

**LEGENDS OF THE
OPERATIONS OF THE
ARMY OF THE
CUMBERLAND. PP. 3-43**

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BRIG. GEN. ROBERT ANDERSON'S OPERATIONS IN KENTUCKY.

In the opening period of the war of the Rebellion, the State of Kentucky declared her neutrality. During the spring and summer of 1861, camps of rendezvous and instruction were organized at various points within her borders, and troops enrolled in the army of the United States. On the 15th of August, 1861, the Department of the Cumberland was constituted, embracing the States of Kentucky and Tennessee, per General Orders No. 57, War Department, and Brigadier General Robert Anderson was assigned to the command. Early in the month of September, the rebel General, Leonidas Polk, invaded Kentucky with a large force and seized Columbus, strongly fortifying his position. To resist the rebel invasion, the legislature of the State, by resolution on the 12th of September, requested Brig. Gen. Robert Anderson, of the United States Army, to enter upon the active discharge of his duties as commander of the department. On the 15th, Brig. Gen. Geo. H. Thomas assumed command of Camp Dick Robinson, relieving Lieut. William Nelson, of the United States Navy, who had for some time superintended the enlistment and organization of troops at that camp; subsequently, Lieutenant Nelson was appointed to the rank of Brig. General and assigned to duty at Maysville, with instructions to organize a force to operate in Eastern Kentucky.

About this time, General Buckner invaded the State at the head of a strong rebel force and occupied Bowling Green. Advancing from thence, he took position at Muldraugh's Hill, on the night of the 17th, strongly threatening Louisville. Gathering together the few available troops at his command, including Colonel Rousseau's command, and a body of Home Guards, under Lt. Col. R. W. Johnson, General Anderson sent them forward, under Brigadier General W. T. Sherman, to Lebanon Junction, checking the further advance of the enemy. Being re-enforced by a few regiments, General Sherman advanced to Elizabethtown, Buckner retiring before him without resistance. General Sherman then placed his troops in position on Muldraugh's Hill, Buckner falling back to Bowling Green with his main force, where he entrenched himself, leaving guards at intervals along the line of the railroad. On the 21st, General Anderson, by proclamation, called the people of the State to arms in defense of the government; and General T. L. Crittenden ordered the State troops to rendezvous at Louisville. The enlistment and organization of troops was pushed forward with vigor. On the 24th, General Anderson officially assumed command of the Department, per General Orders, No. 1.

On the 5th of October, owing to continued ill health, Brig. Gen. R. Anderson was relieved in the command of the Department of the Cumberland, and Brig. Gen. W. T. Sherman appointed to succeed him.

BRIG. GEN. W. T. SHERMAN'S OPERATIONS IN KENTUCKY.

On the 8th day of October, 1861, General W. T. Sherman assumed command of the Department of the Cumberland, with headquarters at Louisville, Ky., leaving Brig. Gen. L. H. Rousseau in command at Muldraugh's Hill. Brig. Gen. T. L. Crittenden was ordered to proceed to Owensboro, Ky., and take command of the United States forces being organized in that quarter, and in the vicinity of Henderson. Brig. Gen. L. H. Rousseau moved forward from Camp Muldraugh, to the vicinity of Nolin. On the 12th, Brig. Gen. A. McD. McCook was assigned to the command of all troops in the vicinity of Nolin.

Having completed the organization of the First Brigade, Army of the Cumberland, General Thomas sent forward Brig. Gen. A. Schoepf, with three regiments from Camp Dick Robinson, to Rock Castle Hills. On the 21st, General Schoepf was attacked by a considerable body of the enemy, under General Zollicoffer, who was badly repulsed. On the 28th, General Thomas moved forward with the rest of his brigade, and established his headquarters at Crab Orchard.

In the meantime, General Nelson had advanced from Maysville to Olympian Springs where he met re-enforcements from Paris, Ky. Moving thence to McCormack's Gap, he divided his command, sending Colonel Harris with a small force to West Liberty, while he advanced with the main force, consisting of three regiments of infantry, two battalions, and a small force of cavalry, on Hazle Green. Both places were occupied on the 23d, Colonel Harris meeting with slight resistance. Moving forward his forces from Hazle Green and West Liberty, General Nelson united his command at Licking Station, from whence he advanced on Prestonburg, occupying the place on the 5th of November. On the 7th, he sent a force, under Colonel Sill, up John's Creek, to advance on Pikeville from the left, moving forward in person the next day, with the main force, on the direct State road; some sharp skirmishing was had in ascending the mountain side, resulting in the rout of the enemy. Colonel Sill occupied Pikeville on the 9th, General Nelson arriving the next day.

