

# THE HUNTSVILLE HISTORICAL REVIEW

Volume 10 July – October, 1980

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# The Huntsville Historical Review

Volume 10 July – October, 1980

EDITOR  
HENRY S. MARKS

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HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA



A CASE STUDY:  
NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST'S RAID IN  
NORTHERN ALABAMA AND TENNESSEE -  
THE ALABAMA SEGMENT, ATHENS AND  
SULPHUR TRESTLE

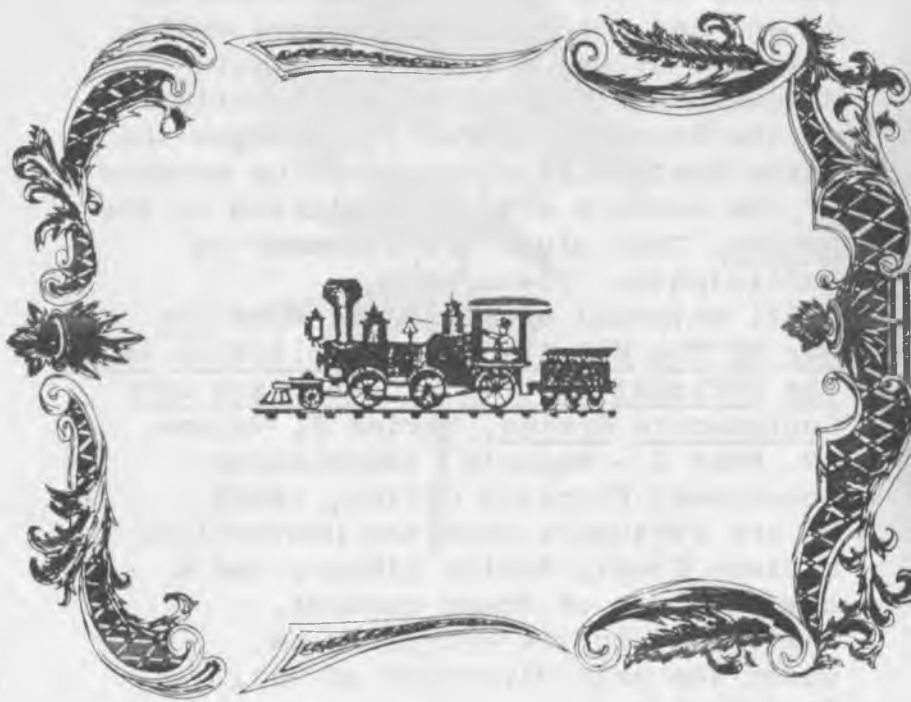
EDITOR'S NOTE:

Here is something new, for a change. Instead of reading an article about Forrest's raid YOU review the notes and documents given here and YOU decide whether or not the Union positions at Athens and Supphur Trestle were well defended by Union forces. We will discuss this raid at a later meeting of the Society. After the meeting the three best written responses by members of the Society will be published in the Review. This gives YOU a chance to participate. Please do.

All material presented is from The War Of The Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Volume 39, Part I - Reports (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1892). We are fortunate that the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library has a complete set of these records, maintained in the Zeitler Room, under the able direction of Mrs. Rane Pruitt.

See also Robert Seph Henry, "First

With The Most" Forrest (Indianapolis, 1944). A good introduction to this raid, from the Confederate point of view, can be found in The Artillery of Nathan Bedford Forrest's Cavalry (Nashville, 1909), by John M. Morton, Forrest's chief of artillery. Morton thought the raid significant enough to devote two chapters to it. The Zeitler room has a reprint of this work, published by the Continental Book Company, Kennesaw, Georgia, in 1962.



SEPTEMBER 16—OCTOBER 10, 1864.—Forrest's raid into Northern Alabama and Middle Tennessee.

SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS.

- Sept. 16, 1864.—Forrest sets out from Verona, Miss.  
21, 1864.—Forrest crosses the Tennessee River.  
23, 1864.—Skirmish at Athens, Ala.  
24, 1864.—Action at and surrender of Athens, Ala.  
25, 1864.—Action at and surrender of Sulphur Branch Trestle, Ala.  
26, 1864.—Skirmish at Richland Creek, near Pulaski, Tenn.  
27, 1864.—Skirmish at Pulaski, Tenn.  
29, 1864.—Skirmish near Lynchburg, Tenn.  
Oct. 1, 1864.—Surrender of block-houses at Carter's Creek Station, Tenn.  
Skirmish near Huntsville, Ala.  
1-2, 1864.—Skirmishes at Athens, Ala.  
2, 1864.—Skirmish near Columbia, Tenn.  
10, 1864.—Action at Eastport, Miss.

REPORTS.\*

- No. 1.—Maj. Gen. Lovell H. Rousseau, U. S. Army, commanding District of Tennessee.  
No. 2.—Bvt. Brig. Gen. Daniel C. McCallum, U. S. Army, Director-General and Manager Military Railroads.  
No. 3.—Lieut. Albert Kramer, Sixty-eighth New York Infantry, Assistant Inspector of Block-Houses.  
No. 4.—Lieut. Col. Alfred B. Wade, Seventy-third Indiana Infantry.  
No. 5.—Maj. Gen. Robert H. Milroy, U. S. Army.  
No. 6.—Brig. Gen. Robert S. Granger, U. S. Army, commanding District of Northern Alabama.  
No. 7.—Lieut. Henry C. March, One hundred and fifteenth Ohio Infantry, Assistant Inspector of Railroad Defenses.  
No. 8.—Col. Wallace Campbell, One hundred and tenth U. S. Colored Infantry.  
No. 9.—Brig. Gen. John C. Starkweather, U. S. Army.  
No. 10.—Col. William B. Sipes, Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry, commanding post of Columbia.  
No. 11.—Col. George Spalding, Twelfth Tennessee Cavalry, commanding Fourth Cavalry Division.  
No. 12.—Col. George W. Jackson, Ninth Indiana Cavalry.  
No. 13.—Col. George B. Hoge, One hundred and thirteenth Illinois Infantry, commanding brigade.  
No. 14.—Maj. Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, C. S. Army.

No. 1.

*Reports of Maj. Gen. Lovell H. Rousseau, U. S. Army, commanding District of Tennessee.*

NASHVILLE, TENN., *September 25, 1864—8.50 p. m.*

Dispatches just received indicate that this afternoon the forces at Sulphur Branch trestle, consisting principally of dismounted men from Ninth and Tenth Indiana Cavalry, 800 strong, with two pieces of artil-

\* For Grant's reference, see Vol. XXXVIII, Part I, p. 26; and for reports of Thomas, Morgan, Smith, White, McDonald, Richman, Martin, Pearce, Vernon, McLaughlin, and Langley, see operations in North Georgia and North Alabama, *post*.

lery in a fort, surrendered to Forrest, who appears to be tearing up the track and capturing block houses and forts as he goes. Rebel forces were reported advancing on Elk River bridge. General Croxton left Franklin with brigade of cavalry at daylight this morning. I have sent by train to Pulaski 1,300 cavalry and a battery, and will follow in an hour with all the other force that can be spared from here. Troops sent to re-enforce the Nashville and Chattanooga road should report to General Milroy at Tullahoma, as he has full instructions where to place the men.

L. H. ROUSSEAU,  
*Major-General.*

Maj. Gen. GEORGE H. THOMAS, *Atlanta, Ga.*

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PULASKI, *September 27, 1864—1.15 p. m.*

Infantry all here and formed in line ready for the enemy. Cavalry have just completed the retrograde movement and formed on the left. Pretty brisk skirmishing. Enemy advancing. We are all ready and anxious. We shall attack. Troops here, except those brought with me, are worthless; the most demoralized I have ever seen. The enemy are moving round in our rear, 3,000 men and six pieces of artillery, it is reported.

L. H. ROUSSEAU,  
*Major-General.*

Brig. Gen. J. D. WEBSTER, *Nashville.*

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PULASKI, *September 27, 1864.*

Skirmishing was kept up all day. This evening the enemy advanced a heavy skirmish line to within a short distance of ours. It is my impression, also General Johnson's, that their main lines will be advanced to-night, and that they intend to attack in the morning. Our loss to-day will not exceed 80. To avoid a flank movement I sent a brigade of cavalry back on the Nashville pike, six or eight miles from here. I hear of no movement of the enemy in that direction. A prisoner captured in Marshall County reports that he was en route to McMinnville with dispatches for General Williams, who was to join Forrest. This man reports that Forrest has eighteen or twenty pieces [of artillery] and about 7,000 men. Six or seven regiments were recently transferred from Wheeler. The prisoner was recently under Wheeler. To day we withdrew our cavalry, keeping main lines concealed to invite attack, but the ruse failed. The Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry is at Chattanooga. Would it not be well to order it up on the Chattanooga road by railroad? There should be cavalry on that road.

L. H. ROUSSEAU,  
*Major-General.*

Brig. Gen. J. D. WEBSTER.

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PULASKI, *September 28, 1864.*

The enemy withdrew from this place last night, going south. The wires are cut and about sixty yards of the track on one side burnt at a wood-yard about twelve miles north. Have sent Colonel Ord's [?] brigade to watch road and make repairs as far as Culleoka, twenty two miles



north. Forrest may go up on south side of the Elk River to Tullahoma. Have ordered a force to follow and ascertain his intention. Loss yesterday a little larger than first reported. The enemy's loss not less than 200. We think he will strike for the other road, for he has repeatedly declared his intention to be to operate on Sherman's rear. To resist him successfully we must have more cavalry. He has five brigades and several batteries. Show to Miller and Polk.

L. H. ROUSSEAU,  
*Major-General.*

General J. D. WEBSTER.

FRANKLIN, TENN., *September 29, 1864.*

Forrest struck the road, destroying it thoroughly from Athens to within a few miles of Pulaski. The defense of Athens and Sulphur Branch trestle was very poor, as I am informed. I am satisfied that Forrest will not leave till he has thoroughly destroyed the railroad unless killed or captured. His force is an effective one and amounts to at least 6,000 or 7,000 men, with a proper proportion of artillery. Cavalry alone is certain against him, and that should be in such force as to be secure from defeat. He can march away from infantry and can fight or not as best suits his purpose. At Nashville I will probably get the Ninth Ohio Cavalry. Telegraph me at Nashville. My reason for sending the cavalry across was to enable me to unite my force promptly. Once in his rear he could hold my force with part of his while he destroyed the railroad with the balance. In consequence of the scarcity of roads in the country I could not well head him off. As you know the steps taken, please give me full instructions. I have about 3,000 cavalry. I am sure Forrest will return to this road unless defeated or hard pressed from the other. I heard nothing from you until 3.30 this a. m. I am moving infantry on railroad; left Pulaski 4.30 last evening. I am unavoidably delayed by the slowness of trains. Will push forward as rapidly as possible. Forrest took Fayetteville road. It is believed that he will strike Chattanooga road at Duck or Elk River bridges.

L. H. ROUSSEAU,  
*Major-General.*

Maj. Gen. G. H. THOMAS.

TULLAHOMA, *September 30, 1864.*

Forrest struck the road at Athens and destroyed it to within a few miles of Pulaski, where I repulsed him on the 27th instant. An officer, formerly of my staff, now a citizen, was captured by Forrest at Athens. While with the rebels he saw twenty-four pieces of artillery, and estimates his force at 8,000. Forrest is here to stay unless driven back and routed by a superior cavalry force. Infantry can cause him to change camp but cannot drive him out of the State. Forrest's movements are much more cautious than formerly. He has attacked no place held by white men, but every post held by colored troops has been taken, and his destruction of railroad was most thorough. Cavalry is wanted. I have here about 3,000, not enough to fight him without support. There is more than a raid; I regard it as a formidable invasion, the object of which is to destroy our lines, and he will surely do it unless met by a large cavalry force and killed, captured,

or routed. The cavalry, supported by infantry, can fight and defeat him, but he must be caught. He will not give battle unless he chooses to do so. The substance of this dispatch has been forwarded to General Thomas, and I hope I do nothing wrong in sending the same to you.

L. H. ROUSSEAU,  
*Major-General.*

Major-General SHERMAN.

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No. 2.

*Report of Bvt. Brig. Gen. Daniel C. McCallum, U. S. Army, Director-General and Manager Military Railroads.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF MILITARY DIRECTOR AND  
SUPERINTENDENT OF RAILROADS, UNITED STATES,  
*Washington, October 13, 1864.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit the following statement in regard to the effect of the late raid by the rebel General Forrest upon the military railway lines in the Division of the Mississippi:

One engine and twelve cars burned on a trestle near Decatur Junction, all destroyed; three cars burned between Huntsville and Stevenson. All the bridges and trestles between Pulaski and Athens, a distance of thirty miles, destroyed. This embraces Elk River bridge and the most formidable trestle on the Decatur and Stevenson line, 1,100 feet long, and about 90 feet high; and about two miles and a half of track partially destroyed. Between Spring Hill and Columbia, three bridges destroyed and two to three miles of track. The Chattanooga line is uninjured, excepting the tearing up of one or two rails by small guerrilla parties. High water on the Chattanooga and Atlanta line has carried away the bridges over the Chattahoochee and Oostenaula Rivers, and two or three between Chattanooga and Dalton. The rebels have torn up several miles of that track, and altogether it will take until the 20th of the present month to restore communication between Chattanooga and Atlanta. Many engines have been thrown from the track by the removal of the rails, but no very serious accidents have occurred.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. C. McCALLUM,  
*Brevet Brigadier-General and Director-General and  
Manager Military Railroads, United States.*

Hon. E. M. STANTON,  
*Secretary of War.*

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No. 3.

*Report of Lieut. Albert Kramer, Sixty-eighth New York Infantry, Assistant Inspector of Block-Houses.*

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT INSPECTOR OF BLOCK-HOUSES,  
*Columbia, Tenn., October 3, 1864.*

I have the honor herewith to submit my report of damages to fortifications in my section during the recent raid of General Forrest.

On Saturday, 1 p. m., came General Forrest and staff with flag of truce to Block-house No. 5, which was in command of Second Lieut. E.

Nixon, Company E, Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry, and demanded a surrender of the block-house with garrison, which demand Second Lieut. E. F. Nixon complied with without firing a gun. Lieutenant Nixon, who was in command of Block-houses Nos. 3, 4, and 5, ordered the sergeants in command to surrender. Sergt. A. Frohn, Company L, Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry, in command of Block-house No. 4, Bridge No. 4, and Sergt. W. Rhinemiller, Company M, Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry, was in command of Block-house No. 3, Bridge No. 3. Sergt. W. Rhinemiller refused three times to comply. Lieut. E. F. Nixon then threatened to place him in arrest; he also fired on the flag. Lieut. E. F. Nixon rode with Forrest's adjutant to First Lieut. J. F. Long, Company B, Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry, commanding Block-house No. 6, Bridge No. 5, and tried to induce him to surrender, which [he] refused to do, and ordered Lieutenant Nixon, with the adjutant of General Forrest, away from his block-house. First Lieutenant Long fought him from 2 p. m. until 12 m.; killed 10 rebels and wounded several; but they succeeded in destroying his bridge; his command and block-house were uninjured. During the truce, the rebels under cover of the railroad bank, succeeded in firing the bridge with turpentine; one end was burned, and the whole fell in. Block-houses Nos. 3, 4, and 5 are burned to the ground; also Bridges Nos. 3 and 4. It is learned Carter's Creek Station, the water-tank, and saw-mill, and the railroad destroyed from there to Spring Hill. Rumor says Lieutenant Nixon surrendered for a bribe of \$10,000. The rebels had no artillery, and his three block-houses were double cased up to the top log of the loop-holes. The garrisons of the three block-houses and water-tanks and saw-mill were taken prisoners, except 1 man escaped. Block-house No. 3 was garrisoned with thirty-two men, Block-house No. 4 with twenty-two men, Block-house No. 5 with thirty-one men. Thirty men garrisoned the water-tank and saw-mill. Altogether 115 men captured. Rumor says they have all been paroled, and arrived this day at Franklin. Sunday morning at 8 our pickets were driven in at Duck River bridge, but we succeeded in driving them off without any damage to the works, or loss of life. Sunday morning our pickets were attacked on four different roads, Pulaski, Bigbyville, Mount Pleasant, and Hampshire. Fights and skirmishes continued until 6 o'clock in the evening, when the enemy withdrew in the direction of Mount Pleasant, and encamped on General Pillow's plantation, moving next morning in the direction of Waynesborough. Forrest's force is reported at 2,500 men. The railroad is open from here to Pulaski. These are the whole facts as far as I have been able to ascertain. Will report further information as soon as I get it. Have no laborers nor carpenters to build these three block-houses. Please inform me what I shall do.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. KRAMER,

*First Lieut., 68th New York Regt., Asst. Insp. of Block-Houses.*

Maj. J. R. WILLETT,

*Chief Inspector of Fortifications, District of Tennessee.*

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,  
OFFICE CHIEF INSPECTOR RAILROAD DEFENSES,

*Nashville, Tenn., October 9, 1864.*

Respectfully referred to Maj. B. H. Polk for the information of General Rousseau.

JAS. R. WILLETT,

*Major and Chief Inspector Railroad Defenses.*

[Second indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE,  
*Nashville, Tenn., October 10, 1864.*

Respectfully forwarded for the information of the major-general commanding the Department of the Cumberland.

LOVELL H. ROUSSEAU,  
*Major-General.*

B. H. POLK,  
*Major and Assistant Adjutant-General.*  
(In the absence of the general commanding.)

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No. 4.

