

The Legion marched by way of Rutledge, Beans Station, Mooresburg and, on the 9th or 10th, arrived at a position six miles from Rogersville which was approximately 50 or 60 miles from Knoxville where they went into camp and remained until December 14.

Burnside was not inclined to follow the Confederates but once he knew for certain that troops from Chattanooga were on the way to him, he did start a sizable force in pursuit. He was at Bean's Station and Longstreet was determined to attack and beat him and, on the 14th, countermarches from Rogersville toward the Union Army.

On the 15th, the Southern troops came to within a close distance of the Yankees. They would wait to attack until their cavalry could get in behind the enemy line in order to prevent any escape. Just before nightfall, an attack was ordered and the enemy's works were carried. Wofford's men went into camp near Kentucky Gap. McLaws' Division was ordered to continue the attack the following morning but McLaws resisted, stating that his men had had no bread ration for two days. The enemy refused to make a fight so on the 20th, Wofford moved to Long's Ferry where, on the night of the 21st, his troops crossed the Holston River on flat boats and marched to what would be their winter quarters near Russellville, Tennessee.(11)

It was here that the Rebels built what huts they could from logs and captured Yankee tents. They foraged the rich farmlands along the rivers and, except for warm clothing and shoes, had a fairly enjoyable time. Some lived with local farmers in their houses and barns. They were forced to make shoes from raw hides of the beef cattle and it was a most miserable winter.(12)

At this point, we will quote a few official correspondences during the winter from the Official Records concerning the Legion.(13)

January 24th, Sorrel to Wofford, "Advise against sending out forage trains across French Broad toward Chucky due to enemy cavalry."

January 28th, Sorrel to General Wharton advising Wharton to send Wofford, commanding McLaws' Division, only one gun. Wofford to be in the vicinity of Dandridge tomorrow morning.

The winter was an extremely cold one with temperatures dropping to 15 degrees below zero. There were very few chickens left in this area when winter was over. The men suffered greatly for want of blankets, shoes and food. Many of the men were wearing moccasins made from cow hide. It was an extremely difficult winter for the men from Bowdon and Carroll County. In the middle of January, during the bitter cold, General Foster, who had relieved General Burnside, undertook to approach the encamped Rebels. Longstreet accommodated him by sending Jenkin's Division to meet him head-on while McLaws' Division was sent toward Strawberry Plains with instructions to cut off the Yankees and force them into a battle in the open field. The Yankees wanted no part of a battle here and they escaped by crossing the French Broad River and beat a hasty retreat to Knoxville.(14)

Longstreet's troops returned to their winter quarters and there on December 30th, General Longstreet "thought" it necessary to relieve General McLaws from command and order him to Augusta, Georgia with charges to be forwarded in a few days.(15) General McLaws left the army and Brigadier General Joseph Kershaw of South Carolina was appointed to command McLaws' Division and would be the Legion's divisional commander for the remainder of the war. At this time, Lt. Colonel Hutchins of the 3rd Georgia Sharpshooters was in temporary command of Wofford's Brigade as General Wofford was on leave and would return before the spring campaign would begin. Colonel James Conner would take command of Kershaw's Brigade.

We will not dwell on the Longstreet/McLaws controversy; however, we know that McLaws was acquitted of all charges and was returned to command but not with his old division and he never returned to the Virginia theater of the war but served in Georgia and with Joe Johnston in the Carolinas. After the war was over, the two old Georgia soldiers reconciled and were on friendly terms. Longstreet also brought charges

against Generals Law and Robertson. It just was not a pleasant winter among the higher-up officers of "Old Pete's" command.

During the winter, the railroad from Bristol, TN to Virginia was put in working order and supplies, including shoes and blankets, were finally received. The Legion would remain in their winter quarters until around the 10th of April at which time they would march to Bristol in order to begin their rail trip back to General Lee in Virginia. All of Cobb's Legion had reenlisted on February 20, 1864 "For the War".

