



Battle of Kennesaw Mountain.

We give, herewith, some official reports of the battle of Kennesaw Mountain, June 27th, 1864, as made by the Confederate and Federal commanders who took part therein.

We selected those which refer to the assault upon the southwestern end of Kennesaw Mountain,—that being one of the two points where General Sherman's forces made their most desperate efforts to secure a lodgement on the Confederate line.

Any one who goes to Marietta and rides out to Kennesaw Mountain will see that the southwestern end of Little Kennesaw terminates in a sort of ravine, from which there is slanting ground rising a number of feet and forming the top of the hill which then slopes downward toward the southwest. There is a ravine between Kennesaw Mountain and this hill, which is, properly, a prolongation of the mountain itself.

At the time of the battle General French's Confederate division covered Little Kennesaw Mountain and this hill. The entrenchments ran around the front and north side of the mountain, not far below the summit, and descending with the slope to the ravine on the west, continued across this and over the hill down to its western end,—there being traverses on the western slope to protect the men from a cross fire from the Federal artillery on the west.

General Ector's brigade of Texans and North Carolinians was near the top of the mountain, and its left extended from the eastern end over to about the center of the mountain. General Sears' brigade of Mississippians joined it and prolonged to the left or west and down the slope until it reached about to the ravine above referred to. At this point Cockrell's Missouri brigade began its formation and manned the entrenchments down to the foot of the hill.

Here the breastworks formed an angle and ran southward for some miles, protecting Marietta and the Western & Atlantic Railroad on the east. Walker's division, (mostly Georgians,) beginning immediately at the upper end, and next to Cockrell, extended southward until it aligned with

The accompanying map was prepared especially for this article. It will be noted that the Confederate line of battle ran across the north side of Kennesaw Mountain and not very far from the summit—Walthall's division being on Big Kennesaw—French's division on Little Kennesaw and the hill just west of Little Kennesaw—Ector's brigade on the right, Sears' brigade in the center, which included the western end of the mountain, and Cockrell's brigade covering the hill west of the mountain. There Walker's division began and manned the entrenchments which ran southward across a valley and over a broad but not high hill. South of Walker came the rest of the Confederate divisions in the order shown elsewhere in this issue.

Bate's division, who in turn was on Cleburne's right, and he on Cheatham's right.

The official reports show that Cockrell's position was assaulted by General Morgan L. Smith, with about 5,500 picked troops. French's entire division numbered at this time, according to the official reports before us, just a few less than 3,500 men. Cockrell had less than one third this number,—or, in other words, about 1,000 men to face M. L. Smith's 5,500 Federals. During the struggle Cockrell was re-enforced by two out of seven regiments of Ector's brigade, probably less than 500 men, as nearly as we can determine it. (A "regiment," at that period, sometimes did not number 200 men. Ector's entire brigade at Kennesaw included hardly 1,500 men.)

The Federal attack upon Cockrell's position was from the northwest, and southwest,—Colonel Walcutt, commanding the assaulting brigade on the north; General Giles A. Smith that on the west, and General J. A. J. Lightburn that on the southwest.

From General Cockrell's report it will be seen that the Federals reached a point so close to his works that the officers in his main entrenchments distinctly heard the Federal officers give the command, "Fix bayonets." General M. L. Smith corroborates this by saying that after passing a deep, swampy ravine the line "fixed bayonets, advancing," etc.

This was to a considerable extent a mistake. There is a little brook which runs through the forest at the foot of the mountain whose banks are marshy enough for a man to sink shoe-mouth deep, but scarcely worse. Still, nothing is more natural than for men under a heavy fire to exaggerate natural inconveniences, and we who sit in our parlors or offices and read the accounts should make due allowance therefor.

Colonel W. H. Young, who was the Confederate officer on observation upon the western end of Little Kennesaw that morning, says, in reference to Lightburn's attack, where the latter's column in heading for Cockrell's position on the hill, ran diagonally upon Walker's skirmishers, (a Geor-

gia regiment of nearly 200 men), in their rifle pits,—“and soon after a line of the enemy appeared at the edge of the woods immediately at the rifle pits, and could be distinctly seen firing down into the pits.”

