickamauga.

Later Negley served four terms in Congress and became a railroad president.

Gen. Rosecrans, who bowed to Gen. Thomas' suggestion not to retreat after the hard battle on Dec. 31 at Stone River, had ordered full pursuit of the Rebel army after Chattanooga was evacuated. It was Thomas who urged that Chattanooga be made secure first. Rosecrans didn't listen.

In Washington, it was felt that the battle of Chickamauga was one that shouldn't have been fought. Gen. Thomas' outspoken opinion at the start made him look like the logical new commander.

We must remember that generals were fired quite often, even by President Lincoln who continually relieved Gen. McClelland in the Potomac and then would re-instate him. It was said that while the first 75,000 troops were massing in Washington before Bull Run you couldn't throw a stone at a dog in the street without hitting at least three brigadier generals.

Gen. Thomas, it is recalled, was a Southern man, whose family disowned him when he fought for the Union. At first, he wasn't trusted to high authority in even the Union army.

Pvt. Kipp in one letter told about the charge of cowardice against Negley. He defended the

general very strongly and said that he acted according to orders.

In the regimental history, it was written: "The soldiers of the 78th Regiment did not feel they were in a position to judge of the merits of the circumstances that led to Gen. Negley's being relieved, but we all felt sorry to part with him."

There were political reverberations in Washington undoubtedly over the Battle of Chickamauga in view of the debate about which side had actually won.

Gen. Grant sent a message to Gen. Thomas to hold Chattanooga at all cost. Thomas answered, "We will hold the town until we starve."

In the next month, the stout heart of Gen. Thomas was matched by his men. It was difficult, though, and men again started buying dried corn for 25 cents an ear when they could get it.

Guards had to be placed to make sure that the men wouldn't be tempted to take corn from the horses as they ate their daily allotment.

Writing from Chattanooga on Oct. 18, 1863, Pvt. Abram Kipp told his mother that the Rebel cavalry had torn up the railroad at their rear. "They have possession of Lookout Mountain (which was 2,200 feet high) and they have a full view of all our troops. We are expecting them to open up on us. They are fortifying. We can talk to their pickets when we are in the picket line but we aren't allowed to do it."

A force from Bridgeport, to the west, under Gen. Hooker succeeded in floating down the Tennessee River beneath the noses

of the Rebels on the mountains. A battle ensued and as a result the Rebels left that part of Lookout Valley to the west. This permitted the supply line or "Cracker Line" to be opened up and troops and supplies poured in after Nov. 2.

A letter of Nov. 2 from Pvt. Kipp tells more about life while under siege.

"The Rebels still have possession of Lookout Mountain. The mountain runs out to the river and the railroad runs up the same side so we can't repair the road till they are driven off.

"They have any amount of artillery on the top of it and they keep shelling our troops all the time. The mountain is so high that they can look down on us all around here. They very often throw shells very close to our camp but they hardly ever do much damage.

"How we are to get them off is more than I can tell.

"The night before last the Rebels built a large raft of logs a few miles up the river and left it go so it would tear away our pontoon bridges and it did. But our men are trying to rebuild them as fast as they can. The officers have stopped the men working on the fortifications as they couldn't stand it on half rations.

"We have been living on one half pound of hard bread a day and quarter rations of coffee per day and we get meat now and then. This morning, we were issued between two or three ounces of shelled corn for to do us today. It is very hard but it is impossible to get supplies here.

"You may see in the papers

that this army is in good condition but it is not the case. I often think if I just had what is thrown away at home how well I would be fixed.

(The government must have given information to newspaper to create the impression that the army in Chattanooga was in good shape so that the Rebels would not attack yet.)

"I don't want you to think that I am disheartened for I ain't. I am just giving you to know a little about things as you always are wanting to know in your letters how I get along. It is hard enough but I expected it before I left home.

"When I write such letters as this to you it only makes you feel bad and doesn't help my case a bit so I would rather not say anything about it.

"You said you would send me some things if you thought I would get them. I am very thankful to you for the offer but it would be impossible for me to get them so you need not attempt it. Our captain told men he saw you on the cars coming to town (railroad cars into Freeport) and that you looked well and I was glad to hear it."

In later letters, Kipp said that he could stand in his camp and see Rebel camps all around. "We are in a pretty critical position. I don't think the Rebels can drive us out of this unless they starve us out."

LOSSES — Pvt. Jonathon Silvis, discharged on surgeon's certificate on Sept. 25, 1863, and Pvt. Abram Stivers, died at Nashville on Nov. 25, 1863.

(Tomorrow: Storming Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain)

Civil War Echoes

Yanks Storm The Mountains

On Nov. 24 and 25, 1863, the Union army held under siege in Chattanooga by Rebel forces on lofty Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge burst out in a concentrated effort and stormed the surrounding mountains.

After Gen. Hooker opened up a supply line from west of the Tennessee River around the point of Lookout Mountain into Chattanooga, troops and supplies poured in.

The Union army was re-inforced by a victorious army out of the West. Gens. U. S. Grant and William Tecumseh Sherman had succeeded in cutting the South in half by capturing Vicksburg, Miss., the previous July, thereby controlling the river. Grant was supreme commander in the West.

These two distinguished generals came to Chattanooga and aided Gen. Thomas and the Army of the Cumberland.

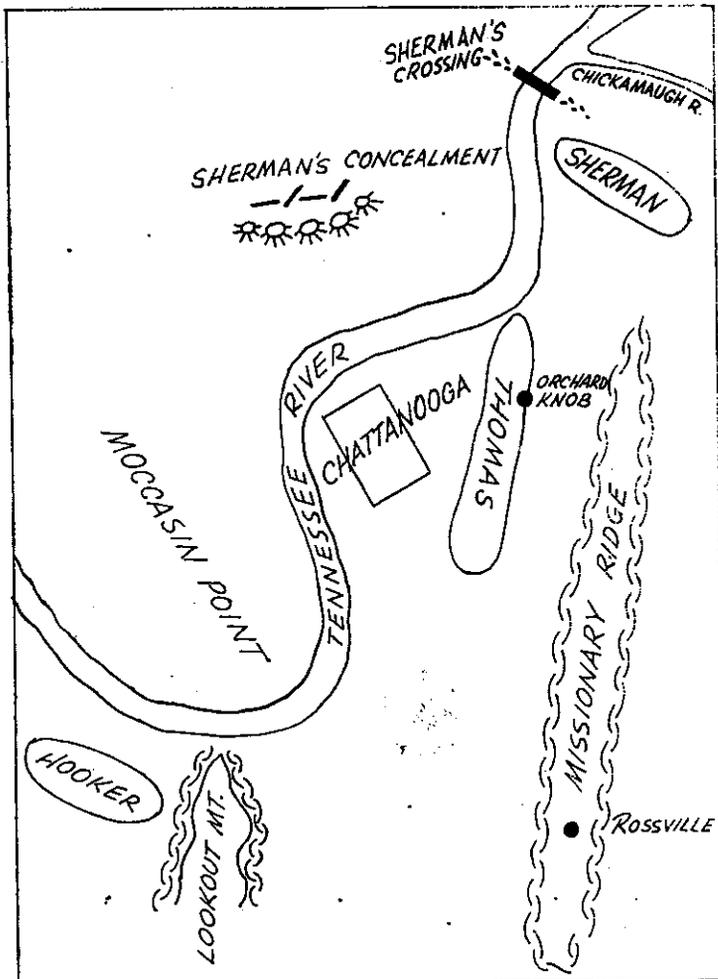
Grant made his headquarters with Gen. Thomas and the storming of the mountains was another stepping stone to his assuming supreme command of all Union armies on March 9, 1864.

Gen. Grant subsequently went to Washington to accept the command from President Lincoln and pushed toward Richmond, Va., the Confederate capital, with the Army of the Potomac. Gen. Sherman's plan was to take Georgia and head north toward Richmond in a pincer movement.

That's getting a little ahead of the story but it is important for it was from this jumping off point at Chattanooga that Sherman was able to start his onslaught into Georgia.

* * *

Lest we forget, the 78th Regiment from Pennsylvania and the volunteers from the Alle - Kiski



... Union troops deployed for assault on Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge.

Valley were among the weary troops of the Army of the Cumberland in Chattanooga.