On March 31, the organization was as follows:

- Lt. General Longstreet- Commanding Dept. East Tenn..
- Kershaw's Division- Brig. General Joseph B. Kershaw
- Wofford's Brigade- Colonel C. C. Sanders
- Cobb's Legion- Captain C. H. Sanders
- Company B- Captain William McDaniel

Kershaw was known and was well respected by members of Cobb's Legion and Company B. He was a South Carolinian by birth and a lawyer in Camden before the war. He was a Quaker and a Mason and had served his country in the Mexican War. He had been the colonel of the 2nd South Carolina Infantry and had taken part in all the battles of The Army of Northern Virginia from First Manassas to Gettysburg. He would now be the Legion's divisional commander until the surrender at Saylor's Creek on April 6, 1865. He was captured there along with other high ranking Confederate officers, sent to prison in Boston Harbor and paroled in July, 1865. After the war he returned to Camden, South Carolina and practiced law there. He is buried in the Quaker cemetery in Camden.

Colonel Solon Zachery Ruff was 26 years old when he died in the ditch at Fort Sanders. He had graduated from the Georgia Military Institute and had remained at that Milledgeville school teaching mathematics until the 18th Georgia Infantry was formed by William Wofford. Ruff became this regiment's Lt. Colonel and then it's Colonel when Wofford was promoted to brigadier general in December, 1862 after the death of Tom Cobb. He was in command of Wofford's Brigade at the assault on Fort Sanders, November 29, 1863 and was found dead in the ditch after the battle when a truce was declared. He was buried in the Gibson Family Cemetery near the battlefield. Longstreet said, "Colonel Ruff of the 18th Georgia, who commanded Wofford's Brigade and led it to the assault, was shot while cheering on his men. He was a gallant and accomplished officer whose merit was concealed by his modest and unobstructive manner, but who was fast becoming known as occasion forced a display of his zeal and worth. I know of no one whose career promised to be more useful." Relationship between General Wofford and Colonel Ruff however, were not so good. When Wofford was promoted to Brigadier General, Lt. Colonel Ruff who was next in command of the 18th Georgia was of course in line to become its colonel. Wofford however was said to prevent Ruff from the promotion by threatening to prefer charges of cowardness against him. All the men of the regiment were for Ruff and did not believe that the charges were true could not be proved and believed that Wofford had some favorite picked for the job. No record of a report being made or of a court martial can be found in the Official Records and we do not know more details of the problem.

Lt. Colonel Nathan Louis Hutchins, Jr. was a 28-year-old lawyer from Gwinnett County and had been a Captain in the 16th Georgia before becoming the Lt. Colonel of the 3rd Georgia Sharpshooters in April of 1863. He was captured with most of the brigade at Saylor's Creek in April, 1865. After the war, he practiced law and was a judge in Gwinnett County and served in the Georgia Legislature.(16) Lt. Col. Hutchins was in command of the brigade after the death of Colonel Ruff.

Colonel Christopher Columbus Sanders was the Lt. Colonel of the 24th Georgia Infantry before taking command of the brigade from Lt. Colonel Hutchins sometimes after the Fort Sanders attack, Colonel McMillan of the 24th evidently being absent. Sanders would be with the brigade at Saylor's Creek as Colonel of his 24th Georgia. Colonel Sanders was from Gainesville and was 23 years old at the time of Knoxville. He had attended Georgia Military Institute finishing in 1861. He became the Lt. Colonel of the

24th Georgia Infantry on August 30, 1861 and its Colonel on January 9, 1864 when Colonel McMillian resigned from the army. After the war, he was a banker in Gainesville and died there on August 3, 1880 and is buried in that city's Alta Vista cemetery very near the grave of James Longstreet.(17)

Captain C. H. Sanders of Company A was commanding Cobb's Legion in the absence of Colonel Luther Glenn. Sanders was a native of Covington and had been a sergeant in his company before winning his commission in December of 1862. He was captured late in the war at Front Royal. He is buried in the city cemetery at Madison, Georgia having survived the war.

