TENNESSEANS
IN
THE CIVIL WAR

A Military History
of Confederate and Union Units
with
Available Rosters of Personnel

In Two Parts

Part I

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13, these batteries were formed into a battalion of artillery. On May 13, Forrest appointed Captain Morton as acting Chief of Artillery, and directed Lieutenant T. S. Sale to assume command of the battery. On May 15, Forrest advised: "Buford's Division, and Morton's and Rice's batteries go to Corinth to-morrow."

The battery was engaged in the Battle of Tishomingo Creek, or Brice's Crossroads on June 10; and again in the Battle of Harrisburg, July 15. General A. Buford, in reporting on this battle, stated: "On July 13, about 5:00 P. M., with Bell's Brigade, and Morton's Battery, I attacked the enemy (Major General A. J. Smith) on his right flank during the march."

On September 24, the battery was with General Forrest at the capture of Athens, Alabama, and on his subsequent raid to Pulaski, in Middle Tennessee. On October 29, it formed part of the force at Fort Heiman and Paris Landing which shelled and captured the steamer *Mazeppa*, with two barges; and on October 30, the steamer *Cheeseman*. A shell from Morton's Battery was credited with disabling the *Mazeppa*, thus leading to its capture. On November 4, with Morton as acting Chief of Artillery, and Lieutenant Tully Brown in command of the battery, the battery took part in the bombardment and burning of the Federal Depot at Johnsonville, Tennessee.

Hardly pausing for breath, it then moved into Middle Tennessee the last half of November in General Forrest's operations in support of General John B. Hood's invasion. In his reports of this campaign, General Forrest made specific mention of Morton's Battery twice. He reported that on December 1, he moved across the Harpeth River (near Franklin) and advanced up the Wilson pike where he struck the enemy in considerable force at Owen's Crossroads, and ordered Morton to open upon him with his battery. On December 3, Morton's battery was mentioned as taking part in the shelling and capture of Stockade Number Two on the railroad from Nashville to Murfreesboro.

Following this campaign, Forrest's forces withdrew into Mississippi, where, on February 13, 1865, in the reorganization of his forces, Morton's Battery was attached to Brigadier General W. H. Jackson's Division. Along with the rest of Forrest's command, it was paroled at Gainesville, Alabama in May, 1865; and so ended, after almost four years of service, the career of one of the best known, and most highly regarded, of the Tennessee batteries.

CAPTAIN BAYLOR PALMER'S TENNESSEE LIGHT ARTILLERY COMPANY
"Reneau Battery"

This company was raised in West Tennessee within the Federal lines in early 1863 as part of Colonel R. V. Richardson's West Tennessee Brigade. It was organized June 1, 1863, and mustered into Confederate service by Colonel Richardson on that date. Most of the men seem to have been from Tipton and Fayette Counties. Richardson's Brigade made a hasty evacuation of West Tennessee about August 1, 1863, and reached Okolona, Mississippi August 10. The muster roll of the battery had many names with the comment "cut off in the evacuation of West Tennessee." The only report from the battery showed station, Okolona, Mississippi, July-September, 1863.

Brigadier General J. R. Chalmers, reporting on his raid into West Tennessee and the attack on Collierville on October 10, 1863, stated: "Near Salem, Tennessee, Colonel Richardson joined me on the night of the 8th with his brigade, and the Reneau Battery of two six-pounders, commanded by Captain Palmer." The battery, with Richardson's Brigade, then went on to the attack on Collierville on October 11.

Colonel Richardson, reporting on his activities in October, mentioned the Reneau Battery as being engaged with his brigade near New Albany, Mississippi on October 5; in the attack on Collierville, October 11; and in engagements near Byhalia, Mississippi October 12; and at Wyatt, Mississippi October 13.

Prisoner of war records show Captain Palmer as captured October 13 at Whytle's Ferry, near Wyatt, Mississippi. On November 28, a report on the artillery in North Mississippi listed Reneau's Battery, four six-pounder smooth bores, attached to Richardson's Brigade.

