

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXVII, Battlefield Tour Number

Chicago, Illinois

April, 1977

27TH ANNUAL BATTLEFIELD TOUR: MIDDLE TENNESSEE

By Gordon Whitney

On November 21st, 1864 General Hood issued these words to his assembled troops, "You march today to redeem, by your valor and your arms, one of the foremost portions of our Confederacy". The campaign which came to be known as Hood's Tennessee Campaign, would prove to be the final significant chapter in the history of an army. May 4th through 8th, 1977, The Civil War Round Table of Chicago will conduct its 27th annual Battlefield Tour, visiting parts of that famous campaign plus other engagements in Tennessee. We will get underway Wednesday afternoon May 4th as the assembled troopers embark from O'Hare Field in Chicago for Nashville's Metropolitan Airport. From there all personnel will be transported to the all new Sheraton South, one of Nashville's newest and most modern motels. Our scouts and guides in this campaign will include one of our special honorary members, Ed Bearss, plus Bob Womack, Homer Pittard, Jim Hoobler, the Park Service people, and yours truly.

After reveille and mess call (on your own) Thursday morning, all troopers will depart for Stones' River National Battlefield Park. Superintendent Sanders and Historian Ron Gibbs promise a most learned and informative presentation of this two day battle, as well as a most unusual surprise. Lunch will be at the Goosecreek Inn in Franklin where fine victuals await our pleasure. Following lunch the column will head back north to Nashville, there to recreate one of the most decisive battles of the war. We will form up in the Union lines within the city, with stops at Fort Negley and Fort Casino to view the Confederate positions to the south. We will then join General James H. Wilson's Cavalry as it moves out toward the east to be joined by the Federal infantry as it swept up to the Confederate redoubts. After crossing over the Granny White Pike, our view will be of the second days fighting, terminating with an assault up Shy's Hill. It will then be time to return to our campsite for Command Post and dinner. Our speaker for that evening is Dr. Herbert Harper, noted historian, who will discuss the Civil War in Tennessee.

Friday, we will board our trusty vans at 8:30 A.M. and head south to Spring Hill and the Thompson House (Hood's headquarters) to learn about one of the most controversial actions of the war. From there we move a few miles south of Franklin to Winstead Hill. It was here that General Hood gave the order, "We will make the fight", that sent 1,800 to their death on that late afternoon in November. We will then continue to the Carter House where so much of the fighting at Franklin took place. Lunch will be at the General's Retreat where the unique atmosphere, Civil War naturally, matches the fine cuisine. After viewing Battle Rama, an unusual interpretation of the Battle of Franklin,

COST OF TOUR

\$288, Two to a room (*)\$313, Single

(*) Indicate person with whom you wish to share room.

INCLUDES: Round trip plane fare, bus ground transportation, hotel room, Command Posts, lunches and dinners, (breakfasts are "on your own") group service tips, group admission fees where required, tour literature in packet, and \$10 registration fee to cover promotional and overhead expenses.

FOR VARIATIONS: Portions of tour, joining en route, individual meetings, meals or rooms, write or phone, Registrar Margaret April, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611, Phone (area 312) Whitehall 4-3085

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

we will move on to Fort Granger. This strong Union fortification at Franklin still contains some fine earthworks. Friday's activities will be concluded by a visit to Carnton, the stately McGavock House, as guests of the owner, Mr. John T. Suggs. It was here that the bodies of Generals Cleburne, Adams, Strahl, Gist, and Grandbury were laid out side by side after the battle. Back at Camp Sheraton we will find Command Post awaiting followed by dinner. Edwin Bearss will then present, as always, a most informative talk which will deal with the capture of Forts Donelson and Henry.

Saturday we will have to depart at 8:00 A.M. for Fort Donelson because of the distance, but the day's activities will well be worth it as Ed and the members of the Park Service have planned a most interesting day for us. Saturday evening will certainly be in keeping with our tradition of "Fun Night" as we will invade the halls of the famed "Grand Ole Opry" for one of their outstanding performances.

