

**RECOLLECTIONS OF  
THOMAS D. DUNCAN, A  
CONFEDERATE SOLDIER**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649094950

Recollections of Thomas D. Duncan, a confederate soldier by Thomas D. Duncan

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**THOMAS D. DUNCAN**

**RECOLLECTIONS OF  
THOMAS D. DUNCAN, A  
CONFEDERATE SOLDIER**



RECOLLECTIONS  
OF  
THOMAS D. DUNCAN  
A CONFEDERATE SOLDIER



NASHVILLE, TENN.  
McQUIDDY PRINTING COMPANY  
1922

## FOREWORD

---

**T**HIS unpretentious work is not the product of a literary ambition.

Though my story deals with events that will live forever in the records of our country, I have not sought to give it the wings of poetic fancy whereby it may fly into the libraries of the earth.

Within the happy family circle, from which my children are now gone, these oft-recounted recollections became a part of their education. I permitted them to turn the pages of my memory, as the leaves of a book, that they might learn the vanished glory of the old South—the loving loyalty and the sad travail of her people. And I trust that they learned also that our unfortunate Civil War—now, thank God, nearly sixty years behind us—was a clash of honest principles.

That there were wild-eyed agitators and extremists on both sides, and that each had its scalawags and low-flung ruffians, there can be no doubt (and some of these—alas!—

Forrestal's Collection, 100.1145

## *Foreword*

still live) ; but the masses of the soldiers of both armies, who bore the brunt of battle and suffered the privations of those sorrowful years, were patriots; and he who speaks or writes to the contrary is an enemy to our reunited country and an element of weakness and danger in the strength of the nation.

My two beloved daughters have prevailed upon me to record my experiences of four years as a Confederate soldier, in the form of a brief printed memoir; and so, impelled by my regard for their wishes, I enter the work for them and for their descendants, without any thought of placing a literary commodity upon the counters of the country; and yet I must so write that, wherever this volume may chance to fall into the hands of a stranger, he may find in it that one essential to such a story as this is—*Truth*.

THOMAS D. DUNCAN.

## DEDICATION

---

**T**HIS brief reminiscent story is affectionately dedicated to my two grandsons, Shelby Curlee, Jr., and William Peyton Dobbins, Jr., in the hope that it may help to teach them two great truths—that the old South that was and is no more, and the gray armies that fought for its glory, its principles, and its institutions, are entitled to their devotion and respect forever; and that the nation by that strife once severed, now reunited and in peace, is inseparable and eternal—the guardian of the highest ideals of mankind, the pioneer of liberty and of world democracy.

THOMAS D. DUNCAN.





## CONTENTS

---

	CHAPTER I	
The Tocsin of War .....		9
	CHAPTER II	
Mobilization .....		21
	CHAPTER III	
Henry and Donelson .....		24
	CHAPTER IV	
Corinth Again the Center .....		32
	CHAPTER V	
Strange Outcome of a False Alarm .....		39
	CHAPTER VI	
Shiloh .....		45
	CHAPTER VII	
Corinth After Shiloh .....		67
	CHAPTER VIII	
Battle of Rienzi .....		79
	CHAPTER IX	
Murfreesboro and Kentucky Campaign .....		83
	CHAPTER X	
The Battle of Corinth .....		88
	CHAPTER XI	
West Tennessee .....		104
	CHAPTER XII	
Middle Tennessee .....		109
	CHAPTER XIII	
Pursuit of the Streight Raiders .....		112
	CHAPTER XIV	
Chickamauga .....		119

## *Contents*

	CHAPTER XV	
West Tennessee .....		121
	CHAPTER XVI	
Gen. "Soocy" Smith .....		127
	CHAPTER XVII	
Fort Pillow .....		132
	CHAPTER XVIII	
A Personal Sorrow .....		136
	CHAPTER XIX	
Battle of Brice's Cross-Roads.....		139
	CHAPTER XX	
Harrisburg and Tupelo, Miss.....		152
	CHAPTER XXI	
Raid Into Memphis .....		157
	CHAPTER XXII	
Raid Into North Alabama and Middle Tennessee.....		162
	CHAPTER XXIII	
Sulphur Trestle, Ala. ....		167
	CHAPTER XXIV	
Fourth Invasion of West Tennessee.....		175
	CHAPTER XXV	
The Beginning of Dark Days.....		179
	CHAPTER XXVI	
The Last Flickering of the Great Flame.....		186
	CHAPTER XXVII	
Reconstruction .....		199
	CHAPTER XXVIII	
Americanism Triumphant .....		207

## CHAPTER I

---

### THE TOCSIN OF WAR

---

**I**N yielding to the request which has brought forth this effort, I shall not assume the rôle of the historian nor set myself up as a critic of any command or commander.

Being in my seventy-sixth year, in the calming twilight of life's evening, I feel that I am capable of recording, without prejudice or passion, my impressions of that most heated era of our country, whose momentous events—sad, tragic, glorious—represent the summit of dramatic interest in all my years.

As it is impossible for any two persons to see the same things exactly alike, it is but natural to suppose that I shall present facts at variance with the views of some others; but as my purpose is not that of the controversialist, I shall have no quarrel with any man's views, but to all who may be interested in this narrative I would say that the