Writing from Chattanooga later and telling his mother in Allegheny Township about the battle, Pvt. Abram Kipp said, "Our brigade was the lucky brigade. Again, we were held in the forts as a reserve in case our men were defeated and driven back. We had a nice

view of the first and second days battle."

With the assistance of the map accompanying this article, let's see how the storming materialized.

To the north, Gen. Sherman had eased onto the scene and had his troops concealed behind mountains. Gen. Hooker was in Look-

out Valley around the point of Lookout Mountain. Gen. Thomas had his army deployed south of Chattanooga in the valley which was being shelled so heavily by artillery on the mountain and Missionary Ridge.

On the night of the 22nd, while waiting for Gen. Sherman's forces to come up, a Confederate deserter came in with the information that the Rebels were withdrawing. To test this report, Gen. Thomas made a reconnoissance on the 23rd and ascertained that the Confederates were not withdrawing. This brought on the battle of Orchard Knob, which resulted in driving the Confederates from that strong point and compelling them to fall back to the outpost along Missionary Ridge.

This brought the Rebel troops to an alert on Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge.

By the evening of the 23rd, Gen. Sherman, with three divisions, was ready to cross the Tennessee River.

Orders were issued for Gen. Hooker to attack Lookout Mountain with his 10,000 troops at daylight on the 24th. The 78th Regiment in Fort Negley had a good view. Gens. Grant and Thomas at Orchard Knob were two miles away and couldn't have had a better view than the 78th.

Hooker swung around the mountain and assaulted the Rebels on the slopes. Union batteries on Moccasin Point opened up. The heavy Rebel guns on the summit of the mountain could not take part in the fight because it was under their muzzles, so to speak. The Rebels rolled large rocks from the hillside. Their sharpshooters killed many.

Lines of pickets along Chattanooga Creek were only 100 feet apart. Both the Union and Rebel pickets kept their guns silent and watched the battle on the hill.

Later in the evening, clouds settled on the point of the mountain and the 78th Regiment had the awe inspiring experience of hearing the noise of a battle in the clouds. This was Hooker's famous battle above the clouds.

By dusk, without firing a shot, the Confederate pickets along Chattanooga Creek surrendered.

At midnight, Sherman's concealed forces moved out in 100 boats, crossed the Tennessee River at the mouth of Chickamauga Creek and captured pickets there.

By 1 p.m. Gen. Sherman's three divisions moved on what is thought to be Missionary Ridge. There was a misjudgement of the topography and the army headed for and occupied easily a detached range of hills 1¼ miles north and west of Rebel forces on Missionary Ridge.

Gen. Hooker's capture of the lower elevation of Lookout Mountain and Sherman's position on the hills near Missionary Ridge led Gen. Bragg to abandon Lookout Mountain on the night of the 24th and to take position on Missionary Ridge. The Rebels braced themselves there.

After sunrise on the morning of the 25th, Sherman engaged Rebels on the north of Missionary Ridge. He was repulsed but Hooker had moved across Lookout Valley to Rossville and marched toward the crest of Missionary Ridge, thus endangering the enemy's left.

Gen. Bragg and the Confederate force was now concerned about two sides. Gen. Grant's plan did not include anything like storming Missionary Ridge from the front. His aim was for Sherman to capture the northeastern end of the ridge. By 3 p.m. on the 25th, this plan had failed.

Grant dispatched Gen. Thomas in a movement against the enemy's works on the ridge to prevent Gen. Bragg's concentrating on and overwhelming Sherman.

From Thomas' line, it was a mile to the top of the ridge. The slope was about 2,000 feet and the elevation averaged 400 feet. There were good rifle pits at the foot of the ridge, others on the slope and rude breastworks on the crest. There were 15 Rebel batteries and two siege guns.

Grant's orders were for the troops to take the rifle pits and stop.

Quoting now from the regimental history:

"The Army of the Cumberland advanced rapidly, captured the rifle pits at the foot of the ridge, but, with the instinct of good soldiers, recognized the impossibility of remaining in that position.

"They must either go forward or backward and, like true soldiers, they went forward. When Gen. Grant saw them pursue the enemy up the slope, he made the inquiry as to who had given the command. No one was found to take the responsibility."

The command had been taken out of the hands of the generals. There were anxious moments back in Chattanooga and the brigade, including the 78th, in Chattanooga was called out to line up outside the fort and prepare to do battle if the storming of the ridge failed.

Company banners wavered on the hillside. The line moved onward and the crest of the ridge was reached simultaneously at several points. Within 15 minutes the whole ridge was occupied. More than 50 pieces of artillery and several thousand prisoners were captured.

Even the great Gen. Grant had underestimated the strength and determination of the forces of Gen. Thomas. Having fought with Gen. Sherman, he naturally had special confidence in him, the 78th regimental history says.

He even underestimated the strength of Gen. Hooker's force which had come from the eastern army. Hooker and Thomas were only to support Sherman's onslaught but in the end provided the victorious charge. By misjudging the topography, Gen. Sherman was accomplishing nothing.

Writing later in his memoirs, Gen. Sherman explained Gen. Grant's error in his regard for the Army of the Cumberland.

He says Gen. Grant pointed out the house on Missionary Ridge where Gen. Bragg's headquarters were known to be and explained that the mules and horses of Thomas' army were so starved that they could not haul his guns, that the men were so demoralized by the Battle of Chickamauga that he feared they would not get out of their trenches to assume the offensive and he wanted Gen. Sherman's troops to hurry and take the offensive first.

It was reported at the time of the battle and was repeated since that Confederate troops left the center of the ridge to fight Sherman's army and therefore let up

in their defenses before the Army of the Cumberland.

The regimental history says that troops that went to the right to engage Sherman were the ones that evacuated Lookout Mountain. Later, Gen. Grant had higher regard for the Army of the Cumberland.

Gen. Hooker's army chased the Rebels into Ringgold, Ga., but the Rebels could not make a stand. This effort was made on rations that the troops could carry and full pursuit immediately was deemed out of the question.

Telling about the pursuit through the mountains to Ringgold, Pvt. Kipp wrote of Gen. Hooker's Army:

"Our men would climb up the hills where they would have to throw one leg around a small bush to steady themselves so they could fire. Our men drove them."

To point out the importance played by the Army of the Cumberland in storming Missionary Ridge, the regimental history pointed out these statistics to substantiate it:

Gen. Hooker, in his operations at Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge and Ringgold, lost 81 killed and 390 wounded for a total of 471 casualties.

Gen. Sherman in two days at the northern end of Missionary Ridge, lost 209 killed and 1,141 wounded.

The Army of the Cumberland, in the storming of Missionary Ridge, within an hour, lost 403 killed and 2,807 wounded. It captured 55 pieces of artillery and several thousand prisoners, estimated by Pvt. Kipp at 6,000 to 15,000.

Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, said:

"Chattanooga was the key to the situation and its loss was terrible; our only comfort was that the people at Washington did not know what to do with it."

(Monday: On Top of Lookout Mountain)

Civil War Echoes

Third Yule Taken in Stride

The third Christmas away from home was taken in stride by the men of the 78th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.

By this time, they possibly had forgotten what a Christmas meal could be like. Pvt. Abram Kipp, writing to his mother in Allegheny Township on Dec. 23, 1863, said, matter of factly:

"Guess I will make my Christmas dinner on three little hard crackers."

That third and final Christmas away from home was spent by the men of the Alle-Kiski Valley in the 78th on the Summit of Lookout Mountain in Tennessee.

The late November victory was achieved by bursting our from besieged Chattanooga and taking Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, while the Rebels fled into Georgia.

More Union troops and supplies now poured in for the fight into Georgia in the direction of Atlanta. The Rebels under Gen. Bragg withdrew 40 miles south of Chattanooga to Dalton, which lies in a direct line on the railroad to Atlanta.

The 78th Regiment left Ft. Negley in Chattanooga on Nov. 29 and marched to the summit of Lookout Mountain. On Dec. 1, they marched 10 miles south and counter-marched.

On Dec. 3, they made camp on Lookout Mountain and stayed there until May 1. During this time, the Army of the Cumberland was being replenished.

But, there still was a shortage of food. It seemed that the army was getting bigger and there were more mouths to feed.

