

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLIX, Battlefield Tour Edition

Chicago, Illinois

May 4-7, 1989

39th Annual Battlefield Tour The Atlanta Campaign and Andersonville

The Civil War Round Table has selected Georgia as the site of its 39th annual Battlefield Tour, to be held May 4-7, 1989. Although the focus will be on the Atlanta Campaign, we will also visit Andersonville, a site never before included on one of our tours. In fact, although portions of the Atlanta Campaign were included on the tours in 1956 and 1965, the Campaign has never before been covered in the detail in which we will do it this year.

As usual, our chief guide will be Ed Bearss, Chief Research Historian of the National Park Service. He will be assisted by Dennis Kelly, park historian at Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield and author of a forthcoming study of the Atlanta Campaign. At Andersonville, Superintendent John Tucker and his staff will be on hand to enhance our understanding. Travel will be by air-conditioned bus, suitably equipped with liquid refreshment and lavatory facilities.

Our headquarters throughout the tour will be the luxurious Northwest Atlanta Hilton, 2055 South Park Place, Atlanta (404) 953-9300. The hotel features an excellent restaurant and banquet facilities, an indoor-outdoor pool, exercise facilities, and a well-stocked cocktail lounge. It is located a few miles from historic Marietta, Georgia with its many shops, restaurants and historic buildings. Accommodations will be available at the Hilton Wednesday evening, so all those checking in should identify themselves as participants in The Civil War Round Table Battlefield Tour. Tour kits and badges will be distributed at the hotel. For those planning to arrive early or stay on after the tour, a \$59 a night rate will apply. Anyone desiring that arrangement should request a special reservation postcard from the Registrar.

The hotel is located just west of the exit off I-75 at Windy Hill Road (Exit 110), about one mile north of the junction of I-75 with I-285. For those flying to Atlanta, convenient transportation to the Hilton is provided by Executive Town & Country Limo (call 800-241-3943 to make a reservation). The cost is \$12. Executive is conveniently located at the airport.

On Thursday, May 4, we will begin our tour with the Battle of Allatoona, which occurred on October 5, 1864, after the surrender of Atlanta. We will then move north for an examination of the Battle of Resaca, the first major engagement of the Atlanta Campaign, which took place in mid-May. For the rest of the morning our route will follow the Confederate fallback to Cassville, where Johnston prepared for an attack by Sherman on May 20. Following lunch in Cartersville, we will pick up the Campaign again

Cost of Tour

\$315.00 per person, double occupancy, or \$440.00, single accommodation. Please note that non-members must add \$25.00 to the prices listed. Please indicate the person with whom you wish to share a room. Transportation to and from Atlanta is not included.

Includes: Motel room, all lunches and dinners (breakfasts are on your own), bus transportation in the field, tour kits and badges, group service tips, admission fees where required, refreshments on buses, and a non-refundable \$25.00 registration fee per person.

For variations: Portions of the tour, joining enroute, individual meetings, meals or rooms, write or phone Registrar Richard McAdoo, 638 Douglas, Elgin, Illinois 60120 (312) 697-8982.

Local CWRT groups and others joining in lunches and dinners, please make reservations through the registrar so that caterers can be notified of the number to prepare for, and so payment can be made.

with the Confederate withdrawal across the Etowah. After visiting New Hope Church, Dallas and Pickett's Mill, we will conclude the day's tour at Big Shanty (Kennesaw) where we will visit the museum. In addition to the famous locomotive, The General, the museum contains information and exhibits about the Andrews Railroad Raid.

On Friday, we will travel south of Atlanta to the Andersonville National Historic Site. The Park Service recently reconstructed a portion of the original stockade which gives the visitor a good sense of what it was like in 1864. In addition to the prison site and cemetery, Andersonville has two museums, one devoted to Civil War prisons and prisoners and one to prisoners of other American wars. The town of Andersonville itself has a Civil War village, museums and antique shops. We will have a catered lunch in the picnic area at the Andersonville Historic Site.

