

Federals Occupy Chattanooga

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UPI Correspondent

Col. Smith D. Atkins led his 92nd Illinois Mounted Infantry into Chattanooga, Tenn., about 10 a.m. Sept. 9, 1863 and occupied the key city of the Confederacy without opposition.

His men raised the Stars and Stripes over the Crutchfield House, a three-story hotel.

Chattanooga, the link which bound the Confederate East with the West, had fallen without a battle to the Army of the Cumberland, Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans commanding.

"Old Rosy" had maneuvered Gen. Braxton Bragg's Army of Tennessee out of the city and the immediate vicinity as he had maneuvered it out of Southern Tennessee earlier.

Rosecrans was being hailed in the North as an American Napoleon or a modern day Marlborough for his bloodless victories. But Bragg's army remained untouched and was about to be reinforced. And Rosecrans was about to find out that holding the city which had fallen into his lap like a ripe apple would be harder than tak-

ing it. And in its own good time the Army of Tennessee would bite him.

Under Artillery Fire

Chattanooga had been under intermittent artillery fire since Aug. 21 when Capt. Eli Lilly, young Greencastle, Ind., druggist turned gunner, planted a battery on the right bank of the Tennessee River across from the city and began throwing shells.

His battery was a part of the left wing of Rosecrans' army which was feinting at the city from the north while the main part of the army crossed the river below. Lilly's marksmanship was good. He sank one steamer, disabled another and wrecked the pontoons Bragg had collected. He silenced one battery and knocked out a big gun.

One shell fired that day struck near the First Presbyterian Church where the Rev. B. M. Palmer of New Orleans was conducting service. It was a fast day, proclaimed by President Jefferson Davis in atonement for the losses of Gettysburg and Vicksburg.

The clergyman was praying as the shell struck and continued as if nothing had happened. "The preacher, opening his eyes, noticed a perceptible diminution of his congregation," Lt. Gen. D. H. Hill reported.

Bragg had pulled his army behind the mountains south of Chattanooga into Georgia. He coached "deserters" to tell the Federals that the army was retreating deep into Georgia. The "deserters" did their job well and Rosecrans swallowed the bait.

The same day he occupied Chattanooga Rosecrans notified army commander Henry W. Halleck in Washington that "the army has retreated to Rome (Georgia). If we pursue vigorously they will not stop short of Atlanta."

Army out of sight. Actually Bragg had massed his army out of sight behind the mountains on Rosecrans' center.

"Old Rosy" went after him on Sept. 12. He sent his XXI Corps under Maj. Gen. Thomas L. Crittenden from the north. Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas with the XVI Corps was to cross Lookout Mountain at Stevens Gap in the center and at the south end of Lookout Major Gen. Alexander M. McCook led his XX Corps on the far right.

From Crittenden on the north to McCook on the south it was

about 30 miles in an airline, nearly twice that far by road. Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge and Pigeon Mountain lay between the three corps.

Rosecrans' army was so dispersed no corps could support another in time if the Confederates attacked any one.

Brig. Gen. John B. Turchin of Thomas' corps, summed up Rosecrans' position like this: "Seldom in the annals of warfare has such a magnificent opportunity been presented to completely defeat the opposing force in detail as that which now was offered to rebel General Bragg."

General Had Opinion

With the door wide open and victory beckoning, Bragg hesitated and did not strike. Why? General Hill had an opinion.

"The trouble with him was: first, lack of knowledge of the situation; second, lack of personal supervision of the execution of his orders." Hill wrote, "The truth is, General Bragg was bewildered. . . . The wide dispersion of the Federal forces, and their confrontal of him at so many points, perplexed him instead of being a source of congratulation that such grand opportunities were offered for crushing them one by one. . . . Another more serious trouble with him was the disposition to find a scapegoat for every failure and disaster. This made his officers cautious. . . . Bragg made several gestures against the enemy but none of them was developed.

Attack Ordered

Thoma's corps was moving across the mountains and Bragg ordered it attacked. His orders were vague and not carried out vigorously. Thomas' troops withdrew from their exposed position in the confusion.

Bragg then turned his attention to McCook on the South. In 12 hours or so, however, he decided McCook was harmless in his position and turned north toward Crittenden's force.