The Federal side of this is shown in the report of Colonel Fulton, who says,—“The rebels fought with a desperation worthy of a better cause. The conduct of our soldiers and officers on this occasion needs no comment. Never did men show more gallantry, mounting their works, shooting the enemy, and beating them over their heads with the butts of their guns,” etc.

These extracts are striking proofs of the fact that from the summit of the mountain, nearly 700 feet above the scene of action, even the details of the thrilling and momentous struggle were plainly visible to the eyes of those who looked down from there. It was a grand, an imposing panorama.

Our readers will note how the reports of this struggle by the opposing commanders agree almost exactly with each other,—these reports being written by each side from its own standpoint after the battle, and with no knowledge of what the other was writing.

In balancing up the relative advantages held by the two sides we find that the Confederates had that of position; though this was not so decided as might be supposed at first blush, as will be seen later. In no other respect were they as well equipped as their assailants for the combat.

On the other hand the Federals had an overwhelming superiority in numbers. They also had better small arms. They had about fifty pieces of superior artillery whose fire was concentrated against Cockrell's position, while the Confederate artillerymen on the top of the mountain could not depress their guns so as to harm the Federals after they had gotten in musket shot of the assaulted works on the north where the severest fighting took place.

Another disadvantage to the Confederates, and therefore an advantage to the Federals, was the fact that the troops in the entrenchments, which ran down the backbone of the hill to

where it reached the plain, were exposed to a raking or plunging fire from the Federal batteries on the west. Here was where Cockrell suffered his heaviest loss.

Summing it all up, therefore, we find that the Confederate advantage in position was more than counterbalanced by the advantages enjoyed by the assailants, and but for the heroic gallantry of the defenders the Federals would have secured possession of the hill, and thereby have broken the main line held by General Johnston's army. They could, at once, have carried out General Sherman's plan of pushing in several divisions like a wedge, and thus splitting the Confederate army in two parts which could have then been crushed in detail, and the campaign practically ended there.

All tourists who come to Marietta can ride over to the western end of Kennesaw Mountain, which is hardly three miles distant, and can distinctly trace the line of entrenchments, and recognize, from reading the reports, the exact location of the Confederate works on the ground which was crossed by the Federal assaulting columns. It is an interesting study to tourists as well as to historians. J. M. B.

Report of Brigadier-General M. L. Smith, U. S. Army, Commanding 2nd Division. HEADQUARTERS 2d DIVISION 15th A. C. NEAR KENNESAW MOUNTAIN, GA., JUNE 27th, 1864.

I have the honor to submit the following report of an assault made by a part of General Logan's corps under my command, upon the enemy's works to the right of Kennesaw Mountain:

In accordance with General Logan's orders, I withdrew my division from its position, to the left of the mountain, after dark, on the night of the 25th instant, and massed it opposite the extreme right of the mountain, and a hill which is a continuation of the same to the right. This hill was the objective point of the assault, and my division and Colonel Walcutt's Brigade of General Harrow's Division was designated as the assaulting columns, and 8 o'clock a. m. of the 27th, the hour to advance.

General Lightburn, commanding Brigade, of about 2,000 muskets, was directed to form in two lines and assault through a little orchard, about 400 yards to the right of the hill, and to advance as soon as he heard a brisk fire on the left. General Giles A. Smith, commanding 1st Brigade, of about the same strength, was directed to move at the same time in two lines directly on the hill. Colonel Walcutt, commanding the brigade of General Harrow's Division, of about 1,500 muskets, was directed to move directly for the gorge where the hill joins on the mountain, lapping the mountain and left of the hill, feel into the gorge as far as possible, and capture the works in his front. As the enemy could not depress their artillery sufficiently to fire on him, he was ordered to advance first, and the opening of the enemy's fire upon him was the signal for the two brigades to advance.

The line moved about 8 o'clock. It advanced steadily with a long line of skirmishers; owing to the extreme density of the underbrush it was impossible for skirmishers to keep in front of their lines.

Found the enemy's line of rifle pits about 400 yards from their main works, and killed or captured most of their

skirmishers. After passing a dark, swampy ravine, the line fixed bayonets, advancing, moved steadily and rapidly for the enemy's works amidst a shower of shot and shell. Officers and men fell thick and fast.