Yes, a captain commanded the Legion which, "by the book", should have a colonel at its head. The attrition of officers was a very serious problem in the southern armies. The best and most competent officer material naturally enlisted early in the war and the loss of field officers in battle was extremely high in the Civil War on both sides. Of course, many of the original officers of the units, which were formed early on in the war, were prominent older men and, after almost three years of arduous duty, they were completely exhausted and simply could not remain with the army. Officers had it much better than the enlisted men but, in this war, living conditions were very harsh for all. Seldom did General Lee stay in a house: he had his tent and ate meals cooked in the field.

I do not know if Luther Glenn returned to the Legion or not. Perhaps he did lead the Legion in the campaigns of 1864? We know that he was seriously wounded in the arm at Chancellorsville and not at Gettysburg but little else. We have been unable to find any information whether he was with his men during any of the Tennessee trip or in battles in the summer of 1864 but he possibly could have been, at least part of the time. We do know that he did not officially leave the Army of Northern Virginia until January, 1865.

General William Wofford would return to be out in front of his men in May of 1864 while Colonel Sanders would return to his 24th Georgia.

During the winter, after the railroad to Virginia was put into working order again, some of the men were given 21-day furloughs. Whether any of the men in Company B received a leave, I seriously doubt. The trip home to Bowdon would have been too long for the allotted time off. The officers probably did get furloughs as indicated by the command structure. More than likely a few men slipped away and made it through the north Georgia mountains to Bowdon. Who could blame them if they did? To some, it was worth the risk. Any that did leave camp would more than likely return to the Legion after their short visit home.

Things were happening with Mr. Lincoln and his army. He was still looking for a general who would recognize the fact that the only way they were going to end this war was to totally defeat the Southern Armies. He finally found his man in Ulysses S. Grant from the Western Army. Grant had been successful in most of his efforts against the Rebels in the west including Forts Henry and Donaldson, Shiloh, Vicksburg and Chattanooga/Missionary Ridge. He was called to Washington, promoted to Lieutenant General and placed in command of all the Union Armies. There had been only two other Lt. Generals in the United States Army before Grant, George Washington and Winfield Scott, both Virginians. Grant developed plans for an all-out campaign on all fronts, to begin early in May 1864. He would leave Meade in command of the Army of Potomac while he himself would campaign with that army and actually be in command of it. He would make his friend, Sherman, commander of the forces left in the west (or south) to carry the war to Georgia and cut the South apart once again. Banks was to aggressively campaign in Louisiana and eventually take Mobile while General Butler, probably the most hated Yankee general, would attack the Richmond area up the south side of the James River, cutting off supplies from the south. There also would be campaigns in the Shenandoah Valley led by the German Sigel to further destroy that breadbasket while the blockade of Southern ports would be tightened.

When Longstreet learned of Grant's appointment he warned General Lee, "That man will fight us every day and every hour until the end of the war." "Old Pete" knew Grant well from pre-war days and had served in Grant's wedding to Longstreet's cousin. General Lee did not realize that a new type Yankee General was now in command of an army that outnumbered his two-to-one. The North, with its overwhelming superiority in numbers of men and in necessary materials, now had a man and a plan that, if carried out as designed, would tax the South to the limit. The various Union armies were to simultaneously begin their offensive in the early part of May, 1864.

We know too well of Sherman's success in Georgia but Banks and Butler were either defeated or held in check and were a big disappointment to General Grant. The Yankee blockading squadrons did their assignments well cutting off vital supplies to the embattled South. Siegel was defeated by ex Vice President Breckenridge with the assistance of "Stonewall's" VMI Cadets at New Market and was succeeded by the hated General Hunter who was in turn defeated by "Old Jube" Early. Later these two "great Union generals" would be succeeded by the ruthless "Little Phil" Sheridan who was finally able to achieve what a long list of Yankee generals had not been able to do, defeat a Southern Army in the Valley. Now we will follow General Grant, and General Meade, and see how they played their part in the great strategy to win the war for the North.