Brig. Gen. Crittenden established his headquarters at Gallatin, Ky., where he organized the Fifth Division.

Feeling that the force assigned him was greatly inadequate to the magnitude of the occasion—holding the great line of the center, on which the hosts of the rebellion could rapidly concentrate as the fortunes of war should afford opportunity—General Sherman gave in his estimate to the War Department, that to advance on the line of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad would require an army of at least fifty thousand men, and to advance the great line of the centre to its ultimate objective, and reap the legitimate rewards, would require an army of two hundred thousand men. This estimate being construed to his prejudice he asked to be relieved from his charge. On the 23d of November the Department of the Cumberland was discontinued, per General orders, No. 97, War Department, and in its stead the Department of the Ohio was constituted, embracing the States of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, east of the Cumberland River, and Tennessee, and Brig. Gen. D. C. Buell was assigned to the command, General Sherman remaining in command until his arrival. On the 15th General Sherman relinquished the command to General Buell.

MAJOR GENERAL D. C. BUELL'S CAMPAIGN.

On the 15th day of November, 1861, the designation of the Army of the Cumberland was changed to the Army of the Ohio, and Brig. Gen. D. C. Buell was appointed to the command. On the 17th, he directed General Thomas to withdraw his command from Crab Orchard, leaving Acting Brig. Gen. Carter's brigade temporarily at London. Subsequently the order was modified to include Carter's brigade in the retrograde movement, but before the movement was fully executed the order was

revoked, and the brigade remained at Lebanon. When General Thomas arrived at Danville, General Schoepf, with the advance, having reached Lebanon, it was ascertained that the rebel General Zollicoffer's command and other troops, all under the rebel General Crittenden, had taken position at Monticello, Ky., with his advance thrown forward to the Cumberland River, threatening Colonel Hoskin's position near Somerset, Ky. General Schoepf was ordered to Somerset to re-enforce Colonel Hoskins. Advancing from Monticello to Mill Springs, the enemy, under the rebel General Crittenden, crossed the Cumberland River at that point, and entrenched himself on the north side. On the 23d, Brig. Gen. O. M. Mitchell was appointed to the command of Camp Jenkins, near Louisville. On the 2d of December the following division organizations were announced: First Division, Brig. Gen. Geo. H. Thomas, commanding; Second Division, Brig. Gen. A. McD. McCook, commanding; Third Division, Brig. Gen. O. M. Mitchell, commanding; Fourth Division, Brig. Gen. Wm. Nelson, commanding; Fifth Division, Brig. Gen. T. L. Crittenden, commanding.

Leaving a small guard over the bridge at Nolin, General McCook advanced his division on the 7th to Bacon Creek, sending forward General Johnson's brigade to Munfordsville. General Mitchell assumed command of his division at Elizabethtown on the 11th, and on the 10th advanced to Bacon Creek, relieving General McCook, who advanced with his division to Green River, posting a detachment of Colonel Willich's regiment on the south bank. During the afternoon a superior force of the enemy assailed the detachment on the south bank of the river, which was re-enforced by the remainder of the regiment, when the rebels were repulsed. General Nelson, having returned from Eastern Kentucky, had advanced with his division and taken position at Camp Wickliff, twelve miles from New Haven, on the Glasgow Turnpike.

On the 31st, General Thomas started from Lebanon, moving via Columbia, to attack the enemy, under the rebel General Crittenden, at Beech Grove. Owing to heavy rains, he did not succeed in reaching Logan's Cross Roads with his advance until the 17th. Arriving there, he halted for the troops in the rear to get up, and to open communication with General Schoepf.

BATTLE OF MILL SPRINGS.

On the night of the 18th of January, 1862, the enemy under Crittenden moved out of his camp at Beech Grove, and on the morning of the 19th attacked General Thomas' advance at Logan's Cross Roads. A sharp engagement ensued, resulting in the rout of the enemy who retreated to his entrenched camp at Beech Grove, to which point he was pursued by General Thomas, who formed his division, and by 5 p. m. opened with his artillery on the enemy's works. Preparations were then made to assault the enemy's works on the following morning, but he retired across the river during the night, abandoning his artillery, (twelve pieces,) transportation, munitions, and stores. Pursuit was continued south of the river by General Schoepf as far as Monticello. Five regiments of General Thomas's division did not get up in time to take part in the engagement on the 19th. The enemy's force consisted of two brigades, of four regiments of infantry and one battery each, two battalions of cavalry, and several independent companies.

