

Nov. 29th

RECEIVED
STONES RIVER
NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

DEC 02 '93

Stones River National Battlefield
Route 10, Box 495
Murfreesboro, TN. 37130

Supt.	WP 12/3
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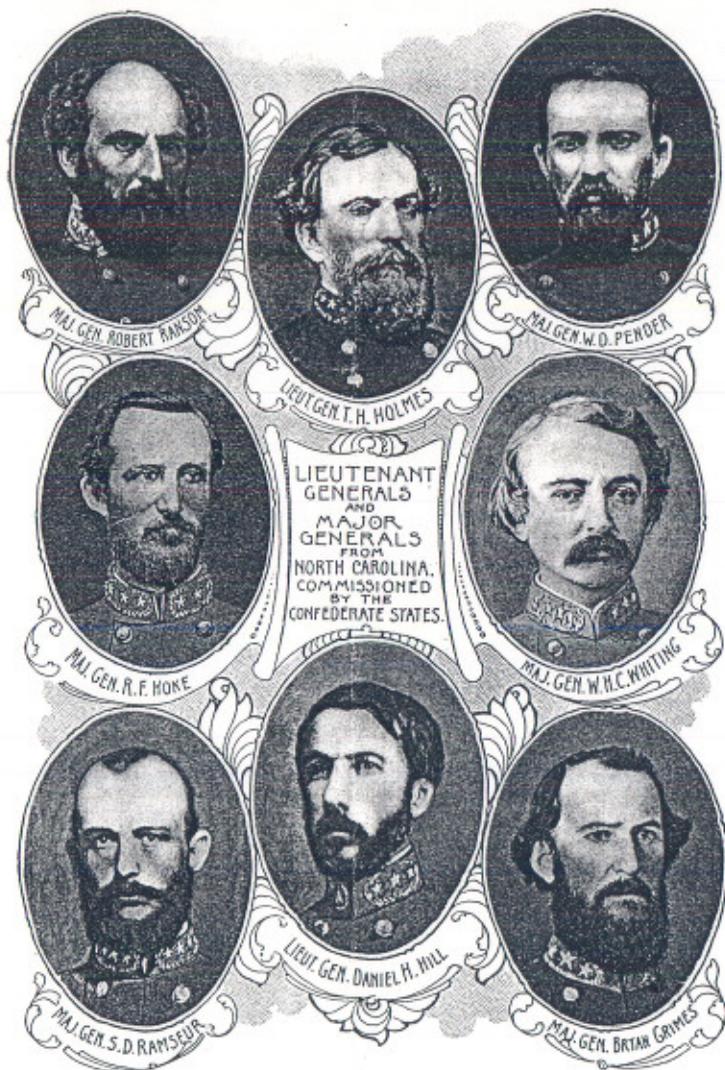
Dear Sir:

My great grandfather, W^m S. McClure was a private in the 29th NC Infantry, CSA and was wounded at Stones River.

Enclosed is some information about the 29th NC Infantry's involvement in the battle, and I hope that these pages add some facts to your library. I thought that the story about "Gen. Rains' black horse" was very interesting.

Best wishes,
Clayton Bught
90 Beaver Creek Lane
Sharpsburg, GA. 30277

Copy - Gib 12/3
Original - RDB



HISTORIES
 OF THE
 SEVERAL REGIMENTS AND BATTALIONS
 FROM
 NORTH CAROLINA
 IN THE
 GREAT WAR 1861-'65.

WRITTEN BY MEMBERS OF THE RESPECTIVE COMMANDS

EDITED BY
 WALTER CLARK,
 (LIEUT.-COLONEL SEVENTIETH REGIMENT N. C. T.)

VOL. II.

PUBLISHED BY THE STATE.

NASH BROTHERS,
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 GOLDSBORO, N. C.

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The regiment then marched across the country 150 miles, joining General Johnston's army at Martin, Miss., 23 July, 1863, and thence was sent to Meridian, Miss., by rail 27 July. On 24 August, 1863, the regiment was sent to Chattanooga, arriving 30 August, and was attached to Ector's Brigade, Walker's Division, D. H. Hill's Corps, in Bragg's Army. In the great battle of Chickamauga, fought 19 and 20 September, 1863, the regiment distinguished itself. It was heavily engaged both days. Its losses were 80 killed and wounded and 30 missing. On 23 September Ector's Brigade was ordered back to Meridian, arriving there 2 October, 1863. On 5 December the regiment was sent to Brandon, Miss.