On Dec. 23, Pvt. Kipp wrote:
"We are encamped on Lookout Mountain and are working every day on the fortifications. I am sorry to tell you we are getting

no more rations than when I wrote to you last.

"In fact, I can't see how it is to get better for we have so many troops here. I can't see how we are to get enough supplies ahead here to make an advance on the Rebs."

It was cold duty atop Lookout Mountain in December and January. It was said that one day in December when Maj. Bonnaffon drilled the troops it was so hot that they had to remove coats.

That night, there was a howling storm and pickets on duty dropped their rifles and some were numbed so that they had to be relieved. There were many cases of frostbite because they mustn't have had much in the way of shoes.

About this time, the men were promised a furlough if they would re-enlist for three years. Pvt. Kipp told about Company K re-enlisting and getting ready to go home.

"I don't want a furlough that bad that I will enlist for three years more to get one," he said.

Pvt. Kipp said that he had sent \$50 in a letter of Nov. 28 but his mother hadn't received it. It must have been lost in the mail and this apparently was a great blow because soldiers got paid only \$13 a month.

Up to this time, Pvt. Kipp had succeeded in sending home \$154. Of this \$50 was lost and his mother sent him money from time to time.

Compared to earlier duty, the time on Lookout Mountain was enjoyed by the 78th. But these letters in the heart of winter still told about the lack of food and clothing and the cold nights.

On Jan. 17, he said that the railroad into Chattanooga was opened up again but food still wasn't coming in.

Pvt. Kipp surmised that much

food was going to a concentration of Union troops at Knoxville, where a Rebel counter-attack was expected. It seemed logical that the Rebels would try such a maneuver to try to get the Union troops to withdraw from Chattanooga to fight at Knoxville.

"But I think our generals will watch this," Kipp said. At this time, the men were in high spirits and had great regard for their commanding officer, Gen. George Thomas.

Again, the politicians in Washington apparently were making it seem that all was well at the front. Newspapers at the time said that the troops were on full rations and well clothed.

Pvt. Kipp told his mother confidentially that this was not true yet and was just an impression that was given so that it would be advantageous to the Union and demoralizing to the Confederate troops.

"There is one third of our company that is so bad off for shoes and other clothing that they can't go out on any kind of duty," he said.

He said that the regimental mess happened upon 500 pounds of flour and paid \$55 for it. He talked as if the men would have been willing to pay anything for it. It helped them get along.

Again he dismissed talk his mother had heard that he had re-enlisted. He said that he would wait out his discharge date before even thinking about it.

Again he spoke of the ungrateful folks at home who didn't sympathize with the plight of the soldiers. He said that if they came to Chattanooga and saw the acres of graves they would come to their senses.

"There is some cases of small-pox in Chattanooga now.

"There was a Rebel found near

our camp the other day ... he died of the smallpox. He was in an old Rebel camp and was left by them and had died. He had been lying over six weeks. There was talk that our men would burn him because he was too much decayed. There are some hard sights but we have gotten pretty well hardened to them."

Pvt. Kipp expressed appreciation about letters received from his younger sisters, Lydia and Allie. They apparently had just learned to write and he was comparing their writing ability.

He said that the regiment now had only one team of horses. It had 10 at the start. The others died of starvation.

He said that since being in Chattanooga, most of the army's stock had died.

In other history books, it is written that Union troops often had to resort to eating horses. Pvt. Kipp never said anything about it but he said that he learned to eat raw meat and like it.

He told of beef cattle bound for the army being stopped by heavy snows in Ohio and Kentucky.

On Jan. 19, Gen. Thomas made a reconnaissance in force against the Rebels at Dalton, Ga. Gen. Joseph E. Johnston had relieved Gen. Bragg so we see that both armies had a change of command after Chickamauga and Chattanooga.

Thomas found that frontal defenses were impregnable but there was unguarded access by a valley farther south.

It was Grant's intention to send Sherman against Mobile, Ala. The action by Thomas was a diversionary move to keep Johnston occupied while Sherman moved from Vicksburg to Selma and on to Mobile. This plan evidently was scrapped for Sherman turned back without attempting to move on Selma or toward Mobile.

LOSS — Pvt. Thomas B. Rippey, discharged on surgeon's certificate on Jan. 20, 1864.

(Tomorrow: Start of the Atlanta Campaign.)

Civil War Echoes

Union Moves On Atlanta

On Feb. 28, 1864, the Atlanta Campaign was conceived. It was launched in May.

It was to be a military mission to occupy Georgia and sweep northward in a pincer movement against Richmond while the Army of the Potomac under its new commanding general, Grant, would move southward on Richmond.

Gen. George Thomas, commanding the Army of the Cumberland, of which the 78th Regiment and many Alle - Kiski men were members, proposed the campaign to Gen. Grant. Later, Grant assumed supreme command of the Union army in Washington on March 9, 1864.

Although Gen. Thomas was Gen. W. T. Sherman's senior, Grant entrusted command of the Atlanta campaign to Sherman, whom he fought with in the West.

The Army of the Cumberland was to make up two thirds of the striking force and it was under Gen. Thomas. Gen. Schofield commanded the Army of the Ohio and Gen. McPherson, the Army of the Tennessee. There were to be 88,188 infantry, 5,149 cavalry, 4,460 artillery and 254 guns against a Rebel force estimated at 40,000.

On April 8, 1864, Lt. Col. Archibald Blakeley resigned his command of the 78th. He was succeeded by Col. Sirwell, the old commander, who had been recommissioned and now remustered. Sirwell had resigned in Chattanooga because of illness and went home to recuperate.

While preparations for this campaign were made, the 78th Regiment was camped on top of cold and windy Lookout Mountain from Dec. 3 to May 1, when it moved out in the Atlanta campaign.

Pvt. Abram Kipp, writing to his mother in Allegheny Township, during this time kept her well informed in several letters.

He said that he heard about the \$300 act being repealed. That was the act that permitted a man to buy his way out of the draft if he would pay that sum to a volunteer.

Although some of the volunteers in Tennessee at that time did collect some of this money, Kipp wrote to his mother that the soldiers now were laughing up their sleeves at the prospect of the rich boys now having to come out to fight.

But the men of the 78th were hurt greatly by the bitter criticism from the Copperheads at home. An indication of this was a letter that said:

"I see by some letters that came to our company that a great many of the people at home think we ought to join the veterans as our morals are corrupted and that we ought to enlist again and leave them stay at home.

"And they go on to say as much as we are cowards if we don't do it. But, they can say what they please. If our company was to enlist again they wouldn't give their names to our state.

"We would give them in to Indiana for they have volunteers and filled up their quota. And if we would give our state credit with that number it would save that many from the draft and I don't want to save one of them if I can possibly avoid it."

By early February, the men were on full rations again and life was more pleasant.

Word of Col. Sirwell's being in Chattanooga to be mustered again came as good news to the men of the 78th. They preferred him over Lt. Col. Blakeley, who apparently was a strong disciplinarian and drilled the men more than they thought was in order while at the front.

Kepp wrote, "Our old colonel is in Chattanooga getting mustered in the service again to take command of our regiment. The boys got up a paper last evening asking him to get mustered into the service as quick as possible and to be our leader again. Almost every man in the regiment signed it."

There were still people at home who didn't want to be drafted. The draft was the beginning of the end for the South, we must remember. A volunteer would cut the draft quota for a county down. Kipp gave insight into the devious efforts when he wrote:

"There was a letter received by one of our officers today from a Butler County man telling him to get all the boys he could belonging to Butler County in this regiment to enlist again and send their names to the county and they would pay them \$100 of a bounty.

"The boys have been studying for some time to see what the people at home means (how they feel about the war) and they have given it up as a fizzle."

Kipp gave an indication of why the men were now against Lt. Col. Blakeley.

On Feb. 12, he wrote:

"I forgot to tell you some three weeks ago our commander had in the neighborhood of 20 men tied up to trees for punishment and some of the boys cut them loose and then they had them tried for mutiny and they are now confined to hard labor with a ball and chain to them."

The troops were still expecting to go to Knoxville to fight a Rebel counterattack.

Some of the division moved off Lookout Mountain in preparation for the campaign southward in February. The 78th remained until the last on the top of Lookout Mountain.