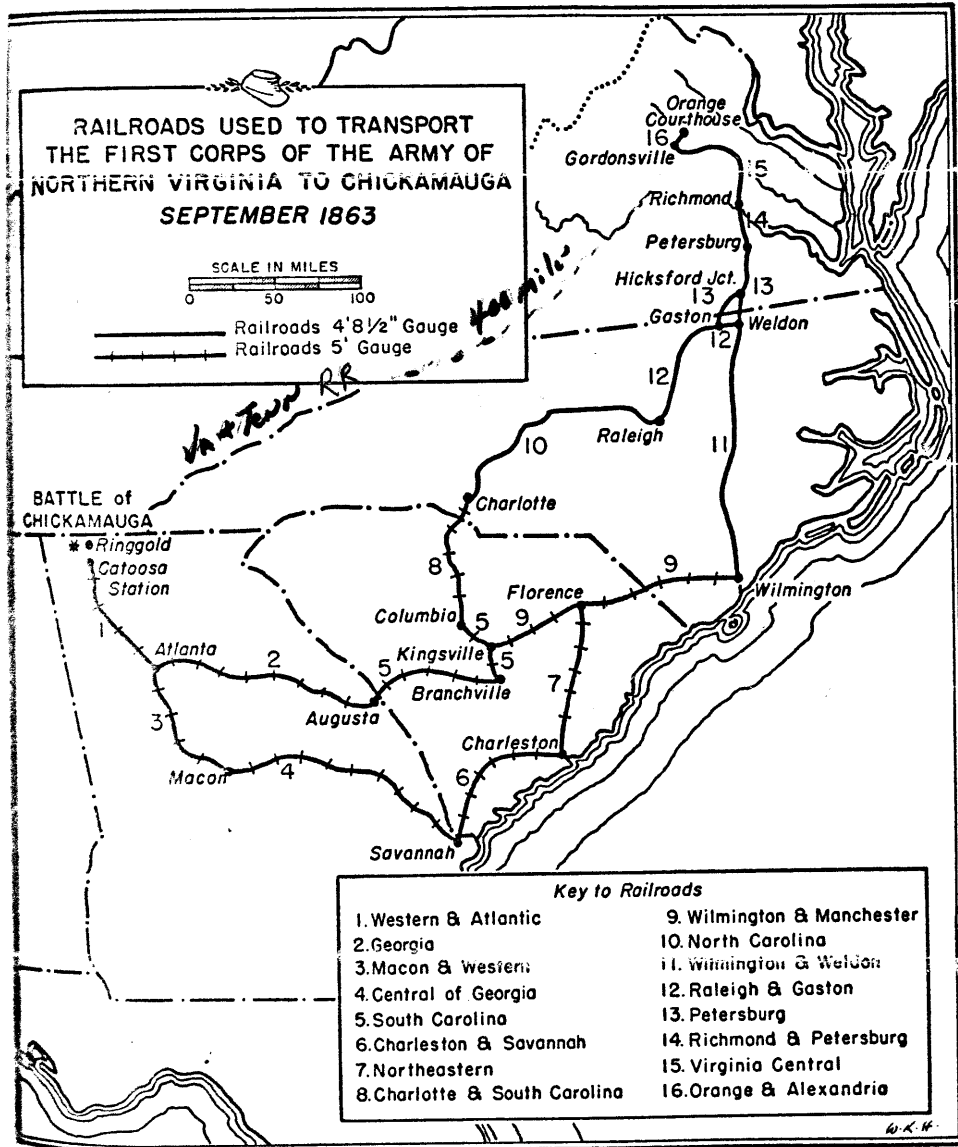
General Lee recalled Longstreet's men and they completed their round trip south, arriving back in Virginia by rail at Charlottesville by April 20. By the 29th, they were near Gordonsville and were reviewed by their revered commander, General Robert E. Lee. The Legion had marched to Bristol and from there had taken the cars. They passed through Lynchburg and Charlottesville where some of the men were privileged to visit the home of the great Jefferson.(18) They remained in Charlottesville for a few days then marched to Gordonsville which was about 25 or 30 miles away.