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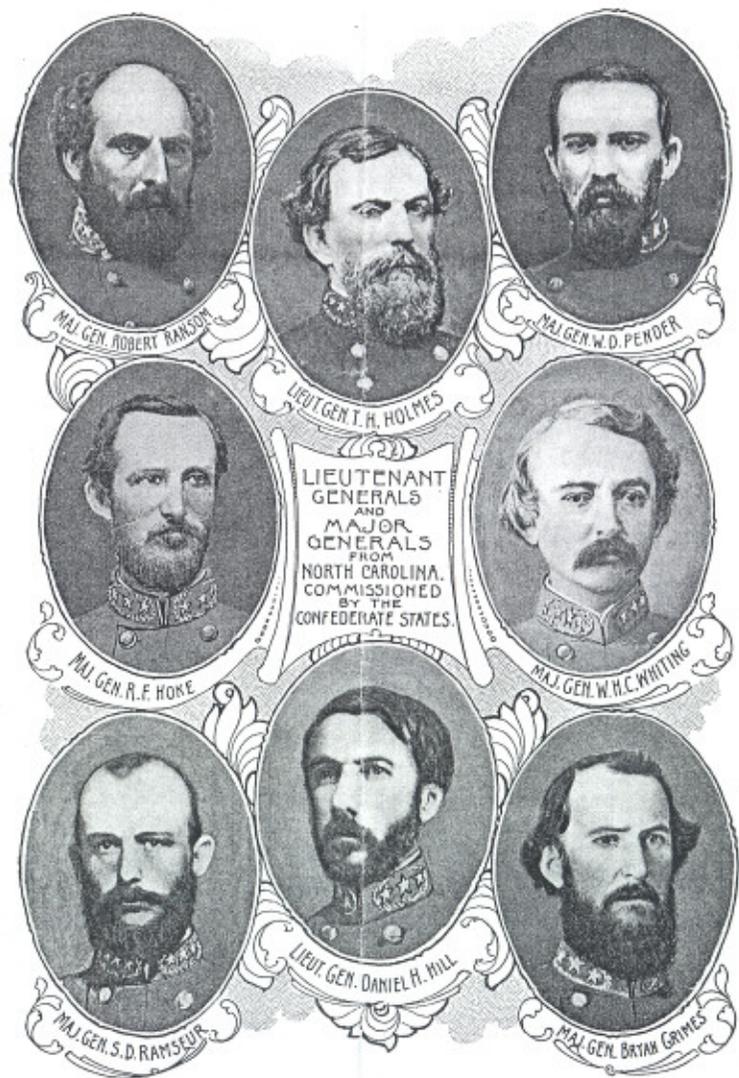
regiment was marched back through Cumberland Gap, and Knoxville to Lenoir Station, Tenn., and from there it was sent on a mission to McMinnville. While there, on Christmas day, orders were received to march at once to Murfreesboro, which order was obeyed promptly. We arrived on the battlefield and camped on Stone's river on the night of 30 December, 1862. Next morning, before day, we forded Stone's river and took possession on the extreme left of the army. Only Wharton's cavalry was on the left of us. General Raines, on his large, black horse, at once rode down the lines and complimented the regiment. He was splendidly dressed and was full of ardor.

The command had just fairly got dressed when the word was given—forward, and at that early hour of the morning the division in which we moved began a right half wheel under Raines, McCown and Hardee. Not a gun was yet fired. A little while before the crack of day, no doubt there was a quiver in the two great armies extending four miles on the bank of the river. The Twenty-ninth brought on the battle. About a hundred yards from where we had stood in line, we encountered a fence about 15 feet in height. While the fence was being laid down for the Colonel to ride through and the men were climbing it, the sharp report of a rifle broke the stillness. Waldrop, of Captain Dewese's company, was on top of the fence. The minies from the hostile ranks killed him, and he was the first that day to fall in the Southern army, so far as we could ascertain. The fire was then opened by the Twenty-ninth and by the next until the firing extended four miles to our right, and the hiss of minies was incessant, while presently boom, boom rang the big guns on our right. Ere long we sighted a section of artillery, and the regiment charged. The guns were shotted, but the gunners did not have time to fire, and the officer in charge broke to run. Captain Jno. A. Teague, however, soon overhauled him, put his hand on his shoulder and stopped him. The Federal Captain said, "You've got me," "Yes," replied Teague, "but you gave us a mannerly race." The section of artillery was sent to the rear, and about 10 a. m. we were drawn up in line to inspect the cartridge boxes. We then had about ten

ounds per man. Then, without any skirmish line General Raines started us down through the open woods. He had just said, "I will bet my black horse on the Twenty-ninth," when a line of blue coats arose almost in our faces and fired, when alas, the gallant and impetuous soldier, General Raines, was killed, the ball cutting the gauntlet of his right hand and passing into his heroic breast. The black horse galloped forward into the ranks of fire and I saw him no more.