CIVIL WAR COMPANY—The men in this photo are believed to be members of Company F (Freeport area) of the 78th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. The photo, among the possessions of the Abram Kipp descendants, was taken while the 78th was atop Lookout Mountain

in early 1864. Pvt. Kipp was a member of the company and, judging from the number in the picture, this must be the group. It appears that the officer at the left is Lt. Col. Blakely, in command at the time.

It was here that the 78th was re-united with its old commander, Col. Sirwell, whom the soldiers had come to like so much.

Capt. Gillespie was back with the regiment again, also.

Troop movements at this time were very vague and the men on top of the mountain knew the latest, apparently. They expected to move out any day but the day for the campaign to start was delayed more and more.

Apparently this is what Jefferson Davis had meant when he said the fall of Chattanooga was devastating to the Confederacy but Washington didn't know what to do with it (the victory).

On March 10, 1864, Pvt. Kipp wrote about Col. Sirwell's rejoining the regiment.

"Our old colonel came up on the mountain last night and took command of the regiment and I never heard such cheering in my life. The boys went almost wild when they saw him coming. They cheered him for a half mile before he reached the top.

"The boys heard he was coming and went out on the bluff to meet him."

Later, Pvt. Kipp said that he was glad to hear that the men at home were volunteering so fast. "It will be much better for them to do so," he said.

On March 20, Pvt. Kipp reported that the health of the men was good. He said that some of the regiment who re-enlisted for three years and thereby received furloughs

were back at the front and "good for three years again."

He told of a member of the company falling off the rocks at the top of the mountain and being killed instantly. There was no indication who it was and there was nothing in the regimental history to clear this up.

On April 2, Pvt. Kipp had some words of wisdom. He heard that many of the veterans going home (those who re-enlisted) were taking wives. "I don't blame the soldiers but I do think the young ladies are very foolish to marry a man and him starting back to the army for three years."

Back home, the citizenry was talking about the young ladies, also. There, the talk was that they

thought they might become war widows and get a pension and were jumping at the chance to marry a soldier.

Pvt. Kipp asked his mother in April to make him a couple of check shirts and send them by mail. He asked that she make very low collars so that he could fasten paper collars on them.

Pvt. Kipp was starting to think about going back home in a few months.

LOSSES — Pvt. Absolom K Marsh, discharged on surgeon's certificate on Feb. 24, 1864, and Sgt. A. R. Weaver, discharged on surgeon's certificate on April 17 1864.

(Tomorrow: Rebs in Bloody Retreat)

Civil War Echoes

Troops Slug Into Georgia

The campaign on Atlanta, Ga., in May of 1864, was a concentrated effort by the Union army under Gen. W. T. Sherman.

The 78th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry was right at the front all during May to Dalton, Resaca, Cassville, Calhoun, Dallas and New Hope Church.

There was skirmishing all during the month with the slowly withdrawing Rebel army under Gen. Joseph Johnston.

* * *

We pick up the exploits of Pvt. Abram Kipp and the Alle-Kiski Valley men in the 78th on May 14 at Resaca.

Speaking of the 14th, the Morning Report Book of Company F (from the Freeport area) said, "There was heavy fighting all day along our entire line just in front of Resaca, Ga."

The night of the 14th, the brigade threw up rude fortifications within about 800 to 1,200 yards of the fortifications of the Confederate army. Companies A and F were on the skirmish line in the woods in front of these fortifications.

To give an idea of the type of battle at this point, let's see what the regimental history says.

"During the entire day the artillery stationed along the line of fortifications kept up a continuous fire on the Confederate fortifications in our front.

"We also poured into their fortifications a leaden hail from our rifles. A regiment would march into our breastworks, each man having 60 cartridges, and would continue to load and fire into the fortifications of the enemy until



... Portrait of Pvt. Abram Kipp in later years ...

their ammunition was exhausted, when another regiment, with a new supply, would take their places.

"A constant fire of musketry and artillery was in this way kept up nearly the entire day, so that the Confederates did not dare to raise their heads above their fortifica-

tions. Several times during the day the Confederates attempted to plant a battery in position to defend their lines, but each time the guns were dismounted by our artillery before they succeeded in firing more than two or three shots."

Thus, it was a Union army of 100,000 pitted against a Rebel force of about 43,000 and the Union army now was supplied well and able to push on.

If we may, let's drift back to Washington where things were shaping up for a presidential election. Lincoln wasn't expected to win a second term. But, the turn of events now appeared to the North to make the war appear to be a little more worth fighting now.

Farragut's taking Mobile, Ala., in August and Sherman's ultimate capture of Atlanta in September before the election in November seemed to seal Lincoln's election. Lincoln's selection of Grant as the commander of all forces had paid off in winning the war and in gaining election for him.

Back to Resaca, where the 78th was in the line of battle in a wooded area.

The night of the 15th, the firing ceased and troops went to sleep in the fortifications while the skirmishers stayed outside to act as pickets.

Sometime during the night, an alarm was given. Everybody was

up and moving. Ten seconds after the first gun was fired, there were hundreds of guns firing. In less than five minutes it was over. It was a false alarm.

As might be expected, the Rebels slipped out of their entrenchments during the night and escaped.

The Confederate army retreated from Resaca approximately 30 miles south to Cassville. It took up a strong position north of the Etowah River and prepared for a battle.

When Gen. Johnston found that Gen. Thomas was rapidly concentrating his forces, he retreated to Alatoona Mountains, south of the river.

The movements of the 78th for the next five days did not bring it in direct contact with the enemy. On the 18th, it moved to Calhoun and bivouacked two miles south of the town. On the 19th, it moved to Kingston; threw up fortifications and stayed there until the 23rd.

On the 23rd, the advance column of the Union army left the railroad and marched directly westward to try turning the left flank of the enemy at Dallas instead of making a direct attack in the mountain passes.

This movement was anticipated by the Confederate commander and Rebel troops were found in force near Dallas. The battle that ensued resulted in at least five casualties in Companies F and I (from the Apollo area).

A letter from Abram Kipp on May 21, 1864, told his mother that the 78th was then 84 miles south of Chattanooga. He told about fighting the Rebels and "compelling them to abandon their fortified positions." This must have been at Resaca.

He said, "We have been marching and fighting for 21 days and are not done yet. We cut some parts of the Rebel army up very bad but, for all that, they are making a good retreat. We are close on them.

"It is 54 miles from here to Atlanta. It is thought they will make a stand at Marietta, 20 miles this side of Atlanta. I feel confident that we will compel them to leave.

"We have a good sized army here now and I think — a good lot of generals. The men in this army are completely worn out but are in good spirits. I see there is something doing in the Army of the Potomac. If all reports are true, Grant is doing good business.

"The railroad is in running order up to us so far. The boys are all well but are very hard run. I don't expect to stop until we get to Atlanta. I think we will get but little rest in our time (until discharge in the fall) for there is a great struggle being made to finish the war this summer.

"Don't be uneasy about me for I can't write often the way we are fixed."

(Tomorrow: Battle of New Hope Church).

78th 'Rains' Lead on Rebels

The 78th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry lost 50 men killed and wounded at the Battle of New Hope Church on the way to Atlanta, Ga., on May 27, 1864.

It was an afternoon and evening battle and only two regiments of the massive army, one of them the 78th, were engaged in the battle.

Pvt. Abram Kipp, writing to his mother in Allegheny Township, said that there were four killed and wounded in the battle from Company F and 50 from the regiment.

"We used the Rebels up very bad but lost heavy ourselves. They charged on our two regiments but we stopped them," Kipp said. The skirmishing continued for several days afterward while the Rebels were behind fortifications built in the mountains.

* * *

"They have every advantage on us (because of the mountain)," Kipp wrote on June 3 as he recounted the battle.

"They are fortified and we are on a stand until the wing gets in position. Hooker is on our left. He had some hard fighting yesterday evening (June 2) and from what I can learn, he drove them some.

"We have been on the skirmish line ever since the 27th until last night. We were sent back a few rods to rest and make a cup of coffee and so we expect to return to the line any hour."

* * *

Let's back up a little and survey the situation before the battle at New Hope Church.

The Rebel army under Gen. Joseph Johnston had retreated from Resaca. The Union army under Gen. W. T. Sherman tried a flanking movement to Dallas but the Rebels knew it and were there.