On April 23, a letter from Colonel George A. Sharpe, Ass't. Provost Marshall in Washington, to Captain McEntire at Harpers Ferry stated, "It is generally believed that Longstreet's first corps is near Charlottesville. I cannot find that the troops have been sent yet. I cannot find date of bread riot at Bristol by Wofford's Georgians."(19) We have not been able to find out much regarding this bread riot. The men probably had "had enough" and, if rations were not waiting for them, they had made a little trouble. One report states that "Last night a party from our brigade made a charge on the Post Commissary at Bristol. Lt. Wells of the 24th Geo Regt was killed, also two others badly if not mortally wounded & several others slightly. The party is now under arrest. Lt. Haddock of the 24th was in the party."(20)

The troops were once again well supplied and well fed. The ranks were increased by new recruits and the recovered wounded as well as a number who returned from "unauthorized furlough".

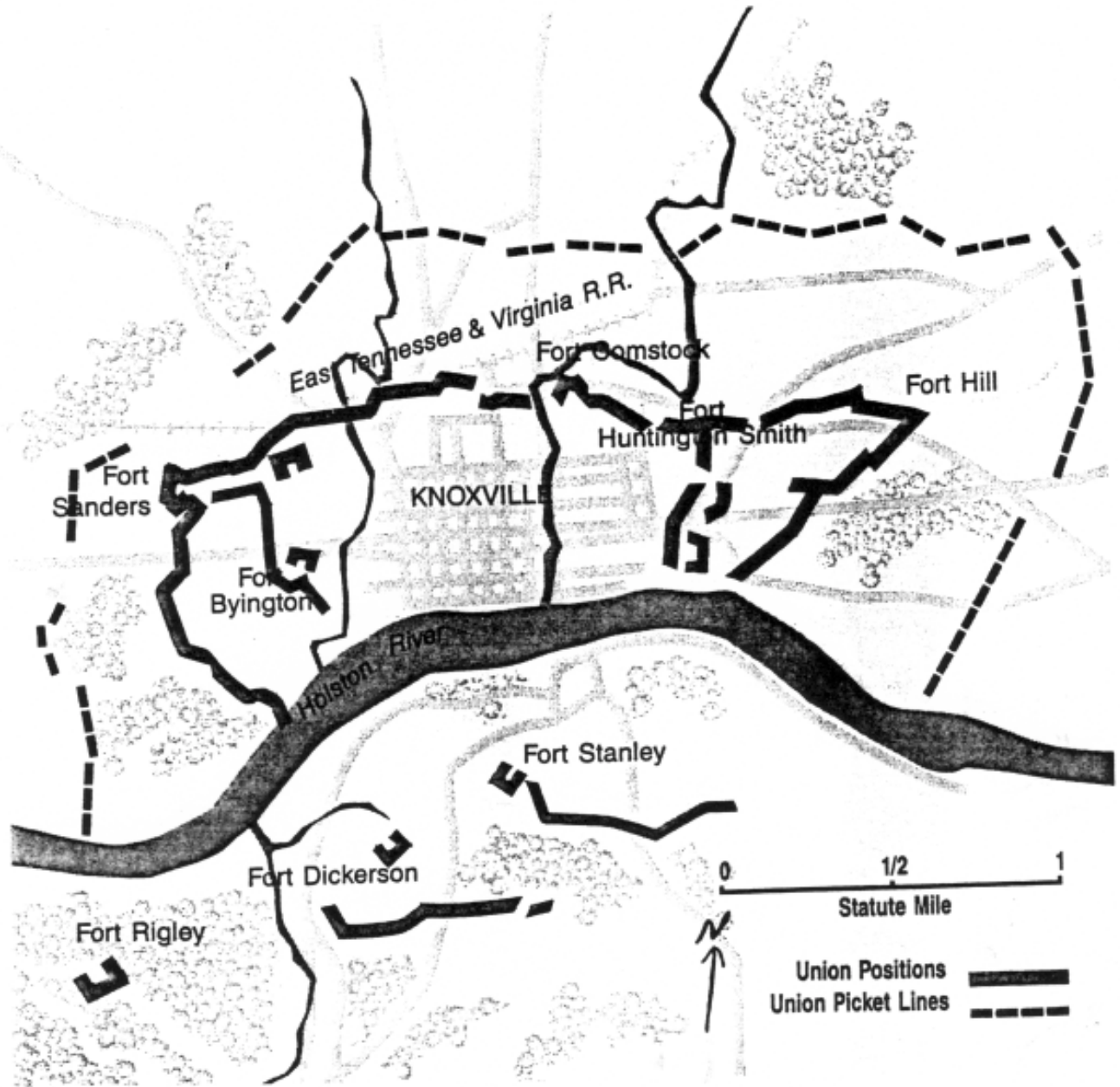
After the experiences of the last two springs, the men of Company B of Bowdon had a good idea of what was in store for them. They could not realize, however, that it would be a year when Grant would not allow them even a slight breather. The next rest for the Legion would be in April, 1865.