*Reports of Lieut. Col. Alfred B. Wade, Seventy-third Indiana Infantry.*

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,  
*Athens, Ala., October 2, 1864—10 a. m.*

SIR: Have just repulsed Brig. Gen. A. Buford's command, who were well supplied with artillery. Have dispatched Major McBath in pursuit. Attack commenced 3 o'clock yesterday p. m. Cannonading very severe from 6 a. m. to 8 a. m. to-day. Our loss not ascertained, but very light, as had constructed a temporary bomb-proof. Will send particulars by next courier.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. B. WADE,  
*Lieutenant-Colonel Seventy-third Indiana, Commanding.*

Lieut. CHARLES T. HEWITT,  
*Actg. Asst. Adj. Gen., 1st Brig., 4th Div., 20th Army Corps.*

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HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,  
*Athens, Ala., October 3, 1864.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of an engagement between the troops under my command and the enemy under command of Brig. Gen. A. Buford, at this place, on the 1st and 2d instant:

My force consisted of detachments from my own regiment (Seventy-third Indiana Infantry), Tenth Indiana (dismounted) Cavalry, and one section of Battery A, First Tennessee Artillery. A portion of the Second Tennessee Cavalry joined me when the engagement commenced, making a total force of about 500 effective men, opposed to which was General Buford's division of cavalry, with one battery of four guns, estimated by prisoners who had been with him since leaving Fayetteville and who escaped after the battle here at 4,000 men. I do not estimate his force as large as this, but from an order found upon the field from Colonel Bartwell, one of his brigade commanders, it is evident that his whole division invested the place.

The pickets on the Huntsville road were driven in at 3 p. m. October 1. I deployed one company as skirmishers to engage the enemy, who had taken position behind the railroad, and to delay his movements as long as possible. A very heavy rain-storm commenced at this time, which aided this object materially. Firing was kept up on the skirmish line until dark, when I re-enforced it with another company to prevent the enemy from gaining possession of a cluster of buildings near the fort.

The result of the late attacks upon this fort and the one at Sulphur crevice convinced me that the fatal defect in both works was a want of protection for the garrison against artillery, and for two days previous I had labored to remedy this by constructing a temporary bomb-proof of rather a novel character, it being entirely outside of the fort. This work consisted simply in covering the ditch, which was fifteen feet wide and six feet deep, with logs, which with a slight covering of earth, would undoubtedly throw off any shot that might strike. The entrance to this underground apartment, which would be by a covered passageway under the gate of the fort, was unfinished at the time skirmishing commenced, but the delay of the enemy in making the main attack proved our salvation. I continued the work as rapidly as possible, and by midnight it was ready for use. During the night the noise made by the enemy's battery enabled me to locate the position of their guns with certainty, and the two pieces in the fort were brought to bear upon them, ready to return their fire as soon as commenced.

From early daylight until 6 a. m. October 2 a straggling fire with small-arms was kept up from both sides, principally from the west, where a thick growth of timber approached to within short range of the fort. I reserved the artillery to operate against the enemy's battery. At 6 a. m. he opened fire from one gun in position on the Brown's Ferry road, southwest from the fort, which was promptly responded to. Ten minutes after three rifled guns opened upon us in quick succession from a slight elevation half a mile north. With such a cross fire there is scarcely a spot in the fort but what can be reached by a shell, and I immediately moved the troops into the bomb proof, leaving a sufficient number posted as sentinels to watch for indications of an assault. The enemy's guns, after half an hour's practice, obtained the range and threw shell into the fort with great accuracy. About sixty rounds were fired, twenty-two of which struck the fort (nearly all inside), the balance either bursting overhead or passing beyond. Two shots passed through the regimental flag of the Seventy-third Indiana, a tall chimney was crumbled to the ground, one caisson was disabled, and about 30 horses were killed or wounded. Lieutenant Tobin, commanding the section of Battery A, replied to this severe fire coolly and deliberately, and is entitled to much praise for the manner in which he handled his guns. Ambulances were seen moving about in the vicinity of the rebel guns, and it is believed that they did not escape without loss. At 8 a. m. the firing ceased, and General Buford sent in a flag of truce, demanding the surrender of the fort and garrison, and empowering his adjutant-general to grant certain conditions. What these conditions were I did not inquire, but promptly refused to surrender. I inclose herewith copies of the correspondence which passed. The enemy basely took advantage of this flag to move a portion of his troops to within 200 yards of the fort, forming, as I suppose, for a charge in case we should refuse to surrender. I therefore concentrated the artillery and infantry at that point, but subsequently learned that it was simply a cover to enable them to steal six wagons and four ambulances directly from under my guns. Respect for the usages of war prevented me from opening fire while the flag was in sight, but as soon as it disappeared I opened briskly and drove them from this new position, killing 4. A number were wounded, but were carried off in the wagons. Finding that his artillery practice, hitherto so successful, was perfectly useless here, and not daring to attempt an assault upon our excellent fortifications, the enemy commenced drawing off his troops at once, leaving a body of sharpshooters to attract our attention. Suspecting some-

thing of this kind, at 9.30 a. m. I pushed out skirmishers in every direction, and, with the assistance of the artillery, drove them from the field. Major McBath, with the Second Tennessee, immediately commenced the pursuit, and ascertained that the whole force retreated down the Florence road.

Our loss in this action was only 2 slightly wounded; that of the enemy, with the exception above mentioned, unknown.

The conduct of the troops was all that could be desired. Both officers and men seemed animated by a determination never to surrender. To Major McBath, commanding Second Tennessee; Captain Eaton, commanding Seventy-third Indiana; Captain Gaffney, commanding Tenth Indiana, and Lieutenant Tobin, commanding artillery, I am indebted for the prompt and efficient disposition of their commands in all movements during the siege.

I consider the bomb-proof by which we were protected the main feature of this defense, and estimate the saving in casualties by it to be at least 10 per cent. The moral effect upon the men was great, and the two hours' cannonading to which they were subjected only confirmed their belief that they could hold the place against almost any force that might attack. The fact that a garrison of 600 men were compelled to surrender this same fort only a short time since leads me to call attention to the necessity of having fortified places provided with a good bomb-proof, large enough to contain the garrison. This can be constructed simply by digging a ditch through the center of the fort, the roof, consisting of timber covered with earth, to be on a level with the surface of the ground. This plan might be carried out in the construction of stockades.

A. B. WADE,

*Lieutenant-Colonel Seventy-third Indiana, Commanding.*

Lieut. CHARLES T. HEWITT,  
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Inclosure No. 1.]

HEADQUARTERS IN THE FIELD,  
*Near Athens, Ala., October 2, 1864.*

COMMANDING OFFICER U. S. FORCES,  
*Athens, Ala. :*

SIR: Having invested your place with a sufficient force to reduce it in a short time, for the sake of humanity I demand the surrender of the fort, garrison, &c. Certain conditions will attend the surrender, with which conditions the bearer of this note will acquaint you.

I am, sir, with much respect,

A. BUFORD,

*Brigadier-General, Provisional Army, C. S., Commanding.*

[Inclosure No. 2.]

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,  
*Athens, Ala., October 2, 1864.*

Brig. Gen. A. BUFORD, Provisional Army, C. S.,  
*Commanding Confederate Forces in front of Athens, Ala. :*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this date, demanding the surrender of the fort and garrison under my command. In answer I would say that having a sufficient force to defend the place I decline to surrender.

A. B. WADE,

*Lieutenant Colonel Seventy-third Indiana, Commanding.*

No. 5.

*Report of Maj. Gen. Robert H. Milroy, U. S. Army.*

HDQRS. DEFENSES NASHVILLE AND CHATTANOOGA R. R.,  
Tullahoma, Tenn., October 20, 1864.

MAJOR: In obedience to the telegraph order this day received from the major-general commanding the District of Tennessee to furnish a report of the operations of the troops under my command during recent movements of the enemy against our railroads, I respectfully submit the following brief statement of the very brief operations of my command during recent movements of the enemy against our railroads:

I learned on the 28th [ultimo] that the rebel forces under Forrest were moving east from Pulaski in the direction of this railroad. I kept cavalry scouting parties well out on the various roads leading west, to ascertain at what point he aimed to strike. On the night of the 28th ultimo, a small scouting party of rebels cut the telegraph wire, tore up and burned the railroad track to a small extent three miles north of this place. I sent out a construction train early in the morning of the 29th, with a guard, and soon repaired the break in the track and wire. In the afternoon of the same day a scouting party of the Twelfth Indiana Cavalry met Forrest's advance eleven miles out, a short distance from Lynchburg, and had a sharp skirmish with them. I confidently expected an attack at this place the next morning, the 30th ultimo, but to my great disappointment and disgust they failed to come, and my preparations for meeting them were useless, and my expected opportunity for wiping off the rust of fourteen months' comparative inactivity was lost.

Forrest turned back immediately after the skirmish above mentioned, and this railroad has not since been disturbed by his or any other rebel forces.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
R. H. MILROY,  
Major-General.

Maj. B. H. POLK,  
Assistant Adjutant-General, Nashville, Tenn.

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No. 6.

*Report of Brig. Gen. Robert S. Granger, U. S. Army, commanding District of Northern Alabama.*

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF NORTHERN ALABAMA,  
Decatur, October 10, 1864.

MAJOR: I have the honor to make the following report of the part taken by a portion of the forces under my command during the Forrest raid on the Tennessee and Alabama Railroad:

On the return of Major-General Rousseau from the pursuit of Wheeler, and after the receipt of the order for the return of the troops to their stations, I was so apprehensive that the enemy, who was still in large force on the south side of the Tennessee, might recross and attack the railroad, that I retained the One hundred and second Ohio and Seventy-third Indiana Infantry at or near Decatur, and the Thirteenth Wisconsin Infantry at Huntsville, where these forces might be available to

meet the raiders, but the major-general commanding requiring the services of the Twelfth Indiana Cavalry, 800 strong, and the Fourth Tennessee Cavalry, 550 strong, the former being sent to Tullahoma, and the latter to Nashville, my reserve, much reduced by sickness, was entirely absorbed in filling the places of these regiments. On the 20th of September Wheeler's force, variously estimated at from 4,000 to 6,000 cavalry, was at or near Courtland, where it was rumored he was preparing his force to recross the river or attack Decatur. Roddey, at the same time, was reported at Shoal Creek with three regiments. Other rebel forces, it was stated, were also in the same district. On the same day we received information that a force of 700 men passed Somerville going toward Guntersville, and finally General Clanton, with a considerable force, was at Larkin's Landing, where it was said he was building boats preparatory to crossing the river. I might add here that I had some time previously apprehended that General Forrest might also invade Middle Tennessee, inasmuch as Major-General Smith's forces had been withdrawn to Missouri, and intimated the same to the general commanding the army, but was assured by him that I had nothing to fear from General Forrest. With this assurance I made the best disposition that occurred to me with my now much reduced command, to watch these large forces of the enemy in my immediate front, and guard the river and railroad. I made the following dispositions: I requested the naval officers commanding gun-boats, and ordered Captain Naylor, commanding the Stone River, to patrol the river from Larkin's Landing to Whitesburg, and occasionally to Decatur. Colonel Minnis, Third Tennessee Cavalry, at Athens, I ordered to Rogersville and Lexington to co-operate with Colonel Spalding, who left Pulaski on the afternoon of the 21st for Shoal Creek, to look after the enemy there. I had a few days previously sent a squadron of cavalry to Florence, to watch the enemy's movements opposite that place. Notwithstanding all these precautions, the enemy, in considerable force, made his appearance unannounced at the plantation of Jack Harris, five miles from Decatur, on the afternoon of the 23d of September. As soon as this information was received Colonel Prosser, with 280 cavalry, Second Tennessee, all the available cavalry at this post, was sent to drive them off. Colonel Given, One hundred and second Ohio, was directed to send his regiment to protect the road and re-enforce Athens. Most of his regiment being on picket he sent in its stead a detachment of 360 men, composed of 150 of the One hundred and second Ohio and 210 of the Eighteenth Michigan Infantry, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Elliott. Colonel Prosser drove the enemy back to Athens, killing 5, wounding a number, and making 9 prisoners, where he found Forrest with his command of what he then supposed to be 3,000 or 4,000 men. He extricated his command from this position with considerable skill, and returned to this post at 6 a. m. of the 24th. On the report of Colonel Prosser I immediately set about gathering up all the available forces, without leaving posts defenseless, to send to the relief of Athens. I was already on my way with 250 infantry and about 250 cavalry, expecting to find Lieutenant-Colonel Elliott at the break in the road five miles from Athens, when it was reported that the fort at Athens had surrendered, and the detachment sent to its relief had most gallantly fought its way through Forrest's force to within sight of the fort, only to find that it had been most basely and cowardly surrendered to the enemy, with its ample garrison of 600 men, by Colonel Campbell without firing a gun, after Forrest's demand for its surrender. The conduct of the detachment of the Eighteenth Michigan and One



hundred and second Ohio, under Lieutenant-Colonel Elliott, was as heroic as that of Colonel Campbell was base. When within four miles of Athens they met and drove back an entire brigade of 1,100 men, under Colonel Warren [Colonel Kelley], and forced their way to the very walls of the fort in the face of the entire command of Forrest. So boldly and determinedly did these men fight, until the fall of their leader, that the enemy after their surrender accused the officers of making their men drunk, insisting that no men would fight with such desperation unless under the influence of liquor. Colonel Warren [Colonel Kelley], who commanded the brigade opposed to this detachment, said he had no doubt if they had not found the fort in the hands of the enemy they would have forced their way into it. About one-third of the detachment was killed or wounded before their surrender. There is no doubt they inflicted a still severer loss upon the enemy. Captain Parrish, assistant adjutant-general, on staff of General Roddey, admitted a loss in his command alone of 109 men. As certainly another of Forrest's brigades was engaged at the same time with this detachment, General Forrest must refer to that alone when he states his loss at 5 killed and 25 wounded. This will make their loss by their own admission 139 killed and wounded, which from all the testimony I can get is really below the mark. Citizens of Athens state they admitted to have buried 50. Colonel Campbell surrendered the fort and garrison about 9 a. m. on the 24th of September.

Forrest, after the capture of Athens, moved with his whole force upon Sulphur trestle. This post was garrisoned by about 300 of the One hundred and eleventh U. S. Colored Troops and two pieces of artillery, and was re-enforced on the afternoon of the 24th by about 300 men of the Ninth Indiana Cavalry, under command of Major Lilly, and was afterward still further re-enforced by the Third Tennessee Cavalry, nearly 400 strong, under Colonel Minnis. This regiment left Rogersville on the approach of Forrest's force, retreating toward Lawrenceburg, and afterward making their way across Elk River to Sulphur trestle, intending, no doubt, to return to Athens, but were prevented by the appearance of Forrest in the neighborhood of Sulphur trestle. It is not known why Lieutenant-Colonel Minnis did not send a courier to Athens to notify the commanding officer of the post and myself of the approach of Forrest. Sulphur trestle was surrendered about 11 o'clock on the morning of the 25th, after a very gallant defense, Colonel Lathrop, in command, being first killed, Lieutenant-Colonel Minnis, his successor, struck senseless by a piece of shell, and the ammunition of the command being almost expended. We have received no report of the killed and wounded upon either side of this place. As soon as I ascertained that Forrest had attacked the road in large force I reported the same to Major-General Rousseau and Major-General Thomas and asked for re-enforcements. Brigadier-General Starkweather had the posts of Athens, Sulphur trestle, and Elk River bridge under his immediate command, and I believe made an effort to re-enforce them and to move there in person. Why he did not I have not yet learned, he having left on leave of absence before rendering his report. Colonel Spalding must have reported to him the presence of Forrest in Middle Tennessee before it was known to me. Every effort, however, was made by me to raise a force in time to relieve the post of Athens from this side. In addition to the force already specified, my disposable force here did not exceed 500 men. I immediately ordered Colonel Lyon to send me every available man—at least 1,000 from his command—leaving only ten or fifteen men

to a block-house. Colonel Lyon was delayed in sending on the troops asked for for want of transportation. Major-General Rousseau telegraphed me on the 24th that on that morning 2,500 men had been ordered from Chattanooga to re-enforce me, and that a portion had already started. My little force here was on the cars all night of the 24th waiting the promised support, and we were all ready to start the moment they arrived, with five days' rations, but no re-enforcements arriving that night nor up to 8.30 a. m. of the 25th, I telegraphed to Major-Generals Rousseau and Thomas, suggesting that the force coming from Chattanooga be telegraphed at Stevenson to proceed to Pulaski by rail, believing that by this route they would meet the enemy twenty-four or thirty-six hours sooner. I was induced to make this recommendation from the belief that Forrest had by that time destroyed the road or Sulphur trestle and would be at Elk River before the re-enforcements could reach me; that by the time we could get off from here the enemy would be over Elk River, and would most certainly be at Pulaski before we could reach Elk River, with that river to cross after all the bridges had been destroyed. If these reasonable suppositions were correct (and they have since proven to be so) I could not possibly have come up with Forrest in thirty-six hours, being compelled to march the entire distance over muddy roads cut up with the large force of cavalry and train of the enemy. By the railroad the first detachment of the re-enforcements would have reached Pulaski four hours after they would reach me, or by 9 p. m. on the 25th, and could have been at Elk River that night by 12 o'clock at farthest, thus saving thirty-six hours. At 5 p. m. the first detachment of re-enforcements arrived at Decatur Junction, 700 strong. Rations were issued to them. At 8.15 p. m. I had given orders for all to move when telegrams from Generals Webster and Rousseau were received to turn back the re-enforcements intended for me and to order them to Nashville. In order to retard the movements of the enemy as much as possible, I telegraphed to General Starkweather to offer every opposition to his crossing Elk River, and to destroy the bridges and ferries along that stream, which I believed at that time to be too much swollen for the enemy to cross with his artillery. What was done by General Starkweather and his forces I have not yet learned, having received no report from troops north of Elk River; and, as General Rousseau moved to Pulaski, I gave no further orders to troops there, supposing that he had taken them all under his immediate command. Learning that a portion of Forrest's forces was at Elkton, and that our forces were being strengthened about Pulaski, I felt satisfied that Forrest would move by way of Fayetteville to the Nashville and Chattanooga road, and directed Colonel Lyon to keep a scout in direction of Fayetteville to inform me of his arrival at that place. On the 27th I ascertained positively that Wheeler, with his whole force, had passed through Somerville in the direction of Gunter'sville. Clanton was reported with 750 men within four miles of Larkin's Landing. In consequence of the withdrawal of this portion of the enemy's force from the immediate vicinity of Decatur, I deemed it no longer necessary to keep so large a force here. I therefore, on the 29th, ordered the Thirteenth Wisconsin Infantry and Eleventh Indiana from this post to Huntsville, and left for that place myself. I also sent there a section of artillery from this post under escort of a detachment of the Twelfth Indiana Cavalry. Learning that Forrest had passed Fayetteville on the morning of the 30th, I sent a scout in direction of New Market, under Major De Long, who reported early in the afternoon that he had found the enemy four

miles from that place in strong force. This fact I reported to Major-General Thomas and requested re-enforcements of 1,000 or 1,500 men, believing the enemy intended coming down on my line of road. At 3 o'clock I sent Colonel Chapman, with 200 men of Thirteenth Wisconsin Infantry, up the road toward Larkinsville, on a train that I had prepared, strengthened with three-inch oak plank, for the purpose of scouting the road. He found the enemy on the road, about five miles out, and drove them off. About 4 p. m. another force of the enemy attacked our pickets on the Pulaski road, and soon after a flag of truce was sent in by Brig. Gen. A. Buford, with the following communication, addressed to Col. G. M. L. Johnson, commanding post:

NEAR HUNTSVILLE, ALA., September 30, 1864.