The battle lines at this time were nearly 10 miles long and there was nearly always brisk skirmishing at different points.

At an intermediate point, known as New Hope Church, the Union lines were advanced more than a mile on May 27. This break through the Rebel lines brought a pitched battle and the 78th was right in the middle of it since it was leading the brigade in the one-mile penetration.

The regiment moved across wooded ravines and ridges to the edge of the open fields under a heavy musketry and artillery fire. Men were falling.

A man, James Little of Company A, was wounded. Capt. Ayes of Company H, who lifted the soldier up when he was dying said that Little told him, "Tell mother I am in the front ranks yet." He repeated those words three times.

A few minutes later, he died in the arms of Chaplain Christy.

* * *

The regimental history says this is a fitting place to say that Chaplain Christy "had wonderful facility for being present on the battlefield in the thickest of the fight, and seemed always at hand to relieve the wounded. He greatly endeared himself to the soldiers of the regiment by his actions on the battlefield."

Relatives of Col. William Sirwell also have offered some significant information concerning the feelings toward the Catholic church since Rev. Christy was a Catholic priest.

Col. Sirwell himself was a Protestant. However, in later years he bought ground for a Catholic church in Kittanning and contributed greatly to the Catholic church.

On his dying bed, Sirwell be-

came a Catholic and it is surmised that the pitch of the battle and perhaps the magnificent work done by Father Christy may have had a part in his decision.

* * *

Reaching the edge of the woods, the regiment halted in a ravine and the line of battle was somewhat protected, though the officers, being a few paces in the rear of the line, were peculiarly exposed.

In a few minutes, the Rebels made a desperate charge across the open fields. They did not have any very definite line of battle but they seemed to be in countless numbers and they did not waver until, at some points in front of the 78th, they were not 10 paces from the Union line.

The regimental history editor said,

"As they approached, and as they retreated, our soldiers loaded and fired with deliberate aim and fatal effect. The number of killed and wounded on the part of the enemy must have been very great for in all my experience and observation the 78th Pennsylvania Regiment never had an opportunity for doing such deadly work, and never did its duty more courageously."

This charge lasted only a few minutes and the regiment lost approximately 50 wounded and killed. The number of soldiers killed outright was in higher proportion to the number wounded in previous battles, probably because of the proximity of the lines in the ravine.

J. T. Gibson, who edited the regimental history, which was compiled by the men of the regiment and published by the state in 1905, was wounded in this advance.



PVT. KIPP'S GRAVE—This is the grave of Pvt. Abram Kipp, whose letters form the basis for this series of articles on the exploits of 200 Alle-Kiski Valley men during the Civil War. Looking over the plot is

James W. Kipp of Allegheny Township, the Civil War veteran's grandson. The grave is atop a windswept hilltop in Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Allegheny Township.

He writes, "This was my last sight of the regiment as part of the army in the field; for, as the enemy retreated, I had the misfortune to stop a minie ball of 59 calibre, which shattered the bone of my left arm and lodged in my shoulder, where it remained for three years."

Gibson was taken to field hospitals and on to Chattanooga, Nashville and Louisville. He spent seven months in hospitals.

Pvt. Kipp's letter of June 3 said that Dan Shearer was left in the mountains to care for some wounded. John Boyle, Frank Mitchell, Johnston Reed and Huff's two boys were said to be well.

After the battle of May 27, the regiment stayed with the army until June 22, when it was sent to Chattanooga and went into camp near Ft. Negley.

LOSSES — Pvt. Joseph Keibler, wounded near Dallas, Ga., May 27, 1864; Cpl. James M. Slusser, wounded near Dallas on May 27; Pvt. Benjamin F. Haws, wounded at New Hope Church, May 30; Pvt. J. N. McGlaughlin, wounded near Dallas, May 31; Pvt. B. F. Williamson, died at Chattanooga, June 6, of wounds received in action May 27.

(Tomorrow: A Description of Trench Fighting)

Civil War Echoes

Tools Hurlled In Trench Fight

Hand to hand combat to the death is perhaps the hardest thing to understand about war.

In the letters of Pvt. Abraham Kipp of the 78th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, we are told about mortal combat in really close quarters.

It was during the march of Gen. Sherman's army toward Atlanta, Ga. After the 78th was engaged in the bloody battle at New Hope Church on May 27, 1864, it was detailed for a time to act as railroad guard.

The Rebels under Gen. Joseph Johnston were making an orderly retreat toward Atlanta but not without fighting fiercely. The mountains were fortified and each night temporary fortifications were thrown up.

Trenches were dug.

A letter of June 5 from Kipp said:

"There was some wounded came in on the cars yesterday. They were wounded with picks and shovels.

"The reason of that is our men, has dug (in trenches) that close to them (the Rebels).

"So they threw tools at one another. So, you can judge for yourself whether they ain't close on them."

This railroad guard duty during this time was quite dangerous. There were roving bands of Rebels and they did damage by attacking and then running.

While on one four-day trip to the front on a train, Pvt. Kipp wrote:

"When I wrote to you last, we had orders to go to the front as railroad guard. So, I did not get saying much.

"Well, we went and was four days gone going out. The Rebels attacked the train after they had torn up the tracks, throwing the train off.

"They fired into us, wounding one man of Company A of our regiment and very bad. . . but we soon made them light out for the woods.

"And, coming back, we ran into another train which had a regi-

ment on with 80 wounded men. That was all of the accidents on our trip. There is still fighting going on in front.

"I think old Sherman will beat them yet. He charged some parts of the Rebel lines a few days ago and was repulsed but he lost no ground that he held before the fight. He lost some 3,000 men killed and wounded.

"The report here is that Sherman has sent two corps over the river en route for Atlanta and Atlanta is eight miles from the river so if th's is the case, the Rebels will have to leave."

(This apparently was a mistaken report or at least a premature calculation for it took until September for Sherman to take the city).

"The weather here is tremendous hot. Our regiment got orders on the evening of the 3rd to march with two days rations. They left about dusk and didn't take anything except rations.

"They marched in the direction of Lafayette, Ga. They expect a body of Rebels there. I (and several others) was left here to guard what was left behind."

At this stage, Pvt. Kipp wrote to his mother and asked her to send him \$15 for he hadn't been paid for six months.

"I have to buy my tobacco and I could buy vegetables. . . which I know would be good for me or any person that hasn't had any as long as I have."

Writing again on June 15, Pvt. Kipp was still in a wilderness en route to Atlanta. The troops were on the move for from the letter it can be determined that he sat down at least three different times to add something to it.

He said that the weather was wet and it was muddy to travel.

He said that there were mountains in front. Rebels were firmly entrenched on them but he expressed confidence they would be driven off.

"We came in here last evening (June 14) and have a good breastworks. But, I suppose the Rebels won't charge us as they

find it ain't a paying business to charge us.

"We estimated our loss since we left Chattanooga at 15,000 killed and sounded. So, you can judge for yourself whether there has been any fighting down here."

There were 100,000 in the Union army at the start.

"We have been in a part of the country of a perfect wilderness, no open country, woods, hills, hollows and a rough country, generally."

Kipp explained again that he couldn't write very often. His mother must have asked him to write more since she was fearing for his safety. He said that this was the third letter since he left Ringgold, near Lookout Mountain.

He continued:

"We expect some hard fighting before we get to Atlanta. The sound of the artillery and muskets has never been out of our hearing for a month.

"The troops are very much worn out but they are all in pretty good spirits.

"You say there is a draft coming out again. That is right to draft so when the three-year men go out, they can keep the army filled up and not leave the Rebels get the advantage of us now.

"I suppose there is a great many men that will think nothing of coming out no . . . thinking the war is about over.

"But, I am afraid some of them will see a good deal. But it is a good deal nearer over now than it ever has been.

"Yet, the Rebels charged on our left yesterday and were repulsed with heavy losses. Rebel prisoners reported that their Gen. Polk was killed in the charge."

Paper must have been running short for the soldiers also for this last letter was written on the back of a letter that was written to Pvt. Kipp by his mother, Eliza Bawn, Allegheny Township.

LOSS — Pvt. Andrew J. Duff, died at Chattanooga, Tenn., June 19, 1864, apparently after having been wounded earlier.

(Monday: Back to Chattanooga).

