

# The Battle of Fort Sanders

By MERTON T. AKERS  
United Press International  
For reasons not clear after 100 years and perhaps not even clear to himself then, Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg divided his army before Chattanooga, Tenn., in November 1863 and sent part of it on a wild goose chase to Knoxville, Tenn.



Federal troops under Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside had occupied Knoxville on Sept. 2. Burnside was the general who had charged his army up the heights at Fredericksburg, Va., in December '62 to a crushing defeat. Now he was the "liberator" of East Tennessee, the area of considerable union sentiment which President Lincoln had been trying to occupy since the start of the war.

Bragg divided his forces at a time when Maj. Gen. U.S. Grant, commanding the Union forces there, had broken the Confederate hold on his supply line and was assembling reinforcements. Grant was a general who could be depended upon to attack early and often. Bragg knew that but split his army anyway. Robert E. Lee could do that in front of George B. McClellan and win. But Bragg was no Lee and Grant was no McClellan.

The force sent by Bragg to dispose of Burnside was commanded by Lt. Gen. James Longstreet and consisted of two divisions totalling about 12,000 men. These were the troops Longstreet had brought from the Army of Northern Virginia

at the time of the battle of Chickamauga. That was about half enough men, Longstreet thought, for the expedition against Burnside who had about 22,000 — protected by fortifications.

Longstreet worried. Longstreet left the Chattanooga lines on Nov. 5-6 and marched slowly toward Knoxville. He was not cheerful about the move.

"Twenty thousand men, well handled, could surely have cap-

# THIS WAS THE CIVIL WAR

walls. Having no scaling ladders, a portion of the men, scrambling over the shoulders of their comrades, planted the battle flags of the 13th and 17th Mississippi and the 16th Georgia upon the parapet, but every man who rallied to them was either killed or captured, and the flags were taken.

"Meanwhile those who remained in the ditch found themselves under a deadly flank fire of musketry and canister, without the slightest possibility of returning a blow. Advance and retreat were about equally difficult, and it needed but a very short exposure to convince them that if any were to leave the ditch alive it could only be by the promptest surrender.

"Those who were able to walk were brought through the ditch... and entered our lines as prisoners. Such of the assaulting forces as had not entered the ditch fell back, at first sullenly and slowly, but flesh and blood could not stand the storm of shot and shell that was poured on them, and they soon broke into confused retreat."

### Cal Tech Laboratory Records Earthquake

PASADENA, Calif. (UPI) — An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.8 on the Richter scale was recorded Saturday at the Seismological laboratory of the California Institute of Technology.

Dr. Charles Richter said the quake occurred about 4,000 miles from here at a depth of 80 miles below the earth's surface. The direction was undetermined. He said a tremor of such magnitude often was felt over a wide area and could cause extensive damage in a populated area.

Oxygen is about 16 times as heavy as hydrogen.

The assaulting Confederates had lain all night without fires waiting for dawn. The temperature was near freezing and a fine mist was falling.

Union losses were: 92 killed; 394 wounded; 207 captured or missing; total, 693. Confederate losses: 182 killed; 788 wounded; 138 captured or missing; total, 1,142. (Cavalry losses not included were estimated at 2,000.)

As Longstreet debated whether to renew the attack he received word that Bragg's army had been defeated at Chattanooga by Grant and was retreating into Georgia. He was ordered to retreat to Bragg's army but before the order could be carried out, Bragg advised him that Union reinforcements were on their way to Knoxville. Longstreet remained around Knoxville until Dec. 4 and then withdrew ahead of Union reinforcements into Eastern Tennessee and eventually into Virginia.

What Longstreet had feared had happened. Both wings of the divided army had been defeated.

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## Your Money's Worth

By SYLVIA PORTER  
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### NEITHER INFLATION NOR DEFLATION

We in the United States are still in one of the most remarkably prolonged periods of comparative price stability in modern history.

What is happening here is not inflation — in the sense that inflation is a broad upswing in prices due to the pressure of too much money seeking too few goods.

What is happening here is not deflation — in the sense that deflation is a broad downswing in prices due to the pressure of too many goods chasing too few dollars.

Your cost of living is still rising, yes — primarily because of increases in the cost of such services as medical care, auto insurance, household maintenance — but the climb in a full year has been less than 1 per cent. The buying power of your dollar is still slipping, yes, but at a rate far below the rate of rise in your total paycheck.