Color-Sergeant John R. Rich, of Asheville, says this noted black horse from which "General Rains" was killed, was seen again, probably not by "General Vance," but by himself and others. That in less than an hour after charging into the Yankee lines, in a counter-charge made by the enemy, a Federal officer, seemingly of some rank, was mounted upon him and he, too, was shot (by our men) and falling, the horse continued forward into the ranks of the Eleventh Tennessee and was captured by the men of this regiment; possibly the only instance during the war in which an officer of rank, on either side, was killed from the same horse in the same battle. Color-Sergeant Rich was so small and so young that he was not allowed to enlist regularly, but like many other boys of our dear Southland, would not be deterred by little obstacles of that kind, but followed along with the battle, without gun, and when the first man in ranks fell he grabbed his gun and went to shooting. A little later the color-bearer being killed, he voluntarily caught up the flag and carried it almost continuously to the end.

The regiment charged, and the Federals fell back through a dense cedar thicket. When the Twenty-ninth North Carolina and the Eleventh Tennessee got through what General Withers calls "the cedar pedregal," they were confronted by three lines of battle with Napoleon guns between the regiments. The fire was terrific, the tree tops falling all around. Colonel Vance's horse was killed in this fire, the shell going into his body near the left stirrup leather. Sixty of the Twenty-ninth North Carolina were killed and wounded in a few minutes. Adjutant John E. Hoey was struck with a spent ball. At this moment Major Bradshaw, of the Eleventh Tennessee, reported to Colonel Vance that Colonel Gor-



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29th REGIMENT N.C. TROOPS

This regiment was composed of mountain-county companies and was organized at Camp Patton, Asheville, on September 24, 1861; it was then ordered to Camp Vance, near Sulphur Springs in Buncombe County, where it began training. On October 28 the regiment broke camp and moved to Raleigh, where it arrived on November 6 and was issued arms, equipment, and uniforms. The regiment left Raleigh on November 25 under orders to proceed to Jonesboro, Tennessee; it arrived at Haynesville Depot, near Jonesboro on the East Tennessee & Virginia Railroad, on November 30.

Because of the activities of the large pro-Union faction in eastern Tennessee, the situation in that region was, and remained, a source of grave concern to Confederate and North Carolina authorities. On December 3 the 29th Regiment, with three companies of the 3rd Battalion Georgia Infantry, was dispatched to Cocke County, Tennessee, to engage a band of Unionists reported gathering at or near the bend of the Chucky River in the vicinity of Parrottsville and Newport. The four-day expedition met with little success because the Unionists retired to the hills and offered only token resistance to the advancing Confederates. In an effort to establish Confederate authority in the region, three companies of the regiment were then stationed at Parrottsville and three were sent to Warrensburg. Shortly thereafter the entire regiment was detailed for duty at various posts and bridges between Haynesville Depot and Chattanooga, on the East Tennessee & Virginia and the East Tennessee & Georgia railroads. Colonel Robert Vance, commander of the 29th Regiment, established regimental headquarters at Knoxville; Companies A and E were stationed at Loudon; Companies B and C were at Chattanooga; Company D was detailed at Charleston; Company F was sent to Lick Creek Bridge; Company G was at Midway; Company H was at Strawberry Plains; Company I was at Morristown; and Company K was at Flat Creek Bridge.

The companies remained on detached service until February 20, 1862, when the 29th Regiment was ordered to Cumberland Gap and was assigned to the garrison commanded by Colonel James E. Rains. At Cumberland Gap in late March the regiment was under fire during a skirmish with a Federal force. When General Carter L. Stevenson assumed command of the Cumberland Gap defenses on or about April 1, the 29th Regiment was assigned to his brigade along with the 30th Regiment Alabama Infantry, 3rd Battalion Georgia Infantry, 42nd Regiment Georgia Infantry, 4th Regiment Tennessee Infantry, 11th Regiment Tennessee Infantry, several unattached infantry companies, the 3rd Battalion Tennessee Cavalry, and three batteries of artillery.