Civil War Echoes

78th Concludes Tour of Duty

From June 23 to Sept. 25, 1864, the 78th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry was headquartered in Chattanooga, from which it acted as railroad guard to the front in Georgia, on the way to Atlanta.

This was precarious duty. While Sherman's army was moving toward Atlanta, approximately half the trains between Chattanooga and the front were being captured and burned.

The 78th Regiment's deployment to this duty was necessary. The regiment, including the men of the Alle-Kiski Valley, had to guard against attacks by Rebel cavalry.

There were scattered attacks all along the line at various places. While the 78th acted as guard, there wasn't one train captured.

A letter from Pvt. Abram Kipp to his mother in Allegheny Township on June 25 told about the regiment being ordered to Chattanooga. This was a climax to 51 days at the front.

He said, "I must say our regiment was a hard looking set of boys when we came in. We had been marching and fighting and building fortifications for 51 days, working most of the time at night so we have drawn some new clothing and are getting cleaned up."

Sherman's army was 115 miles south of Chattanooga, slugging its way toward Atlanta. There was stiff fighting at Altoona in mountainous terrain and the Union army had fortified to within 500 yards of the Rebel fortifications.

Pvt. Kipp told about a three-day trip to Knoxville on train guard. He said that the folks there were ready to fight the Rebels to the end. They apparently were fed up with the Confederate army after two years of occupancy.

Kipp said about the upcoming election:

"I see the president has called for more troops and he has given them the privilege of volunteering and still they won't go. So when the draft comes off they will find fault with him and commence finding fault with the administration.

"I am afraid the people at home will divide this fall but I trust the few loyal people that is left will be more determined on carrying out this war than they have ever been yet.

"They should despise a peace man as a snake for they are trying to have peace when they know no such a thing could be had unless acknowledging the confederacy and that is just what they are wanting.

"But, I guess there are enough loyal men left, with what Negroes can be armed, to settle this scrape. If I had it in my power, I would send every peace man of the North outside of our lines and confiscate their property."

"I would treat them as a Rebel as that is what they are. Let me know in your next letter how the feeling is of the majority of people about Lincoln for president this fall. The soldiers are going heavy for him."

It wasn't until mid-July that the retreating Rebel army was able to muster enough manpower to meet Gen. Sherman and the advancing Union army on equal terms en route to Atlanta.

Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, is said to have done Gen. Sherman a favor by replacing Gen. Johnston with Gen. J. B. Hood, who left his defenses and fought a losing battle at Peach Tree Creek on July 20.

Hood retreated to Atlanta, where Sherman attacked him on July 22 and set a siege against the city.

Hood, weakened by desertions and dwindling supplies, evacuated Atlanta on Sept. 1 and Sherman occupied it the next day.

The North, depressed by Grant's heavy losses en route to Richmond, was elated.

This was one of the victories, along with Farragut's taking Mobile, Ala., that was supposed to have inspired enough votes to reelect Lincoln. On Nov. 8, 1864, he received 2,216,000 popular and 212 electoral votes to Gen. McClellan's 1,809,000 and 21 electoral votes.

* * *

To back up a little, a letter from Pvt. Kipp on Sept. 14 told about Sherman's occupying Atlanta.

Pvt. Kipp told about making a trip to Atlanta on a train. He said it was a large city but "is awfully torn up by our shells."

"The town is full of caves where the citizens stayed while we shelled it. The troops are in the best of spirits. The army has stopped till they get paid and get some clothing.

"I saw some of the bounty men on their way to the front the other day. I think a few months service will take the rose off of their cheeks. You wouldn't believe the difference there is in them and the old soliders.

"The old soldiers call them bounty jumpers." The bounty men were volunteers who were paid for their services by individuals so that the draft quota would be reduced.

Kipp advised his mother that she shouldn't contribute to the fund back home to raise money to pay volunteers. He spoke this way because of his feeling that his mother had given three sons to the fight early and one had died. "Leave the draft take its way" he said.

He spoke of the supposed disgust on home over Grant's poor showing in the Richmond campaign. He expressed optimism that Grant would take the Rebel capital soon.

He wrote:

"I suppose politics is all the go up there now. I think if there was as little interested in it at home as there is in the army, they would not make such a fuss.

"The men in the field are for fighting it out and not calling for peace till they come in on our terms. . . for old Abe, the soldiers are going heavy."

He ended this his last letter from the front by saying that he would be home by Oct. 12, "if I keep my health."

There was a last chance for the regiment to take up arms, too. On Sept. 24, it went to Athens, Ala., under the command of Col. Sirwell. It arrived at Decatur on Sept. 25. It was ordered to Nashville and then to Pulaski, where the Rebels were shelling the town.

It went then from there to Murfreesboro, to Wartrace, to Tullahoma, to Nashville, to Franklin. The days were full of excitement.

As mounted infantry for the first time, the 78th took part in an expedition to drive the Rebel cavalry south of the Tennessee River so that it would no longer harrass the supply lines. The expedition lasted 10 days and it was successful. It was a new experience for men of the 78th and the last action in the war.

The regiment arrived in Nashville on Oct. 17, six days after its term of service had expired. On Oct. 18, Gen. Thomas ordered the regiment detached and sent to Pennsylvania for discharge.

LOSSES — Pvt. Joseph B. Lambing, discharged on surgeon's certificate, June 24, 1864; Pvt. W. H. Wanderling, died at Chattanooga, July 21; Pvt. John Irwin, died at Chattanooga, Aug. 23; Pvt. George W. McMillen, discharged on surgeon's certificate, Nov 4; Pvt. John Morrow, prisoner from Sept. 20, 1863, to Nov. 20, 1864, discharged Feb. 6, 1865; Pvt. Michael Boyle, captured at Chickamauga, Sept. 20, 1863, discharged by general order May 23, 1865.

(Tomorrow: The Regiment Arrives in Pittsburgh; a New Regiment Organized; Regimental Reunions)

Civil War Echoes

Arrival Home; Others Carry On

The 78th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, with three years and six days of service behind, left Nashville, Tenn., on Oct. 18, 1864.

It came by way of the Cumberland and Ohio rivers to Pittsburgh.

Every scene on the Ohio, above Louisville, reminded the members of the regiment of their experiences, their hopes and fears when, three years before, with two other regiments of Negley's brigade, they had gone down the Ohio in campaigning through Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama.

They were real veterans now. They knew what war meant.

The citizens all along the route from Pittsburgh to Kittanning remembered the 78th and the regimental history said, "Villages and hamlets vied with each other in their efforts to show their appreciation for their soldier friends."

The soldiers appreciated it to say the least.

* * *

Back to the front, the recruits of the 78th whose terms had not expired and some who volunteered to stay on, remained at Nashville under command of Maj. Bonnaffon and Lieutenants Torbett and Smith.

They were organized into two companies and afterward became companies A and B of the new 78th Regiment.

Sgt. Rankin of Company A was promoted to second lieutenant, William B. McCue was promoted from sergeant to first lieutenant, Lt. Smith was promoted to captain, Sgt. Andrew Brown was promoted from sergeant to first lieutenant, Bernard Keigan was promoted from sergeant to second lieutenant, all in December, 1864.

The two companies remained



Col. Augustus B. Bonnaffon
...Placed in Command...

organized this way until they were joined in February and March of 1865 by eight other new companies of veterans and recruits assigned by the governor of Pennsylvania.

* * *

When Gen. Hood left Atlanta, he retreated into Tennessee. There, as related earlier, he harassed the Union supply lines.

Gen. Sherman set out to cut the Confederacy in half by marching from Atlanta to the sea. Gen. Hood did not follow but was bent upon re-occupying Tennessee and cutting the supply lines from Sherman.

Gen. Grant was in Nashville with an inadequate force.

In the second battle of Nashville,

which ensued in December, Negro troops were used for the first time.

Washington kept urging Gen. Thomas to attack and destroy Gen. Hood's army.

Gen. Thomas wouldn't until he had enough troops. He delayed and there actually was an order sent out for Gen. Thomas to be relieved of his command. Gen. John Logan was to assume the command if Thomas had not moved by the time he, Logan, arrived.

Thomas waited until severe icing on the mountains melted away. He finally did attack before he was relieved of his command.

Before he did, he had 57,000 troops as compared to Hood's 50,000. His waiting until his troops were concentrated and disciplined paid off for the army of Gen. Hood was crushed and scattered.