We have been in a cycle of neither-inflation-nor-deflation for years and we'll remain in it during the months directly ahead. Because of the recent "wavelike" of price hikes, there is considerable confusion about what's going on. Here's a simple question-answer report to clarify the picture.

Q: Exactly what is happening to prices in the U. S. now?  
A: Some prices, which have been too weak in the past several years, are firming at last. Many prices which had been unofficially cut below list levels through discounts and "deals" are back to list.

At the same time, there have been price markdowns to offset the markups. Many price hikes announced during the "wavelike" of September-October already have died a quiet death in infancy. What has occurred so far is welcomed by most objective economists as a sign of a healthy, solid economy.

Q: What do the indexes show?  
A: In contrast to the scare headlines, stability. The consumer price index is sticking around 107.1, less than 1 per cent above the fall of 1962. This means it costs \$1.07 to buy the marketbasket of goods and services that \$1 bought back in 1957-59 — hardly major inflation.

At the wholesale level, the steadiness of prices has been nothing short of sensational. The index has scarcely budged for five years, is now at 100.4 against a base of 100 in 1957-59.

Q: Why is inflation under wraps?  
A: Because industry has ample capacity to produce; manufacturers are operating today at 85 per cent of capacity, 7 points below the so-called comfortable rate. Because supplies of just about everything are readily available. Because competition is fierce and not only businessmen at home but also aggressive manufacturers abroad are fighting for our dollar. Because unemployment continues high — even though the jobless rate for married men is way down — and new workers are entering the labor force at the fastest rate in history. Because businessmen are taking the toughest attitude in years toward union demands for steep wage hikes and are putting a real lid on costs.

Q: Why does the White House express "concern" then?  
A: The reason is that the higher price trend might spread throughout the economy if businessmen decide their "tests" of our attitudes indicate we'll take the increases. The worry is not about what is but about what might be. Our stable prices have substantially improved our competitive position in the world's markets and we cannot afford a setback in our export drive. Any price spiral also would revive the danger of a wage spiral, put us back into a vicious leaping of prices-wages-prices-wages.

Q: What's the outlook?  
A: The prospect is that prices will continue to advance only moderately but assuming the tax cut accelerates the economy, the pace of advance could quicken. Then concern would be distinctly justified.

As of today, though, inflation in the sense of too many dollars seeking too few goods and thus sending prices skyrocketing is just not on the horizon.

President Jefferson Davis who earlier had visited the Confederate army, suggested to Bragg that "you might advantageously assign General Longstreet with his two divisions to the task of expelling Burnside."

Bragg wrote to Davis later that "the Virginia troops will move in the direction indicated as soon as practicable. This will be a great relief to me."

Whether Bragg's "great relief" was to get rid of Longstreet, with whom he had quarrelled, or whether he felt the Knoxville expedition would drain off a big portion of Grant's troops to Burnside's relief, remains unanswered.

Skirmishing  
Longstreet's troops arrived at the perimeter of the Knoxville defenses on Nov. 17 but it was Nov. 29 before he attacked. The 12 days were used to probe the defenses. Skirmishing was continuous. Longstreet was reinforced by two brigades of cavalry from southwest Virginia and about 3,500 troops from Bragg's army. This addition brought his force to about 20,000 men.

The chief Union defenses of the city were two forts to the west—Fort Sanders, named for Brig. Gen. William P. Sanders who had been killed a few days before in a rear guard action and Fort Doynton. These forts were hastily built but strong.

Longstreet decided to attack Fort Sanders. (The Confederates called it Fort Loudon because they had started it under that name before they abandoned the city.)

The Attack  
Brig. Gen. Orlando M. Poe, Union engineer who had built Fort Sanders, described the battle.

"About 6 a.m. on Sunday November 29th, the enemy opened a heavy artillery fire upon Fort Sanders, to which no reply was made, because our limited supply of ammunition made it necessary to reserve it for use at a more critical moment. The fire continued about twenty minutes and then slackened, whereupon the (Confederate) columns moved to the assault, and were at once met by all the fire that could be concentrated upon them from our lines.

"Encountering the wire entanglements (telegraph wire strung on tree stumps), their organization was somewhat disturbed, but the movement was not seriously checked thereby, nor did the slight abatis (sharpened tree limbs) retard it.

"Although suffering from the terribly destructive fire... they soon reached the outer brink of the ditch. There could be no pause at that moment, leaping into the ditch in such numbers as nearly to fill it, they endeavored to scale the

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