FROM MANASSAS TO APPOMATTOX
JAMES LONGSTREET





FEDERAL FORTIFICATIONS AROUND KNOXVILLE SHOWING THE POSITION OF FORT SANDERS AND THE CONFEDERATE EXTERIOR LINE

(FROM *DIVIDED LOYALTIES*)

Report of Lieut. Col. N. L. Hutchins, jr., Third Battalion Georgia Sharpshooters, commanding Wofford's brigade.

CAMP NEAR RUSSELLVILLE, TENN.,

January 1, 1864.

MAJOR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of Wofford's brigade during the late campaign. In consequence of the changes that have occurred in brigade and regimental commanders it is necessarily imperfect:

The brigade was withdrawn from our lines at Chattanooga on the night of November 4 last, and on the 6th was transported by railroad from Tyner's Station to Sweet Water, where it remained in camp six days.

On the 12th it took up the line of march and moved by way of Philadelphia to a point on the Tennessee River about 6 miles above Loudon, where it arrived at 2 p. m. the 13th.

At 12 o'clock on the night of the 13th the march was resumed and the command arrived at Loudon at daybreak on the morning of the 14th. Here it remained until the 15th, when it crossed the Tennessee

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River and pursued the line of march to a point near Lenoir's Station and bivouacked for the night.

On the 16th the march was continued to Campbell's Station, where the enemy had halted and made a stand. Disposition for battle was made and the line advanced, but the brigade did not become engaged, nor did the enemy's artillery, which kept up a sharp fire on the line as it advanced, do any serious injury.

That night the enemy retreated and next morning (the 17th) the pursuit was continued until we arrived in sight of the enemy's position and fortifications at Knoxville, when the brigade was moved to the left and took position near Crawford's house, where it remained with one battalion on picket until the 18th, when it was relieved by General Anderson's brigade, and then moved back and took its proper position in the line of the division.

Having advanced the picket line to the railroad, 600 to 800 yards from Fort Loudon, a rifle-pit was dug, by direction and under the superintendence of Colonel Ruff, 100 yards in front of the picket posts on the left, thus leaving its left partially exposed and unprotected; it was, therefore, used only for vedettes and sharpshooters.