This battle was fought on Dec. 15 and 16. By the evening of the 16th, Gen. Hood's army was routed and all of it very nearly was captured.

Col. Bonnaffon in Command

The two companies of the 78th did general guard scout duties. When the eight other companies arrived in the spring, Gen. Hood's army generally was dispersed. Under the command of Col. Bonnaffon, the regiment performed perfunctory duties until the end of the war and was mustered out of the service on Sept. 11, 1865, in Harrisburg.

* * *

In 1883, The Chickamauga and Chattannoga National Military Commission requested that the state of Pennsylvania, along with others, locate the position of the Regiment in the battle of Chicka-

mauga so that a memorial could be located in the national park.

Pennsylvania Gov. Robert E. Pattison on April 30, 1894, appointed to the commission: Archibald Balkeley, R. D. Elwood, Charles B. Gillespie, Fred F. Wiehl, A. B. Hay, George Schaffner and J. T. Gibson, who edited the regimental history.

The followup was that the positions were located and the state Legislature appropriated money for a monument to state troops who fought in the vicinity.

The monument was dedicated on Nov. 15, 1894, and the dedictory service was held at Orchard Knob. Lt. Col. Blakeley, president of the state commission and a judge in later life, formally transferred the monument and bronze markers to the governor of Pennsylvania, Danile H. Hastings.

* * *

Long after the 78th Regiment was mustered out, the men of the Alle-Kiski Valley returned to their homes, to their jobs or farms.

It wasn't until 1892, after consulting with Col. Sirwell, that members held the first reunion in Butler. There were 324 survivors who answered the roll call in the largest reunion held by the regiment.

Sirwell was elected president of the regimental association. Capt. John M. Brinker and Capt. Robert D. Elwood, the latter of the Apollo area, were elected vice presidents; Capt. C. B. Gillespie of Freeport, treasurer; and H. H. Bengough, secretary. The second reunion was in Kittanning, the third in Leechburg and the fourth in Kittanning.

The fifth reunion was held in Freeport on Oct. 19, 1896. Other reunions were: in Indiana in 1888;

in Punxsutawney in 1889, in Kittanning in 1890; Butler in 1891, Verona in 1893, in Pittsburgh in 1894.

Others were in Louisville, Ken., in 1895, on Lookout Mountain, Tenn., in 1897, during the dedication of the monument, in Punxsutawney in 1899, in Kittanning in 1900, in Kittanning in 1901, in New Bethlehem in 1902.

Col. Sirwell, Lt. Col. Blakeley and Capt. Elwood were elected successively to serve as presidents of the regimental association.

The 18th reunion was in Pittsburgh in 1903. Then, a historical committee was appointed to prepare a regimental history and to have it published with funds appropriated by the state Legislature. The committee consisted of Blakeley, Elwood, Henry A. Miller, J. M. Lowry and J. T. Gibson.

This committee reported progress at the 19th reunion in Pittsburgh in 1904. The book was published in 1905.

The historical committee and the historian, Gibson, went to great lengths to obtain diaries of the men and drew upon their memories to give an account of the battles.

Pvt. Abram Kipp of Allegheny Township, whose letters to his mother, Mrs. Eliza Bawn, in Allegheny Township, formed the basis for this series of articles, went home and engaged in the oil and gas well drilling business. He died at the age of 38 and is buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Allegheny Township.

(Tomorrow: Picking up the War's End from the Siege of Atlanta)

Civil War Echoes

Union Pincer Brings Victory

An account of the battles of the 78th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry would not be complete without following up the war to its end.

The regiment, including more than 200 men from the Alle-Kiski Valley, campaigned through Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama and partly into Georgia, en route to Atlanta.

Gen. Sherman was taking his army in a pincer movement toward Atlanta and then northward to hit Richmond, Va., The Confederate capital, from the south.

* * *

The 78th started in 1861 as a part of the Army of the Ohio and then became a Department of the Army of the Cumberland. The latter represented two thirds of Sherman's force in the Atlanta effort that was to bring the war to an end.

The Atlanta campaign was launched on May 1, 1864. The 78th was at the front until June 23, when it was assigned in Tennessee to guard trains, which were being harassed by Confederacy cavalry.

In September, Gen. Sherman did take Atlanta after a siege. The 78th was mustered out of the service in October, 1864.

After Atlanta, Gen. Hood took his Confederate army into Tennessee. There, it was defeated later at Nashville by Gen. Thomas.

* * *

But, now lets follow the pincer movement by Gen. Sherman.

Sherman destroyed all factories and supplies in Atlanta and on Nov. 10, a few days after Lincoln was re-elected, with bands playing "John Brown's Body," marched his 60,000 men across Georgia in his infamous March to the Sea.

The four columns of troops marched along four parallel roads, destroying mills, barns, houses, cotton gins and crops.

The march left a path 60 miles wide and 300 miles long completely devastated.

At the end of the march, Sherman estimated the damage to Georgia and its military resources at \$100 million, "at least \$20 million of which was insured to our advantage and the remainder is simple waste and destruction."

Sherman said, "This may seem a hard species of warfare but it brings the sad realities of war home to those who have been directly or indirectly instrumental in involving us in its attendant calamities."

The South Buzzed with tales of Yankee barbarity and violence but Sherman wrote later, "I never heard of any case of murder or rape."

The South was cut in half. It was felt that the Confederacy might have tried to move its capital south from Richmond what with the great effort being put into the battle there by Gen. Grant and the Union forces.

The March to the Sea seemed to dim this hope of the Confederacy for Sherman was in the heart of the South now.

Sherman, unopposed, reached Savannah, Ga., on Dec. 21, 1864, and wrote to Lincoln, I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the city of Savannah."

After a month there, he turned north into the Carolinas. Gen. Hallack wrote him: "Should you capture Charleston, I hope that by some accident the place may be destroyed; and if a little salt should be sown upon its site, it may prevent the growth of future crops of nullification and secession."

Sherman answered, "I will bear in mind your hint as to

Charleston, and don't think salt will be necessary. . . the truth is the whole army is burning with an insatiable desire to wreak vengeance upon South Carolina."

But Charleston, was out of the line of march. Sherman took and destroyed, wholly or in part, several other towns, including the capital of South Carolina, Columbia, which was almost burned down.

Sherman said the fire was started by Gen. Wade Hampton's Confederate troops, ordered to destroy stores of cotton. Hampton denied this and historians have blamed Sherman.

By mid-March, Sherman was in the center of North Carolina. On March 19, near Goldsboro, he drove back Confederate Gen. Johnston.

On March 27, Lincoln, Grant and Sherman met on the River Queen in the James River to lay their final plans. Lincoln deplored further bloodshed and insisted on generous terms for the South when it surrendered.

Let's go back to the exploits of Gen. Grant's Army of the Potomac in the other half of the giant pincer against Richmond.

Gen. Lee and his army fought bravely. They were outnumbered but historians write that Gen. Lee's flank was never turned.

His defenses at Petersburg were so thinly manned that they were bound to fall under the siege by the Union.

In the last important battle of the Civil War, at Five Forks, on April 1, 1865, the Union forces under Grant defeated the Confederate forces under Lee. Many Confederate prisoners were taken and the defenses at Petersburg, which guarded Richmond, were threatened.

Lee ordered that Petersburg be evacuated and retreated South,

hoping to join Johnston in North Carolina. The Confederate government fled from Richmond and the Union forces occupied the Confederate capital without opposition.

On April 5, President Lincoln visited Richmond and walked unmolested through the quiet streets. He again expressed his wish for a peaceful readjustment of the war-torn nation's difficulties.

President Davis with his cabinet and clerks fled to Charlotte, N.C., but after Johnston surrendered to Sherman near Raleigh, the Confederate government disbanded and dispersed.

Davis reached Georgia in his vain attempt to flee beyond the Mississippi and continue the struggle but he was captured by Union forces at Irwinville on May 10, 1865. He was sent to Fortress Monroe, Va., where he was held a prisoner until 1867.

Just before the surrender, Lee's army was almost completely disorganized. Many companies were without officers and food was almost gone. Grant sent Lee a plea to surrender to avoid useless slaughter of the beaten Southern troops.