The Atlanta Campaign will continue on Saturday with visits to Gilgal Church, Pine Mountain where the Bishop General, Leonidas Polk, was killed, and an in-depth examination of the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. Also, we will follow the paths of the armies up to the crossing of the Chattahoochee by Schofield in early July. Lunch will be in

(continued on page 2)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

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(continued from page 1)

the town of Marietta. Following dinner at the hotel, buses will depart for the Cyclorama where we will view the exhibits and conduct our Fun Night activities.

Also on Saturday, in conjunction with the 125th anniversary of the Atlanta Campaign, the Atlanta Historical Society will present an all-day program, "The Civil War Revisited: Atlanta Encampment '89." Although the tour will not include a visit to the Historical Society on Saturday the admission fee of anyone who wants to go on his or her own will be paid (transportation and lunch will not be provided). For further information, contact one of the tour co-chairmen.

Following a visit to Peachtree Creek on Sunday morning (and possibly Ezra Church if there is time), we will visit the Atlanta Historical Society, which will open especially for our group at 11 a.m. The Society features an extensive Civil War collection as well as other exhibits, historic houses and 26 acres of gardens and woodlands. We will return to the hotel about 1 p.m. for a buffet lunch. You may make your plans to return home anytime thereafter.

The Atlanta Campaign

In the spring of 1864, military commander in chief General Ulysses S. Grant ordered a coordinated offensive by all Union armies. General William T. Sherman at Chattanooga, Tennessee, was "to move against Johnston's army, to break it up, and to get into the interior of the enemy's country as far as you can, inflicting all the damage you can against their war resources." Sherman's immediate goal was Atlanta, about 80 miles from Chattanooga and a major industrial, supply and communications center of the Confederacy.

Sherman departed Chattanooga the first week in May, 1864 with about 100,000 men and 254 pieces of artillery. His command, officially the Military Division of the Mississippi, was divided into George H. Thomas's Army of the Cumberland, James B. McPherson's Army of the Tennessee, and John M. Schofield's Army of the Ohio. Opposing him were the 53,000 men and 187 cannon of Joseph E. Johnston's Army of Tennessee. It was composed of John B. Hood and William J. Hardee's corps (they were later joined by the corps of Leonidas Polk) and Joseph Wheeler's cavalry.

By May 9 Sherman had reached Johnston's advance position. As he would do throughout the campaign, Sherman sought to hold the enemy in place with part of his force while moving to circumvent them with another. He sent McPherson via Snake Creek Gap to the west and south of Buzzard Roost and Rocky Face Gap to cut the Western & Atlantic Railroad and gain a position in Johnston's rear. However, McPherson failed to move aggressively and Johnston was able to fall back with Sherman in pursuit. The result was the Battle of Resaca on May 14 and 15. Tactically the fight was a Confederate victory, but strategically Sherman came out ahead as Johnston was forced to withdraw, first to Calhoun and Adairsville and then, with McPherson and Schofield pressing his flanks, to the Cassville-Kingston area. At Cassville, Johnston lashed out at Sherman's separated columns, but Hood's timidity saved the Federals and Johnston was forced to fall back again, this time across the Etowah River to Allatoona Pass. Threatened by another flanking movement, he proceeded toward Dallas, Georgia, via New Hope Church where he repulsed several assaults by Thomas on May 25. Following vicious fighting at Pickett's Mill on May 27, McPherson fought off a reconnaissance in force by Hardee on May 28 near Dallas.

Johnston abandoned New Hope Church on June 4 and moved into entrenchments atop Lost, Pine and Brush Mountains in front of Marietta. Fierce fighting, hampered by continual rain, swept each peak during the next two weeks and General Polk was killed atop Pine Mountain on June 14. Johnston finally dropped back to Kennesaw Mountain whose steep, rocky slopes provided a formidable position. Sherman's attack there on June 27 cost him 3000 men, while the Confederates suffered only approximately 750 casualties.

Further sidestepping by Sherman forced the enemy to move below Marietta on July 2, and then to the upper bank of the Chattahoochee River, within seven miles of Atlanta, by July 4. When Schofield's troops made a crossing on the Confederate right, Johnston was compelled to withdraw south of the river, thus removing the last natural barrier between Sherman and Atlanta. On July 17, Jefferson Davis relieved Johnston and replaced him with Hood.