On April 29 a second Federal attack against Cumberland Gap was turned back. The Federal commander, General George W. Morgan, then moved his men through gaps to the south, flanked the Confederate defenses, and forced the Confederates to abandon their position. Following the evacuation of Cumberland Gap on June 18, General Stevenson fell back to Bean's Station, ten miles northwest of Morristown. The Confederate forces in East Tennessee, now under the overall command of General E. Kirby Smith, were then reorganized, and the recently promoted General James E. Rains assumed command of Stevenson's brigade after Stevenson was promoted to division commander. On July 3, 1862, the 29th Regiment was officially reported as a part of the Second Brigade (Rains) of the First Division (Stevenson) of the Department of East Tennessee. In addition to this regiment, Rains's brigade was composed of the 4th Regiment Tennessee Infantry, 11th Regiment Tennessee

Infantry, 42nd Regiment Georgia Infantry, 3rd Battalion Georgia Infantry, and a battery of artillery.

Early in August, 1862, General Smith, acting in cooperation with the army of General Braxton Bragg at Chattanooga, began to move his force of about 18,000 men against the Federal force at Cumberland Gap. On August 5 the 29th Regiment was involved in a skirmish at Tazewell; it was then detached from the main force and sent with several other units to Baptist Gap, about five miles south of Cumberland Gap.

General Smith, in the meantime, had found the Federal garrison at Cumberland Gap too strong to attack; and, leaving Stevenson's division to contain the Federals, he moved northward with 9,000 men on August 24 to support Bragg's invasion of Kentucky. On August 30 Smith routed a force of green Federal troops at Richmond, Kentucky, and on September 1 he entered Lexington. The Federals evacuated Cumberland Gap on September 17, and Stevenson's division, now rejoined by the 29th Regiment, occupied the position the next day. On September 19 the division marched to join Smith in Kentucky, and on October 2 Smith's reunited force encamped at Frankfort.

General Bragg's defeat by a greatly superior Federal army at Perryville on October 8 brought his and Smith's invasion of Kentucky to an abrupt end, and the two commanders retired with their forces into Tennessee. Rains's brigade retreated with Stevenson's division through Cumberland Gap and encamped at Bean's Station on October 25. After a few days' rest, the 29th Regiment moved to Lenoir Station, twenty miles southwest of Knoxville on the East Tennessee & Georgia Railroad; it remained there until ordered to Normandy Station, ten miles east of Shelbyville on the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad, on November 15. Moving by rail, the regiment, with the rest of Rains's brigade, arrived at Normandy Station on November 18. On November 28 the brigade was moved ten miles east to Manchester, and on December 7 it was sent north to Readyville, near Murfreesboro, where it arrived three days later.

Early in December, 1862, General Smith was reassigned, and Rains's brigade was transferred to General John P. McCown's division of General William J. Hardee's corps of General Bragg's Army of Tennessee. The 29th Regiment was detached on December 18 and sent to McMinnville; on December 25 it was ordered to Murfreesboro, where it rejoined the brigade.

After their success against Bragg at Perryville the Federals took the offensive in Tennessee; and in late December, 1862, a Federal army of approximately 41,000 men under General William Rosecrans moved south from Nashville against Bragg's 35,000-man army at Murfreesboro. There Bragg had taken a position astride the shallow waters of Stones River with Hardee's corps on the east bank (the right of Bragg's line) and the corps of General Leonidas Polk on the west bank. After waiting in vain for an expected Federal attack on December 30, Bragg decided to attack the Federal right the next day and moved the divisions of McCown and General Patrick R. Cleburn west of the river. At the same time, Rosecrans was making plans of his own for an assault on the Confederate right.

Bragg struck first on the morning of December 31 and, after hard fighting, forced the Federal right wing back to a position perpendicular to the Federal center and parallel to the river. Rosecrans then cancelled his scheduled attack, called up reinforcements, and by early afternoon had fought the Confederates to a standstill. Two more determined Confederate assaults in the late afternoon were

repulsed with heavy casualties to the attackers.

The next day, January 1, 1863, Rosecrans pushed a force across to the east bank of Stones River, and inconclusive fighting continued at other points along the lines. On January 2 Bragg suffered heavy casualties in attacking the Federals on the east bank; he abandoned the battlefield on January 3 and withdrew in the direction of Shelbyville. During the Battle of Murfreesboro (known also as Stones River) the 29th Regiment lost about sixty men killed and wounded. General Rains was killed in the assault of December 31, and Colonel Vance of the 29th Regiment was assigned to temporary command of the brigade.