Sunday morning will be a time of rest. Buses will be available for those wishing to attend church services. A buffet lunch will be held at the hotel. Before boarding the buses all luggage should be placed outside your room. We will then be on our way to the Hermitage, the home of Andrew Jackson. The Hermitage is considered to be the most completely restored of all the president's homes and a most pleasant tour of this grand old mansion has been planned. Departing from the Hermitage we will arrive at Nashville's Metropolitan Airport in plenty of time to board our flight back to Chicago. Dinner will be served aloft and no doubt the time will be spent discussing this year's tour with great speculation about next year's destination.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street
Chicago Illinois 60611
Phone: (312) 944-3085

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1977 TOUR COMMITTEE

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FORT DONELSON

By William Sullivan

At the beginning of 1862, General Ulysses S. Grant needed to establish control of the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers. However, the Confederates had constructed twin forts in Tennessee just south of the Kentucky border, Fort Henry on the Tennessee and Donelson on the Cumberland. In addition to his own 15,000 men, Grant had the river fleet of seven Eads rams. They started up the Tennessee River on the 6th of February. Fort Henry quickly surrendered, but most of the garrison had already retreated to make a stand at Fort Donelson which held a much stronger and drier position on the Cumberland. Grant and Foote moved immediately to the attack, the boats up the Cumberland, the infantry cross-country after cutting the wires so that a recall could not be issued. It took ten days to maneuver into position for the attack on Donelson which stood high on bluffs near the small town of Dover, Tennessee. It has a garrison of 25,000 men commanded by John B. Floyd, lately the Secretary of War under Buchanan. Grant moved boldly to invest the Fort at first rush and there was lively fighting between the pickets on his arrival. The weather which had been quite warm suddenly turned bitter. The union forces were without tents overcoats and other

winter equipment. The Confederate garrison had warm beds, made sometimes warmer by the arrival of the heavy guns of the fleet and the Union artillery batteries.

Floyd launched an attack on the position of McClernand, smashed through, and began to roll up the open flank of the Union line. Lew Wallace ordered a reserve brigade into the fight and managed to beat off the attack for a few precious hours. Prisoners captured convinced Grant that this was an attempt to escape across the river and he sent Smith to attack the Fort from the north, across an abatis of felled trees. Grant had been right, Floyd had removed his men for an escape on his left wing. Smith had taken the heights held by a skelton force by nightfall and McClernand was back in his original positions on the riverbank. Morning would see Grant place artillery on the heights won by Smith and obtain a complete enfilade of the Fort.

Floyd called a council of war. Surrender was inevitable now. He turned over command to Gideon Pillow and escaped on a riverboat, Pillow turned command over to Simon B. Buckner and escaped in a row boat. Buckner asked for terms while Forrest cut his way out with his command. Answering the Confederate request for surrender terms, Grant replied: "No terms but unconditional surrender". Thereafter the U.S. was taken to mean "Unconditional Surrender" Grant. The fall of Henry and Donelson might be the most critical operation of the war. Capture of these forts assured Union control of Kentucky and Tennessee, and opened Mississippi and Alabama to Federal invasion.

STONES RIVER

By Myron Cohn

After the battle of Perryville in the fall of 1862, the Union forces had concentrated at Nashville, General Rosecrans having replaced Buell as commander. President Davis arrived at Bragg's headquarters at Murfreesboro on December 12th and told Bragg that if Rosecrans advanced, "fight if you can, and fall back beyond the Tennessee." Rosecrans called a meeting of his corp commanders, McCook, Crittendon, and George H. Thomas, on December 25th, and gave them orders to begin the movement toward Murfreesboro on December 26th. The Confederate troops were spread over a thirty mile front, and withdrew toward Murfreesboro as the Union forces advanced. On December 28th, Bragg selected a position some three miles northwest of Murfreesboro. He placed his battleline on a northwest-southwest arc centered at the Nashville Pike (which ran northwest-southeast just west of the fordable Stone's River). Hardee's Corps was stationed east of the river, and Polk's Corps west of the river.

By coincidence, both Rosecrans and Bragg had adopted the same battle plan, defend with the right, and strike with the left. Bragg struck first on the morning of December 31st with Hardee's Corps. The Union troops were not prepared for the onslaught, and their line was eventually bent back upon itself into a four-acre patch of trees called the Round Forest. The Federal line stiffened, and Polk ordered an all-out charge on the Round Forest that resulted in a Confederate disaster. The Union forces had concentrated their artillery in the Round Forest and this barrage broke up every Confederate charge as twenty-three of the eighty-eight Confederate regiments suffered over 40% casualties.

Bragg did not resume the attack on January 1st, the army having worn itself out the previous day. The next day he ordered Breckenridge to attack the Union left, but the massed Union artillery of 58 guns quickly broke up the assault. Rosecrans did not attack on January 2nd or 3rd and on January 34d Bragg decided to retreat because enemy reinforcements were arriving from Nashville.