On the 20th, Hood unsuccessfully attacked Thomas along Peachtree Creek, suffering 4,800 casualties. He regrouped, however, and two days later, on the east side of

the city, struck the left and front of McPherson's isolated army in what is known as the Battle of Atlanta. Although McPherson was killed, the offensive fell short. Sherman, now concentrating on the vital railway lines south of the city, sent his infantry around to the west side of Atlanta where he was attacked, again without success, by Hood at Ezra Church on the 28th. In a last ditch effort, Hood struck the Union flank again in the Battle of Jonesborough, August 31-September 1. However, his loss there forced him to abandon Atlanta to the Union forces, Sherman occupied the city on September 2.

In late September, Hood crossed the Chattahoochee and moved north to threaten the Atlantic & Western, Sherman's supply line. On October 5, Confederates under Samuel G. French attacked the Union position at Allatoona Pass from the west and north. Although he came close to breaking through, the Federals, under the brilliant leadership of John M. Corse, held. French finally withdrew, having lost 800 men to the Federals' 700.

Resaca

On May 14, after McPherson's failure at Snake Creek Gap, Sherman and Johnston confronted each other in full strength on a north-south line west of Resaca. In the afternoon, Sherman attacked the center but was beaten back with heavy losses. Johnston then struck the exposed Union left with Hood's Corps, but the Confederate's initial success was stopped by the arrival of a Union division sent by George Thomas.

Heavy fighting on the 15th resulted in few gains and heavy losses for both sides. Sherman then sent a division across the Oostenaula River, thereby threatening Johnston's railroad supply line. After unsuccessfully trying to eliminate the Federal bridgehead, Johnston evacuated his Resaca position and crossed the Oostenuala. Johnston suffered about 5,000 casualties at Resaca, Sherman 6,000.

New Hope Church, Pickett's Mill

Sherman, judging that an attack on Johnston at Allatoona Pass would fail, struck for Dallas in Johnson's left rear. However, Johnston anticipated this move and confronted the Union vanguard at New Hope Church on May 25. Sherman ordered Hooker to attack. However, he was repulsed by A.P. Stewart. Hooker suffered 1600 casualties.

Following skirmishing on the 26th, Sherman, on the 27th, sent O.O. Howard's IV Corps to strike what he thought was Johnston's exposed right flank. The Confederates detected the move, and Cleburne's division inflicted more than 1,500 casualties on the Federals at Pickett's Mill while losing less than 500.

Kennesaw Mountain

By June 19, Sherman had forced Johnston to withdraw to a seven mile long position on high ground two miles northwest of Marietta. The Confederate engineers had laid out a formidable line of entrenchments covering every approach. As Sherman extended his lines to the south to again get around the Confederate flank, Johnston countered by shifting 11,000 men under Hood to meet the threat. His attack at Kolb's Farm on June 22 failed to drive the Federals away, but it did check their southward extension.

Sherman believed that Johnston had stretched his army so thin that it was vulnerable to assault. Further, rain-induced quagmires prevented any further movements around the enemy's flanks. He thus scheduled a frontal attack for June 27. The day before, he sent Schofield to

Tour Schedule

Variations in schedule will be announced at lunch, dinner, or on the bus. Times are approximate.

Thursday, May 4, 1989

Breakfast on your own, as on each day of tour.

- 8:00 a.m.—Board buses for Allatoona, Resaca and Cassville.
- 12:30 p.m.—Lunch at the Grassroots II in Cartersville, Georgia
- 1:15 p.m.—Board buses for crossings of the Etowah, New Hope Church, Dallas, and Pickett's Mill
- 4:00 p.m.—Kennesaw (Big Shanty Museum)
- 5:30 p.m.—Return to hotel.
- 6:30 p.m.—Command Post
- 7:30 p.m.—Dinner. Speaker, Dennis Kelly on "The Atlanta Campaign—How the Winners Won"

Friday, May 5, 1989

- 9:00 a.m.—Board buses for trip to Andersonville
- 12:15 p.m.—Catered lunch in the Andersonville Historic Site picnic area.
- 3:00 p.m.—Board buses for return to hotel
- 5:30 p.m.—Return to hotel.
- 6:30 p.m.—Command Post
- 7:30 p.m.—Dinner. Speaker, Edwin C. Bearss on "Was Dying in Battle Fortunate for McPherson and Polk?"