The only subsequent record of the battery was a pencilled note on the muster roll stating the battery was disbanded by order of the Adjutant and Inspector General's Office July, 1864. The order was not found, and nothing is known as to what became of the members of the battery when it was disbanded. Captain Palmer himself was released at Johnson's Island, June 12, 1865, upon taking the Oath of Allegiance.

CAPTAIN J. W. PHILLIPS' TENNESSEE LIGHT ARTILLERY COMPANY
"Johnston Light Artillery"

Formerly J. Wesley Eldridge's—Eldridge E. Wright's—John W. Mebane's.

This company was organized October 15, 1861 in Hardin County, with J. Wesley Eldridge as captain; some of its men came from Fayette and Wayne Counties. On December 3, 1862, at Murfreesboro, it was reorganized with E. E. Wright as captain. Wright was killed in the fighting around Murfreesboro, and Lieutenant John W. Mebane succeeded him as captain in February, 1863. Lieutenant J. W. Phillips was reported as commanding the company in June, 1864, and continued in command until the end. Sometime later, date not known, he was commissioned captain. The company was paroled at Meridian, Mississippi May 10, 1865.

On December 20, 1861, General Reuben Davis, Mississippi Volunteers, was assigned to command of the fortifications in and around Bowling Green, Kentucky, and the battery was placed in his command. On January 31, 1862, it was placed in Colonel John S. Bowen's Brigade, Brigadier General John B. Floyd's Division, of Major General Hardee's command. The next time it was reported was in May, 1862, when it was in Brigadier General S. B. Maxey's Brigade, at Corinth, Mississippi. As part of this brigade it moved to Tupelo, and from there to Chattanooga, where the brigade formed part of Major General Sam Jones' command.

On September 17, General Jones, at Chattanooga, wrote General Bragg, in the field, with regard to strengthening the forces in Kentucky, "I shall send Howard's Cavalry and Eldridge's Battery with General Maxey, and there shall be no delay which I can prevent in pushing forward Maxey's Command." No record was found as to when, or to what point, Maxey's Command was pushed forward, and the report on November 11, 1862 showed the battery in King's Battalion of Artillery, Colonel F. M. Walker's Brigade, Brigadier General J. C. Breckinridge's Division of the Army of Middle Tennessee with Headquarters at Murfreesboro.

On November 29, an inspection report showed Eldridge's Battery armed with two six-pounder guns, and two 12-pounder bronze howitzers, but in need of horses and harness. A few days later, the battery was reorganized, and Captain Eldridge was not re-elected. He was later given staff duty.

In the Battle of Murfreesboro, December 31, 1862-January 2, 1863, the battery was attached to Brigadier General William Preston's Brigade, of Breckinridge's Division, and lost six killed, 14 wounded and two missing, including Captain Wright, who was killed, and Lieutenant Mebane, who was wounded.

The battery was stationed at Tullahoma and Wartrace until June, 1863, when Breckinridge was sent to Jackson, Mississippi, where, on June 6, the battery was reported as the Johnston Artillery, Captain Mebane, in Brigadier General M. A. Stovall's Brigade. On July 30, again as the Johnston Artillery, the battery was reported in Major Rice E. Graves' Artillery Battalion along with Cobb's Kentucky and Slocomb's Louisiana Batteries. The battalion was attached to Breckinridge's Division, in Hardee's Department of Mississippi and Eastern Louisiana. These batteries remained together until near the end of the war, and the battalion was later known as Captain (later Major) Robert Cobb's Battalion. While in Mississippi, the division was engaged in General Joseph E. Johnston's effort to relieve Vicksburg, Mississippi.

The division returned to the Army of Tennessee in time for the Battle of Chickamauga, September 19-20, 1863, where Mebane's Battery was attached to Stovall's Brigade. General Breckinridge reported: "The excellent battery of Captain Mebane, from the nature of the ground, was able to take but little part in

the action." It had three men wounded; was armed with four 12-pounder howitzers; expended 76 rounds of ammunition; and had five officers and 68 men engaged.