SPRING HILL AND FRANKLIN

By William Sullivan

In the spring of 1864, Hood moved his army of nearly

55,000 effectives across the Tennessee to strike at Thomas now entrenched in the city of Nashville and its vicinity. Time pressed harder on Thomas than Hood—his army was but a fragment of 22,000 men with nearly 9,000 sick, wounded, and “rejects” from Sherman’s command. An army corps was on the way from Missouri under Smith with 12,000 effectives, the XVI, but fall rains had turned the roads into a morass and he was still far from Nashville at the opening of the campaign. However, Hood was delayed for three weeks in a frantic search for the supplies necessary, time Thomas used to his best advantage.

Schofield, ordered by Thomas to delay Hood, took his post at Columbia on the Duck, with a commanding position of artillery and troops on both sides of the river. On November 26th, Hood arrived in a sleet-storm. That night the Confederates brought up artillery supported by Lee’s Corps. Wilson had strong pickets thrown out at all the fords, but Forrest crossed at Huey’s Mills eight miles above Columbia. Wilson made a stand but was being pushed hard by Forrest back along the road north to Franklin. Cheatam’s and Stewart’s Corps were crossing in Forrest’s rear to cut off the escape route from Columbia. Schofield unaware of his perilous situation, held his position until the next night.

Sending out a reconnaissance to the east, after a rider from Wilson had informed him of the enemy in his rear, Schofield ran into the infantry of Stewart. Acting quickly, he ordered Stanley and the IV corps to retreat to the next town on the road to Franklin, Spring Hill. Cox and the XXIII corps had the unenviable task of buying time for the trains and artillery to escape. Hood had not given specific enough orders to Cheatham who was at the moment engaged in visiting some ladies of his acquaintance instead of rushing troops and men into Spring Hill.

Stanley reached Spring Hill at twilight, found Forrest in possession, pushed him out after a stubborn fight and entrenched. Cleburne and Brown assaulted Stanley, the brunt falling on Wagner’s division. The federal artillery opened up and halted the advance. Hood resolved to wait for Stewart’s Corps to come up. This gave just enough time for Cox to evacuate Columbia and join Stanley in Spring Hill. Schofield then retreated to Franklin.

Hood immediately ordered an attack where his army reached the plains around Franklin. However Schofield had been busy. He had constructed a crescent line of fortifications with convex side towards the south, firmly anchored on the Harpeth. The XXIII Corps took the brunt of Hood’s assault. Cox cursing wildly in at least five languages and Stanley a rising from his sick-bed hurled themselves into the battle with their reserves. Stanley’s horse was killed and Stanley himself shot in the throat, but the line was saved. Cox had organized Wagner’s fugitives and other regiments four men deep with murderous fire on Cleburne. As Cheatham lead another assault, Cleburne was shot in the head, Brown was wounded, and Adams and his horse were killed in the murderous Union fire. Schofield had finally brought the artillery to bear and no less than six rebel generals were killed and 6,000 troops lost to Hood. The latter did not even try to cross the Harpeth upriver, which he could possibly have done if he went in strength, but Wilson and his dismounted troopers were holding the fords when Forrest tried. Wilson held his ground and Forrest was repulsed, saving the Union rear and the approaches to Nashville itself. Schofield retreated northward and Hood, following finally arrived before Nashville on December 2nd with opportunity lost and fortune fading.

NASHVILLE

By Myron Cohn

As Hood took position on a line of hills south of Nashville, Gen. Thomas was re-organizing his forces, but he was not prepared to immediately attack Hood. Grant became impatient at the delay after several days and issued, then

TOUR SCHEDULE

Note — All joining at Nashville: Check in at motel, identifying yourself as a C.W.R.T. member — you will be pre-registered. Schedule subject to changes to be announced — all times are local.

WEDNESDAY, May 4th, 1977

- 5:50 p.m. — Check in with Registrar at Delta Airlines ticket counter—Chicago O’Hare Airport.
- 6:50 p.m. — Depart on Delta Flight #567 to Metropolitan Airport Nashville.
- 8:00 p.m. — Arrive and transfer to waiting buses to the Sheraton South.

THURSDAY, May 5th, 1977

- a.m. — Buffet breakfast on your own at motel.
- 8:30 a.m. — Board buses for Stones River National Battlefield Park.
- 12:00 a.m. — Lunch at Goose Creek Inn—Franklin.
- 1:00 p.m. — Board buses for tour of Battle of Nashville.
- 5:00 p.m. — Return to Sheraton South.
- 6:30 p.m. — Command Post.
- 7:30 p.m. — Dinner followed by Dr. Herbert Harper speaking on the Battle of Franklin.