Saturday, May 6, 1989

- 8:00 a.m.—Board buses for Pine Mountain, Gilgal Church and tour of the Kennesaw Mountain battlefield
- 12:30 p.m.—Lunch at Shillings Restaurant, Marietta.
- 1:15 p.m.—Board buses for continuation of tour of Kennesaw Mountain battlefield and Schofield's crossing of the Chattahoochee
- 5:00 p.m.—Return to hotel
- 6:00 p.m.—Dinner
- 7:00 p.m.—Depart for Cyclorama
- 10:30 p.m.—Return to hotel

Sunday, May 7, 1989

- 8:30 a.m.—Board buses for tour of Peachtree Creek (and Ezra Church if time permits)
- 11:00 a.m.—Atlanta Historical Society
- 12:30 p.m.—Board buses for return to hotel
- 1:00 p.m.—Buffet lunch, tour concludes

demonstrate near Olley's Creek, at the north end of the Confederate line. Surprisingly, Schofield gained a foothold on the south bank of the stream.

By 6 a.m. on June 27, with the temperature beginning its climb to 100 degrees, three brigades of John A. Logan's XV Corps had moved toward the hills along the southern end of Kennesaw Mountain. After two hours of skirmishing, the Federals assaulted and closed in hand-to-hand fighting. However, they were unable to take the main position and were finally forced to huddle behind trees and rocks, unable to advance or retreat.

At about the same time portions of the Army of the Cumberland attacked the Confederate center at what is now known as Cheatham's Hill. Following an artillery barrage, two brigades of the XIV Corps division of Jefferson C. Davis and three brigades of John Newton's division of the IV Corps advanced up the slope. The attack failed and by noon the Union offensive had crumbled.

Armchair Generalship

by Marshall D. Krolick



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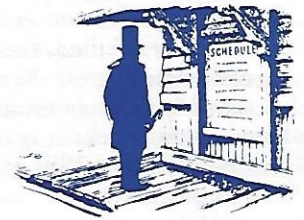
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BULLETIN BOARD



On the Tour: Please be prompt in boarding the buses at the appropriate time each morning to allow maximum time for touring. A bus marshal will be on each bus to help you. If you plan a side excursion, join a car group, or for any other reason will not be on the bus, you must notify your bus marshal so that buses are not detained waiting for you.

Peachtree Creek

Following the Union crossing of the Chattahoochee on July 8 and 9, Johnston fell back to the south side of Peachtree Creek, about three miles north of Atlanta. The Federals were advancing on the city in three columns. Johnston seeing a chance to deliver a crippling blow, decided to attack Thomas when he crossed Peachtree Creek from the north. Hood, who replaced Johnston on July 17, adopted Johnston's basic plan and assailed Thomas at Peachtree Creek on July 20. The Confederates threatened several times to overrun Federal units, but the attack ultimately failed due to stubborn Union resistance, poor Confederate coordination, and the need to withdraw Cleburne's division from the attack to bolster the forces defending against McPherson's column advancing from the east.

Andersonville

In late 1863, Confederate officials decided that the large number of Union soldiers being held in Richmond prisons should be moved elsewhere because they were a drain on the city's dwindling food supply and because they would become a liability in the event of enemy attack. In December, a site was selected in Sumter County, Georgia, about nine miles northeast of Americus. It became known as Andersonville.

Confederate soldiers and Negro slaves began clearing the land in January, 1864. Trees were trimmed to make logs about 20 feet long and 8 to 12 inches thick. These were set vertically in the ground to form an almost impregnable stockaded enclosure, which originally encompassed about 16 1/2 acres. Sentry boxes were positioned at intervals along the top of the stockade and a "deadline" was established inside the stockade, over which no prisoner was allowed to cross. A stream flowed through the prison enclosure. The first 500 prisoners arrived February 27, 1864. They were followed by others at the rate of about 400 a day. By the end of July the prison held 31,678, although it was designed for only 10,000 men. Officials were unable to provide adequate shelter or food, and the stream soon became polluted, a deadly combination which resulted in a high mortality rate. The prisoners died at a rate of 900 per month. There are almost 13,000 buried in the camps' cemetery.

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