

GRANT AT CHATTANOOGA

The following interesting story of the war was read at the meeting of the Canby Post, G. A. R., by Comrade Fred Deitz:

The subject which I have selected this evening for the foundation for a few remarks is that portion of the life of U. S. Grant which is embraced between October 10, 1863, and November 25 of the same year.

On the tenth day of October Grant received a telegram from Washington dated the third, saying, "It is the wish of the secretary of war that you should go to Chattanooga as soon as you can. Grant is able to come to Cairo and report by telegraph."

At the time of the receipt of this dispatch Gen. Grant was still suffering from the effects of a fall received from a runaway while reviewing the troops under Gen. N. P. Banks, then stationed at New Orleans.

In compliance with this dispatch he left Vicksburg for Cairo the same day, and upon his arrival there found a dispatch from the secretary of war directing him to report at the Galt House, Louisville, Kentucky. Within two hours she was upon his way, going via Indianapolis, where he met the secretary of war, Mr. Stanton, who accompanied him to Louisville.

Up to this time Grant had received no intimation as to the object of his being called north. Before reaching Louisville Mr. Stanton handed Gen. Grant two orders, remaining at the same time that it was optional with himself as to which to choose. The two were identical in all but one particular.

Both created the military division of the Mississippi, placing him in command. One left the department commanders as they were, while the other relieved Gen. Rosecrans and assigned Gen. Thomas to his place. General Grant accepted the latter.

That evening Stanton received a dispatch from C. A. Dana, a special agent of the war department and with Rosecrans at Chattanooga, "that Rosecrans unless prevented would retreat," and advising peremptory orders against his doing so.

Upon receiving this dispatch the secretary sent Gen. Grant, showing him the dispatch and said quite excitedly that the retreat must be prevented. Grant immediately wrote an order assuming command of the Military Division of the Mississippi and telegraphed it to Gen. Rosecrans.

He then sent him the order from Washington. Assigning Gen. Thomas to the command of the department, and to Thomas that he must hold Chattanooga at all hazard, adding that he would be at the front as soon as possible. A prompt reply was received from Thomas saying, "We will hold the town until we starve."

Grant says he appreciated the force of the dispatch later when he witnessed the condition of affairs that prompted it.

In order to understand the condition in which Rosecrans' army was at this time it will be necessary for us to go back to the spring of 1863. Rosecrans was then at Murfreesboro, Tenn., with a large and well equipped army, Gen. Bragg opposing him with a strong Confederate force and acting on the defensive.

Rosecrans began his campaign on the twenty-fourth day of June and by skillful maneuvering succeeded in forcing Bragg south of the Tennessee river, through and beyond Chattanooga, and believing Bragg still retreating, pursued with his forces very much scattered.

After the surrender of Vicksburg, July 4, 1863, Bragg's army was heavily reinforced by troops from Mississippi which had been employed under Johnson in trying to force Grant to raise the siege of that place.

This enabled him to assume the offensive and forced Rosecrans to fall back and concentrate his scattered forces which was finally done at Chickamauga. The battle was fought on the nineteenth and twentieth of September and Rosecrans was badly defeated with heavy loss in artillery and 16,000 men.

Gen. Thomas is accredited with the honor of saving the army from total destruction and well earned the name which was bestowed upon him as the "Rock of Chickamauga."

Rosecrans' defeated army returned to Chattanooga and were followed by Bragg, who took possession of Missionary Ridge, overlooking Chattanooga, also Lookout mountain west of the town, with a strong line of works across the valley and connecting the two.

About this time the authorities at Washington discovered that Rosecrans was in trouble and Grant was ordered north as we have seen. A retreat at this time would have been a terrible disaster. It would not only have been the loss of an important position, but would have resulted in the loss of all the artillery still left and the annihilation of the army itself by capture and demoralization.

All supplies for Rosecrans' army had to be brought from Nashville by rail to Bridgeport on the Tennessee where the railroad crosses to the south side Bragg holding Rosecrans and Lookout mountains west of Chattanooga, commanded the railroad, the river and the shortest and best wagon road, both north and south of the Tennessee river between Chattanooga and Bridgeport. The distance between the two places is but twenty-six miles by rail, but owing to the position of Bragg's troops all supplies for the army had to be carried by a circuitous route and over a mountainous country a distance of sixty miles.

The country afforded but little food for animals and nearly 10,000 horses had already succumbed to starvation. The men had been on half rations for a long time, with but few other supplies except beef driven from Nashville, which upon its arrival was so poor that the soldiers used to say they were "hog on half rations of hard bread and beef half rations of the hoof. Nothing could be transported but food, and the troops were suffering for shoes and sufficient clothing.

Fuel was completely exhausted even to the stumps. There were no teams to draw it from the opposite bank where it was abundant, and the only way it could be obtained for some time before Grant's arrival was to cut trees on the north bank at a distance up stream and raft it down on the shoulders of the men to the camp.

On the twentieth of October Gen. Grant and staff left Louisville for the front, arriving at Bridgeport on the night of the twenty first. From there they took horses and mules and rode by Jasper and over the ridge to Chattanooga. There had been no rain and the roads were almost impassable from mud. The men were weary from the march and the horses were almost exhausted. He had been confined to his camp since the accident at New Creek and had to be carried over place where it was not safe to cross.

horseback. The roads were strewn with broken wagons and the carcasses of thousands of starved mules and horses.

At Jasper Grant met Gen. O. O. Howard, who had been sent from the army at the Potomac with the 11th and 12th corps under Gen. Hooker to reinforce Rosecrans.