At Shelbyville, Bragg's army established a defensive position and began reorganizing. Several regiments were transferred from Rains's (Vance's) brigade and several new units were added, so that the brigade was now composed of the 29th Regiment N.C. Troops, 39th Regiment N.C. Troops, 3rd Battalion Georgia Infantry, and the 9th Regiment Georgia Infantry. At the same time, General W. B. Bate was assigned to command the brigade, and General Alexander P. Stewart replaced McCown as commander of the division.

The 29th Regiment remained at Shelbyville until May 12, 1863, when it and the 39th Regiment were ordered to Mississippi. The regiment arrived at Jackson on May 18 and marched thirty miles to Canton, where General Joseph E. Johnston was organizing an army to move against the Federals besieging Vicksburg. After moving by rail to Vaughan's Station, forty miles north of Jackson, the regiment was assigned to Colonel Claudius C. Wilson's brigade of General W. H. T. Walker's division of Johnston's army. On June 1 the regiment moved to Yazoo City, where it remained on garrison duty until it was forced to evacuate, after the fall of Vicksburg, on July 13. The regiment rejoined Johnston's army at Morton on July 23 and was ordered to Meridian on July 27. It remained there until August 24, when it was incorporated into General Matthew Ector's brigade of Walker's division. In addition to the 29th Regiment, Ector's brigade was composed of Stone's Battalion Alabama Sharpshooters, Pound's Battalion Mississippi Sharpshooters, the 9th Regiment Texas Infantry, and the 10th, 14th, and 32nd Regiments Texas Cavalry (serving as infantry). Ector's brigade was ordered to join Bragg's army at Chattanooga and reached Chickamauga Station, south of Chattanooga, on August 30.

General Bragg, having been repeatedly outmaneuvered by Rosecrans during the latter's offensive in the summer of 1863, retired from Chattanooga on September 7-8. Rosecrans then pushed three widely separated columns into the rugged north Georgia mountains, where a major Federal disaster probably was averted during the second week of September thanks to the ineptness and timidity of several of Bragg's lieutenants. On the morning of September 19, by which time Rosecrans had succeeded in reuniting most of his command behind the west branch of Chickamauga Creek, heavy and extremely confused fighting broke out between the two armies and lasted the rest of the day. Neither side was able to gain a clear advantage. The next day a Confederate attack on the Federal left, in which Ector's brigade took part, was stalemated with heavy casualties, but an attack by General James Longstreet on the right struck a gap in the enemy lines and precipitated a near rout of the Federal army. Only the stubborn and courageous defense of General George H. Thomas's corps against furious Confederate attacks prevented a debacle and permitted Rosecrans to escape with his army into the Chattanooga fortifications.

During the battle the 29th Regiment lost about eighty men killed and wounded and thirty missing.

On September 22, 1863, Ector's brigade was ordered to rejoin General Joseph E. Johnston's army in Mississippi. The brigade traveled by rail to Meridian, where it arrived on October 2, and was assigned to General Samuel G. French's division. The division moved to Brandon, Mississippi, on December 5. On December 16 General Johnston was ordered to take command of the Army of Tennessee at Dalton, Georgia, and General Leonidas Polk replaced Johnston as commander of the Department of Mississippi, Alabama, and East Louisiana.

Ector's brigade remained at Brandon until early January, 1864; it then moved to Meridian, where Polk was concentrating his command against a Federal force under General William T. Sherman. When Sherman advanced on Meridian, Polk retired to Demopolis, Alabama. Sherman's men occupied Meridian on February 14 and destroyed the town before retiring on February 20. Polk's infantry remained at Demopolis until ordered to Georgia in early May.

The Federal army in the Chattanooga area, under the direction of General Sherman, advanced against Johnston's position at Dalton, Georgia, on May 5, and Polk was ordered to move his force to Rome in support of Johnston. From Rome, Polk moved one of his divisions, commanded by General W. W. Loring, north to Resaca, just south of Johnston's position at Dalton. When it became evident that the main Federal thrust would be against Resaca, Johnston retired there and joined Loring. Ector's brigade, which was still a part of French's division, remained temporarily at Rome.