General Thomas lost: killed, 39; wounded, 207; aggregate, 246

Rebel loss as far as known: killed, 192; wounded and left on the field, 68; captured, 89; aggregate as far as known, 349.

Commanding 1st Division Army of the Ohio—Brig. Gen. GEO. H. THOMAS.

Commanding Brigades.—Brig. Gen. A. Schoepf;* Colonel M. D. Manson;† Colonel L. R. McCook;‡ Brig. Gen. S. P. Carter.‡

* General Schoepf's brigade did not get up in time to take part in the engagement.

† Only two companies each of Colonel Manson's and McCook's brigades got up in time to take part in the engagement. Colonel McCook was wounded.

‡ General Carter's brigade got up during the action and assisted in repulsing the enemy.

Commanding Rebel Forces—Maj. Gen. Geo. CRITTENDEN.

Commanding Brigade.—Brig. Gen. F. K. Zollicoffer;* Brig. Gen. W. H. Carroll;* Colonel — Bruner; Colonel — McClellan.

On the 23d General Thomas posted his command at Somerset.

The rebel General Humphrey Marshall, having invaded Eastern Kentucky with a large force, intrenching himself on the Paintville and Prestonburg road, three miles above Paintville, General Buell organized the Eighteenth Brigade, and on the 17th of December, 1861, assigned Colonel J. A. Garfield to the command, directing him to concentrate his troops in the valley of the Big Sandy, and operate against the enemy. Concentrating a portion of his forces at Catlettsburg, Colonel Garfield advanced up the valley of the Big Sandy, and, passing through Lonisa, reached the mouth of George's Creek on the 25th. Advancing up George's Creek eight miles, he moved over Brown's Hill to the forks of Tom's Creek, and from thence advanced against the enemy in three columns; one column, under Colonel Bolles, driving the rebel cavalry from a strong position at the mouth of Jennie's Creek on the 7th of January, 1862, with a loss of six in killed and many wounded. Colonel Bolles's loss was two killed and one wounded. On Colonel Garfield's approach, the enemy abandoned his camp above Paintville and retreated in confusion, with a loss of fifteen in prisoners. At Paintville, Colonel Garfield was joined by Colonel Cramer with the Fortieth Ohio and Wolford's cavalry from Central Kentucky; he having advanced via Mount Sterling and Hazle Green, sending a part of the cavalry by way of West Liberty, to protect his flank.

On the 9th of January, 1862, Colonel Garfield continued his advance up the valley, and on the 10th encountered the enemy strongly intrenched at the forks of Middle Creek. After a sharp engagement the enemy was routed and driven in confusion, leaving twenty-five dead on the field, and the next day sixty of his dead were found thrown into a gorge of the hills. His acknowledged loss in killed was one hundred and twenty-five; his wounded not known; twenty-five prisoners were captured. Colonel Garfield's loss was one killed and twenty wounded. He had about nine hundred actually engaged, while the enemy had not less than thirty-five hundred. The next morning Lieut. Col. Letcher with the cavalry was sent in pursuit of the enemy, capturing a few prisoners. Colonel Garfield then took position at Prestonburg, from whence he subsequently advanced to Pikeville, the enemy withdrawing from Whitesburg to Pound Gap, and from thence dispersing into Virginia, Tennessee, and Kentucky.

Learning that a body of rebel militia, under Major Thompson, held Pound Gap, Colonel Garfield advanced from Pikeville on the 14th of March, and on the 18th drove the enemy in confusion from the gap, completely dispersing him. Colonel Garfield then returned to Pikeville, and on the 24th of March was ordered with his brigade to Louisville via the Big Sandy and Ohio Rivers.

General Crittenden who had moved forward from Calliou to South Carrollton, returned with his division to Calliou about the 1st of February, when Colonel Crut's brigade embarked, and proceeding via the Green, Ohio, and Tennessee Rivers, joined General Grant at Fort Henry after the surrender of that place. Colonel Crut's brigade was assigned to General Lew. Wallace's division, and took part in the battle of Fort Donelson, which resulted in the surrender of the enemy to General Grant on the morning of the 16th of February, 1862, after three days' fighting. General Crittenden with the other brigade of his division marched from Calliou to Owensboro, where he embarked and proceeded via the Ohio and Cumberland Rivers to Fort Donelson, arriving after the surrender.

