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Army - 1st Div. Ga. Militia

*of the War in the Department of*  
REPORTS *H. C. W.*

OF THE

OPERATIONS OF THE MILITIA,

FROM OCTOBER 13, 1864, TO FEBRUARY 11, 1865,

BY

MAJ.-GENERALS G. W. SMITH AND WAYNE,

TOGETHER WITH

MEMORANDA BY GEN. SMITH,

FOR THE

IMPROVEMENT OF THE STATE MILITARY ORGANIZATION.

---

MACON, GA.

BOUGHTON, NESBIT, BARNES & MOORE,  
State Printers.

Handwritten initials or mark in the top left corner.

OPERATIONS OF THE MILITARY

FROM THE YEAR 1794 TO 1815

AND THE HISTORY OF THE

ARMY OF GREAT BRITAIN

IN THE YEAR 1815

Printed by ... London



STATE OF GEORGIA,  
ADJUTANT & INSP. GEN'S. OFFICE. }  
Macon, February 28, 1865. }

To HIS EXCELLENCY, JOSEPH E. BROWN,  
Governor of Georgia:

*Your Excellency*:—In compliance with the Resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 18th inst., received this morning, I have the honor to transmit herewith, the Reports of Major Generals Smith and Wayne of the operations of the Militia in the field since 18th of October last: and also, the Resolution of the House calling for these papers.

Very Respectfully,

Your ob't serv't,

HENRY C. WAYNE,  
Adj't. and Insp. Gen.

HEADQUARTERS 1ST DIVS. GA. MILITIA. )  
DECEMBER 6TH 1864. )

LT. GENL. W. J. HARDEE,

Commanding Department:

*General*: On the 12th of October last I received at Macon, a telegram from General Hood directing me to assemble as rapidly as possible, all our available forces in that vicinity, and make a demonstration on Atlanta, so soon as the necessary transportation could be procured. Under this order I, in a short time, had at Lovejoy's Station a force numbering about 2,800 effective muskets, three batteries of Confederate Artillery, and between two and three hundred local reserve cavalry. The whole force was under my command, much the larger portion of Infantry belonging to the First Division of Georgia Militia. Finding this force inadequate to make a direct assault upon Atlanta, garrisoned as it then was, General Hood suggested that I should, if practicable, cross the Chattahoochee and destroy the line of Railroad between that river and the Etowah. For various reasons, which were submitted to Generals Beauregard and Hood, (and by them approved,) it was deemed neither practicable or expedient to make a direct attack upon Atlanta, or upon the railroad line as suggested; so my command continued in observation near Atlanta, preventing the enemy from foraging and keeping them within their line of works, supporting Brigadier General Iverson who had, just in advance of us, two brigades of cavalry. On the night of the 12th of November, Major General Wheeler of the cavalry, reached my headquarters and soon after

the advance of his forces from Alabama began to arrive. On the 15th of November, the enemy moved out from Atlanta and advanced upon us with his whole force, viz: the 15th, 17th and 20th Corps, with Artillery and Cavalry, which was soon after joined by the 14th. Our cavalry were driven that afternoon from Jonesboro to Lovejoy's and at dark I moved my force back to Griffin, at which place we had fortifications and I felt we could there check the enemy should he advance directly upon us.

In the afternoon of the 16th it was ascertained the great mass of the enemy's forces had moved through McDonough on the direct road from Atlanta to Macon, at which latter place there was at that time no garrison. At dark on the same day I left Griffin and marched my command to Forsyth, a distance of thirty-five miles in twenty-four hours. Learning that the enemy were crossing to the east bank of the Ocmulgee River, I moved the command to Macon, and about that time received orders from General Beauregard to report by letter to Lieutenant General Taylor. A copy of that letter is herewith transmitted.

All of my command except the Georgia Militia, and two Regiments of State Line Troops (which reported to me just before leaving Lovejoy's,) were at this time turned over to Major General Cobb. The defence of a portion of the lines around Macon, on the west bank of the Ocmulgee, was assigned to the force still left in my command. Before the troops were fairly in position, orders were received to cross the river and occupy a position covering East Macon. This movement occupied the whole night. Soon after daylight next morning my five Brigades were in the respective positions assigned them, no two being in the same part of the field.