On the night of May 15 Johnston, dissatisfied with his position at Resaca, retreated to Calhoun, where he was joined by Polk's command; Johnston then fell back to Adairsville, Cassville, and Allatoona Pass. Declining to attack the strong Confederate position at Allatoona Pass, Sherman then cut loose from the Western & Atlantic Railroad, whose tracks he had been following, and marched south toward Dallas. Johnston followed, and on May 25 the two armies were engaged at New Hope Church. (At about this time the 39th Regiment N.C. Troops was assigned to Ector's brigade.) Skirmishing continued on May 26, and on May 27 new fighting broke out at Pickett's Mill. With his left flank in danger of being turned, Johnston retreated southeastward toward Marietta. Skirmishing between the two armies continued on a daily basis, and the 29th Regiment lost 2 men killed, 24 wounded, and 26 missing in fighting at or near Lattimer's Mills.

On June 8 Johnston fell back again to a strong position at Kennesaw Mountain, just northwest of Marietta. One division was left at Pine Mountain, several miles in advance of the Kennesaw Mountain line, and it was while observing the enemy from Pine Mountain that General Polk was killed on June 14. General Loring was appointed temporary commander of Polk's corps, and the division at Pine Mountain was pulled back to Kennesaw Mountain. Loring's corps held the right of the defensive line while Johnston's other two corps, commanded by Generals William J. Hardee and John B. Hood, held the center and left respectively. On June 27 two Federal assaults against the Confederate position were repulsed with heavy casualties to the attackers.

Sherman then reverted to his previous tactic of extending his line beyond the flank of the outnumbered Confederates, and Johnston retired during the darkness on July 2 to a prepared position along a ridge behind Nickjack Creek, which crossed the Western & Atlantic Railroad at

Smyrna, about six miles south of Marietta. Loring's corps was on the right of the line near Smyrna and received the brunt of an attack launched by the Federals on July 4. The 29th Regiment was actively engaged and lost 2 men killed, 8 wounded, and 27 missing. Johnston then withdrew to a position on the Chattahoochee River, which he occupied on July 5. On July 7 the corps previously commanded by Polk and Loring was assigned to General Alexander P. Stewart. Thus the 29th Regiment was now a part of Ector's brigade of French's division of Stewart's corps.

Sherman quickly moved up his army on the track of Johnston, and on July 8 he began fording the Chattahoochee upstream from the Confederate position. Johnston fell back to a defensive position on Peachtree Creek, north of Atlanta. By July 10 Johnston was in position on a line which began at the Western & Atlantic Railroad (about two miles south of the Chattahoochee River) on the left (west), extended six miles east to the confluence of Peachtree and Pea Vine creeks, and then turned south until it crossed the Georgia Railroad between Atlanta and Decatur. Stewart's corps was on the left on Peachtree Creek.

Johnston's withdrawals through north Georgia during the summer of 1864, although skillful, were both unproductive and self-defeating in the view of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, and on July 17 he replaced Johnston with one of the latter's corps commanders, General John B. Hood. Having no option other than to take the offensive, Hood launched a furious but poorly conducted, costly, and unsuccessful attack in which Stewart's corps took part. During the Battle of Peachtree Creek on July 20 the 29th Regiment lost twenty-eight men missing.

Hood then fell back to the fortifications of Atlanta and prepared to defend the city. Heavy fighting broke out on July 22 and, at Ezra Church, just west of Atlanta, on July 27. (General Ector was wounded on the latter date and was succeeded temporarily by Colonel William H. Young of the 9th Regiment Texas Infantry.) During August Sherman pursued a strategy of extending his lines west and south of Atlanta in order to cut Hood's railroad communications. Hood sought to match the Federal extensions, and by August 25 the lines had reached a point near the railroad junction at East Point. The brigade's activities during the period were described by Colonel Young as follows (*Official Records*, Series I, Vol. XXXVIII, pt. 3, p. 911):

From the 5th [of August] to the 27th the daily routine of service in the brigade was almost unvaried. From one to two regiments constantly occupied the picket-line; they successfully prevented the further advance of the enemy, and were constantly exposed to heavy fire of small-arms and occasionally from artillery. The other regiments lay behind the main works.

On August 26 Sherman made a new and powerful thrust to the south which quickly resulted in the severing of both the West Point and the Macon & Western railroads. While Stewart's corps remained behind to hold the Atlanta fortifications, Hood's other two corps, under Hardee and Stephen D. Lee, moved south to attempt to dislodge the Federals from the Macon & Western Railroad at Jonesboro. After an unsuccessful two-day battle during which two brigades of Hardee's corps were virtually destroyed, the Confederate force retreated from Jonesboro to Lovejoy's Station, just south of Jonesboro. There it was joined by Stewart's corps and Hood, who had evacuated

Atlanta on September 1. During the Atlanta campaign the 29th Regiment lost 1 man killed, 20 wounded, and 4 missing.

