

GEN. GRANT'S OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE BATTLES OF CHATTANOOGA, LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN AND MISSIONARY RIDGE.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE WEST, In the Field, Chattanooga, Tenn., Dec. 24, '63.

Col. J. C. Kellom, A. G. Washington, D. C. COLONEL: In pursuance of G. O. No. 337, War Department, of date Washington, October 16, 1863, delivered to me by the Secretary of War...

Proceeding directly to Chattanooga, I arrived there on the 28th October, and found that General Thomas had, immediately on being placed in command of the Department of the Cumberland, ordered the concentration of Major General Crocker's command at Bridgeport...

It was known the enemy held the north of Lookout Valley with a brigade of troops, and the road leading round the foot of the mountain from their main camp in Chattanooga Valley to Lookout Valley. Holding these advantages, he would have had little difficulty in concentrating a sufficient force to have defeated or driven him back.

The force detailed for this expedition consisted of five thousand men, under command of General Smith, Chief Engineer, eighteen hundred of which, under Brigadier General H. B. Hazen, in sixty pontoon boats, containing thirty armed men each, floated quietly from Chattanooga past the enemy's pickets to the foot of Lookout Mountain on the night of the 27th of October...

Whiteside, over which he had marched, and also the road leading from Brown's Ferry to Kelly's Ferry, throwing the left of Howard's Corps forward to Brown's Ferry.

The division that succeeded, under command of Palmer, for Whitesides, reached its destination and took up the position intended in the original plan of this movement. These movements, so successfully executed, secured to us two comparatively good lines by which to obtain supplies from the terminus of the railroad at Bridgeport...

Up to this period our forces at Chattanooga were practically invested, the enemy's lines extending from the Tennessee river above Chattanooga to the river at and below the point at Lookout Mountain, below Chattanooga, with the south bank of the river picketed to near Bridgeport...

By the use of two steamboats, one of which had been left at Chattanooga by the enemy, and fell into our hands, and one that had been built by us at Bridgeport and Kelly's Ferry, we were enabled to obtain supplies with but eight miles of wagoning.

After a thorough reconnaissance of the ground, however, it was deemed utterly impracticable to make the move until Sherman should get up, because of the inadequacy of our forces, and the condition of the animals then at Chattanooga, and I was forced to leave Burnside for the present...

Your despatch and mine's just received. Being there, you can tell better how to resist Longstreet's attack than I can direct. With your showing, you had better give up Kingston at the last moment, and save the most productive part of your possessions.

On the 15th having received from the General-in-Chief a despatch of date of the 14th, in reference to Burnside's position the danger of his abandonment of East Tennessee, unless immediate relief were afforded...

CHATTANOOGA, November 15, 1863. I do not know how to impress on you the necessity of holding on to East Tennessee in strong enough terms. According to the despatches of Mr. Dana and Colonel Wilson, it would seem that you should, if pressed to do it, hold on to Knoxville...

Previous reconnaissances, made first by Brigadier General W. F. Smith, Chief Engineer, and afterwards by Thomas, Sherman, and myself, in company with him, of the country opposite Chattanooga...

Chattanooga and north of the Tennessee River, extending as far east as the mouth of the North Chickamauga and the north end of Missionary Ridge, so far as the same could be made from the north bank of the river without exciting suspicions...

Upon further consideration—the great object being to mass all the force possible against one given point, namely: Missionary Ridge, converging towards the north end of it—it was deemed best to change the original plan, so far as it contemplated Hooker's attack on Lookout Mountain, which would give us Howard's corps of his command to aid in this purpose...

The troops in Chattanooga Valley should be well concentrated on our left flank, leaving only the necessary force to defend fortifications on the right and centre, and a movable column of one division in readiness to move wherever ordered.

A copy of these instructions was furnished Sherman, with the following communication: Enclosed herewith I send you a copy of instructions to Major General Thomas. You having been over the ground in person, and having heard the whole matter discussed, further instructions will not be necessary for you.

U. S. GRANT, Major General. Sherman's forces were moved from Bridgeport by way of Whiteside—one division threatening the enemy's left flank in the direction of Trenton, crossing at Brown's Ferry, up the north bank of the Tennessee, to near the mouth of South Chickamauga...

GEN. BRAGG'S REBEL MOVEMENTS. A deserter from the rebel army, who came into our lines on the night of the 23d of November, reported Bragg falling back.

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On the night of the 23d of November Sherman, with three divisions of his army, strengthened by Davis' Division of Thomas, which had been stationed along on the north side of the river, convenient to where the crossing was to be effected...

which to move Thomas' artillery, was sent up from Chattanooga to aid in crossing artillery and troops, and by daylight of the morning of the 24th of November eight thousand men were on the south side of the Tennessee and fortified in rifle trenches.

By three o'clock of the same day Colonel Long with his brigade of cavalry, of Thomas' army, crossed to the south side of the Tennessee and to the north of South Chickamauga creek, and made a raid on the enemy's lines of communication.

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Early in the morning of the 25th the remainder of Howard's corps reported to Sherman, and constituted a part of his forces during that day's battle, the pursuit, and the subsequent advance for the relief of Knoxville.

The appearance of Hooker's column was at this time anxiously looked for and momentarily expected, moving north on the ridge, with his left in Chattanooga valley and his right east of the ridge.

The rebels in full retreat—relief for Knoxville. The nearness of night, and the enemy still resisting the advance of Thomas' left, prevented a general pursuit that night; but Sherman pushed forward to Mission Mills.

The advance of Thomas' forces reached Ringgold on the morning of the 27th, where they found the enemy in strong position in the gorge and on the crest of Taylor's Ridge, from which they dislodged him after a severe fight, in which we lost heavily in valuable officers and men.

On the morning of the 26th Sherman advanced by way of Chickamauga Station, and Thomas' forces, under Hooker and Palmer, moved on the Knoxville road towards Grangeville and Ringgold.

and Cleveland, and thus cut off Bragg's communication with Longstreet, which was successfully accomplished. Had it not been for the imperative necessity of relieving Burnside, I would have pursued the broken and demoralized enemy as long as supplies could have been found in the country.

Returning from the front on the 28th, I found that Granger had not yet got off, nor would he have the number of men I had directed. Besides, he moved with reluctance and complaints.

General Elliot had been ordered by Thomas, on the 26th of November, to proceed from Alexandria, Tennessee, to Knoxville with his cavalry division, to aid in the relief of that place.

To Major General Sherman: I desire to express to you and your command my most hearty thanks and gratitude for your promptness in coming to our relief during the siege of Knoxville, and I am satisfied that your approach served to raise the siege.

Leaving General's command at Knoxville, Sherman, with the remainder of his forces, returned by slow marches to Chattanooga. I have not spoken more particularly of the result of the pursuit of the enemy, because the more detailed reports accompanying this do the subject justice.

Our losses in these battles were 757 killed, 4529 wounded, and 230 missing—total 5616. The loss of the enemy in killed and wounded was probably less than ours, owing to the fact that he was protected by his entrenchments, while our men were without cover.

I have the honor to be, Colonel, very respectfully, Your obedient servant, U. S. GRANT, Major General United States Army.

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