During the morning of Monday the 21st, the First Brigade, under your own personal instructions, given direct to the Colonel Commanding, was sent along the line of the Central Rail Road, with orders to move as rapidly as possible, either by railroad or otherwise to the city of Augusta. In the afternoon of the same day, Anderson's Battery of Artillery was assigned to the Militia, and you directed me to move as soon as possible with this battery, the 2d, 3d and 4th Brigades of Militia, and the two regiments of the State Line to Augusta. They moved Tuesday morning in the direction of Griswoldville, with orders to halt there and await further instructions from me.

You also informed me that you had ordered Major Cook with the Athens and Augusta Battalions to proceed to Augusta, and directed me to take them in my command if I came up with them on the route. Arrangements for transportation, of ammunition, and supplies detained me for a few hours in Macon, which place you had left on the evening previous. Lieutenant General Taylor arrived there on the morning of the 22d. Information having been received showing very clearly that a much larger force of the enemy was near the city than was

supposed when you gave the orders for my troops to move, he authorized me to direct them to return. My order reached them on the eve of an engagement with what was supposed to be a small force of the enemy.

Notwithstanding my order to avoid an engagement at that place and time a collision occurred, we being the attacking party, and though the officers and men behaved with great gallantry, they failed to carry the works of the enemy, but held a position within one hundred and fifty yards of their line until after dark, when they were withdrawn to Macon by my order.

The First Brigade of Militia was not engaged, having passed that point in the execution of orders given by yourself. Major Cook commanding the Athens and Augusta Battalions, moving under orders direct from yourself, was upon the ground, and engaged in the action. Our loss was a little over six hundred, being more than one-fourth of the effective muskets we had in the engagement. Several of the best field officers of the command were killed and wounded.

It is evident now that our men were opposed by the larger portion of one corps of the enemy, while another was marching from Clinton in their rear, and I consider the troops were very fortunate in being withdrawn without disaster.

Lieutenant General Taylor having become satisfied that the enemy was leaving the vicinity of Macon, directed me to move my command on Friday morning by rail to Albany, thence march to Thomasville, thence by rail to Savannah.

We arrived in Thomasville by noon Monday, having marched from Albany, a distance between fifty-five and sixty miles in fifty-four hours. At Thomasville, instead of finding five trains, the number I had requested to be sent, there were but two, and these could not be started until after dark, and did not arrive here until two o'clock Wednesday morning, occupying twice the time necessary between Thomasville and Savannah, and leaving the 2d, 3d, and 4th brigades at the former place. Upon arriving here, almost broken down by fatigue and want of rest, with officers and men similarly situated, I received, before leaving the cars, a peremptory order from yourself, requiring me to take the Militia of Georgia beyond the limits of the State, which was in direct violation of the Statute organizing and calling them into service. Considering the jaded condition of both officers and men, I determined not to move the Militia or the State Line beyond the limits of Georgia until satisfied in my own mind that absolute necessity demanded it.

In a personal interview with yourself, you informed me that the enemy had moved out from Broad River, were encamped within a few miles of the Savannah and Charleston Railroad, threatening Grahamville and Coosawhatchee, and unless vigorously opposed would undoubtedly break the road at one or both of these points, soon after daylight, and that the only force you

had in your whole command which could by any possibility be brought upon the ground in time, was two regular Confederate Regiments from Charleston, and you believed these would be there too late, and that if I could hold the enemy in check until 2 o'clock, P. M. and prevent their cutting the road before that time, several thousand reinforcements from North and South Carolina, intended for Savannah would arrive. In this interview I showed you my qualified authority from the Governor to withdraw the Georgia State forces under my command from Confederate service in case they were ordered beyond the limits of the State. After a full conference with yourself, I was perfectly satisfied that for the purposes intended it was right and proper the movement should be made, and I gave orders accordingly.