Following Sherman's occupation of Atlanta, the two armies maintained their respective positions until September 21 when Hood shifted his forces to Palmetto, about twenty-two miles northeast of Lovejoy's Station. Convinced that Sherman had relinquished the initiative and intended to rest on his laurels in Atlanta, Hood moved his army northward on October 1 to strike the Federal supply line on the Western & Atlantic Railroad. On October 4 General Stewart's corps captured the Federal garrisons at Acworth and Big Shanty, on the railroad just north of Marietta, and tore up fifteen miles of track. The next day French's division of Stewart's corps was sent to capture a major Federal supply depot at Allatoona, about five miles north of Acworth. French's men succeeded in driving the determined Federal defenders from two of their three redoubts but broke off the attack when a false report was received that Federal reinforcements were at hand. French then ordered his men to withdraw. Major E. H. Hampton reported the 29th Regiment's part in the Battle of Allatoona as follows (*Official Records*, Series I, Vol. XXXIX, pt. 1, pp. 820-821):

My regiment was formed on the left of Young's brigade on the 5th of October, at 9 a. m., ready for the action at Allatoona. At 10 a. m. we were ordered forward upon the enemy. My regiment moved forward as a unit through the timber, which was very thick. The enemy were meanwhile pouring a heavy fire into our ranks. My regiment had to advance through the forest farther than the other regiments of the brigade, and not being able to see the brigade got separated from and in advance of the brigade. Upon arriving to where the timber was all felled I saw my regiment was separated from the other regiments, and being exposed to a heavy fire from the enemy, and supposing the remainder of the brigade to be in advance, I ordered my regiment forward at a double-quick to within forty feet of the enemy's outer works, where I halted, ordered my men to lie down, rest, and load. After resting from three to five minutes, I ordered my regiment forward. The order was promptly obeyed. They moved into the enemy's works, where they had a hand-to-hand encounter with sword, bayonet, butt of muskets, rocks, &c., killing a good many and capturing 25 or 30 prisoners and the enemy's intrenchments; thence the regiment moved forward to within twenty yards of the foe's last and strong fort, where they remained contending with the enemy until withdrawn by order of Major-General French, when they fell back in good order.

I took 138 aggregate into the action and came out minus 12 killed, 39 wounded, and 3 missing.

Following the battle at Allatoona, Hood moved his army to the northwest and crossed the Coosa River west of Rome on October 10. Sherman, unable to come to grips with the elusive Hood, moved toward Rome and ordered General George H. Thomas, who had been sent back to Tennessee with his corps in September, to guard against a Confederate crossing of the Tennessee River west of Chattanooga. Hood then turned back to the northeast, struck the Western & Atlantic Railroad again at Resaca, and moved to Dalton, where he captured the garrison on October 13. After tearing up twenty miles of track between Resaca and Tunnel Hill, Hood marched west to Gadsden, Alabama. On October 22 he moved to Tusculumbia,

Alabama, where he awaited the arrival of supplies before crossing the Tennessee River. Sherman, convinced that Thomas would be able to deal with Hood, moved his army back to Atlanta and made preparations for his march to the sea.

Hood's men began fording the Tennessee on November 2 but were delayed by bad weather and high water, and it was not until three weeks later that the crossing was completed. Hood then moved against Columbia, hoping to seize the Duck River bridges there and cut off a large Federal force under General John Schofield south of the Duck at Pulaski. After a difficult march during which they encountered rain, sleet, and snow, Hood's men arrived at Columbia to find Schofield's force awaiting them. Hood then attempted to flank the Federals by crossing the Duck east of Columbia, whereupon Schofield, narrowly escaping entrapment, withdrew to Franklin.

Closely followed by Hood, who blamed the Federals' narrow escape on the lethargy of two of his corps commanders, Schofield arrived at Franklin on the morning of November 30 and, finding his crossing of the Harpeth River would be delayed until bridge repairs had been completed, formed a defensive line. Hood, still furious over Schofield's escape at Columbia, ordered his men forward in a frontal assault which produced some of the bloodiest and most desperate fighting of the war. After some initial gains, the frantic attackers were driven back with murderous losses. Hood's army of approximately 24,000 men suffered about 6,000 casualties while Schofield, with about the same number of men, lost 2,000. No casualties were suffered by the 29th Regiment, which was on detached service.