FRIDAY, May 6th, 1977

- a.m. — Buffet breakfast on your own.
- 8:30 a.m. — Board buses for Spring Hill and Franklin.
- 12:30 a.m. — Lunch at the General’s Retreat—Franklin.
- 1:30 p.m. — Battlerama and shopping at Carters Court.
- 3:00 p.m. — Board buses for Fort Granger and visit to Carnton (McGavock House).
- 5:00 p.m. — Return to Sheraton South.
- 6:30 p.m. — Command Post.
- 7:30 p.m. — Dinner followed by Edwin C. Bearss speaking on Capture of Fort Donelson.

SATURDAY May 7th, 1977

- a.m. — Buffet or continental breakfast on your own.
- 8:00 a.m. — Depart for Fort Donelson.
- 10:00 a.m. — Arrive at Donelson Battlefield Park.
- 12:00 a.m. — Box lunch—Kentucky Fried Chicken.
- 1:00 p.m. — Continuation of Donelson.
- 3:00 p.m. — Board buses for return trip to Nashville.
- 5:00 p.m. — Arrive at Sheraton South.
- 6:30 p.m. — Command Post.
- 7:15 p.m. — Dinner.
- 8:15 p.m. — Leave on buses for Fun Night at Grand Ole Opry.

SUNDAY, May 8th, 1977

- a.m. — On your own and church services.
- 11:00 a.m. — Lunch at Motel—Chicago bound baggage must be packed and ready for pickup.
- 12:30 p.m. — Board buses for the Hermitage Tour.
- 3:00 p.m. — Board buses for Metropolitan Airport for return flight to Chicago.
- 4:05 p.m. — Depart Delta Flight #668 for O’Hare Airport, Chicago.
- 5:19 p.m. — Arrive, Chicago O’Hare Airport.

revoked, an order replacing Thomas and appointing Schofield as commander. A storm of freezing rain began on December 9th and continued for another day. The ice melted on December 14th, and Thomas gave the orders to his commanders to attack on the morning of the 15th. Grant had again become so impatient with the delay that he had ordered Logan to Nashville to relieve Thomas if the assault had not begun. When Logan arrived at Louisville he heard that the attack had commenced, so he did not proceed to Nashville.

The Union attack began with Steedman, on the extreme left, moving to draw out the Confederate defenses. Two of



ARMCHAIR GENERALSHIP

By E.B. Long

As you prepare to roam over the hills and dales and battlefield of Middle Tennessee it is hoped the following list of selected reading will be of help:

Ambrose, Stephen, "Fort Donelson—Disastrous Blow to the South," *Civil War Times Illustrated*, June, 1966.

Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, Vols. I, II, & III.

Bearss, Edwin C., "Unconditional Surrender; the Fall of Fort Donelson," *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, March & June, 1962, also separate pamphlet; "The Attack of Fort Henry," *Civil War Times Illustrated*, November, 1965; *The Fall of Fort Henry*, pamphlet.

Buck, Irving A., *Cleburne and His Command*.

Burt, Jesse C., *Nashville: Its Life and Times*.

Campaigns in Kentucky and Tennessee, Papers of the Military Historical Society of Massachusetts, Vol. VII, important articles.

Catton, Bruce, *Centennial History of the Civil War*, Vols. II & III; *Grant Moves South*.

Cist, Henry W., *The Army of the Cumberland*.

Cleaves, Freeman, *Rock of Chickamauga, The Life of General George H. Thomas*.

Connelly, Thomas L., *Army of the Heartland and Autumn of Glory, the Army of Tennessee*.

Connolly, James, *Three Years in the Army of the Cumberland*.

Cox, Jacob Dolson, *The Battle of Franklin, Tennessee; The March to the Sea, Franklin and Nashville*.

Crabb, A.L., *Nashville, Personality of a City*.

Crownover, Sims, "The Battle of Franklin," *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, December, 1955, published separately also.

Crawford, W. T., "The Mystery of Spring Hill," *Civil War History*, I, June, 1965.

Davidson, Donald, *The Tennessee, The New River, Civil War to TVA*.

Dyer, John P., *The Gallant Hood*.

Eisenschiml, Otto, and Ralph Newman, *The Civil War*, Vol. I.