Colonel JOHNSON,  
*Commanding U. S. Forces, Huntsville, Ala.:*

COLONEL: I am here in command of the advance of General Forrest's army, with instructions to demand the surrender of the city, the fort, and garrison. An answer to this demand must be made before night-fall. If refused, the citizens must leave at once. Certain conditions will attend the surrender, which conditions Colonel Kelley, the bearer, will acquaint you with.

I am, colonel, very respectfully,

A. BUFORD,  
*Brigadier-General, Provisional Army, C. S., Commanding.*

To which I returned the following answer:

HUNTSVILLE, September 30, 1864.

Brig. Gen. A. BUFORD,  
*Commanding Confederate Forces, near Huntsville:*

GENERAL: General Granger directs me to say that he has assumed command of the forces in this city. He also directs me to say that he will not surrender the fort or city on any terms. You can come and take it as soon as you get ready. The inhabitants of this city are mostly citizens of the Southern Confederacy. He would suppose you would give them more than a couple of hours to leave. You can, of course, in this act your own pleasure.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAM. M. KNEELAND,  
*First Lieutenant, Eighteenth Michigan Infantry, Actg. Asst. Adj. Gen.*

About two hours later I sent the following proposition to General Buford, commanding Confederate forces:

HUNTSVILLE, September 30, 1864.

Brig. Gen. A. BUFORD,  
*Commanding Confederate Forces, near Huntsville:*

GENERAL: General Granger directs me to say that for the sake of humanity he makes the following propositions: If you will pledge yourself that your forces shall not occupy any portion of the city, he will not occupy it, except that part which is in the immediate vicinity of the fort and essential to its defense. If you will attack the city from the south side, he will withdraw all his forces to the fort and meet you there. Or if you will designate some portion of the city which shall be held sacred the citizens will be removed there and the general will not occupy it with his troops. These propositions are made solely to give protection to defenseless citizens.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAM. M. KNEELAND,  
*First Lieutenant, Eighteenth Michigan Infantry, Actg. Asst. Adj. Gen.*

To these propositions Major-General Forrest replied in the following communication:

HEADQUARTERS FORREST'S CAVALRY,  
*In the Field, near Huntsville, Ala., September 30, 1864.*

Brigadier-General GRANGER,  
*Commanding U. S. Forces, Huntsville, Ala.:*

GENERAL: Your communication addressed to Brigadier-General Buford, concerning the positions to be assumed by the two belligerent parties, has this moment been referred to me. I respectfully decline acceding to them. I expect to attack

you to-morrow morning from every rock, house, tree, and shrub in the vicinity, and feeling confident of my ability to succeed in my anticipated attempt, now bid you prepare yourself for the fray. I, however, cheerfully accept the proposition you made to Brigadier-General Buford, namely, to allow two hours of daylight to-morrow morning for the purpose of allowing non-combatants to remove beyond the lines. At the expiration of the third hour of the coming day I shall commence offensive operations, unless another communication is received from you before that time.

I am, general, with great respect,

N. B. FORREST,

*Major-General, Provisional Army, C. S., Commanding.*

The garrison of Huntsville at this time consisted of detachments of the Eleventh Indiana, 400 strong; the Thirteenth Indiana, 700 strong; a small detachment of the Twelfth Indiana Cavalry; in all, 1,200.

About 8 a. m. on the 1st of October the enemy displayed a force of 2,000 cavalry two miles north of the city. He continued to demonstrate with this force, and deployed it across several roads, our small force of cavalry skirmishing with them, and a few shells being fired from the fort, wounding 2 of the enemy, taking off the leg of one and arm of another. About 12 m. it became evident that he was retiring on the Athens road, and by 2 p. m. the last of his forces disappeared. I am now satisfied, from information since obtained, that only a portion of Forrest's force, under command of Brigadier-General Buford, between 4,000 and 5,000 strong, was in the vicinity of Huntsville on the night of the 30th and morning of the 1st; that Forrest was himself on the Meridian road about six miles from the city, and must have left to join his forces, moving in direction of Spring Hill, before daylight on the morning of the 1st. Colonel Thornburgh, who had charge of the cavalry, reports some of the enemy killed or wounded by his command. About 7 p. m. on the 1st General Morgan arrived at Huntsville with his division. I soon after called on him at the depot, and in a consultation reported that the enemy, who had been threatening the city, had moved in the direction of Athens, and suggested that he send forward a detachment of 600 men from his command to repair the road to Decatur, which I believed to be but slightly damaged (my command being too fatigued for that purpose, having been up and at work all the night before), and to move in direction of Athens as soon as it was repaired. General Morgan, however, was of opinion that Forrest was still in the vicinity of Tullahoma, and that this was a demonstration only to draw the forces from that road, and declined to move until he could receive further orders from General Thomas. About 11 o'clock on the 2d I sent out a party myself to repair the road, and the last of General Morgan's forces left for Athens late in the afternoon of the same day.

On the 28th of September I reoccupied Athens with 200 of the Seventy-third Indiana Infantry and 100 of the Tenth Indiana, and a section of Battery A, First Tennessee Artillery.

On the 1st 200 men of the Second Tennessee Cavalry reported to Lieutenant-Colonel Wade; on the evening of the 1st the advance of the cavalry, under General Buford, appeared in the vicinity of Athens, and on the morning of the 2d General Buford demanded the surrender of the fort at that place, which demand was promptly refused by Lieutenant-Colonel Wade, and the enemy commenced his attack soon after, which lasted until 9 a. m., when he withdrew. The conduct of Lieutenant-Colonel Wade and the troops under his command during this short siege was most admirable. I felt satisfied when I placed this officer in command of this post that we should not be again disgraced by a shameful surrender, and that his fort would not be given up without a most heroic defense.

On the withdrawal of Buford from Athens, the forces under my immediate command took no further part in assisting to drive off the forces under Forrest, with the exception of 200 of the Second Tennessee Cavalry, who accompanied General Morgan to Florence.

It gives me pleasure to state that, with the exception of Colonel Campbell, the officers and soldiers of my command conducted themselves in the most satisfactory manner when in the presence of the enemy, and exhibited a most commendable energy and zeal in preparing for the defense of their posts.

Lieut. Col. R. O. Selfridge, assistant inspector-general, volunteered his services upon my staff, and was of great service to me in writing and transmitting orders and discharging whatever duties were assigned to him.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. S. GRANGER,  
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Maj. B. H. POLK,  
*Assistant Adjutant General, District of Tennessee.*

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No. 7.

*Report of Lieut. Henry C. March, One hundred and fifteenth Ohio Infantry, Assistant Inspector of Railroad Defenses.*

CAMP CHASE, OHIO, *December 2, 1864.*

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of the surrender of Athens, Ala., on the 24th of September, 1864, to Major-General Forrest, commanding C. S. forces, and the condition of railroad and other defenses:

About 4 p. m. on the 23d the railroad section foreman reported to Colonel Campbell, commanding that post, that the guerrillas were tearing up the railroad about five miles south of Athens. Major Pickens, Third Tennessee Cavalry, with 100 men, was sent down the Decatur road. Colonel Campbell, taking 150 men on the cars (the train having just arrived), ran down. They succeeded in driving them off. When returning our forces were attacked and a sharp skirmish ensued. About this time our pickets on the Brown's Ferry and Buck Island road were driven in, when our artillery opened from the fort and fired a few rounds. At this time it was dark. The quartermaster's building was set on fire, the enemy having invested the town on all sides and made several attempts to get possession of town, but were driven back with some loss. About 11 o'clock they got possession of the railroad depot. At this time the Second Tennessee arrived and drove them away wounding and capturing several. (The Second Tennessee Cavalry had been out on a scout and were ordered back to Decatur by General Granger's assistant adjutant-general, who was along.) At midnight the commissary building was burned, and during the latter part of the night all troops were moved to the fort.

About 7 a. m. on the 24th the enemy opened on the fort with a 12-pounder battery from two directions, north and west. The cannonading continued about two hours; about sixty shells were thrown, well directed, exploding in and about the fort, and was answered by our artillery, two 12-pounder howitzers. The enemy's fire did us little harm. We had 1 killed and 2 wounded. Our works were not injured in the

least. At about 10 o'clock the enemy sent in a flag of truce, demanding our surrender. The communication, not being signed, was sent back. Another flag was sent by the enemy, communication signed "Major-General Forrest," which was again returned, Colonel Campbell refusing to surrender. General Forrest then asked a personal interview. Colonel Campbell rode out. General Forrest said he came to take the place and intended to do it; that he had 8,000 or 10,000 men. Asked Colonel Campbell to ride around the lines and satisfy himself, which he did. After consulting some of the other officers, the fort and whole garrison were surrendered at 12 m. on the 24th. The terms of surrender were in substance as follows: The officers were to retain side arms and all personal property, be taken to Meridian, Miss., and paroled for exchange soon as communication could be had with General Washburn; the enlisted men to be treated as prisoners of war. The garrison at time of surrender consisted of about 450 men of the One hundred and sixth, One hundred and tenth, and One hundred and eleventh U. S. Colored Infantry, and about 130 men of the Third Tennessee Cavalry. The fort was an earth-work, 180 by 450 feet, surrounded by an abatis of brush and a palisade 4 feet high, and a ditch 12 feet wide, was 18 feet from the bottom of the ditch to top of parapets. The embankment was strong enough to resist any field artillery; in fact, it was one of the best works of the kind I ever saw.

On the morning of the 24th General Granger, commanding at Decatur, sent detachments, by railroad, of the Eighteenth Michigan and One hundred and second Ohio, both amounting to 350 men, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Elliott, of the One hundred and second Ohio, to re-enforce the garrison at Athens. They arrived at the breach in railroad and were attacked by the whole of General Buford's division. Our force, though small, pressed their way on in the direction of Athens, strewing the woods with the enemy's dead. On two occasions heavy lines were formed in their direction, which were charged and driven back in disorder. In this manner they had almost gained the fort, which had been surrendered not more than thirty minutes before they arrived within 300 yards, when they, too, were forced to surrender. We lost in this engagement 106 men killed and wounded, among whom were Lieutenant-Colonel Elliott (since dead), Captain Zody, and Lieutenant Davis. The enemy's loss, killed and wounded, according to their own account, was equal to our force engaged.

#### DEFENSES.

Block-house No. 1, single cased, garrisoned by Lieutenant Hunter and 44 men of the Fourth Tennessee Cavalry, not attacked.

Block-houses Nos. 2, 3, and 4 were double cased, garrisoned by Capt. James Henry, One hundred and eleventh U. S. Colored Infantry, and about 100 men of the One hundred and eleventh U. S. Colored Infantry. These block houses were evacuated, whether with or without orders I am unable to say.

Block house No. 5, double cased, garrisoned by First Sergt. H. C. Weaver (white) and 40 men of the One hundred and sixth U. S. Colored Infantry, was attacked by infantry and surrendered.

Block house No. 6, double cased up to loop-holes, garrisoned by [Capt.] A. Poe and 40 men, One hundred and sixth U. S. Colored Infantry, was attacked by artillery. Captain says there were several shots penetrated the block house, killing and wounding a number. Nos. 5 and 6 were surrendered about 12 m. on the 24th.

Block-house No. 7, double cased, garrisoned by Lieut. J. J. Phifer and about 25 men of the One hundred and eleventh U. S. Colored Infantry, was surrendered on the morning of the 25th without a fight. No artillery could be brought to bear on this block-house. Dense forest all around, through which no roads had been cut. I see no reason to justify this surrender.

Block-houses Nos. 7 and 8 were both double cased, and at Sulphur trestle, that was also defended by a small earth-work in close proximity to both block-houses and trestle. This was defended by about 400 men of the One hundred and eleventh U. S. Colored Infantry, 400 of the Third Tennessee Cavalry, and about 200 of the Ninth Indiana Cavalry. At this place a considerable fight took place. Our forces lost 107 men, among whom was Colonel Lathrop, of the One hundred and eleventh U. S. Colored Infantry. They had exhausted most of their ammunnition; in fact, the cavalry were entirely out and were forced to surrender. This rendered the block-houses useless, which were also surrendered on the 25th.

Block house No. 10, doubled cased, was garrisoned by Capt. S. B. Akins, Company K, One hundred and eleventh U. S. Colored Infantry, and 45 men. This was evacuated (whether with orders I am unable to say) without resistance.

Block-house No. 11, double cased up to loop-holes four days before the surrender. This was also evacuated without any resistance.

Sir, these are the facts of the surrender of the different posts on my section of the Nashville and Decatur Railroad. On the morning of the 24th I, with considerable effort, reached the fort at Athens. I went there for the purpose of helping defend the place, and was surrendered with the garrison.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. C. MARCH,

*Lieut., 115th Ohio Vol. Infy., Asst. Inspector of Railroad Defenses.*

Maj. J. R. WILLETT,

*Inspector of Fortifications, Department of the Cumberland.*

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No. 8.

*Report of Col. Wallace Campbell, One hundred and tenth U. S. Colored Infantry.*

SAINT LOUIS, MO., *November 24, 1864.*

LIUTENANT: I have the honor to submit the following report relative to the surrender of the fort and forces at Athens, Ala., on the 24th day of September, 1864, to Maj. Gen. N. B. Forrest, C. S. Army:

On the 23d day of September, 1864, about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, was informed by ——— Burley, railroad employé, that he had been down the railroad some four miles toward Decatur, Ala., and discovered a body of the enemy, as he supposed, some 200 or 300 strong, tearing up and destroying the track. I immediately ordered 100 men to report at the railroad depot, expecting every moment the evening train from Nashville. As soon as the train arrived, at 4 o'clock, placed my men on a car and started down the road, went four miles from town, found enemy on track, deployed skirmishers, and drove them. They had set fire to a small trestle. I pushed forward and extinguished the fire and crossed with the

train. About a mile farther discovered the enemy were on the track in my rear. I learned at this time, from citizens, that the enemy were in force, commanded by Col. Jesse Forrest. I immediately ordered the train back to town and drove them from the track as I returned. Found the track obstructed in several places. As I reached the outskirts of the town was attacked by enemy, some 1,000 strong; threw men off the train; ordered conductor to run train back under protection of block-house; engaged the enemy for one hour and fifteen minutes, losing 3 men killed and 4 wounded, when, discovering I could not drive them from town, fell back to the fort. I found, on reaching the fort, they had been engaging a large force on the south and southwest part of town. The quartermaster's and commissary stores being in town, about one-quarter of a mile from the fort, I took twenty men and went in town. At this time, as it was impossible to remove them, the quartermaster's stores were set on fire. I now put my men in commissary buildings, determined to hold them if possible. About 9 p. m. Lieutenant-Colonel Prosser, commanding Second Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry, with 500 men, reached the town. I ordered Colonel Prosser to charge down public square and drive enemy from depot. He declined to obey, saying he could not sacrifice his horses. I finally dismounted some thirty of the cavalry and, together with twenty colored infantry, charged down public square and drove them from the depot and extinguished the fire. I captured Surgeon Lauderdale, Fifteenth Tennessee (rebel) Regiment, and a private soldier of the same regiment. I learned from this private soldier that General Forrest, with his entire force, had invested the place, his force being estimated at from 10,000 to 12,000, with nine pieces of artillery. I now ordered all forces in town to the fort, burning all Government property. I ordered Lieutenant-Colonel Prosser to remain at or near the fort. He refused to obey, saying he did not think with his force the fort could be held. He was then ordered by Lieutenant Kneeland, acting assistant adjutant-general of General Granger's staff, to return to Decatur. I sent, by Colonel Prosser, word to General Granger what forces were investing the place. I also started two couriers with dispatches to General Starkweather, informing him of my condition. The one bearing the dispatches was murdered on the outskirts of town, shot after capture. The other escaped with wound through shoulder and returned to the fort. During the night was occasionally annoyed by sharpshooters firing, and could hear their artillery being brought into position.