It was again engaged in the Battle of Missionary Ridge, November 25, 1863, where "the guns could not be sufficiently depressed to command the slope of the hill." Here the casualties were two wounded, one missing.

The battery then fell back to Dalton, Georgia, where on December 14, it reported 51 effectives, 84 present and absent, 66 horses, and four 12-pounder howitzers. In January, 1864, part of Waters' Company "B", 2nd Alabama Artillery Battalion, was transferred to the battery to bring it up to strength. Cobb's Battalion was attached to Hood's Corps until April 10, when it was transferred to Hardee's Corps. On April 1, it reported 66 effectives, 98 present and absent, 39 serviceable horses, and 22 horses needed.

As part of Hardee's Corps, the battery took part in the almost daily fighting from Dalton to Atlanta in the spring of 1864, with Lieutenant Phillips in command on June 30, and from that time on. After the evacuation of Atlanta, when General Hood took command of the Army, Cobb's Battalion was placed in Major General B. F. Cheatham's Corps, where it remained until after the Battle of Nashville in December, 1864. General William B. Bate reported that when he resumed command of his division at Cedartown, Georgia on October 10, 1864, Cobb's Artillery Battalion was composed of Slocomb's Louisiana, Beauregard's South Carolina, and Phillips' Tennessee Batteries. It moved up to Dalton, Georgia, where the Federal block house was captured, across through Alabama, and crossed the Tennessee River on November 13, 1864. Bate's Division took part in the Battles of Franklin, and of Nashville, but no specific mention of the battery's activity was found.

After the retreat from Tennessee, the battery was sent to Mobile, Alabama, where on March 10, 1865, Cobb's Battalion, composed of Phillips', Ritter's and Slocomb's Batteries, was reported as part of the Right Wing, Defenses of Mobile, with the Artillery under the command of Major Melanchthon Smith, with Major General D. H. Maury in command of the Department. Mobile was taken by the Federals on April 12, but the Confederate forces had evacuated the day before. A letter from Lieutenant L. E. Wright, dated April 22, 1865, said there were only 15 effectives left in the battery. The battery was surrendered as part of the forces of Lieutenant General Richard Taylor, and was paroled at Meridian, Mississippi May 10, 1865.

CAPTAIN MARSHALL T. POLK'S TENNESSEE LIGHT ARTILLERY COMPANY

Also called Company "G", Artillery Corps of Tennessee

This company was mustered into Confederate service at Camp Brown, Union City, on August 7, 1861. Individual records show a good many enlistments from Hardeman County at Bolivar, May 25, 1861.

It was first reported by Brigadier General Charles Clark as being present, without harness, at Union City, on August 5, 1861. On September 7 it was reported at Columbus, Kentucky, in Colonel W. H. Stephens' Brigade. On October 24, still at Columbus, it was reported in Colonel J. Knox Walker's Brigade, Brigadier General Gideon J. Pillow's Division.

On November 7, 1861, at the Battle of Belmont, Missouri, Polk's Battery, along with Jackson's, was sent across the river to reinforce General Pillow. The steamer lost its gangplank in attempting to make the landing, and had to return. Polk's Battery was landed later in the day, but too late to see action.

On March 9, 1862 it was in Colonel Preston Smith's Brigade, Corinth, Mississippi. In the Battle of Shiloh, April 6-7, 1862, it was in Brigadier General Bushrod R. Johnson's Brigade, Major General B. F. Cheatham's Division. It entered the battle with 102 engaged, reported four killed, 18 wounded, two missing. Out of 81 horses in service it lost 30; and out of six guns used, lost two guns and six caissons. One of the missing was Captain Polk, who had his leg broken, and was taken prisoner.

In the morning of the 6th, the 154th Tennessee Regiment, Blythe's Mississippi Regiment, and a section of Polk's Battery were temporarily detached from Johnson's Brigade by General Bragg, and placed on the right. Colonel Preston Smith, of the 154th Tennessee spoke highly of the section of Polk's Battery with him.