Foote, Shelby, *The Civil War*.

Force, Manning F., *From Fort Henry to Corinth*.

Fort Henry and Donelson Campaigns Source Book.

Grant, Ulysses S., *Personal Memoirs of*.

Hamer, Philip M., ed., *Tennessee; a History, 1673-1932*.

Hamilton, James, *The Battle of Fort Donelson*.

Hay, Thomas Robson, *Hood's Tennessee Campaign*.

Henry, Robert S., *The Story of the Confederacy; First With the Most' Forrest*.

Hood, John Bell, *Advance and Retreat*.

Horn, Stanley F., *The Army of Tennessee; The Decisive Battle of Nashville; The Hermitage, Home of Old Hickory; "The Spring Hill Legend—A Reappraisal," Civil War Times Illustrated*, April, 1969.

Huddleston, Alexander F., *The Battle of Stone's River*.

Johnston, William Preston, *The Life of General Albert Sidney Johnston*.

Jones, Virgil Carrington, *The Civil War at Sea*, Vol. I.

Jordan, Thomas P., and J. P. Pryor, *Campaigns of Lieut.-Gen. N. B. Forrest*.

McKinney, Francis F., *Education in Violence; The Life of George H. Thomas*.

McRaven, Henry, *Nashville, Athens of the South*.

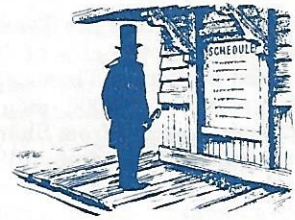
McWhitney, Grady, *Braxton Bragg and Confederate De-feat*, Vol. I.

Patton, James W., *Unionism and Reconstruction in Tennessee, 1860-1869*.

Porter, James D., *Tennessee, Confederate Military History*.

Roland, Charles, *Albert Sidney Johnston*.

BULLETIN BOARD



CHECK-IN-TIME: 5:30 p.m. (CDT), Wednesday, May 4, at Delta Airlines Terminal, O'Hare Airport. Registrar Margaret April will be at a special desk for smooth handling of passengers and luggage. Tour packet will be passed out.

DEPARTURE: 6:50 p.m. (CDT), Delta Flight #567 Arrive: Nashville Metropolitan Airport, 8:00 p.m. (CDT).

ON THE TOUR: Please be prompt at all stated times because we will be operating on a close schedule. Bus marshals will be on hand for guidance. If you plan a side excursion or join a car group, you must notify your bus marshal.

RETURN: Sunday, May 8, depart Nashville Metropolitan Airport, Delta Flight #668 at 4:05 p.m. (CDT). Arrive at O'Hare Airport at 5:19 p.m. (CDT).



Steedman's brigades kept two divisions of Cheatham's corps busy. The Union cavalry, on the extreme right, and A.J. Smith's corps were to wheel left, with Wood's division as the pivot, and overlap Hood's left. Schofield's division was held in reserve. Cheatham and S.D. Lee's corps were pinned between Steedman and Wood and could not move. The Confederates fell back under pressure from Smith and Wood. Although the Confederate left and right were forced back, the center held its position which was on a hill overlooking an open valley. Two divisions of Wood's corps crossed the valley, attacked and drove out the Confederates, capturing guns, colors, and men. The Union troops bivouacked where they stood as night fell. Hood had fallen back two miles from his morning position, and occupied a line between steep hills.

On the morning of December 16th a federal assault was made on Overton Hill, on the Confederate right, by a division of Wood's corps. The hill was strongly fortified, and the attack was repulsed. On the Union right, McArthur's division attacked another heavily fortified hill, while the cavalry worked its way around the back of the hill and placed two pieces of artillery in a commanding position. This assault was successful. When the Union troops along the remainder of the line saw the hill being captured, they charged forward without waiting for orders. The Confederate retreat became a rout, and the battle was over. The Army of Tennessee was never again to be a threat to the Union cause.

Schofield, John M., *Forty-Six Years in the Army*.

Simon, John Y., Ed., *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*, Vol. IV.

Stevenson, Alexander F., *The Battle of Stone's River*.

Stickles, Arndt M., *Simon Bolivar Buckner*.

Van Horne, Thomas B., *History of the Army of the Cumberland*.

War of the Rebellion, Official Records of Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Vols. VII for Forts Henry and Donelson; Vol. XX for Murfreesboro; XLV for Franklin, Spring Hill and Nashville.

Williams, Kenneth P., *Lincoln Finds A General*, Vol. III.