Just after daylight on the morning of September 24, they opened on the fort with artillery from three different sides, casting almost every shell inside the works. I could not reach them with my 12-pounder howitzers, they being perfectly useless. The firing now ceased, 8 a. m., and I received the following communication from General Forrest:

HEADQUARTERS FORREST'S CAVALRY,  
*In the Field, September 24, 1864.*

OFFICER COMMANDING U. S. FORCES,  
*Athens, Ala.:*

I demand an immediate and unconditional surrender of the entire force and all Government stores and property at this post. I have a sufficient force to storm and take your works, and if I am forced to do so the responsibility of the consequences must rest with you. Should you, however, accept the terms, all white soldiers shall be treated as prisoners of war and the negroes returned to their masters. A reply is requested immediately.

Respectfully,

N. B. FORREST,  
*Major-General, C. S. Army.*



I replied to him as follows:

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,  
*Athens, Ala., September 24, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. N. B. FORREST,  
*Commanding Besieging Forces, Athens, Ala.:*

GENERAL: I have the honor to decline your demand of this date.  
WALLACE CAMPBELL,  
*Colonel One hundred and tenth U. S. Colored Infantry, Commanding.*

I sent Lieut. Col. J. A. Dewey, One hundred and eleventh Regiment U. S. Colored Infantry, and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General William T. Lewis, to receive flag of truce. They met Major Strange, General Forrest's chief of staff, and Colonel Galloway, aide-de-camp, and held conversation with them. They said from conversation held with General Forrest they knew he was determined to take the fort, and if he was compelled to storm it no lives would be spared. I refused to comply with last demand as with first, when General Forrest sent in request for a personal interview, reading as follows:

ATHENS, *September 24, 1864.*

COLONEL: I desire an interview with you outside of the fort, at any place you may designate, provided it meets with your views. My only object is to stop the effusion of blood that must follow the storming of the place.

N. B. FORREST,  
*Major-General.*

I immediately met General Forrest, accompanied by Lieut. Col. J. A. Dewey. General Forrest told me he was determined to take the place; that his force was sufficiently large, and have it he would, and if he was compelled to storm the works it would result in the massacre of the entire garrison. He told me what his force was, and said myself and one officer could have the privilege of reviewing his force. I returned to the fort, when, after consultation with the commanders of various detachments in the fort, it was decided that [if] after reviewing the force of General Forrest I found he had 8,000 or 10,000 troops, it would be worse than murder to attempt to hold the works. I then took Capt. B. M. Callender, First Missouri Light Artillery, and rode round his entire line, thereby satisfying myself and the captain accompanying me that there were at least 10,000 men and nine pieces of artillery. It was now 11 a. m. I had been "dilly-dallying" with General Forrest since 8 a. m. expecting re-enforcements would be sent from Decatur. Believing they could not reach me, I ordered the surrender of the fort. After the surrender I learned that a force of 350 men, composed of the Eighteenth Michigan Infantry and One hundred and second Ohio Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Elliott, of the One hundred and second Ohio, had been surrounded and captured below the town.

The following are the terms of capitulation:

*Agreement entered into at Athens, Ala., on the 24th day of September, 1864, by Maj. Gen. N. B. Forrest, of the C. S. Army, and Col. Wallace Campbell, One hundred and tenth Regiment U. S. Colored Infantry.*

We, on the part of our respective Governments, stipulate and agree that the following articles shall be faithfully executed and maintained:

On the part of the U. S. Government, by Col. Wallace Campbell, that the fort and United States and public Government property at this point be, and the same hereby are, surrendered to Maj. Gen. N. B. Forrest, of the C. S. Army.

On the part of the C. S. Government, by Maj. Gen. N. B. Forrest, that all commissioned officers surrendered or surrendering as above, be, and hereby are, permitted to go to Meridian or some other point in Mississippi, and the said officers shall, so soon as Major-General Forrest can communicate with Major-General Washburn, U. S.

Volunteers, be sent to Major-General Washburn or other commanding officer at Memphis, Tenn., to be retained on their paroles of honor not to act in opposition to the forces of the Confederate States until they are duly exchanged by Generals Washburn and Forrest, which exchange shall occur as speedily as possible. The exchange is to be conducted by an exchange of officers for officers of same rank, and man for man.

Again, said commissioned officers shall and hereby are permitted to retain and keep all their personal property, including horses, saddles, side-arms, and clothing. All this permanently.

Again, the enlisted men (soldiers) of Col. Wallace Campbell's command shall be kindly and humanely treated and turned over to the C. S. Government as prisoners of war, to be disposed of as the War Department of the Confederate States shall direct.

N. B. FORREST,  
*Major-General, Commanding, C. S. Army.*  
WALLACE CAMPBELL,  
*Colonel 110th U. S. Colored Infantry, Commanding.*

About 2 p. m. we were marched south by Florence road. It is the opinion of officers in my command from conversations held with General Forrest and his officers that had the fort been stormed no lives would have been spared.

On the 21st day of September I sent Lieut. Col. J. B. Minnis, commanding Third Tennessee Cavalry, to scout in the direction of Florence, Ala., with instructions to send me courier in case of meeting the enemy or gathering any information, which he failed to do after having met the enemy at or near Rogersville, thereby leaving me perfectly ignorant and unprepared for the approach of such a force.

My force consisted of detachments from the following regiments: One hundred and sixth Regiment U. S. Colored Infantry, 105 men and 4 officers; One hundred and tenth Regiment U. S. Colored Infantry, 233 men and 17 officers; One hundred and eleventh Regiment U. S. Colored Infantry, 80 men and 8 officers; Third Regiment Tennessee Cavalry, 120 men and 4 officers. Total, 538 men 33 officers. Number of men unarmed, 140; number of muskets, 398.

I have the honor to be, lieutenant, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WALLACE CAMPBELL,  
*Colonel 110th U. S. Colored Infantry.*

Lieut. J. D. HAZZARD,  
*Actg. Asst. Adjt. Gen., U. S. Forces, Pulaski, Tenn.*

A D D E N D A .

ENTERPRISE, MISS., *October 17, 1864.*

We, the undersigned officers in the U. S. service, who were surrendered to Maj. Gen. N. B. Forrest, at Athens, Ala., on the 24th day of September, 1864, by Col. W. Campbell, commanding the post, feel it incumbent upon us to make known to the public the precise situation of affairs in the fort at the time, in order that the responsibility of the surrender may rest upon the proper persons, and also to place upon record our judgment as to the necessity of the surrender.

The fort was a strong one, well built, 1,350 feet in circumference, 17 feet from the bottom of the ditch to the top of the parapet, and encircled by both a palisade and an abatis of felled trees. It was considered by inspecting officers to be the strongest work between Nashville and Decatur.

The garrison at the time of surrender consisted of detachments from the One hundred and sixth, One hundred and tenth, and One hundred and eleventh Regiments U. S. Colored Infantry, numbering in the

aggregate 469 efficient men. In addition to the colored troops there were 150 men belonging to the Third Tennessee Cavalry, and two 12-pounder howitzers. On the night of the 23d and 24th the colonel commanding caused nearly, if not quite, all the commissary stores at the post to be moved into the fortifications. These stores were thought ample for a siege of ten days. A well in the fort afforded a sufficient supply of water. As for the ammunition, there was at the time about 70,000 rounds elongated ball cartridges, and an ample supply for the carbines of the cavalymen. For the howitzers there were 120 rounds each.

Our pickets were driven in at 5.30 p. m. of the 23d, and from that time until long past dark there was a good deal of skirmishing. The night was passed in making preparations to receive the enemy and getting provisions into the fort.

On the morning of the 24th, about 7 o'clock, the enemy opened fire on the fort, throwing solid shot and shell from a battery planted on the Buck Island road. Shortly after they opened on us another battery from the Brown's Ferry road. From these two batteries the enemy threw fifty-five or sixty shots. Of this number of shots twenty-four struck in the fort or buildings in the fort, causing the death of 1 man only, a non-combatant, and wounding 1 soldier. At 9 a. m. the enemy sent in a flag of truce demanding the surrender of the place; this was refused by Colonel Campbell. General Forrest then again demanded the surrender of the place, stating that he had ample force to take it and offering to show his force to Colonel Campbell. Colonel Campbell then called a council of officers commanding detachments, in which council, we are informed, but two officers voted in favor of a surrender, neither of whom had a command in the fort. Of the forty-five officers present in the fort at the time this council was held but eight were consulted, and of these eight there were several who had no command present with them in the fort, whilst officers who had the largest number of men under their charge were excluded. Colonel Campbell, after reviewing the forces of the enemy returned to the fort, saying, "The jig is up; pull down the flag," thus surrendering the best fortification on the line of the Nashville and Decatur Railroad.

We also feel it our duty to make mention of the bearing and disposition of the soldiers in the fort, both white and black. It was everything that any officer could wish of any set of men. So far from there being any disposition on the part of the men to surrender or to avoid a fight, it was just the reverse. Officers had to exert all their authority, even to threatening to shoot their own men, to restrain them from exposing themselves. The soldiers were anxious to try conclusions with General Forrest, believing that in such a work they could not be taken by ten times their number. When told that the fort had been surrendered, and that they were prisoners, they could scarcely believe themselves, but with tears demanded that the fight should go on, preferring to die in the fort they had made to being transferred to the tender mercies of General Forrest and his men. Another thing should be taken into consideration, which is that we were on the point of receiving re-enforcements.

While the truce was in operation and during the time occupied by Colonel Campbell in viewing the enemy's force, firing was heard on the Nashville and Decatur Railroad. This came from a force of our troops sent to our relief from Decatur, consisting of detachments from the Eighteenth Michigan and One hundred and second Ohio Infantry, numbering 360 men, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Elliott, of the One hundred and second Ohio, who was severely wounded. These brave men had forced their way through three lines of the enemy, were

within musket-range of the fort when our flag was lowered. The surrender of the fort allowed General Forrest to throw a portion of his force between the fort and them, thus compelling them to surrender after a hard fight of three hours' duration, during which they lost one-third of their number in killed and wounded, and after they had arrived almost at the very gates of our fort.

In conclusion we do not hesitate to say over our signatures that the surrender was uncalled for by the circumstances, was against our wishes, and ought not to have been made.

(Signed) S. W. Pickens, major Third Tennessee Cavalry; Lafayette Coile, captain Company I, Third Tennessee Cavalry; J. A. Goddard, captain Company H, Third Tennessee Cavalry; W. V. Cumming, first lieutenant Company K, Third Tennessee Cavalry; J. T. Homer, first lieutenant Company E, Third Tennessee Cavalry; J. J. Wade, first lieutenant Company B, Third Tennessee Cavalry; A. B. McTeer, lieutenant and regimental quartermaster, Third Tennessee Cavalry; Alfred C. Derrick, first lieutenant Company F, Third Tennessee Cavalry; C. L. Norvell, second lieutenant Company F, Third Tennessee Cavalry; Zene Harlan, captain, One hundred and sixth U. S. Colored Infantry; Benj. Beeson, first lieutenant, One hundred and sixth U. S. Colored Infantry; J. W. Sidwell, first lieutenant and regimental quartermaster, One hundred and sixth Infantry; Ben. F. Woods, second lieutenant, One hundred and sixth U. S. Colored Infantry; Edward H. Chase, captain Company D, One hundred and tenth U. S. Colored Infantry; Norton W. Campbell, captain Company F, One hundred and tenth U. S. Colored Infantry; Zac. C. Wilson, captain Company H, One hundred and tenth U. S. Colored Infantry; Rich'd Atkin, first lieutenant Company K, One hundred and tenth U. S. Colored Infantry; Robt. McMillan, first lieutenant Company D, One hundred and tenth U. S. Colored Infantry; H. M. Sprague, first lieutenant Company I, One hundred and tenth U. S. Colored Infantry; H. E. Blinn, first lieutenant Company F, One hundred and tenth U. S. Colored Infantry; Chas. M. Linn, second lieutenant Company D, One hundred and tenth U. S. Colored Infantry; Jas. M. Mills, second lieutenant Company F, One hundred and tenth U. S. Colored Infantry; J. H. Lauchly, second lieutenant Company H, One hundred and tenth U. S. Colored Infantry; Wm. A. Duckworth, second lieutenant Company K, One hundred and tenth U. S. Colored Infantry; Thad. Donohue, surgeon, One hundred and tenth U. S. Colored Infantry; William King, chaplain, One hundred and tenth U. S. Colored Infantry; W. H. Scroggs, captain, One hundred and eleventh U. S. Colored Infantry; A. W. Forbes, captain, One hundred and eleventh U. S. Colored Infantry; Wm. J. Harrod, first lieutenant, One hundred and eleventh U. S. Colored Infantry; F. M. Crosson, first lieutenant, One hundred and eleventh U. S. Colored Infantry; James H. Lunn, first lieutenant, One hundred and eleventh U. S. Colored Infantry; O. O. Poppleton, second lieutenant, One hundred and eleventh U. S. Colored Infantry.

We also respectfully request that a thorough and immediate investigation of the above statements be made, that our names may not be placed in the list of cowards in the general summing up of our nation's history.

Very respectfully, &c.,

OFFICERS THAT WERE SURRENDERED.

We would also respectfully request that permission be granted us to publish the original statement, of which [this is a] verbatim copy.

Very respectfully,

ROBERT McMILLAN,  
*First Lieut., 110th U. S. Colored Infantry, Parole Camp,  
Benton Barracks, Saint Louis, Mo.*

If permission should be granted please forward papers to the above-named officer.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,  
*Nashville, Tenn.*

[First indorsement.]

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT AND ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,  
*Louisville, Ky., December 15, 1864.*

Respectfully forwarded to headquarters Military Division of the Mississippi.

JNO. H. MONROE,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*  
(In the absence of the major-general commanding.)

[Second indorsement.]

HDQRS. MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,  
*Nashville, Tenn., January 7, 1865.*

Respectfully referred to Maj. Gen. G. H. Thomas, commanding Department of the Cumberland.

By order of Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman:

R. M. SAWYER,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

HDQRS. COMM. ORGANIZATION U. S. COLORED TROOPS,  
*Nashville, Tenn., November 10, 1864.*

Bvt. Col. C. W. FOSTER,

*Asst. Adjt. Gen., Chief of Colored Bureau,  
Washington City, D. C.:*

COLONEL: I have the honor to forward herewith a copy of a letter addressed by me to Brig. Gen. R. S. Granger, commanding the District of Northern Alabama, relative to the surrender of the One hundred and sixth, One hundred and tenth, One hundred and eleventh U. S. Colored Infantry at Athens, Ala., and of his indorsement thereon.

I have the honor, colonel, to be, very respectfully, your servant,

R. D. MUSSEY,  
*Colonel 100th U. S. Colored Infantry,  
Commissioner Organization U. S. Colored Troops.*

[First indorsement.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*November 22, 1864.*

Respectfully referred to Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas, commanding Department of the Cumberland, Nashville, Tenn., for his recommendation.

Colonel Campbell belongs to the One hundred and tenth U. S. Colored Infantry.

By order of the Secretary of War:

C. W. FOSTER,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General, Volunteers.*

[Second indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,  
*Nashville, Tenn., November 23, 1864.*

Respectfully referred to Maj. Gen. L. H. Rousseau, commanding District of Tennessee, for report of the circumstances attending the surrender of the within mentioned regiments.

By command of Major-General Thomas:

HENRY M. CIST,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Third indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE,  
*Nashville, January 20, 1865.*

Respectfully returned with required report.\*

LOVELL H. ROUSSEAU,  
*Major-General, Commanding.*

B. H. POLK,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

(In the absence of the general.)

[Inclosure.]

HDQRS. COMMR. ORGANIZATION U. S. COLORED TROOPS,  
*Nashville, Tenn., October 25, 1864.*

Brig. Gen. R. S. GRANGER,  
*Commanding District of Northern Alabama:*

GENERAL: I have the honor to state that I have some blanks, &c., designed for the One hundred and sixth, One hundred and tenth, and One hundred and eleventh U. S. Colored Infantry. I have heard through the papers that these regiments were all captured by Forrest or surrendered to him by Colonel Campbell. Will you do me the favor to inform me of the facts in this case, and if they were surrendered whether the colonel's action has been approved and where the men now are.

I have the honor, general, to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. D. MUSSEY,  
*Colonel 100th U. S. Colored Infantry,  
Commissioner Organization U. S. Colored Troops.*

\* Not found.

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF NORTHERN ALABAMA,  
*Huntsville, November 2, 1864.*

Respectfully returned.

These three regiments were captured, or parts of them. The conduct of Colonel Campbell is disapproved by every one, and disgraceful in the extreme.

By order of R. S. Granger, brigadier-general commanding:  
DE LOSS C. LE BARON,  
*Lieutenant, Eighteenth Michigan, and Acting Aide-de-Camp.*

—  
SAINT LOUIS, Mo., *November 23, 1864.*

Brig. Gen. WILLIAM D. WHIPPLE,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General, Department of the Cumberland:*

GENERAL: I would very respectfully request that a court of inquiry be summoned to convene at once to inquire into and report on my conduct in surrendering Athens, Ala., to Major-General Forrest, of the so-called Confederate Army, on the 24th day of September, 1864.