In addition to the steepness of the ascent, trees had been felled, and rocks piled in such a manner as to make it impossible to advance with any regularity. Officers and men still pushed forward. Re-enforcements of the enemy were seen coming in from the right and left; within about 30 feet of the enemy's main works the line staggered and sought cover as best they could behind logs and rocks.

Some of the 55th and 11th Illinois, of General Giles A. Smith's Brigade, fell on and inside the works. General Lightburn on the right pressed through a swamp, where officers and men sank to the knees, and a very dense thicket; but on account of an enfilading fire was unable to get nearer than 150 yards of the orchard and works beyond. He, however, by coming suddenly out of the thicket and swamp killed and wounded quite a number of the enemy, and captured 2 officers and 36 men.

Colonel Barnhill, commanding 40th Illinois of Col. Walcutt's Brigade, and Augustin, 55th Illinois, were killed on the hill near the enemy's works. —, in command of the 55th Illinois, severely wounded on the hill; Colonel Rice, of 57th Ohio, also wounded on the hill (leg amputated), Colonel Spooner, 83d Indiana, further to the right of the hill, was wounded, (arm amputated at the shoulder); Colonel Parry, 47th Ohio, severely in the leg.

Colonel Walcutt, commanding the brigade from General Harrow's Division, moved forward promptly toward the gorge, encountered the enemy's rifle pits, captured about 50 prisoners, found the gorge perfectly impassable on account of the rocky and precipitous entrance. He then turned his attention to the right of the mountain from which he was receiving a flank fire, and left of the hill; some of his brigade met their fate at the breast-works. Officers and men on the side hill were completely covered by the second line, and sharpshooters, and the artillery of General Osterhaus' and Harrow's Divisions, so that I am satisfied not one prisoner was taken by the enemy.

A good line of rifle pits was made in front of General G. A. Smith's and Colonel Walcutt's Brigades, in one hour, within 100 yards of the hill in some places.

At dark the men were all withdrawn from the side of the hill; our pickets were relieved by General Osterhaus, and I received General Logan's order to resume the position occupied in the morning.

Accompanying please find list of casualties and reports of Brigade commanders. Your obedient servant,

M. L. SMITH,

Brigadier-General Volunteers.

MAJOR R. R. YOUNG, A. A. G.

From report of Lieut-Colonel Robert A. Fulton, 53d Ohio Infantry.

On the 19th the enemy evacuated their works in our front and troops advanced to the foot of the mountain and remained skirmishing with the enemy until the 27th, when the 53rd with other regiments of our brigade charged the enemy's works.

We formed line,—the 53rd Ohio, 83rd Ind. and 30th Ohio forming the front line, supported by the 47th Ohio, 37th Ohio and 54th Ohio regiments.

Our line was formed behind the works occupied by the 1st Division 15th Army Corps. At 8 o'clock a. m.

the signal was given and we moved forward over the works, charged through an open field under a galling fire from the enemy's musketry and artillery; reached the edge of the woods and crossed the ravine. Here we halted and reformed the line, the enemy keeping up a continuous fire of musketry and artillery from their works.

In about 15 minutes the bugle sounded "forward;" in an instant the line moved forward with a yell through the woods and underbrush, over logs and ravines, and mounted the enemy's rifle pits situated at the outer edge of the road and occupied by the 63rd Ga. Regiment.

After a desperate hand-to-hand fight in which the bayonets and butts of muskets were used we succeeded in capturing their works. We captured about 40 prisoners, killing and wounding more than that number.

The rebels fought with a desperation worthy of a better cause. The conduct of our soldiers and officers on this occasion needs no comment; never did men show more gallantry, mounting the works, shooting the enemy and beating them over their heads with the butts of their guns.

While the desperate struggle was going on the enemy from their main works kept up a very destructive fire of musketry and artillery. Their main line of works was in good musket range and they did considerable execution.

After their first line was taken we pressed forward toward their main line. After charging through an open field we reached the crest of a hill in front of their works which afforded us but little shelter. Here we were ordered by Col. Jones to lie down. After lying here about 10 minutes, our flank exposed to a terrific cross-fire and a report that the enemy were trying to get in our rear, we received orders to fall back to the woods, which we did, holding the first line of works we took. We remained in this position until night, when we were relieved by a portion of the 1st Division 15th Army Corps.