Schofield then withdrew to Nashville and united his command with that of Thomas while Hood, bloodied but still advancing, moved in behind Schofield and began entrenching in the hills south of Nashville. Now outnumbered by a margin of better than two to one, Hood hoped to entice Thomas into attacking him in a defensive position.

On December 15 Thomas launched a massive attack against the Confederate left, which was held by Stewart's corps, drove Ector's brigade (now commanded by Colonel David Coleman of the 39th Regiment N.C. Troops) from the field, and forced Hood to fall back to a new defensive line. The next day a new Federal assault smashed into the corps of General Benjamin F. Cheatham and sent it fleeing in confusion. Stewart's men also fell back in great disarray, and only a stubborn rear-guard action by the corps of General Stephen D. Lee and a heavy rain permitted the Confederates to escape down the road to Franklin.

Although Hood had managed to save a part of his army, the Battle of Nashville was an irredeemable catastrophe for the South because the Army of Tennessee, demoralized and decimated, was destroyed as an effective fighting force. The casualties of the 29th Regiment at Nashville were not reported.

Hood recrossed the Tennessee near Florence with what remained of his army on December 25 and 26, moved through Tusculumbia to Iuka, Mississippi, and from there proceeded to Corinth and Tupelo, where he went into camp on January 10, 1865. Soon after reaching Tupelo, French's division was sent to Mobile to reinforce the garrison commanded by General Dabney H. Maury. Ector's brigade was stationed at Spanish Fort on Mobile Bay and was under siege by Federal forces under General Edward Canby from March 27 until April 8, when the fort was evacuated. Some members of the garrison then retired to nearby Fort Blakely and some moved to Mobile. When Fort Blakely fell on April 9, General Maury evacuated

Mobile and retired with his command to Meridian, Mississippi, where he awaited word on the negotiations to surrender the troops of the Department of Mississippi, Alabama, and East Louisiana. On May 8, 1865, General Richard Taylor, commander of the department, surrendered all of his forces, including the remnants of the 29th Regiment N.C. Troops.

FIELD AND STAFF

COLONELS

VANCE, ROBERT BRANK

Resided in Buncombe County and enlisted at age 33. Appointed Colonel on September 11, 1861. Promoted to Brigadier General on March 16, 1863, and transferred.

CREASMAN, WILLIAM B.

Previously served as Captain of Company B of this regiment. Appointed Major on June 26, 1862, and transferred to the Field and Staff. Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on March 16, 1863. Promoted to Colonel on September 8, 1863. Resigned on or about December 29, 1864. Reason he resigned not reported.

LIEUTENANT COLONELS

WALKER, WILLIAM C.

Previously served as Captain of Company A of this regiment. Appointed Lieutenant Colonel on September 24, 1861, and transferred to the Field and Staff. Declined to stand for reelection when the regiment was reorganized on May 2, 1862.

LOWRY, JAMES MARION

Previously served as Captain of Company C of this regiment. Appointed Lieutenant Colonel on May 2, 1862, and transferred to the Field and Staff. Resigned on June 6, 1862, by reason of "a severe case of typhoid fever." Resignation accepted on June 26, 1862.

GARDNER, THOMAS F.

Previously served as 2nd Lieutenant in Company B of this regiment. Appointed Major on September 24, 1861, and transferred to the Field and Staff. Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on June 26, 1862. Captured by the enemy in the autumn of 1862. Exchanged at or near Vicksburg, Mississippi, on or about December 4, 1862. Resigned on March 2, 1863, by reason of "chronic diarrhoea of five months' standing consequent on an attack of pneumonia, with which he was attacked in Kentucky [and] in consequence of which he fell into the hands of the Yankees and the exposure he suffered while in their hands greatly aggr[ava]ted his disease." Resignation accepted on March 16, 1863.

PROFFITT, BAGCHUS S.

Previously served as Captain of Company K of this regiment. Appointed Major on October 29, 1863, to rank from March 16, 1863, and transferred to the Field and Staff. Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on March 7, 1864. Died near Demopolis, Alabama, March 21, 1865.

MAJOR

HAMPTON, EZEKIEL H.

Previously served as Captain of Company G of this regiment. Appointed Major on August 15, 1864, to rank from March 16, 1863, and transferred to the Field and