I have the honor to be, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WALLACE CAMPBELL,  
*Colonel 110th U. S. Colored Infantry, Paroled Prisoner.*

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,  
*Nashville, Tenn., December 1, 1864.*

Respectfully referred to Maj. Gen. L. H. Rousseau, commanding District of Tennessee, with orders to convene a board of inquiry as soon as practicable.

By command of Major-General Thomas:

HENRY M. CIST,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

—  
HDQRS. U. S. COLORED TROOPS IN THE STATE OF TENN.,  
*Memphis, January 2, 1865.*

Brig. Gen. L. THOMAS,  
*Adjutant-General U. S. Army, Louisville, Ky.:*

GENERAL: Herewith I send you application of Col. Wallace Campbell, One hundred and tenth U. S. Colored Infantry, for a court of inquiry. I respectfully invite your attention to the following facts: Colonel Campbell has been exchanged and ordered to report to his command at Savannah, Ga. He will leave New York on the 18th instant. He desires, if compatible with the interests of the service, to be brought before a court of inquiry before going to his command. Two months ago he made application to Maj. Gen. G. H. Thomas for a court of inquiry. This was before he knew that his case had been referred to you by the War Department for investigation. Nothing has been heard from it. Colonel C. will be in Chicago until the 14th instant. His address is Chicago, Box 3535.

I have the honor to be, general, your obedient servant,  
A. L. CHETLAIN,  
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

[Inclosure.]

PAROLED CAMP,  
*Benton Barracks, Mo., December 15, 1864.*

Brig. Gen. L. THOMAS,  
*Adjutant-General U. S. Army:*

GENERAL: I most respectfully request that a court of inquiry be convened as soon as practicable to inquire into the circumstances attending the surrender of U. S. forces at Athens, Ala., on September 24, 1864, by myself, to Maj. Gen. N. B. Forrest, of C. S. Army.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
WALLACE CAMPBELL,  
*Colonel 110th U. S. Colored Infantry,  
Late Commanding U. S. Forces, Athens, Ala.*

[First indorsement.]

HDQRS. U. S. COLORED TROOPS IN STATE OF TENNESSEE,  
*Memphis, January 2, 1864 [1865].*

Respectfully forwarded.

A. L. CHETLAIN,  
*Brigadier-General.*

[Second indorsement.]

LOUISVILLE, KY., *January 10, 1865.*

Respectfully referred to Maj. Gen. G. H. Thomas.

I have received no instructions to investigate this matter.

L. THOMAS,  
*Adjutant-General.*

[Third indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,  
*Eastport, Miss., January 21, 1865.*

Respectfully returned to Brig. Gen. L. Thomas, Adjutant-General U. S. Army.

If Col. W. Campbell will return to this department, where he can be reached, a court of inquiry will be ordered in his case.

GEO. H. THOMAS,  
*Major-General, U. S. Army, Commanding.*

[Fourth indorsement.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*February 7, 1865.*

Respectfully referred to Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman, U. S. Army, commanding Military Division of the Mississippi, via Hilton Head, S. C., and his attention invited to official copy of letter of this date to Major-General Thomas, which is herewith.\*

By order of the Secretary of War:

O. W. FOSTER,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General of Volunteers.*

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\*See Foster to Thomas, February 6, *post*.



WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Washington, February 6, 1865.

Maj. Gen. GEORGE H. THOMAS,  
*Commanding Dept. of the Cumberland, Eastport, Miss. :*

GENERAL: In reply to your indorsement on the 21st ultimo,\* upon the application of Col. W. Campbell, One hundred and tenth U. S. Colored Troops, for a court of inquiry, I am directed to say that as Colonel Campbell is supposed to be now with his regiment in the Department of the South, it is not considered expedient to order his return to the Department of the Cumberland. The application has therefore been referred to Major-General Sherman for such action as he may deem proper for the interests of the service; and you are requested to send to Major-General Sherman a statement of the facts in regard to the surrender of Colonel Campbell's command to the enemy at Athens, Ala., in September, 1864, together with copies of any charges that may have been preferred against Colonel Campbell in connection therewith.†

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
C. W. FOSTER,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General of Volunteers.*

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No. 9.

*Report of Brig. Gen. John C. Starkweather, U. S. Army.*

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,  
*Pulaski, Tenn., October 1, 1864.*

SIR: I have the honor most respectfully to submit the following report as to the disposition, movements, and part taken by my command in the late skirmishes and battles with General Forrest's forces:

The line being extensive, and nearly all my district defenses attacked from time to time, of necessity my report will be more lengthened than I wish it were. There are many minor details also which in justice to myself and command I am obliged to state in brief, in order that a perfect report may be laid before the general commanding.

On the 19th day of September I telegraphed Brigadier-General Granger that the enemy, 300 strong, were at Florence, and with other distributed commands the enemy were about 1,000 strong, gathering supplies, &c.

On the 21st day of September I telegraphed General Granger that Roddey had crossed the river the Sunday previous with four regiments at Bainbridge Ferry; that the information was from one of my own men who had been captured by them; that my command had driven Biffle, with command 400 strong, from Henryville in the direction of Clifton; that Johnson, with 400 men, was on Cathly Creek night of the 19th; that my forces had returned from pursuit of Biffle and confirmed Roddey's crossing, as already reported. I immediately telegraphed and sent the information to the different commands of my district, and ordered everything placed in good fighting trim and that the most obstinate resistance must be made by all.

Received dispatches on the 22d from General Granger saying he was satisfied as to my Biffle expedition, but to continue watching him and company. Telegraphed him immediately that Wheeler intended mov-

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\* See third indorsement, p. 529.

† No subsequent action in this case is found. Colonel Campbell having tendered his resignation was, upon the recommendation of his superior officers, honorably discharged the service of the United States May 6, 1865.

ing in direction of Huntsville, and again confirmed my reports of the 21st; reported also that a number of bands of the enemy were passing west of Sulphur Branch trestle, and that my colored troops had skirmished with them. On the 23d Col. Wallace Campbell, One hundred and tenth U. S. Colored Infantry, commanding at Athens, dispatched me that enemy were tearing up track (railroad) two miles south of him, and that he should move down and drive them away; dispatched same information to Major-General Rousseau and General Granger, and stated that I would be ready to move at once; and almost immediately informed generals commanding that line was cut south.

Early on the morning of the 24th I dispatched General Rousseau that road had been struck near Athens; that at 5 p. m. on the 23d heavy artillery firing had been heard, with musketry intermingled. and at 7.30 p. m. a bright light as of burning buildings at Athens had been seen; that I had already moved all my mounted force to Sulphur Branch trestle and Elk River bridge, and that I would try and communicate with Athens by courier, and requested him to send the information to General Granger by way [of] Stevenson. Immediately sent another telegram that the enemy, 3,000 strong, passed through Rogersville at 10 a. m. on 23d instant making for the railroad; that the Third [Second] Tennessee Cavalry, Colonel Prosser commanding, had skirmished with the enemy at 2 p. m. the day previous; that I had informed General Granger of the crossing of Roddey on Sunday previous with four regiments, and to inform General Granger of this news also; that my mounted force had moved to the bridges at 3 a. m. that morning, under command of Col. Thomas N. Pace, Tenth Indiana Cavalry. In the mean time I had received dispatches from Colonel Lathrop, at Sulphur Branch trestle, informing me of the arrival at that post of Lieutenant-Colonel Minnis with Third Tennessee Cavalry, on his way to Athens; that the firing in direction of Athens had continued that morning (24th), and that he, Colonel Lathrop, would send forward for information. At this time I received the following dispatch, dated 24th, at Nashville, and signed by command of Major-General Rousseau:

General Granger telegraphs, via Stevenson, that the force on the road below Pulaski is about 200 strong, and that Colonel Prosser is after them; have a few scouts toward the Tennessee River.

Same being immediately followed by the following telegram, dated at Nashville, 24th, by command of Major-General Rousseau:

General Granger telegraphs this morning that the enemy 200 strong struck the road near Athens last evening and burned a house there; he also says a small party was near Decatur; he seems to be waiting for you to attend to the party at Athens. You will attack the enemy vigorously on the road wherever he may be, and please keep us posted.

To which I replied, acknowledging receipt of the two dispatches, and stated that they seemed inconsistent with each other, but that I would fight the enemy if found; that the information which I had already sent was entitled to weight, being from an officer of Colonel Prosser's regiment, who had already met and skirmished with the enemy at 2 p. m. the day previous; that I had ordered Colonel Pace forward to find and attack the enemy, but not to uncover the bridges. I also informed my officers commanding below of the dispatches received as to the 200 men. At about noon same day I dispatched to General Rousseau the information received from Colonel Spalding, dated on the 23d, that Forrest with 8,000 men and eight pieces of artillery passed toward Athens the day previous; that he camped at Rogersville night of 22d. I immediately countermanded my order to Colonel Pace, as to finding and fighting

the enemy, and ordered him to hold the two bridges, and keep open communications. I immediately placed the command in fighting trim and superintended arrangements of fort, court-house, &c., by having supplies of water, rations, and ammunition placed therein. At or near the regular hour trains arrived from Nashville; ordered them to await my orders before moving; telegraphed and asked for orders for the trains, and received dispatch, dated at Nashville 24th, by command of General Rousseau, saying:

If Forrest, with 8,000 men, is on the road, it is deemed unsafe for the trains bound south to proceed, but it is left with you to decide.

I thereupon ordered the trains to return to Nashville and telegraphed General Rousseau that Lieutenant-Colonel ———, Third Tennessee Cavalry, and a captured man of Ninth Indiana Cavalry corroborated all I had already dispatched. Received dispatch by courier from Colonel Pace that Athens had surrendered, and that he was disposing his troops so as to hold the bridges. Informed General R[ousseau] of the fact and that I had no men to re-enforce those posts further, Colonel Spalding's command still being absent and not being under my orders. My effective force at Pulaski, after re-enforcing the bridges with my mounted command, at this time consisted of 23 officers and 519 men, of whom 50 acted upon courier lines, 35 were at the fort guns, and 166 men, with proper officers, were on duty as interior and grand guards, leaving 16 officers and 263 men to perform all the camp and garrison duties outside of special-duty men, all of whom were placed under arms in the court-house and rifle-pits. Soon as Colonel S[palding] arrived I telegraphed the fact, with the further information that Forrest, Roddey, Biffle, and Wheeler were supposed to be concentrated; that enemy were on this side of Athens, moving rapidly, and that I would send Colonel S. to re-enforce the bridges, which I did by assuming the responsibility and issuing a peremptory order to Colonel S. to move at once with his command. This was at 2 a. m. morning of 25th, his command having arrived the night previous at 9 p. m. Telegraphed General Rousseau that he had moved, and for re-enforcements to be hurried forward. Received dispatch, dated on 24th, at Nashville, by order General Rousseau, that General Croxton with brigade of cavalry would move from Franklin at daylight in morning, and that Colonel Jones would leave Nashville at same hour with 1,300 men and a battery; to which I replied, asking that they might move at once, and that then it would be too late, as it was; to hurry them up, I needed them badly. Received dispatch from General Granger, dated 24th, to hold on, that he would join me on the morrow with heavy re-enforcements. Having courier lines established between Sulphur Branch trestle and Pulaski I ordered the most desperate resistance to be made and not to surrender, giving the commandants the information that re-enforcements would arrive soon. Troops were properly posted for making a stubborn defense of this post, and everything, under the circumstances, placed in as good shape as could possibly be. Thus matters continued during the 25th, my forces continually skirmishing and fighting with the enemy, contesting all the ground as well as the strength of the force would allow, slowly retiring from point to point as they were outflanked or overpowered by the enemy's forces.

On the morning of the 25th I was relieved from my command and ordered to turn the same over to the next ranking officer. Colonel Jackson, Ninth Indiana Cavalry, assumed command, by my orders, until the return of Colonel Pace, Tenth Indiana Cavalry, when he, being the ranking officer, assumed command.

Re-enforcements began arriving on the 26th at about 12 m. My forces, under Colonel Spalding, were then fighting, and being driven back slowly; re-enforcements were sent to their support, and reported to Colonel Spalding, commanding, at dark on the 26th instant.

On the 27th the engagement became pretty general, and when the troops were rapidly leaving the field in confusion and disorder, I was, at 12 m., ordered to reassume command, and arrange town and other matters for a stubborn defense. Staff and self immediately set to work, and so continued doing our duty to the best of our ability, and, as I believe, with beneficial results.

Col. Wallace Campbell, commanding at Athens, had a fine force of able-bodied, well-disciplined colored troops, with a fine fort, almost impregnable, with two pieces of artillery, and without that fighting or showing that valor and courage that I expected at his hands, he surrendered his entire command on the morning of the 24th, much to my disgust and to that of his whole command, and, as facts now show, if he had held out even for a short time longer re-enforcements would have reached him, as they were then moving rapidly to his assistance, some arriving just after the surrender of the fort and in time to be captured by the enemy. There may be some reason for this surrender, but with my imperative orders to hold out and fight to the last, he did not do it, and he now being a prisoner I am unable to give the general commanding any definite information upon the subject, only to say that in my judgment it was a disgraceful surrender, not only on account of it in itself, but because it infused a spirit of disappointment and demoralization into the balance of his command in block-houses not yet under fire. After the surrender of Athens the prisoners and artillery were sent to and crossed over the Tennessee River, and the enemy moved on against low trestle or Block-house No. 6, commanded by Lieut. John J. Phifer, Company K, One hundred and eleventh U. S. Colored Infantry, which was also basely surrendered without firing a gun.

Colonel Lathrop, before the surrender of Athens, sent his mounted (force) men under Major Lilly, Ninth Indiana Cavalry, toward the town, and finding it surrounded retired his force upon Sulphur Branch trestle, where, as he dispatches me at 4 a. m., morning of 25th, he intended to make a desperate resistance. Major Lilly, Ninth Indiana Cavalry, with 196 officers and men, Colonel Minnis, Third Tennessee, with about 300 men mounted, were reluctantly ordered by the brave Colonel Lathrop into the fort to help defend it—deprecating this move, in my judgment, in a military point of view, yet believing that Colonel L[athrop] deemed it the best thing to do under the circumstances, it was done; and here was made a stand worthy of the highest praise. With a fort badly constructed, not fully completed, two guns worked by men not artillerymen, but drilled for the purpose from the infantry command, a greatly superior force attacking with much artillery, was fought a battle worth its niche among the well-contested battles of the war; but all was of no avail. The brave Colonel L. fell, killed by the second shot; Colonel Minnis took command and he too was struck down, but rallying fought on bravely and well; ammunition became short and surrender stared them in the face. Colonel Spalding with his small command were inadequate for the occasion. They could not succor them against the overwhelming forces of the enemy, and as brave men they were compelled finally to surrender to a vastly superior force, after suffering heavy loss, and inflicting a much more severe loss upon the enemy. The bridge was then destroyed and enemy moved on. Prisoners and artillery being sent across the river, Colonel S[palding]

fell back slowly to Elk River bridge, ordering men at next block-house to evacuate and fall back and report at Elk River block-house. Colonel S. finding himself being flanked on his right and left, by the enemy crossing at the fords above and below him, felt compelled to abandon the bridge and fall back to save his command from capture, first ordering the colored troops and their commanders to hold block-house long as possible, as he expected to have re-enforcements in the morning, and would undoubtedly reoccupy the ground, which they did not do, leaving with, if not before, the cavalry at or about 3 in the morning. Bridge was destroyed and enemy moved on, Colonel S. falling back slowly and fighting as he retired. Block-houses and bridges one after another were struck by the enemy and destroyed. No fighting of any consequence being done by any of the colored troops at any of them, except tunnel trestle, on the 26th, where quite a fair stand was made. The troops continued falling back slowly until the arrival of re-enforcements on the 26th, when they (the re-enforcements) took up position at dark and allowed my troops to proceed to Pulaski, where they camped for the night, and finally, on the 27th, the engagement became quite general, and lasted nearly all day, my same mounted command being engaged with various successes, our troops falling back and forming battle line on east side of the town, upon which the last shot was fired.

On morning of the 28th the enemy were found gone. Colonel Spalding's command was ordered to find out direction taken by the enemy, which he did and then returned to this post.

My casualties have been large, particularly in captured men, and the same are given in accordance with the best post data at my disposal.

For the particular parts taken by the separate commands I most respectfully refer the general commanding to the reports of the several officers, forwarded herewith and made a part hereof.\*

Outside of the colored troops (and excepting them at Sulphur Branch trestle and tunnel trestle, and believing they would have fought at Athens if opportunity had been given them) the command has fought bravely and well, and is entitled to credit.

Many officers and men particularly distinguished themselves, but where all did so well it would be invidious to particularize; yet in the case of Col. W. H. Lathrop, who fell so gallantly fighting at his post, with the last words upon his lips, "Do not surrender the fort," I feel that I shall be pardoned in mentioning his name as one of the gallant and most noble men of my command, who, although dead, yet lives, and to whom reference can be made as a bright example for all to pattern after.

To my staff officers, orderlies, and scouts I have to make my acknowledgment for the promptness and efficiency exhibited by them during the many trying days through which we passed.

And in conclusion, I desire most particularly to thank the actresses, Miss Ada Gray and Mrs. Lowry, who of their own accord administered to the wants of the wounded men in hospital during many days and nights.

Respectfully,

JOHN C. STARKWEATHER,  
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

Lieutenant KNEELAND,  
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Decatur.*

\* Report of Col. George Spalding, Twelfth Tennessee Cavalry, commanding Fourth Cavalry Division, Army of the Cumberland, the only one found. See p. 536.