A sortie was made on this work on the morning of the 24th by a regiment of the enemy (the Second Michigan). Crossing the railroad far to the left it moved down, its right flank perpendicular to our picket line, thereby getting completely on the flank and in rear of the rifle-pit, and there being but few men on post made an easy capture of it. A portion of the Third Georgia Battalion Sharpshooters being on duty at this position, the remaining portion was moved up to its support and soon succeeded in driving the enemy from the works with a loss, as nearly as could be ascertained, of 50 or 60 killed, wounded, and prisoners, while the battalion's loss was 5 men wounded, 2 of them mortally. The pickets of General Law's brigade took a part in this affair.

During the night of the 28th of that month the Twenty-fourth Georgia Regiment, in co-operation with the pickets of other brigades, advanced the line to a position about 250 yards from the fort, capturing a few pickets.

On the morning of the 29th the brigade moved out under orders to assault the works. The battalion of sharpshooters having relieved the Twenty-fourth Georgia on picket, immediately the artillery opened fire on the fort. In accordance with orders advanced skirmishers to easy rifle range and kept up a rapid fire into the port holes, which effectually prevented the working of their guns by the enemy until the column of attack had advanced to the summit of the hill near to the fort.

The disposition for assault was column of regiments, and in the following order: First, Phillips Legion; second, Eighteenth Georgia Regiment; third, Sixteenth Georgia Regiment, and fourth, Cobb's Legion.

The advance was obstructed by fallen timber, tangled bushes, &c., but so soon as this was passed the column formed in good order and moved forward with a cheerfulness, confidence, and enthusiasm that promised success; but arrived at the fort the column encountered a ditch 4 to 5 feet deep, 8 to 10 feet wide, and extending along the length of the work to the rifle-pits on either side. The height of the parapet, estimating from the bottom of the ditch, was about 18 feet, and its exterior slope at an angle of 65 to 70 degrees, with a base line. The opening very narrow, soon wore away, and it was with difficulty that a foothold could be obtained upon it; yet by assistance

of their comrades some men succeeded in getting on the slope, but not in sufficient force to venture over the parapet into the fort. After remaining at the fort for twenty or twenty-five minutes and failing of success, the brigade withdrew and returned to its camp.

In this assault Phillips Legion was commanded by Maj. Joseph Hamilton, wounded; the Eighteenth Georgia Regiment, by Capt. John A. Crawford; the Sixteenth Georgia Regiment, by Lieut. Col. Henry P. Thomas, killed; Cobb's Legion, by Maj. William D. Conyers, and the brigade by Col. S. Z. Ruff, of the Eighteenth Georgia Regiment, who was also killed.

The conduct of both officers and men in this assault was admirable. The loss of the brigade on that occasion was 246 killed, wounded, and missing.

From the time of the assault on Fort Loudon to the night of December 4 last the brigade continued to perform picket duty on the line in front of the enemy's works. The siege was then raised, and the brigade withdrew from its position and moved off with the division along the road leading by way of Rutledge, Bean's Station, and Mooresburg, and on the 9th or 10th arrived at a position 6 miles from Rogersville, and there went into camp and remained until the 14th. On that day it returned to Bean's Station, and the enemy having been driven back by other brigades, this, not being engaged, went into camp in the valley near Kentucky Gap.

On the 20th, it moved to Long's Ferry, where, on the night of the 21st, it crossed the Holston River by flat-boat, and on the 22d marched to its present encampment.

The number, with a list of casualties during these operations, has been heretofore forwarded.

During the campaign, particularly while at Sweet Water and on the march from Knoxville and in camp in Hawkins County, the supply of rations was scanty, and some bad men would straggle and commit depredations on private people. Many were without shoes and much in need of clothing and blankets, and experienced severe and disagreeable weather; but notwithstanding these privations, hardships, and sufferings, they continued cheerful, and their general conduct was exemplary.

Since halting at its present position the men of the brigade have been engaged in the construction of huts, chimneys to tents, &c., and are now quite comfortable.

Respectfully submitted.

N. L. HUTCHINS, JR.,

Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Brigade.

Maj. JAMES M. GOGGIN, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