Reports of Major General Samuel G. French, C. S. Army, Commanding Division, Battle of Kennesaw Mountain.

HEADQUARTERS FRENCH'S DIVISION, Kennesaw Mountain, June 28, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report to you that yesterday morning (27th,) between the hours of 8 and 9 a. m. the enemy in my front and that portion of Major-General W. H. T. Walker's front, on my left, were seen forming in lines of battle behind their entrenchments, and at the same time their batteries opened on my line with all their guns. Soon after the enemy's line of skirmishers rose from their works and were followed by two lines of infantry. They were soon seen to be in an almost hand-to-hand conflict with the skirmishers on General Walker's right, and after a short but spirited contest most of those skirmishers appeared to have been killed or captured. Soon after my skirmishers in General Cockrell's front were forced from their pits on the right of the road by an attack in front and on their left and rear, and many were killed and captured. From my position on the west extremity of the mountain I could see but little, of my line to the left in the woods, but observing the enemy in force on the right of Walker's front, I directed the artillery to be run down to the west end of the Kennesaw Mountain, and it opened on the enemy to the south of the road in Walker's front with such effect that they were driven back.

In the meantime the enemy, on the right of the road and in my front ad-

vanced and attacked the line of entrenchments occupied by Brigadier-General F. M. Cockrell, commanding the Missouri brigade, and a portion of the left of the line occupied by General Sears' brigade, and after a spirited contest of an hour were signally repulsed with severe loss. The killed of the enemy that fell nearest our lines were left on the field. So severe and continuous was the cannonading that the volleys of musketry could scarcely be heard at all on the line. My impression is that my artillery almost enfilading the lines of the enemy on the left of the Marietta road, drove them back, and thus frustrated the attack intended on General Walker's right. General Cockrell sent an officer to inform the brigade commander on my left that we were being hotly pressed by the enemy, but from some cause the artillery that could command my front in part was not fired.

I inclosed I send you the report of General Cockrell and that made by Colonel W. H. Young, who was on duty as observing officer on the mountain.

Our loss, I regret to say, was pretty severe, being 17 killed, 92 wounded, and 77 missing; total, 186. The enemy's loss is not known, but by those who had the best opportunity to observe, it is computed at 500.

I must express my thanks to General F. M. Cockrell, his officers, and men, and Colonel W. S. Barry, who was in command of Sears' brigade, and a portion of his troops for their gallant conduct in repulsing the enemy. I regret to say, however, that the enemy gained a hold nearer my main line in front of the left of General Sears' brigade than I had reason to expect.

The officers and men of Guibor's, Ward's, Hoskins', Lumsden's, and Bellamy's batteries, and Major G. S. Storrs, my chief of artillery, are entitled to much praise for their good conduct under the severe fire of the enemy's artillery. Brigadier-General Ector, commanding brigade, was not attacked. Respectfully submitted,

S. G. FRENCH, Major-General.

Major-General W. W. LORING, Commanding Army of Mississippi.

HEADQUARTERS FRENCH'S DIVISION, ATLANTA, GA., August 31, 1864.

SIR: In reply to your note of this morning asking me to report the loss sustained in my command in front of Marietta and that of the enemy on June 27th last, I will state my report shows 17 killed, 92 wounded, and 77 missing; total, 186. My estimate that day of the enemy's loss was computed at 500. Since then the official reports of the enemy state their loss in the assault on West (or Little) Kennesaw Mountain to have been 60 officers and about 500 men. It is fair to presume that, as usual, they have reported a smaller number than their actual loss. My division was posted from the Marietta road, thence on and over West Kennesaw, and partly up Great Kennesaw. This assault of the enemy from chosen troops and led by General M. L. Smith only attacked my left, and was [a] completely distinct and isolated assault. I drove the enemy with my artillery from General Walker's front, and my centre and right were not attacked except on the skirmish line, which did not give way. Whatever credit is due for the complete repulse of his assaulting column, therefore, belongs exclusively to the brigade of General Cockrell and the left of General Sears, then commanded by Colonel W. S. Barry. The enemy in the action brought fifty-one pieces of artillery to bear on my front. I men-

tion this because of the briefness of my report of the action.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. G. FRENCH, Major-General Commanding.