*Casualties.*

Command.	Post.	Officers.					Non commissioned officers and privates.				
		Killed.	Wounded.	Captured.	Missing.	Total.	Killed.	Wounded.	Captured.	Missing.	Total.
110th U. S. Colored Infantry.	Athens and two block-houses below.	.....	.....	21	.....	21	.....	10	650	.....	560
111th U. S. Colored Infantry.	Sulphur Branch trestle.	1	.....	8	.....	9	.....	a15	212	.....	227
111th U. S. Colored Infantry.	Trestle and block-houses.	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	4	110	7	121
9th Indiana Cavalry.	Sulphur Branch trestle.	.....	.....	10	.....	10	15	b22	149	.....	186
10th Indiana Cavalry.	.....	.....	c3	1	.....	4	1	20	1	1	32
10th Tennessee Cavalry.	}	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
12th Tennessee Cavalry.		.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
		1	8	40	3	52	17	123	1,022	11	1,173

All that were slightly wounded were captured and taken away.  
a Nine since dead.  
b All dead.  
c One since dead (surgeon).

[Indorsement.]

**HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF NORTHERN ALABAMA,**  
*Huntsville, October 23, 1864.*

Respectfully forwarded for information of the general commanding. Was not in before the completion of my report. "Below Pulaski" in telegram from me is a mistake; information sent was that the enemy had struck the road "below Athens," and was telegraphed before the return of Colonel Prosser, 6 a. m. on 24th. It was from Colonel Prosser at Athens, 2 a. m., that General Starkweather got his information. Main body of Forrest's command arrived about that time and surrounded Colonel P. in the town.

R. S. GRANGER,  
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

**HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF NORTHERN ALABAMA,**  
*Huntsville, October 23, 1864.*

It is now believed that the force that first appeared at the plantation of Jack Harris was part of Roddey's command, under Colonel Warren, who states he opposed our forces with his brigade below Athens.

R. S. GRANGER,  
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

No. 10.

*Report of Col. William B. Sipes, Seventh Pennsylvania Cavalry, commanding post of Columbia.*

COLUMBIA, October 3, 1864—3.30 a. m.

SIR: General Forrest with a force of 2,500 men crossed Duck River, on the Lewisburg pike, eight miles above Columbia, on Saturday morning last. The same day he attacked the railroad at Carter's Creek

Station, destroyed the Government saw mill and water-tank, and captured 3 block-houses, with their garrisons. Three bridges on Carter's Creek were destroyed. To-day [yesterday] he recrossed Duck River south of this four miles, attacked several block-houses, without doing any injury, and struck the road near Culleoka, which has been damaged, to what extent is not known. He attacked the pickets near this post, and after several hours' skirmishing retired. He is encamped near by and may resume the attack this morning. We are ready. General Starkweather communicates that continuous artillery firing was heard south of Pulaski yesterday, supposed to be in the direction of Huntsville. He presumes that an engagement was going on between Croxton's force and a portion of Forrest's command, under Buford, and his pickets. Starkweather encountered Buford's force at Fayetteville on Saturday evening at dark. Buford has all of Forrest's artillery. Forrest expects to concentrate with Biffle near here. The latter is supposed to have 1,000 men.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
WM. B. SIPES,  
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Maj. B. H. POLK,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 11.

*Report of Col. George Spalding, Twelfth Tennessee Cavalry, commanding Fourth Cavalry Division.*

HDQRS. FOURTH DIV. CAV., ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND,  
*Pulaski, Tenn., September 29, 1864.*

I have the honor to submit the following report in regard to the operations of the troops under my command in opposition to those of General Forrest:

September 21, having learned that Roddey's (rebel) force held all of the mills west of railroad, and that his troops were stripping the country of wheat, I immediately moved with the effective force of the Tenth and Twelfth Tennessee Regiments, of the Fourth Division Cavalry, Army of the Cumberland, to compel Roddey to recross the Tennessee River. I camped at Lawrenceburg on night of the 21st instant.

At daylight (morning) I moved on military road toward Florence. Learning that about 1,000 rebels held a mill known as Howell's, I proceeded to said point on the 23d instant, being fired on once during the night of the 22d instant by a party of Colonel Biffle's (Roddey's) command. Before I arrived at the mills the rebel force had withdrawn, no one knowing to what point. From thence I proceeded to Squire Wilson's, military road, six miles northeast of Florence. I had heard through the country that Forrest was to cross the river near Florence. My movement toward Wilson's was for the purpose of ascertaining the truth of said report. The moment I struck the military road I captured 3 wagons belonging to Forrest's train and 5 of his men. At this point I ascertained that Forrest had crossed Tennessee River on the 21st with 8,000 men and eight pieces of artillery. This information I dispatched on the 23d to Pulaski, and proceeded with my command with all possible speed to Pulaski, in order to concentrate my

command with General Starkweather's and try and save the railroad. [When] I reached Pulaski, which was at 9 o'clock at night on the 24th instant, Athens, Ala., and the troops at that place had been surrendered to General Forrest.

In accordance with orders from General Starkweather, I moved about 3 a. m. on the 25th instant for Elk River bridge. I was ordered to assume command of all the forces between Sulphur Branch and Elk River. I arrived at Elk River about 8 a. m. 25th, and as soon as horses of the command were fed I moved to the support of Sulphur Branch, the troops at that place being very hard pressed. I had 800 men, composed of one battalion of Tenth Indiana Cavalry, Company I, Ninth Indiana Cavalry, and the effective force of the Tenth and Twelfth Tennessee Regiments Cavalry Volunteers. I arrived in the vicinity of Sulphur Branch trestle at 11 a. m. on the 25th instant, and found the enemy in strong force. I engaged them immediately with my small but gallant force, and after fighting about twenty minutes I learned that the fort near the trestle had surrendered. I therefore deemed it prudent to withdraw to Elk River. I camped at Elk River on the night of the 25th instant, intending to hold the bridge until re-enforcements should arrive, which were furnished that [night]. See copy of telegram No. 1.\* In order to do this I withdrew the garrison of the stockade south of Elk River, and placed them in stockade at Elk River block houses, making the garrison at these two houses about 100 strong. At 3 a. m. on 26th instant, re-enforcements not having arrived, and the enemy having driven in my pickets on my right, left, and (center) front, I deemed it necessary to move my cavalry out of such a position as soon as possible. Before morning I sent for the officers commanding the (colored troops) garrison at Elk River bridge and moved them to hold the block-houses at all hazards, also exhibited the dispatches (see copies Nos. 1 and 2\*) in regard to re-enforcements. I told them also I would be obliged to withdraw my cavalry or Forrest would have me surrounded before daylight. They promised to hold the block-houses until they were knocked to pieces. Accordingly, I moved off gently in direction of Pulaski until daybreak, when I halted to learn the location of the country. To my great surprise I found that the negro soldiers and their officers that I had left to hold the bridge had abandoned the stockade and had been in advance of my cavalry all the morning, having evacuated the stockades without firing a shot. I arrested all of my colored soldiers and sent them under guard to Richland Creek bridge, that being the nearest block-house. At Richland Creek I found that the officer in charge block-houses had ordered the colored soldiers to pack their knapsacks preparatory to a move to Pulaski. I immediately sent directions to the captain in command of the block houses to make a stubborn resistance, and also stated that I would support him and shoot every officer and soldier that I found deserting his post. Having received information that the enemy had moved to Elkton, I proceeded south on the Elkton pike for the purpose of intercepting them, at the same time sending Captain Donahue, with fifty men, back, with instructions to go to Elk River bridge, if possible. I had proceeded toward Elkton about five miles when a courier from Captain Donahue informed me that he had been driven back, and that the enemy was advancing in strong force along the railroad. I then moved back toward Pulaski and took a position at the junction of the Elkton pike and a road running parallel to the railroad, where I fought them until dark on the evening of September 26, when I was relieved by Colonel Jones, commanding a brigade of cavalry. I was allowed to camp

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\* Not found.



at Pulaski during the night of the 26th. September 27, I was ordered by General Johuson, chief of cavalry, Military Division of the Mississippi, to report to General Croxton. I moved from Pulaski at daylight and reported to General Croxton, four miles south on the Elkton pike. I was ordered to form on the right of the line and hold it, if possible, which order I carried out until ordered to fall back on Pulaski. This movement I accomplished, moving back by the right of battalion, covering my rear with a heavy line of skirmishers, which inflicted heavy loss on the enemy. On my arriving at Pulaski I took position on the right of General Croxton's brigade on College Hill, where we skirmished with the enemy until dark, repulsing a charge of the rebel brigade commanded by General Lyon. On the morning of the 28th instant, the enemy having retreated during the night, I was ordered by Major-General Rousseau to ascertain the direction the rebels had taken. Accordingly, I moved out on the Elkton pike, from thence across to the Fayetteville pike, then toward Fayetteville, to Bradshaw Creek, and having ascertained positively that Forrest, with his command, had taken the Fayetteville pike, I was ordered to return to Pulaski, which I did on the morning of the 29th instant.

Thus ended the part taken by my troops in the Forrest raid. My command was in the saddle eight days and nights, and marched 230 miles, with frequent skirmishes with the enemy, with a loss of 1 private killed, 2 captains, 3 lieutenants, 8 sergeants, 1 corporal, and 34 privates wounded and 3 privates missing; also demonstrating to the world that there are no braver or better soldiers than Tennesseans.

I cannot particularize as to gallantry, as both officers and men behaved admirably. I desire to mention the battalion of Tenth Indiana Cavalry. No troops could do better; they are prompt, active, and brave. I mention this to contradict the rumor that the men straggled from the field.

Inclosed I forward the reports\* of [Maj.] G. F. Herriott, commanding battalion Tenth Indiana Cavalry, and Capt. William Robbins, commanding Company I, Ninth Indiana Cavalry.

I feel compelled to call the attention of the authorities to the disgraceful surrender of all the block-houses between Elk River and Pulaski. Every one of these houses, with one exception, surrendered without the firing of one piece of artillery by the enemy. At Richland Creek the block-house was surrendered to the enemy's skirmishers. I drove the enemy's skirmish line back, held the bridge over Richland Creek three hours and a half after the negro troops had surrendered the block-house.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE SPALDING,  
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Lieut. J. D. HAZZARD,  
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 12.

*Report of Col. George W. Jackson, Ninth Indiana Cavalry.*

PULASKI, September 25, 1864—1 p. m.

I have just received a dispatch from Colonel Lathrop, commanding Sulphur Branch, Ala., in which he says Block-house No. 6, at low

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\* Not found.

trestle, was disgracefully surrendered last evening by Second Lieut. John J. Phifer, One hundred and eleventh U. S. Colored Infantry. One man escaped. Reports he saw a line half a mile long, undoubtedly a heavy force; they advanced along the railroad, destroying the track; were then (6.30 this a. m.) advancing on him (Lathrop) in heavy force; so pickets reported. Lathrop's dispatch was indorsed by Colonel Spalding, Elk River bridge, 8.30 this a. m., as follows: "I will move to Sulphur trestle immediately." Major Lilly reports fighting for the bridge. Have just received a dispatch from Captain Robbins, Elk River, in command there, at 11 this a. m. He reports Forrest moving his force in the direction of Pulaski from Elkton. We have but small force here to hold out against a superior force, but will hold out to the last. Surrender is not in our vocabulary. I have sent my mounted men, thirty in number, with scouts, in the direction of Elkton, to ascertain the truth of Captain Robbins' report.

GEO. W. JACKSON,  
*Colonel, Commanding.*

Maj. B. H. POLK,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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No. 13.

*Report of Col. George B. Hoge, One hundred and thirteenth Illinois Infantry, commanding brigade.*

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES, ON TRANSPORTS,  
*Johnsonville, Tenn., October 14, 1864.*

MAJOR: In accordance with Special Orders, No. 156, extract V, headquarters District of West Tennessee, September 30, 1864, I embarked with my command (which consisted of the One hundred and thirteenth and One hundred and twentieth Illinois Infantry, Sixty-first U. S. Colored Infantry, and Company G, Second Missouri Light Artillery) on transports, on the evening of 30th September. Reached Cairo with two of transports about 1 a. m. 2d of October, the transport Kenton being behind, and embarked at 10 a. m. on the transports City of Pekin and Aurora. Took on forage and coal, according to instructions, and left Cairo for Tennessee River at 12 p. m. 2d of October. Arrived at Paducah at 11 a. m. of the 3d, remaining there an hour, and left for Johnsonville. Arrived at Johnsonville at 11 a. m. 4th of October, took on board 30,000 rations, and started for Perryville at 2 p. m.; reached there at 8 p. m.; anchored in the stream. General Washburn, who was on board, sent a courier from there on the morning of the 5th to communicate with General Hatch; started for Clifton at 3.40 p. m.; arrived at Clifton at 7.15 p. m.; remained on board until 8 a. m. next morning. The transports were used for crossing cavalry, and, in accordance with General Field Orders, No. 1, headquarters Forces in the Field, Clifton, Tenn., October 6, 1864, I marched my command at 3 o'clock on the Eagle Creek pike; went into camp at Throgmorton's Mills, a distance of nine miles from Clifton, about 8 p. m. Marched at 6 a. m. next morning, the 7th, with Second Iowa Cavalry in our rear, as rear guard; arrived at Creek 48 [Forty-eight-mile Creek] at 3 p. m.; camped there for the night.

At 10 a. m. of the 8th instant I received a communication from General Washburn to countermarch my command back to Clifton, embark

on transports at once, and proceed up the river to Eastport, and move rapidly out to the line of railroad near Iuka, and break the road and destroy bridges so as to hold any trains that might be east of the break; after doing this to hold Eastport until I heard from him, which would probably be three days. At the same time a squad of thirty disabled cavalry, commanded by Lieutenant McMillin, Twelfth Missouri Cavalry, reported to me. I at once moved my command back to Clifton, and by a forced march reached there, a distance of twenty-three miles, at 8.30 p. m. same evening. I was unable to get the transports over till 9 a. m. of the 9th instant, on account of the fog; got all on board and steamed up the river at 1 p. m.; laid up all night at Coffee Landing; got under way at 7.10 a. m. the 10th instant. On nearing Eastport the gun-boat Key West went above the landing, and seemed to be satisfied that there was no enemy near; at least, in a few moments Captain King motioned me to land my troops, which I immediately did, in the order as will be shown by General Orders, No. 3, from these headquarters, October 10, 1864, a copy of which is attached, marked Exhibit A. Lieutenant Lytle and Lieutenant Boals, of my staff, as soon as they could land their horses, started out to reconnoiter, and about 500 yards from the landing came up to the pickets of the enemy, returned shots with the pickets, and in ten minutes after the batteries opened on the transports a masked battery on the hill at Eastport (I think it was a battery of at least six rifled guns), and shortly after a battery of three rifled guns at Chickasaw, opened on us. When the first shot was fired from their batteries I was just leaving the gun-boat Key West, where I had been to have a final consultation with Captain King, before marching for the railroad. I immediately went on shore and had a line of battle formed. At this time the enemy had got a perfect range of the transports, every shot doing more or less execution. One of the gun-boats, the Undine, had become partially disabled and was dropping down the river, and the Key West following her, Captain King saying that we must get the transports away at once, he going with them. At this time I made up my mind that to be left there, without any covering from the gun-boats, and in the position I was in, with a superior force of the enemy in my front and a deep river directly in my rear, would be sheer folly, and I told Lieutenant Lytle, of my staff, to have the troops brought on board. I then went on board the transport City of Pekin, and took my station on the hurricane deck, where I could see and control the movements of embarking. Just at this time a shell from the enemy struck a caisson of the battery on board the Kenton, exploding it and setting fire to the boat. Immediately after this a caisson exploded on the Aurora, setting fire to her, and also cutting her steam-pipe. A scene of confusion then began. The boats, in spite of all I could do, backed out, parting their lines, leaving about two-thirds of the command on the shore. Fortunately after great exertion the flames on board of the Aurora and Kenton were extinguished. As soon as I could have a boat manned I sent Lieutenant Boals, of my staff, who was with me, on shore, with instructions to the troops to keep along down the river-bank, keep in good order, and they would all be taken on board. I landed twice with the boat I was on, and feel confident that I got all on board that were not badly wounded or were not already in the hands of the enemy. After this I started down the river and laid up all night at Coffee Landing; left there for Clifton at 7.40 a. m. next morning, the 11th. After consulting with Captain King, whose boats were almost out of fuel, I came to the conclusion to return to Johnsonville, arriving here at 8.10 p. m. same day.

I am very sorry to have to report the loss of the four guns of the battery; had the boats not taken fire and been disabled I never should have abandoned them. None of the caissons, and but very few of the horses, had been taken ashore.

I cannot close without mentioning Lieutenant-Colonel Foley, Sixty-first U. S. Colored Infantry, who was in command (Colonel Kendrick being quite sick); his conduct was that of a true and brave officer; no one could have done better under the circumstances; also Captain Woodruff and Lieutenant Lytle, of my staff, who were always where they were most needed, and were instrumental in saving a number of men.

Lieutenant Finney, acting assistant quartermaster, ever since the expedition started, has rendered the most efficient service in his department; also Lieutenant Boals, ordnance officer, has not only done the duty devolving on his office, but has been very efficient otherwise.

Attached please find, marked Exhibit B, a list of casualties of the command.

All of which is very respectfully submitted.