He ordered Lt. Gen. Leonidas Polk with his corps to attack Crittenden. But Crittenden was not where Bragg thought he was. Polk marched around but did no fighting.

Bragg again turned south and concentrated his army at Lafayette, Ga., about midway between the Federal wings.

The Confederate army lay inactive for four days.

By Sept. 13 Rosecrans finally found out that Bragg was not retreating and that his own army was dangerously exposed.

THIS WAS THE CIVIL WAR



CHATTANOOGA OCCUPIED—On Sept. 9, 1863, Chattanooga, the link which bound the Confederate East and West together, was occupied by the Federal Army of the Cumberland without a fight. That army's commander, Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans, was hailed in the north

Dennis the Menace



"GEE, DON'T YA EVER GET DIZZY WORKIN' WAY UP HERE?"

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a physician, three clergymen, three editors and a women's editor. Each article is a summary of a family disagreement presented to the Council. The Council deals with problems, major and minor, encountered by guidance counselors and social workers. Edited by

Mr. G. D. — My son's wife spends money like water.

Ruth D. — My sister-in-law knows how to live.

Mr. G. D. — My son and his wife occupy the apartment upstairs. Since they both go to business, we accept packages for them — and no department store truck ever passes us by. Hilda keeps buying and sending — the people on the block know that all deliverymen stop at our house. I can't imagine where she'll put any more. Most of the boxes lie unopened but still they come.

Ruth D. — My father had better stop criticizing Hilda. She knows he disapproves of her spending, calls her extravagant, and she's been patient with him, but sometime she'll blow her top and Dad will be sorry. If he's worried that my brother's going broke, he can ask him and advise him. But I'm glad Hilda is showing my father what money is for — my mother and I spoiled him. Hilda is piling up nice things for her home.

The Council: We'd try to probe Mr. D.'s motives for objecting to his daughter-in-law's spending spree. Evidently she's not spending his money. Is he afraid she'll bankrupt his son who'll then have to turn to Pop to bail him out? If so, he can venture a financial heart — to heart with Junior to find out how solvent he is, and remove that threat. . . . Is he afraid young Mrs. D. is putting ideas into the conservative heads of his wife and his daughter? If so, the "damage" is done. Ruth is converted to the idea that money should be converted into interesting packages — and not packages of rolled-up dimes and quarters, either. . . . If carefree purchasing goes against his grain, Mr. D. can continue to refrain from same himself. As to Hilda, the whole business is none of his business. It's his son's primarily. And who knows? One of those parcels may contain a loving birthday gift for Mr. D.

ELDER CITIZENS

WASHINGTON — There were 17 million Americans aged 65 and over in the nation last year and it was an increase of 4 million from 10 years ago.

JOB TRANSPORTATION
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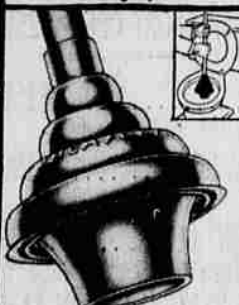
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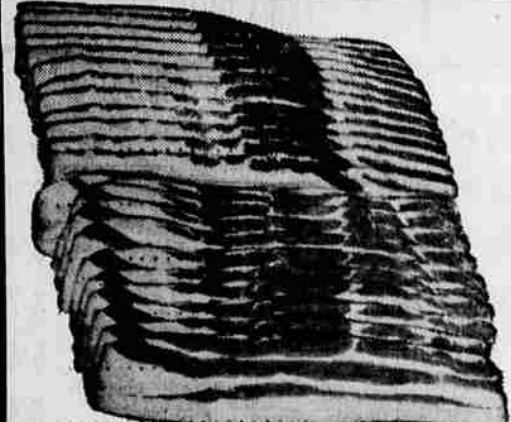
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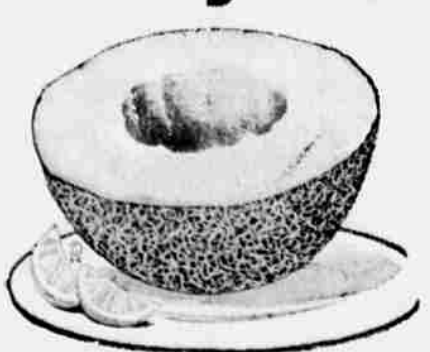
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