Grant arrived at Chattanooga on the twenty third and established temporary headquarters with Gen. Thomas. On the twenty-fourth he made a personal inspection of the line and the same evening issued orders for opening a new route for supplies.

Hooker, who was at Bridgeport, was ordered to cross to the south side of the Tennessee and march up by Whitesides and Wauhatchie to Brown's Ferry. Gen. Palmer with a Division of the 14th Corps was ordered to move down the river on the north side by a back road until opposite Whitesides, then cross and hold the road in Hooker's rear after he had passed; 4,000 men were detailed at the same time to act under Gen. Smith direct from Chattanooga; 1,800 of these under Gen. Hazen now to take sixty pontoon boats and under cover of night float by the pickets of the enemy at the north base of Lookout mountain down to Brown's Ferry, then land on the south side and capture or drive away the pickets at that point.

Smith was to march with the balance of the troops, also under cover of night, by the north bank of the same point, taking with him material for laying a bridge as soon as a covering was secured.

On the twenty-sixth Hooker crossed and began the movement. At three o'clock a. m. of the twenty-seventh Hazen moved into the stream with his sixty pontoons and 1,800 brave and well equipped men. Smith started in advance to be there when Hazen should arrive. At five o'clock Hazen landed at the ferry, surprised the picket guard and captured the most of it. By seven o'clock the whole of Smith's force was ferried over and in possession of a height commanding the ferry. This was immediately fortified, while a detail was laying the pontoon bridge.

By ten o'clock the bridge was completed and our extreme right now in Lookout valley was fortified and connected with the rest of the army. Hooker met slight opposition and on the twenty eighth emerged into Lookout valley at Wauhatchie.

Howard with the 11th Corps marched to Brown's Ferry. The enemy on the river below were thus cut off and soon came in and surrendered.

The river was thus opened from Lookout valley to Bridgeport and in just five days after Gen. Grant's arrival at Chattanooga the way was opened to Bridgeport and with the aid of Stewart's and Hooker's teams in a week the enemy's right flank was reached. The enemy was surprised by the movements, which secured to us a line of supplies, and made desperate efforts to recover the same.

On the night of the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth a slight attack was made upon Gen. Geary's Corps (the twelfth) at Wauhatchie by Gen. Longstreet's Corps sent by Lee from Richmond to reinforce Bragg. Geary was promptly reinforced by Howard from Brown's Ferry. By four o'clock in the morning the battle had entirely ceased and the "cracker line" thus established was never afterward disturbed.

Sherman's troops now began to arrive at Bridgeport and Gen. Grant's orders were issued for the advance to battle. Howard was ordered to the north side of the Tennessee, thence up behind the hills and go into camp opposite Chattanooga.

The plan of battle was for Sherman to attack the enemy's right flank extending our left flank beyond the south Chickamauga so as to threaten or hold the railroad in Bragg's rear, thus forcing him to weaken his lines elsewhere or lose his connection with his supplies at Chickamauga station. Hooker was to perform like service on the right by crossing to Chattanooga valley, cross the latter rapidly to Rossville south of Bragg's line on Missionary Ridge, facing north with his right flank extending to Chickamauga valley thus threatening Bragg's left and forcing him to reinforce that flank also. Thomas occupied the center and was to assault while the enemy was engaged defending his two flanks. Sherman crossed the Tennessee at Brown's Ferry and moved east of Chattanooga to a point opposite the north end of Mission Ridge, placing his command back of the foot hills and out of sight of the enemy on the ridge.

There are two streams called Chickamauga emptying into the Tennessee east of Chattanooga. North Chickamauga flowing south and emptying into the Tennessee some three miles east of town.

The crossing of Sherman's troops at Brown's Ferry was in full view to the enemy on the top of Lookout mountain but once over disappeared behind the hills as we have stated, but when Sherman's advance reached a point opposite the town of Chattanooga Howard, who it will be remembered had been concealed behind the hills on the north side, took up his line of march to join the troops on the south side. His crossing was in full view both from Lookout and Mission Ridge and the enemy of course supposed these troops to be Sherman's.

One hundred sixteen pontoon boats had been secretly deposited in the North Chickamauga and at two o'clock on the morning of the twenty fourth they were each loaded with thirty brave and well armed men. The boats dropped down quietly with the current to avoid attracting the attention of any one until arriving near the mouth of the South Chickamauga. Here a few boats were landed, the troops debarked and a rush made upon the picket guard. The guards were surprised and a majority of them captured. The balance effected a landing lower down and the work of ferrying Sherman's troops over began. A steamer was also brought up from town to assist.

As fast as the troops were got across they were set to work intruding upon the pickets by day and by night. The bridge was completed by a little past noon, as well as one over the South Chickamauga, and in a short time all the troops were on the south side.

Prof. H. A. Row-F, of Havana, Cuba, is comm. ad. thand-rivals' - Cough Remedy.

As long ago as I can remember my mother was a tall, dark, slender, and very much like the one I see in the value of the 'Cough Remedy' writes Prof. H. A. Row-F, of Havana, Cuba. I am in the habit of taking it and have taken it with me since the beginning of my life. I can not say it is a cure for all coughs, but it is a very good one and it is necessary to have him in the arms every moment. Even then his breathing was difficult. I did not think he would live until morning. At last I thought of my mother's remedy, Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, which we gave, and it offered prompt relief and now, three days later he has fully recovered. Under the circumstances I would not hesitate a moment in saying that Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and that only saved the life of our dear little boy." For sale by Kier & Cass. Sheriff Morse had business at The Dallas Friday.

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