I am, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
**GEO. B. HCGE,**  
*Colonel, Commanding.*

#### EXHIBIT A.

GENERAL FIELD ORDERS, } HDQRS. U. S. FORCES, ON TRANSPORTS,  
 No. 3. } *October 10, 1864.*

I. As soon as the boats land at Eastport the troops will at once disembark, taking with them two days' cooked rations in haversacks and sixty rounds of ammunition; no transportation will be landed.

II. The line of march will be as follows: First, One hundred and thirteenth Illinois Infantry; second, Company G, Second Missouri Light Artillery; third, Sixty-first U. S. Colored Infantry; fourth, One hundred and twentieth Illinois Infantry. No straggling will be allowed under any circumstances. Ambulances will be taken perfectly light.

By order of Col. George B. Hoge, commanding:

[JOHN G. WOODRUFF,]  
*Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

#### EXHIBIT B.

##### Recapitulation.\*

Troops.	Killed.		Wounded.		Missing.		Total.		Aggregate
	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	
113th Illinois Infantry .....				5	2	12	2	17	19
120th Illinois Infantry .....			1		1	7		7	9
61st U. S. Colored Infantry .....		18	1	20		2	1	40	41
2d Missouri Artillery, Co. G. ....								2	2
Cavalry detachment .....				2		1		3	3
Total .....		18	2	29	3	22	5	69	74

\*Nominal list omitted.

*Report of Maj. Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, C. S. Army.*HEADQUARTERS FORREST'S CAVALRY,  
*Corinth, October 17, 1864.*

MAJOR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the action of my command during the recent operations in Northern Alabama and Middle Tennessee:

Pursuant to orders from Lieut. Gen. R. Taylor I moved with my command from Verona, Miss., on the 16th of September and arrived at Cherokee on the 18th. Cherokee is the eastern terminus of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, and at this place I had concentrated everything necessary for the complete outfit of my command preparatory to the contemplated move. My men being provided with ten days' rations, and everything in readiness, the command left Cherokee at daylight on the morning of the 21st. The artillery, ordnance and wagon trains were placed under the charge of Maj. C. W. Anderson, of my staff, with instructions to be ferried across the Tennessee River at Newport, where boats had already been sent for that purpose. With my troops I moved down the river to Ross' Ford, or Colbert's Shoals, and forded with but little difficulty. The artillery and wagon trains were safely and rapidly ferried over and joined the main body of the command five miles west of Florence. The command encamped at Florence, having crossed the river and traveled about twenty-five miles during the day.

On the morning of the 22d I moved in the direction of Athens, Ala. At Shoal Creek, six miles east of Florence, I was joined by General Roddey's troops, under the command of Col. William A. Johnson, who had been previously ordered to cross the river at Bainbridge and to join me at this place. My entire force now consisted of General Buford's division, composed of Colonel Bell's and General Lyon's brigades, and Colonel Kelley's brigade with General Roddey's troops, commanded by Colonel Johnson, who reported directly to me. These commands constituted an available force of 4,500 men. About 400 of these were dismounted, which I moved with my command on foot, with the expectation of being able to mount them on horses captured from the enemy. After moving on to Masonville I halted and ordered up the wagon train for the purpose of furnishing Colonel Johnson's troops with ammunition and rations. About 10 o'clock at night I ordered the Twentieth Regiment Tennessee Cavalry, under the command of Lieut. Col. Jesse A. Forrest, and the Fourteenth Tennessee Cavalry, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel White, of Kelley's brigade, to move during the night to McDonald's Station, between Decatur and Athens, and there capture a Government corral said to be located near that place, and also to destroy the railroad and telegraph line.

On the morning of the 23d the march toward Athens was resumed, which place was reached late in the evening. The enemy's pickets were developed about one mile from town and rapidly driven into the fort, when the enemy opened upon us with two pieces of artillery. The whistle of the locomotive was heard at the station, and I ordered the Second Tennessee, commanded by Colonel Barbeau and Major Anderson, of my staff, to take my escort and move rapidly to the north side of town and cut the railroad and telegraph wires. This order was promptly executed, after which the same troops captured about 100 horses and some other property, then moved to the station, and returned

and encamped upon the railroad during the night. At the same time I ordered Colonel Bell to move with his brigade on the right and occupy the eastern part of town. After some severe skirmishing Colonel Bell succeeded in driving the enemy into town, and rested during the night in the position to which he had been ordered. Colonel Kelley was ordered at a still later hour in the night to move round and occupy the southeast part of town, his left resting near the railroad, his right extending toward Colonel Bell's left. General Buford, with General Lyon's brigade, was ordered to remain on the west, his left on the Florence and Athens road, and his right on the Athens and Brown's Ferry road. Col. Jesse A. Forrest and Lieutenant-Colonel White, who were returning up the road from the duty assigned them the previous night, halted and occupied the ground between the Brown's Ferry road and the railroad. The town, fort, and block-houses were thus invested on the night of the 23d. The next morning Colonel Johnson, who had not previously been placed in position, was ordered to occupy the street leading from the court-house toward Florence.

During the night of the 23d and the morning of the 24th my artillery had been ordered in position bearing upon the fort. Hudson's battery, commanded by Lieut. E. S. Walton, was placed northeast of the fort; one section of Morton's battery, commanded by Lieut. Joe M. Mayson, on the west; the other section of Morton's battery, commanded by Lieut. J. W. Brown, on the north, all under the command of Capt. John W. Morton. About 7 o'clock, everything being in readiness, a general advance was ordered upon the fort and the artillery to open fire upon it. Colonel Bell's brigade, on the east, soon advanced across the railroad in full view of the fort. General Buford, with General Lyon's brigade, was moving forward on the west. Colonel Kelley was ordered to remain in his position, to throw out flankers, and to hold in check the re-enforcements reported to be advancing from the direction of Decatur. While my troops were steadily advancing upon the fort, and the artillery was pouring into it a concentrated fire, I ordered a halt and the artillery to cease firing. Knowing it would cost heavily to storm and capture the enemy's works, and wishing to prevent the effusion of blood that I knew would follow a successful assault, I determined to see if anything could be accomplished by negotiations. Accordingly, I sent Major Strange, of my staff, with a flag of truce, demanding the surrender of the fort and garrison. After much apparent hesitancy, Colonel Campbell refused to make the surrender. I returned to my command determined to renew the assault; but still desiring to spare my men and the massacre of the garrison, I sent another flag requesting an interview with Colonel Campbell at any place he might designate outside of the fort. The interview was granted. I assured Colonel Campbell that for the sake of humanity, I should do everything in my power to prevent a collision, and for that purpose I invited him to examine my troops for himself and judge of my ability to take his works. He accompanied me along my lines, and after witnessing the strength and enthusiasm of my troops he surrendered the fort with its entire garrison. Mean time heavy firing was heard down the road in the direction of Decatur. Dispatches informed me that re-enforcements were endeavoring to cut their way to the beleaguered fort. Colonel Kelley endeavored to intercept them with his brigade. The enemy took position behind a pile of cord wood where the railroad runs through a cut. The Fifteenth Tennessee, Col. Thomas H. Logwood commanding, with two companies of Forrest's regiment, charged them behind their breast-works, putting them to flight, killing several

and capturing 8 prisoners. The re-enforcements then renewed their efforts to gain the fort and fought with great gallantry and desperation. They pressed on, but found the Twenty-first Tennessee, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Forrest, between them and the fort. This gallant regiment opened fire upon the advancing enemy, and it was during this engagement that Lieutenant-Colonel Forrest fell severely wounded. I ordered Colonel Nixon and Colonel Carter, with their respective commands (numbering about 150 men each), reporting to me, to move rapidly to the relief of Colonel Wilson. They did so, and after a short engagement the re-enforcements surrendered and marched up just in time to see the garrison march out of the fort and stack their arms. One block-house surrendered without the least hesitancy. The other defiantly refused. The artillery opened upon it. The second shot penetrated the walls, killing 2 negroes and wounding another, which caused the officer commanding to surrender. Everything of value being removed, the block-houses were burned and such parts of the fort as could be consumed by fire. Two locomotives and 2 trains of cars were also burned. The enemy during the night destroyed many valuable stores of every description. Two pieces of artillery, a large amount of small-arms, 38 wagons, 2 ambulances, 300 horses, and a considerable amount of ordnance, quartermaster's, and commissary stores were captured. The prisoners and captured property were immediately started for Cherokee, under the command of Colonel Nixon.

In a few hours after the surrender of Athens I moved with my command toward Pulaski. Four miles north of Athens another block-house, with a garrison of 30 men, was surrounded and captured. The trestle, railroad, and block-house at this point were all in blazing ruins twenty minutes after we reached them. I moved on and encamped eight miles from Athens at night.

The Sulphur Springs trestle was only two miles off, and on the morning of the 25th I moved upon that place, said to be the strongest on the road. The enemy's pickets were driven in with but little difficulty and the place soon invested. His defenses consisted of two block-houses and a large fort situated upon an eminence, but fortunately for us surrounded by hills still more elevated. I ordered the artillery to be placed at once in position. One section of Hudson's battery, commanded by Lieut. E. S. Walton, was placed on the southwest; one section, Ferrell's, commanded by Lieutenant Ozburn, on the southwest; one section of Morton's on the east, commanded by Lieut. J. W. Brown, the other section on the north, commanded by Lieut. J. M. Mayson, all under the direction of Captain Morton. The necessary disposition of troops being made, a general advance was ordered toward the fort. General Buford's division moved with alacrity and great promptitude. Colonel Kelley dashed across the field, followed by his brigade, and after reaching his desired position the enemy dared not raise his head above his own works. Colonel Johnson and his brave troops on this occasion acted with conspicuous gallantry in marching up and assaulting the enemy's works. Mean time the eight pieces of artillery from four different points poured a concentrated storm of shell into the fort. After two hours' bombardment the enemy's guns were silenced and he exhibited no show of resistance. I deemed this an appropriate occasion to demand a surrender, and sent a flag of truce for that purpose. After a short parley with Col. J. B. Minnis, the commanding officer, who had expressed a desire for an interview, the fort surrendered. The enemy suffered severely in this assault. The colonel commanding was killed early in the fight.

Almost every house was perforated with shell, and the dead lay thick along the works of the fort. The fruits of this victory consist, besides the prisoners, of 700 stand of small-arms, 2 pieces artillery, 3 ambulances, 16 wagons, 300 cavalry horses and equipments, medical, quartermaster's, and commissary stores. The trestle-work at this fort was 72 feet high and 300 feet long, and defended by two large block-houses, all of which were consumed by fire, and the prisoners turned over to Colonel Logwood, who started with them to the Tennessee River.

On the morning of the 26th the march toward Pulaski was renewed. With the horses captured at Athens and Sulphur Springs trestle I was now enabled to mount the troops that had been marching with my command on foot and to supply others whose horses had given out. I ordered General Buford to move along the dirt road parallel with the railroad. With the balance of my command I moved to Elkton. General Buford found the block-house at Elk River evacuated, which he destroyed, with the extensive bridge across the river and all the trestle-work on the opposite side. From Elkton I directed my course toward a Government corral at Brown's plantation, toward Pulaski. At this place I found about 2,000 negroes, consisting mostly of old men, women, and children, besides a large amount of commissary stores and medical supplies. General Buford having completed his work at Elk River joined me at this place, where I issued to my entire command several days' rations, distributing among the troops as much sugar and coffee as they needed. The negroes were all ragged and dirty, and many seemed in absolute want. I ordered them to remove their clothing and bed clothes from the miserable hovels in which they lived and then burnt up this den of wretchedness. Near 200 houses were consumed.

From this corral I proceeded with my command to Richland Creek, six miles south of Pulaski, over which there was a long bridge defended by a block-house. The enemy returned to his works, from which he made a furious assault upon my troops, who were steadily advancing. With a part of my staff I crossed the creek and gained the rear of the enemy, from which point I sent a flag of truce, making the usual demand for surrender, which demand was promptly complied with, and fifty more prisoners yielded up their arms.

From Richland Creek I moved a part of my command across to the Pulaski and Elkton pike road, and encamped during the night ten miles from the former place.

On the morning of the 27th I ordered General Buford's division up the pike road toward Pulaski; Colonel Kelley's brigade and Johnson's command were ordered to advance on the road I had left the previous evening, running nearly parallel with the railroad. Six miles from Pulaski the enemy attacked my advance force and compelled them to fall back. General Buford hurried forward his division. I sent my escort to the extreme right, where they found the enemy strongly posted, and where seven of my escort were severely wounded in the engagement that occurred. The resistance of the enemy was most obstinate. He contested every inch of ground and grew more stubborn the nearer we approached town, but my troops drove them steadily back. Three miles from Pulaski he made a stand with seeming determination to yield no more ground. Colonel Kelley now occupied the extreme left, Colonel Johnson the center, and General Buford's division on the right. The engagement was becoming a general one. The enemy threw his right around for the purpose of making an enflading fire upon my troops who had pushed far into his center. About this



time my troops on the left advanced, and the artillery in that direction unexpectedly opened a destructive fire, which caused the enemy to make a hasty retreat. He was closely followed up and driven into town and into his fortifications. My command reached Pulaski about 1 o'clock, after seven hours' constant fighting. With my escort I moved to the extreme right and succeeded in reaching the northern part of town. After making a careful reconnoissance I was fully satisfied that the enemy was strongly posted with a large force. I therefore determined to make no further assault, and returned to the left and ordered the entire command to be withdrawn. It was now nearly night, and I ordered camp-fires to be built along my entire lines for the purpose of deceiving the enemy. Pickets were thrown out in front of the fires to prevent him from discovering my real movements.

On leaving Pulaski I ordered Colonel Wheeler to proceed north of the town and to destroy the railroad and the telegraph line between Pulaski and Columbia. This duty was faithfully performed by Colonel Wheeler, who in addition burned a large wood-yard on the road. The night was exceedingly dark and the roads I was forced to travel almost impassable, and after marching eight miles from Pulaski I was forced to halt for the night.

On the 28th I reached Fayetteville. During the day I ordered Captain Boone, of my escort, to proceed with twenty men as rapidly as possible to the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad and cut the same, with telegraph wires, at some point north of Tullahoma. At the same time I ordered Captain Kelleher, with thirty men of the Twelfth Kentucky, to move forward and strike the road and wires at some point south of Tullahoma. Both of these officers faithfully performed the work assigned them.

I encamped five miles from Fayetteville on the night of the 28th. The next morning I moved toward Tullahoma. About noon I halted my command near Mulberry. At this place I learned from my scouts, and from the concurrent testimony of reliable citizens, that the enemy was in strong force at Tullahoma, and at all other vulnerable points on the railroad in that direction. Re-enforcements from Atlanta, Chattanooga, and other points were being hurried forward. There were not less than 15,000 troops sent forward to intercept my movements. The severe engagements with the enemy at Athens, Sulphur Springs trestle, and Pulaski had exhausted nearly all my artillery ammunition. I had not over 100 rounds to the gun; besides, my forces had been greatly depleted by the large number necessarily sent back to guard prisoners and the captured property. Under these circumstances I deemed it hazardous and unwise to move upon the enemy, who was prepared to meet me with overwhelming numbers. Consequently I commenced disposing of my troops with a view of operating where there was a prospect of accomplishing some good. General Buford, with a portion of his division and parts of Kelley's and Johnson's troops, constituting a force of about 1,500 men, was ordered to proceed in the direction of Huntsville, to burn the bridge over Flint River at Brownsborough, to capture Huntsville if possible, and then destroy the Memphis and Charleston Railroad from Huntsville to Decatur. With the balance of my troops, consisting of parts of General Lyon's and Colonel Bell's brigades, the Seventh Tennessee, and Forrest's old regiment, I changed my course from toward Tullahoma to the Tennessee and Alabama Railroad. Leaving Shelbyville to the right I marched on an obscure, circuitous road to Lewisburg, which place I reached at 12 o'clock on the 30th. At night I camped on the north side of Duck River,

On the 1st of October I moved upon Spring Hill, capturing at that place and in the neighborhood several Government horses and wagons, besides the stage running from Columbia to Nashville. After proceeding four miles along the pike road toward Columbia I turned abruptly to the right, ordering Colonel Bell to send one regiment on the pike road to develop the enemy and to watch his movements. After leaving the pike road running from Spring Hill to Columbia I moved my command upon the railroad twelve miles from Columbia. Here I found four block houses, four bridges, an unusual amount of wood, an extensive Government saw-mill, several wagons, and about twenty head of cattle. The enemy made a feeble resistance and retreated to his fortifications. The usual demand to surrender was made, and after much hesitancy the demand was reluctantly complied with. One hundred and twenty prisoners surrendered. Immense injury was inflicted upon the enemy at this point. Four block-houses, three railroad bridges, wood-yard, and saw-mill were all consumed by fire. One block-house refused to surrender. I had not a single piece of artillery with me and could not force a surrender; but at night Colonel Bell called for volunteers to burn the bridge commanded by the block-house. Ten gallant men were marched forward, and in the face of the murderous fire applied the torch, which burned the bridge enough to make it useless, and to make the construction of a new one indispensable. The night was dark, but my command marched until 10 o'clock by the light of the burning ruins, which illuminated the country for miles.

On the morning of the 2d I proceeded toward Columbia, eight miles distant from where I encamped the previous night. Six miles from town I ordered Colonel Wheeler to advance and drive in the enemy's pickets. I followed close upon his rear with my whole command. Colonel Bell's brigade was ordered to move upon the northern part of town, General Lyon was ordered to throw his brigade on the west, but south of the Mount Pleasant pike. The reasons that prevented my storming and capturing Pulaski now existed with redoubled force, for I had not a single piece of artillery, and only half of the troops I had with me at Pulaski. Not intending to make a formidable assault I did not press the enemy. My object in making this demonstration was to take observations for future operations. Satisfying myself of the strength and position of the forts and fortifications, I returned toward Mount Pleasant, at which place I camped during the night.