While General Grant was thus operating against the enemy, General Buell had begun to concentrate his army, preparatory to advancing on the enemy's position at Bowling Green. Generals Thomas's and Wood's divisions were recalled from Somerset and Hall's Gap to Lebanon. General Mitchell's division was moved forward from Bacon Creek to Green River, and on the 13th of February advanced toward Bowling Green, arriving there on the 15th and taking possession of the place; the rebels having

* Generals Zollicoffer's and Carroll's brigades consisted of four infantry regiments and a battery each. General Zollicoffer was killed.

evacuated it early in the morning, retreating to Nashville. General Buell now ordered General Thomas's division to Louisville, and General Nelson's division to West Point, at which places they respectively embarked and proceeded to Nashville, by way of the Ohio and Cumberland Rivers. General Nelson arrived at Nashville with his division on the 25th of February, the rebels having evacuated the place on the 23d. General Buell advanced on Nashville via Bowling Green, Franklin, and Tyree Springs with Generals Mitchell's, McCook's, and Wood's divisions, arriving in person at Nashville on the 26th. Crittenden's division came up by boat from Fort Donelson.

General Buell remained at Nashville supplying and refitting his army until about the middle of March, when he advanced toward Savannah on the Tennessee River, via Franklin, Columbia, and Waynesboro, with Generals Nelson's, Crittenden's, McCook's, Wood's, and Thomas's divisions, directing General Mitchell to advance with his division from Nashville against the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. General Negley's brigade was left at Columbia. General Buell arrived at Savannah with Nelson's division on the morning of the 5th of April.

BATTLE OF PITTSBURG LANDING.

Heavy firing was heard in the direction of Pittsburg Landing on the morning of the 6th, and General Buell proceeded to General Grant's headquarters at that place, and found that his army, consisting of Generals McClelland's, W. T. Sherman's, C. F. Smith's, Hurlbut's and Prentiss's divisions—General L. Wallace's division being at Crump's Landing—was being furiously assailed by the whole rebel army. General Nelson's division was immediately moved up to a point opposite Pittsburg Landing; Colonel Ammen's brigade crossed the river and assisted in repulsing the enemy's last attack on the evening of the 6th. General Grant had fought against fearful odds, and though hard pressed, had thwarted the enemy's design of crushing him before General Buell could get up to his assistance. After the battle of the 6th, the remainder of Nelson's division was crossed to the south bank of the river, and General Crittenden's division arrived by steamers from Savannah. General McCook's division reached the battle field on the morning of the 7th, and General L. Wallace's division of General Grant's army had arrived from Crump's Landing. Early on the morning of the 7th, Generals Grant's and Buell's armies moved forward and attacked the enemy with great determination, pressing him back until about 5 p. m., when he commenced to retreat, retiring in good order. The great exhaustion of the troops, and night closing in with heavy rain, precluded a vigorous pursuit. Both armies suffered heavily. Among the rebel dead was General A. S. Johnson, Commander-in-chief, killed on the 6th. General Beauregard succeeded him in command.

FIRST DAY.

Commanding Army of the Tennessee—Major General U. S. GRANT.

Commanding Divisions.—1st Division, Maj. Gen. J. A. McClelland; 2d Division, Brig. Gen. C. F. Smith;* 3d Division, Maj. Gen. L. Wallace; † 4th Division, Brig. Gen. Hurlbut; 5th Division, Brig. Gen. W. T. Sherman; 6th Division, Brig. Gen. B. M. Prentiss. ‡

SECOND DAY.

Commanding Army of the Tennessee—Major General U. S. GRANT.

Commanding Divisions.—1st Division, Maj. Gen. J. A. McClelland; 2d Division, Colonel J. M. Tuttle; 3d Division, Maj. Gen. L. Wallace; 4th Division, Brig. Gen. A. S. Hurlbut; 5th Division, Brig. Gen. W. T. Sherman; 6th Division, absorbed in other divisions.

* General Smith being sick, General W. H. L. Wallace took command of the division, and was mortally wounded; General J. McArthur then took command, and was also wounded, when Colonel J. M. Tuttle took command of the division.

† General Wallace's division took no part in the first day's action, it being at and near Crump's Landing.

‡ General Prentiss was taken prisoner.