CAPTAIN D. WEST,

Assistant Adjutant-General.

Report of Brigadier-General William H. Young, C. S. Army, Commanding Ninth Texas Infantry (as Colonel) and Ector's Brigade, of the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain and operations.

JUNE 28, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to submit a report of some observations made by myself from the southern part of Little Kennesaw Mountain on the morning of the 27th instant:

The first indication observed was the formation of the lines of infantry behind the enemy's main line of works, to the right of the road leading by the house formerly occupied by General J. E. Johnston as headquarters to Marietta. Shortly after this formation began the enemy's batteries on either side of the road opened upon our lines, and soon a line of skirmishers rose from the advanced work of the enemy to the left of said road, and advanced on a run into a strip of woods dividing the fields on the left of the road. At the western edge of the field, next to our works, were a line of rifle-pits occupied by our men. Some time after the enemy's skirmishers had entered the strip of woods the lines of their infantry moved by the right flank out of the works to the right of the road across the road, and facing to the front commenced advancing rather obliquely to the right towards the strip of woods. About this time our men occupying the pits on this edge of the woods came out from them and retreated across the field. When the lines of the enemy's infantry (two in number) had crossed their outer works they advanced into the strip of wood at a run, and I had seen some few of them at this edge of the woods near the road when I saw a line of men afterwards ascertained to be Confederates, move by the flank from the southwest corner of the field next our works along the strip of woods, about two-thirds the distance from the corner of the field to the road, when they halted and occupied the rifle-pits contiguous to them. The pits next the road were not reoccupied. After the lapse of some time these men opened a sharp fire, and soon after a heavy line of the enemy appeared at the edge of the woods immediately at the rifle-pits, and could be distinctly seen firing down into the pits. After a short but spirited contest a few of our men succeeded in getting out of the pits and retreated across the field under a fire from the enemy, but it was my impression that a greater portion of them were killed or captured. Very soon after this I left the top of the mountain. Just before leaving some one called my attention to the fact that the enemy were advancing also in the woods to the right of the road. Upon looking I could see some few among the trees, which prevented, however, the movements there from being distinctly seen. Captain A. J. Booty, of the Tenth Texas Cavalry, and Lieutenant Wm. T. Gibbons, of the Fourteenth Texas Cavalry, were with me during the time.

I am, captain, very respectfully your obedient servant,

WM. H. YOUNG, Colonel Ninth Texas Infantry.

CAPTAIN R. TODD HUNTER,

Assistant Adjutant-General.

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Battle of Kennesaw Mountain.

(Continued from page 3.)

Report of Brigadier-General F. M. Cockrell, C. S. Army, Commanding Brigade, of the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain.

HEADQUARTERS 1ST MISSOURI BRIGADE,
KENNESAW MOUNTAIN, JUNE 27, 1864.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report that about 8 a. m. to-day a very heavy line of skirmishers, closely followed by two lines of battle, advanced into the skirt of timber in front of the open field at the foot and south of Kennesaw Mountain, just south of the road leading from Marietta to General Johnston's old headquarters, and drove in the extreme right of the line of skirmishers resting on the northwestern corner of the said open field, and immediately began to press back the left flank of my skirmishers, which rested in the bottom just north of the road. All the reserves of my skirmish line were thrown out to protect my left flank, and the enemy's skirmishers were held in check until the lines of battle closely following closed in upon them. When this was done the enemy rapidly drove back my left and centre, passing along the base of Kennesaw Mountain in front of my main line. The companies on the right of my skirmish line were holding the enemy in check in their immediate front, but the enemy advanced so rapidly against and in rear of my left that before Lieutenant-Colonel Thos. M. Carter, commanding skirmishers, ordered the right of the line to fall back the enemy had gained their rear and they were thus exposed to a double fire, and in falling back were compelled to pass through the enemy's lines, and many thus fell into their hands.