On Sunday, April 9, 1865, Lee and Grant met in the village of Appomattox Courthouse.

Lee was spotless and in full uniform; Grant, was mud-splattered and except for his shoulder chevrons, indistinguishable from a private soldier. Lee did not offer Grant his sword and Grant did not ask for it.

The Confederate troops were released on parole not to fight again. Officers were permitted to keep side arms, horses and baggage. Grant issued orders that men with horses and mules could take them home "to work their little farms."

Grant issued rations to the remaining 25,000 Confederate troops, who were dispersed after a farewell from Lee.

On April 28, Sherman and Johnston met and Johnston signed similar terms of surrender. The remaining Confederate troops in the South disbanded almost automatically when they heard of Johnston's surrender.

The war ended six months after the 78th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, including more than 200 men from the Alle-Kiski Valley at the outset, was mustered out of the service.

The end was in sight when the district troops left. There were others from the area who still were in the conflict, including some veterans, draftees and some bounty men, who volunteered and received a bounty for decreasing the draft quota.

(Tomorrow: A Summary)



ABRAM KIPP DESCENDANTS—Admiring a portrait of Abram E. Kipp, Allegheny Township Civil War veteran whose letters are the basis for this series of articles, are:

James W. Kipp, left, and Mrs. Florence Kipp Isiminger, right, his grandchildren, and Mrs. William A. Kipp, seated, their mother, all of Allegheny Township.

Civil War Echoes

Devastation, A Bad Taste

The martial strains of "Marching Through Georgia" have left a blemish in the history of the United States.

It will never fade away, for the words of this song tell about Gen. Sherman laying waste to the state in an annihilation that was to bring an end to the Civil War.

Long after the moral issues of the world as to human bondage and equality of men are settled, still this song will remind about the fiery swath burned through Georgia.

To a Southerner, the song brings flashes of anger. Will later generations forgive the forefathers?

* * *

This series of articles was written from the 90 letters of Pvt. Abram Kipp of Allegheny Township to his mother, Mrs. Eliza Bawn. They were written from the front during Kipp's three years of service as a volunteer in the 78th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.

The letters have revealed the hardships that history books often gloss over. They gave us a feeling that we know this private soldier and sympathize with him. And, they tell us about the manner of these men who took up arms early in the true spirit of the cause.

The 78th campaigned through Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama and into Georgia in what was the start of the campaign for Atlanta, Ga.

From Atlanta, Gen. Sherman marched his forces 300 miles to the sea and burned everything, houses, barns, mills, crops, etc., in a swath 60 miles wide.

The 78th was not a part of the latter march. But if the troops were, they would have joined heartily in the destruction, we feel sure.

Why?



The war was a long and bitter one over an issue that had split many families. Particularly, in the border states of the North and South, families were divided. Brothers fought on opposite sides, each fighting for a principle in which he believed.

Doubtful State

Even in Pennsylvania, there were many sympathizers to the South. The feeling was that if the South wanted slavery, it should be permitted to have it. If it wanted to leave the Union, all right. The majority wanted peace at any cost.

But, there was a nucleus of men with higher ideals.

We must include in this small nucleus of Pennsylvania men the volunteers. Abram Kipp was among them. He and the other area men who joined the army as volunteers early in the conflict were fighting for a cause in which they believed.

Others came later but we must consider that Pvt. Kipp and his fellow volunteers were at least typical.

The history books are vague about the Civil War although there

were volumes upon volumes written. There are few such complete and revealing letters as Kipp's in existence.

Newspapers of the day generally befuddled the public, also. They wrote of a well-fed Union army campaigning in the South. Most of the time, the Union army was starving. It was walking barefoot part of the time, without blankets to sleep under or on.

North Beaten Badly

The Union government realized the predicament. Its army was being beaten badly early in the war. Newspapers were exchanged between the North and South.

Telling about a strong and healthy Union army in newspapers at many times discouraged a Confederate attack when the Union forces might have been whipped decisively. The descriptions of adequate food and clothing of the opposite army must have had its demoralizing effect on the Confederate troops.

This bluffing must have worked both ways.

Many historians feel that the war was drawn out needlessly by the false impressions at the front.

Continuously, armies would overestimate the strength of the opposition. This led to delayed attacks. Each side had ample time to concentrate forces. But, on the other hand, this led to more slaughter and the war was getting no where.

Armies would slug at each other and each would be near the point of defeat. Neither recognized or would follow up an advantage. The blood flowed freely. So-called generals were a dime a dozen.

It is apparent that the Union army had the better communications and supply lines.

We can't help thinking about the starving Union troops in Chattanooga while they were under siege. There always was a Union soldier willing to throw

a cracker across the Chickamauga Creek to a Confederate soldier to give the impression that the Union troops were faring well. The Yank could have eaten the cracker but he was proud.

The volunteers were kept well informed at the front. They knew that the Copperheads or Southern sympathizers in Pennsylvania were talking against continuation of the war. This discouraged more volunteers and the men at the front needed re-enforcements but they didn't come.

"We'd Kill Them All"

Pvt. Kipp was very frank in his letters. He said that the Union troops would have liked to come home and kill all the Copperheads. He spoke sincerely because that's how bitter the debate was.

Pvt. Kipp always spoke frankly and we came to admire him for his views seemed to represent those of the nucleus that finally did put down the rebellion.

We remember Kipp's being disgruntled over Confederate prisoners being freed if they made a promise that they would return home and not take up arms against the Union until they were exchanged for a Union soldier freed similarly by the Confederacy.

The Union troops at the front were under the impression that many Southerners did not take the oath as seriously as the Union soldiers did. That meant that freed prisoners came back immediately to rejoin the fight.

Whether this is true, we cannot say but that's what the men at the front thought. That's what made them think as they did and do as they did.

We recall the time that a Union soldier on starvation rations was ordered out of a watermelon patch at gunpoint by a Union

officer who would not permit him to misappropriate food from Southern soil.

What a feeling these volunteers must have had. They had nearly starved several times. Men would fall out of line on long, forced marches. On these marches, troops could not see men in front of them for the dust in the summer.

Sleeping out on the ground in the elements was no fun. Nights were cold without blankets. Some had no overcoats.

On top of Lookout Mountain in the winter, men collapsed because of the numbing cold. A third of them didn't have adequate clothes to perform any duties.

Sickness was the greatest enemy in the winter months and there was little fighting then.

In Alabama in the heat of the summer, the men had averaged 20 to 30 miles of marching a day for as long as 12 consecutive days. Shoes were worn out and men continued aimlessly in bare feet.

* * *

These were the contributing factors to the destruction meted out in Georgia.

Troops Loyal to Abe

We saw at the start that these volunteers were patriotic men. They remained patriotic through all this. They supported Lincoln and his viewpoint throughout.

They felt sorry for the Negro women seen plowing fields in Tennessee from morning to dusk.

Later, they were kept from eating fresh vegetables from Southern soil. They did buy some to supplement their diets. Some historians say that there was mass stealing of crops but the 78th regimental history says that all Southerners who remained loyal to the Union received vouchers for payment later.

The men felt that the Rebel pris-

oners came back to fight too often.

Pvt. Kipp admitted frankly in one letter that complete destruction of the South was the only way to victory. That was more than a year before the end and it indicates to us how the soldiers felt and how the hardships had made them bitter.

Just before the end, Gen. Sherman and a lot of persons who had to support him and he they, must have felt the same way. In modern day war, we would have to justify the droppings of atomic bombs and Hiroshima as asked in Japan similarly.

Total destruction

seemed the answer to a swift conclusion of a war. It was the first instance and, unfortunately, was committed on American soil. We particularly, the South, will remember it longer.

But, the Union was preserved.

Further, it was strengthened. The reconstruction period brought on new enterprise, more work and controls and assistance.

Stronger Nation Born

The Union really was born after the Civil War. Until then, the majority believed in states rights. Some do today.

The Civil War served notice on the rest of the world that this young country was a power. Resources, of necessity, were turned into war materials.

More persons were engaged in making the United States a solid union of states and people. The Civil War succeeded in making the United States grow up from an insecure infancy to the position of a world power.

If an end justifies a means, then the March to the Sea and Hiroshima were justified. They were nearly a century apart. But, there wasn't a song written about Hiroshima to haunt the world and it is far removed from American soil.

(The End)