On the 3d I camped eleven miles from Lawrenceburg. On the 4th I halted eighteen miles from Florence. On the 5th I reached Florence. Here I found the river, which my troops forded two weeks previous, swollen by recent rains. The enemy was reported advancing on the Athens road. I ordered Colonel Windes, of General Roddey's command, to Shoal Creek with his regiment, and to hold him in check while my troops were crossing. The boats at Bainbridge were ordered down to the mouth of Cypress, at which place many of my troops were ferried over; but the next morning, the enemy making his appearance in Florence, the boats were dropped still lower down the river. The winds had made the river so rough that it was hazardous to ferry it, but the boats made regular trips day and night. But the enemy were pressing upon my rear, which was greatly endangered. At this critical juncture I ordered all troops on the north side of the river, with the exception of one regiment, to mount their horses and swim them across a slough about seventy yards wide to a large island, which would afford them ample protection and from which they could ferry over at leisure. Colonel Wilson was ordered to remain with his regiment and to skir-

mish with the enemy, and thereby divert his attention until the other troops had reached the island. This strategy was successful. Every man reached the island in safety. Colonel Wilson is entitled to the commendation of his Government and the lasting gratitude for the faithful [manner] in which he performed this important and hazardous trust. Surrounded by 15,000 of the enemy for three days, he hung upon his flanks, assaulted him on every favorable occasion, and would retire to the hills when pushed. He subsisted upon supplies captured from the enemy. He made no effort to escape from his perilous situation, but faithfully remained in the discharge of his duty until every Confederate soldier was across the river and the enemy commenced his retreat, when, unmolested, he ferried over his regiment and joined his command. Colonel Wilson had only 2 men killed and 4 missing, while he killed and wounded about 75 of the enemy.

I reached Cherokee on the 6th of October, which place I left on the 21st of September. Apprehending that the enemy would make an effort to throw troops across the river, I ordered, on the 9th, Colonel Kelley, with his brigade and one section of Hudson's battery, commanded by Lieutenant Walton, to proceed to Eastport and prevent any advance in that direction. On the 10th the enemy moved up the river with two gun-boats and three transports. Colonel Kelley masked his forces until the enemy debarked a brigade of infantry and three pieces of artillery, when he opened fire upon them with his artillery. Two balls penetrated one gun-boat and a shell burst in one of the transports, causing it to be enveloped in steam and flame. The first fire from the artillery caused the boats to push off from shore. Many in attempting to reach the boat were drowned, 12 were killed on the bank, and a large number killed and wounded on the boat; about 30 prisoners captured, with 3 James rifled guns, 60 small-arms, 20 horses, 4 boat cables, with some artillery harness. It was evident that a preconceived plan had been arranged to capture my command. At least 15,000 men had been thrown forward for this purpose. Troops from half a dozen different commands were at Florence, at which place the enemy expected to intercept my crossing. The cavalry, under the command of General Hatch, and infantry were sent from Memphis up the Tennessee to aid in my capture. They are still on the opposite bank of the river but prevented from crossing by my troops, who are watching their movements.

The official report of my provost-marshal shows that during the expedition I captured 86 commissioned officers, 67 Government employés, 1,274 non-commissioned officers and privates, 933 negroes, besides killing and wounding in the various engagements about 1,000 more, making an aggregate of 3,360, being an average of one to each man I had in the engagements. In addition to these I captured about 800 horses, 7 pieces of artillery, 2,000 stand small-arms, several hundred saddles, 50 wagons and ambulances, with a large amount of medical, commissary, and quartermaster's stores, all of which has been distributed to the different commands. The greatest damage, however, done to the enemy was in the complete destruction of the railroad from Decatur to Spring Hill, with the exception of the Duck River bridge. It will require months to repair the injury done to the road, and may possibly be the means of forcing the evacuation of Pulaski and Columbia, and thus relieve the people from further oppression.

During the trip my troops supplied themselves with boots, shoes, hats, blankets, overcoats, oil-coths, and almost everything necessary for their comfort. The accompanying report\* from Dr. J. B. Cowan, my chief

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\* Not found.

surgeon, shows that in all the engagements my loss was 47 killed, 293 wounded, making a total of 340 killed and wounded.

My troops during the expedition acted with their accustomed gallantry. In camp, on the march, in the battle they exhibited all the traits of the gallant soldier. I take pleasure in commending the steadiness, self-denial, and patriotism with which they bore the hardships and privations incident to such a campaign. General Buford's division fully sustained that reputation it has so nobly won. General Lyon and Colonel Bell added new laurels to the chaplet which their valor and patriotism has already won. Colonel Johnson, commanding General Roddey's troops, displayed every soldierly virtue. He was prompt in obeying orders. I regret to announce that while gallantly leading his troops he was severely wounded. I take pleasure also in calling the notice of the Government to the conduct of Colonel Kelley, commanding Colonel Rucker's brigade. He displayed all the dash, energy, and gallantry which has so long made him an efficient officer, and justly merits promotion by his Government. The conduct of Lieut. Col. Jesse A. Forrest at Athens, Ala., is worthy of mention. While the enemy was attempting to re-enforce the fort, at the head of his splendid regiment, Colonel Forrest made a gallant charge, driving the enemy from his position, but in this charge he received a severe wound in his thigh. The splendid discipline of Col. James M. Warren's troops, of General Roddey's command, attracted my attention and received my commendation on the field. They moved forward in perfect order and with the steadiness of veteran soldiers. Colonel Warren has few superiors in the service, and is entitled to special mention for his uniform gallantry.

In conclusion, I would return my acknowledgments to my personal staff—Maj. J. P. Strange, assistant adjutant-general; Maj. C. W. Anderson, acting assistant adjutant-general; Col. R. W. Pitman, assistant inspector-general; Maj. G. V. Rambaut, [commissary,] and [Colonel] M. C. Galloway, aide-de-camp. They cheerfully and promptly executed my orders, and their bearing throughout was highly commendable. My thanks are also due to Capt. Thomas Robins and Lieut. J. N. Davis, attached to my staff, for the efficient service they rendered me during the expedition. They displayed gallantry and alacrity in conveying all orders.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

N. B. FORREST,  
*Major-General.*

Maj. P. ELLIS, *Assistant Adjutant-General, Selma, Ala.*



CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF HUNTSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Inc. (1971-1972)

Article I: NAME

The name of this society is Huntsville Historical Society, Inc.

Article II: PURPOSE. The purpose of this society is to afford an agency for expression among those having a common interest in (1) Collecting and preserving information about any past phase of community life in Huntsville, Alabama, and (2) in recording the history of the section of which Madison County is a part. The purposes of this society are cultural and educational.

Article III: MEMBERS. The members of this society are those who indicated a desire to participate in the organization and whose names are recorded by the Society Secretary. New membership shall be by invitation. The Membership Committee, consisting of three members appointed by the President, must unanimously approve each applicant. Names of prospective members nominated by the Membership Committee shall be presented at the next meeting of the Board of Governors for seconding by unanimous vote of Board members present at the meeting.

POST SERVICE MEMBERSHIPS may be passed on by the organization. Members of long standing who are so recognized will be excused from active participation, but will enjoy all privileges of membership. Past Service Members may be excused from the payment of dues at the discretion of the Board, with or without application. Election to Past Service membership will be handled in the same way as election to Active membership.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP may be awarded to non-members who are outstanding in the field of History or who have rendered an outstanding service that the Society wishes to recognize. Selection of Honorary members will be handled in the same way as Active members. Honorary members will enjoy all privileges of the organization, without the payment of dues.

Article IV: OFFICERS. The Officers of the Society shall be a President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall be elected for a term of two years, or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

Article V: BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND ELECTION PROCEDURE. The affairs of the Society shall be directed by a Board of Governors, consisting of the Officers of the Society, and six members elected from the membership rolls, along with all Past Presidents, who are still members of the Society. Regular meetings of the Board shall be held in the months of February, April, June, August, October and December, or on the call of the President, or any three members of the Board. A majority of the total Board of Governors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A Nominating Committee, consisting of three members of the Society, shall be appointed by the President at the September meeting. The Nominating committee shall report at the annual meeting in November. Election shall be held at the annual meeting each year for two Directors. The terms of elected Directors shall be for three years, or until their successors are duly elected and qualified. Terms of the Officers are for two years, elections to be held in alternate years at the annual meeting. Terms of all officers and directors will begin on the first day of January following their election.

Article VI: MEETINGS. The meetings of the members shall held bi-annually in January, March, May, July, September, and November. The November meeting shall be the annual meeting of the Society.

Article VII: COMMITTEES. The President shall have authority, with the approval of the Board of Goernors, to appoint committees on programs, membership, monuments, pilgrimages, or for any special purpose consistent with the purposes of this society.

Article VIII: FINANCES. Dues shall be Five Dollars (\$5.00) per year. The fiscal year shall be the same as the calendar year. The Board of Govenrors is authorized to accept donations and gifts for the furtherance of the purposes of this Society. Neither the Board of Governors

or any officer shall have authority to commit this Society financially for a sum beyond its funds on hand and available.

Article IX: AMENDMENTS. These articles may be amended by majority vote of members present at any meeting, provided ten days notice of the proposed change has been given by mail to all members in good standing.

AMENDMENTS:

Article VIII. FINANCES. In addition: Dues.

"If dues for the current fiscal year are not paid by July 1st, the member's name will be dropped from the membership list. Final notice of delinquent dues will be mailed on July 1st annually." Approved, Meeting of the membership, March 18, 1973.

Article VI. MEETINGS. Changed to:

"The meetings of the members shall be held quarterly in January, April, July and October. The October meeting shall be the annual meeting of the Society." Approved, Meeting of the membership, March 17, 1974.

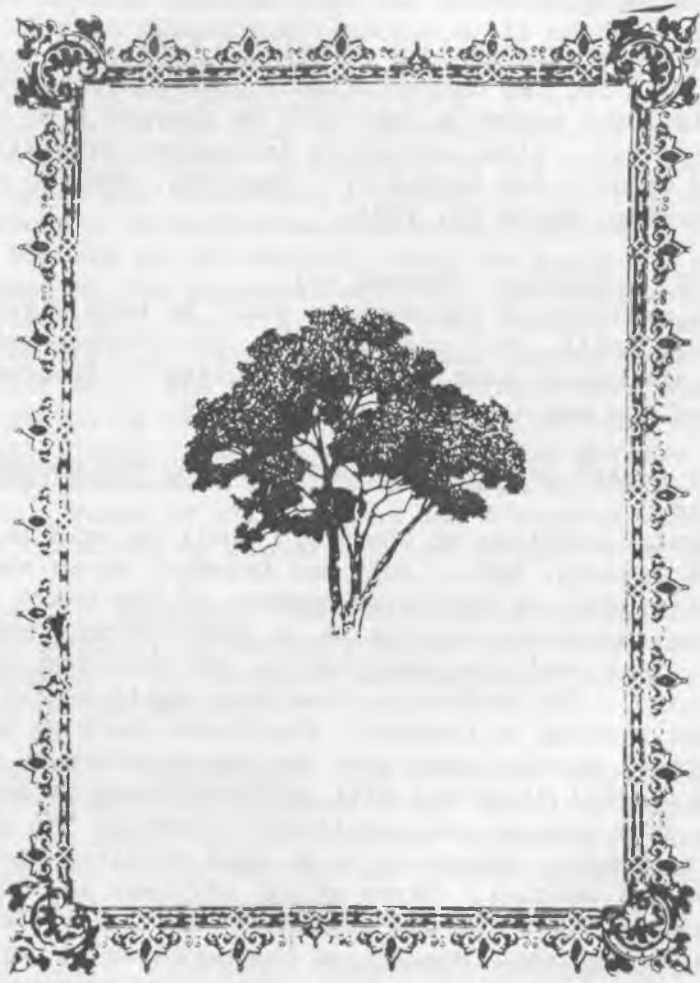
Article V. BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND ELECTION PROCEDURES.

Changed to:

"Regular meetings of the Board shall be held in the months of January, April, July and October, or on the call of the President, or any three members of the Board. A nominating committee, consisting of three or more members of the Society shall be appointed by the President at the July meeting. The Nominating Committee shall report at the annual meeting in October. Elections shall be held at the annual meeting each year for two directors. The terms of elected directors will be three years or until they are duly elected and qualified. Terms of the officers are for two years, elections to be held in alternate years at the annual meeting. Terms of all officers and directors will begin on the first day of January following their election." Approved, Meeting of the membership, March 17, 1974.

Article I. NAME. Changed to: "The name of this society is the Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society, Inc."

Approved, Meeting of the membership, April  
20, 1975.





## MEMBERSHIP

Adams, Mrs. William	
7104 Jones Valley Dr. Huntsville, AL	35802
Allen, Mrs. David W.	
2207 Rothmore Dr. SW, Huntsville, AL	35803
Baker, Mr. Michael E.	
4215 Patton Road, Apt. D, Huntsville, AL	35805
Ball, Mr. & Mrs. Spencer	
505 Bob Wallace Ave., Huntsville, AL	35801
Barter, Mr. & Mrs. A. G.	
10103 Conrad Drive , Huntsville, AL	35803
Batson, Mrs. James L.	
5607 Panorama Dr., Huntsville, AL	35801
Bentley, Mr. Charles	
445 McClung Ave., Huntsville, AL	35801
Blair, Mrs. Roy E.	
419 Locust Ave., SE, Huntsville, AL	35801
Bounds, Miss Etheline	
1100 Bob Wallace Ave., Huntsville, AL	35801
Bragg, Mrs. James W.	
708 Adams St., SE, Huntsville, AL	35801
Brooks, Mr. & Mrs. C. G.	
6024 Rickwood Dr. NW, Huntsville, AL	35810
Brown, Mr. Mark E.	
Rt. 1 Box 874, Hazel Green, AL	35750
Buffaloe, Mr. L. C.	
1202 McClung Ave., Huntsville, AL	35801
Burwell, Mr. Edwin, Sr.	
405 Holmes Ave., Huntsville, AL	35801
Caldwell, Mrs. E. V.	
604 Adams St., SE, Huntsville, AL	35801
Carpenter, Ms. Elizabeth	
New Hope, AL	35760
Carroll, Mr. Clarence	
2209 Gladstone Dr. NW, Huntsville, AL	35811
Cason, Mrs. Charles M.	
700 Watts Dr SE, Huntsville, AL	35801
Cassity, Mrs. Bernard J.	
717 DeSoto Rd., SE, Huntsville, AL	35801
Chance, Dr. Russell	
P. O. Box 123, Tanner, AL	35671
Charles, Mr. & Mrs. James	
7505 Cadillac Dr., Huntsville, AL	35802

Chase, Mr. Robert	120 Smith St., Huntsville, AL	35801
Chestnutt, Mr. & Mrs. T. B.	1600 Governors Dr. SE, Huntsville, AL	35801
Cooper, Mr. & Mrs. Joe E.	511 Adams St. SE, Huntsville, AL	35801
Corley, Dr. W. S.	413 McClung Ave., Huntsville, AL	35801
Creeel, Mr. & Mrs. L. E. Jr.	1205 C. Bailey Cove Cr., Huntsville, AL	35802
Crenshaw, Mrs. J.N.	4211 Huntington Rd, SE, Huntsville, AL	35802
Cagle, Mrs. Mary T.	1612 Drake Ave., SE, Huntsville, AL	35802
Cutsinger, Mr. Jack	808 Stanhope Dr. SE, Huntsville, AL	35801
Dabney, Mr. Robert S. III	P. O. Box 1015, Florence, AL	35631
Daniels, Mrs. Dwight, Jr.	603 Green St. SE, Huntsville, AL	35801
Davis, Mr. James E., Jr.	3204 Riley Rd., SW, Huntsville, AL	35801
Deal, Mr. Maurice E.	8103 Strong Dr., Huntsville, AL	35802
Deaton, Mrs. J. T.	4233 Arthur St., Huntsville, AL	35805
DeStefano, Ms. Cecile	1005 Hermitage Ave., Huntsville, AL	35801
Dilworth, Mrs. E. E.	660 Thora Blvd., Shreveport, LA	71106
Dilworth, Mr. & Mrs. W. P., Jr.	2223 Mathews SE, Huntsville, AL	35801
Drake, Mr. William P.	Rt. 1 Box 2160, Owens Cross Roads, AL	35763
Dreger, Mr. Alvin	610 Holmes Ave. NE, Huntsville, AL	35801
Drewyor, Mrs. Richard	200 Christine St., Athens, AL	35611
DuBose, Mr. E. F,	3112 Triana Blvd. SE, Huntsville, AL	35805
Dudley, Mr. Hugh J,	901 Cole Dr., SE, Huntsville, AL	35802
Duffey, Mr. & Mrs. E. H.	1011 Harrison Ave., SE, Huntsville, AL	35801
Durham, Mr. & Mrs. J. E., Sr.	3817 Williamsburg Drive, Huntsville, AL	35810

Duren, Mrs. Gene Duffey 1012 Harrison Ave., SE, Huntsville, AL	35801
Eakins, Mrs. O. M. 120 Lincoln St. NE, Huntsville, AL	35801
East, Mr. and Mrs, J. C. 607 Winchester Rd., Huntsville, AL	35811
Edwards, Mrs. Lynn, Jr. 7723 Logan Dr. SW, Huntsville, AL	35802
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