Lieutenant Samuel Ross, a most gallant officer, and 41 men are now missing, many of whom are known to be either killed or wounded. My skirmishers fought very stubbornly and were pressed back up the the gorge on the right followed by the enemy at the distance of thirty or forty paces. The enemy appeared in force on the west edge of the open field on my left, but were quickly driven back into the woods by a few volleys from the left main line. They also appeared in force at the base of the mountain in front of my left regiment, but were easily kept back in the woods. In front of Colonel McCown's regiment, the second from my left, they made an assault in force and succeeded in getting within twenty-five paces of the works, and by secreting themselves behind rocks and other shelter held this position for fifteen or twenty minutes, and were distinctly heard by my officers in the main line to give the command "fix bayonets." They advanced up the gorge along the line as far as my right, and succeeded in gaining the spur of the main mountain in front of my right and on General Sears' left at a point higher up than my main line, and for some time had a plunging fire on my works. All attempts on my line were handsomely repulsed with loss to them.

The bodies of 1 lieutenant-colonel, 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, and some 30 soldiers of the enemy were left dead in my front, and so close to my lines that they could not be carried off. A number of their wounded also fell into our hands, and 1 or 2 prisoners.

My loss in the engagement to-day has been 10 killed, 2 mortally wounded, 27 severely, 28 slightly, and 42 missing, as before stated making an aggregate of 109. Lieutenant Archibald D. Manning, a minister of the Cummerland Presbyterian Church and a most exemplary Christian, is among the killed and 27 wounded belonged to

Colonel McCown's regiment, where the heaviest assault was made.

From memoranda found on the bodies of the dead, and from the statement of the captured wounded and prisoners, a portion of the old Fifteenth U. S. Army Corps, commanded by Major-General John A. Logan, it is manifest was in our front, and had orders to assault and carry Kennesaw Mountain. The engagement along my front lasted nearly an hour. A portion of Colonel McCown's regiment fired sixty rounds to the man.

Respectfully submitted,

F. M. COCKRELL,
Brigadier-General.

MAJOR D. W. SANDERS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

On our right center the 63rd Ga. regiment, Col. Gordon, Mercer's brigade, was deployed as skirmishers, and acted with great gallantry; they held a hand-to-hand fight with the enemy.

(Extract from telegram from Marietta to the *Augusta Constitutionalist*, and dated June 27, 1864).

Walker's division's skirmishers acted with great heroism—nine out of eleven men being bayoneted in one rifle pit alone, while their officers actually cut down the enemy with their sabres. Two of our officers from the same pit came in with bayonet wounds, while their clothes were perfectly perforated with bullets. * * *

The enemy made a desperate attempt to take Kennesaw Mountain; they attacked our works in columns of picked troops—the heroes of Mission Ridge—but Loring's corps drove them back.

(Extract from letter dated Marietta, June 28, 1864, and printed in the *Augusta Constitutionalist*, June 29, 1864.

A Conundrum.

The question has been asked: "Where is the Ty-Ty route, and from what does it get its name?" Does anybody know?—*Enquirer-Sun, Columbus, Ga.*

We were under the impression that our morning contemporary was aware that the Ty-Ty route was an important line of Georgia railway, an adjunct of the Central system, leading to Jacksonville, Florida. It gets its name from a village on its line, which is located in a section of country where the famous tight-eye (misspelled ty-ty) pipe-stems grow luxuriantly.—*Columbus Ledger.*

The question is asked, what is the "Ty-Ty" route and whence is its name derived? The route is one of the through lines from the North to the South, the Brunswick and Western railroad being a part of it. The name is derived from a weed or shrub, called Ty-Ty, that grows in many sections of the South. The wood is straight and has a soft pith; when the latter is removed the wood makes excellent pipe stems.—*Savannah Morning News.*

We remember, perfectly well, how the Ty-Ty route got its name.

In the winter of 1884-85. Mr. Joseph M. Brown, General Passenger Agent of the W. & A. R. R., was in Jacksonville, Fla., and in conversation with Mr. C. E. Harman, then General Southern Agent of the Western Atlantic Railroad, the latter remarked that they ought to have some distinctive route name for the through sleeping car line from Cincinnati to Jacksonville, over the W. & A. and Brunswick and Western and other roads. He said that the title "Kenne-