He stated that Sergeant Pirtle and Corporal John Kenney could hardly be persuaded to leave their gun after all the horses had been killed, and the gun had to be abandoned. General B. R. Johnson also commended the conduct of the section with him. Johnson was wounded, and Colonel Smith took command of the brigade, bringing the two sections together in the afternoon.

Following the Battle of Shiloh, since the term of enlistment had almost expired, and the battery was disrupted by injuries, the loss of its captain, two of its guns, and all of its caissons, the company was disbanded at Corinth, Mississippi in April 1862. By comparison of the muster rolls, 23 men from Polk's Battery were identified as having reenlisted in Carnes' Battery, and others may have enlisted in other batteries.

CAPTAIN D. BRECK RAMSEY'S TENNESSEE BATTERY

Formerly Gustave A. Huwald's Howitzer Battery—Huwald's Battery, Horse Artillery.

This battery was mustered into service at Knoxville, June 21, 1862 by order of Major General E. Kirby Smith, with only 10 men on roll, commanded by First Lieutenant Gustave A. Huwald, and later attached to Colonel Starnes' 4th (3rd) Cavalry Regiment. It served throughout the war attached to cavalry units; first in East Tennessee and Kentucky; then with General N. B. Forrest's Corps at Chickamauga; and finally with General Joseph Wheeler's Corps for the balance of the war.

Additional men were transferred to it from infantry and cavalry units, and it left Knoxville June 30, for Rogersville, where it was assigned to Colonel B. J. Allston's Cavalry Brigade, of which Starnes' regiment was a member. Allston's Brigade was in Brigadier General Henry Heth's Division. On August 4, Brigadier General Forrest, in Middle Tennessee was advised that Starnes' regiment, Howard's Battalion, and Huwald's Mountain Howitzer Battery had been ordered to join him, but that it would be probably two weeks before Starnes and Huwald could join him. This was a decidedly optimistic estimate, for Huwald's Battery never did join Forrest until just before the Battle of Chickamauga, by which time Forrest was a corps commander rather than a brigade commander.

In the meantime, it remained in the vicinity of Rogersville for about six weeks, and then crossed the Cumberland Mountains with General E. Kirby Smith's Army on August 17, 1862, en route for his invasion of Kentucky, attached to Brigadier General T. J. Churchill's Division. At the capture of Richmond, Kentucky, August 30, the battery was attached to Colonel Scott's Cavalry Brigade, and one piece under Lieutenant Ramsey stationed on the turnpike to Tate's Creek, three pieces under Lieutenant Huwald on the turnpike to Lexington, with no infantry support. A company report states they were driven from these positions by enemy sharpshooters. The report goes on that on September 4, near Shelbyville, Kentucky, Colonel Starnes with 600 men and this battery attacked an enemy column 9000 strong, with nine pieces of artillery, which was retreating to Louisville. On September 14, in the attack on Fort Munfordville it shelled the enemy camp south of Green River for two hours. On September 28, it was within eight miles of Louisville. On October 4 it was engaged in a skirmish at Hardinsville, on October 8 took part in the attack and capture of Frankfort, in an engagement lasting six hours. When Bragg retreated from the Battle of Perryville, which took place on the same day, the battery fell back into Tennessee, arriving at Sparta October 22, and was sent to Knoxville, where it arrived on October 26, to be refitted.

Here it was assigned to Brigadier General John Pegram's Cavalry Brigade. It remained at Knoxville for about three months, recruiting and refitting. On January 25, Lieutenant Ramsey was sent to Hawkins County for 30 days to recruit. On February 7, a detachment of 24 men under Captain Huwald, with one three-inch rifled gun left to join General Pegram, moving first to Rogersville; then to Holston Springs; then to Mocassin Gap; then to Clinton, Anderson County; and on February 24 arrived at Beaver Creek where it went into camp. On February 20, 1863, one detachment of the battery was reported at Knoxville, with Captain J. W. Stokes commanding the post; the other with General Pegram.

On March 19, the battery was reported with Pegram's Brigade en route to Kentucky,