Notwithstanding some objections made by a portion of officers and men the order was willingly obeyed. The leading brigade arrived at Grahamville about 8 o'clock Wednesday morning, the 30th of November. You kindly tendered me the services of your Chief of Artillery, Col. Gonzales, who upon our arrival at Grahamville, introduced me to Col. Colcock, Commander of the Military District, Maj. Jenkins, the Commander of the immediate vicinity, and Capt. DeSanssure, Col. Colcock's Adjutant General. To these four gentlemen particularly, and other officers acquainted with the locality, I am indebted for the information upon which I based the direction of the whole operations for the day. Colonel Colcock reported the enemy rapidly advancing, skirmishing with some companies of his cavalry and a few pieces of artillery. He was just starting to the front and I requested him to select a position for my leading Brigade so soon as I could dispatch it to him. I awaited the arrival of the second train of my own troops and the Forty-Seventh Georgia which was momentarily expected from Charleston. Having given the necessary orders to these forces, I joined Col. Colcock a few minutes after 10 o'clock, some four miles from the Grahamville depot, and about one-half mile from the position we finally assumed. Col. C. informed me the enemy had already occupied the position selected by him as the best for defence, before my troops arrived. This made it necessary in my judgment, that the leading brigade should be counter-marched at once and placed in position on a line with our main battery. The troops in rear were hurried up and placed upon the same line to the right and left of the road. The enemy in the meanwhile steadily advanced along the main road upon our position.

After a proper disposition of our forces had been made and a skirmish line ordered forward, Colonel Colcock, the Commander of the District, and next officer in command upon the field to myself, was assigned to the immediate executive command of the main line; Colonel Gonzales was placed in charge of the Artillery, and Major Jenkins of all the Cavalry. Captain De-

Saussure who was thoroughly acquainted with the whole country remained near me. The Forty-Seventh Georgia had not yet reached the field. Within five or ten minutes after these dispositions had been made, the battle begun by an advance piece of our artillery firing upon the enemy. Their line of battle was soon formed, and from that time until near dark they made continuous efforts to carry our position. We had actually engaged five pieces of artillery, and it is due to the South Carolina Artillerists that I should say that I have never seen pieces more skilfully employed and gallantly served upon a difficult field of battle. In an hour the enemy had so extended and developed their attack that it became absolutely necessary for me to place in the front line of battle my last troops, the Forty-Seventh Georgia Regiment, making in all about fourteen hundred effective muskets on the field, and all engaged. From time to time alterations had to be made in our lines by changing the positions of regiments and companies, extending intervals, &c. to prevent being flanked, and while we could not, from the dense wood, accurately estimate the number of the enemy, it was very clear their force largely exceeded ours, and I awaited with some anxiety, the arrival of the Thirty-Second Georgia, and the forces expected from North and South Carolina. Too much credit cannot be given to Colonel Colcock, Colonel Gonzales, Major Jenkins, and Capt. DeSaussure, to all the officers of my own staff—to Colonel Willis, commanding First Brigade of Georgia Militia; Colonel Wilson, Commanding State Line Brigade; Major Cook, Commanding the Athens and Augusta Battalions of Reserves; Lieutenant Colonel Edwards, Commanding the Forty-Seventh Georgia Confederate Regiment, and to all the officers and men of every arm engaged upon that field. In short, I have never seen or known of a battle-field upon which there was so little confusion, and where every order was so cheerfully and promptly obeyed, and where a small number of men for so long a time successfully resisted the determined and oft repeated efforts of largely superior attacking forces. The flight of the enemy during the night, and the number of their dead left upon the field, is evidence of the nature of the attack as well as the defence.

About half-past-four o'clock, P. M., Brigadier General Robertson arrived with a portion of the Thirty-Second Georgia from Charleston, a Battery of Artillery, and a Company of Cavalry. These constituted an effective reserve, but came up too late to be used in the action. During the night the enemy retired rapidly in the direction of their Gun Boats.

Our loss in every arm of service was eight (8) men killed and forty-two (42) wounded. The enemy left over two hundred of their dead upon the field, and their whole loss in killed and wounded is believed to be upwards of one thousand.

At midnight Brigadier General Chesnut arrived at Graham.

ville Station with about three hundred and fifty effective muskets of South Carolina Reserves, and a little before daylight upon the morning of the 1st of December, Brigadier General Baker came up with eight hundred and sixty of his Brigade from North Carolina, the remainder of his command, about eleven hundred reached Coosawhatchie at nine o'clock. Lieut. General Hardee arrived at Grahamville Station between eight and nine o'clock on the morning of the 1st of December.

The enemy having been beaten back on the 30th of November, and the Confederate forces having now arrived, there was in my judgment, no longer any necessity for retaining the State Troops of Georgia beyond their legal jurisdiction. I therefore asked and obtained permission to bring these exhausted troops back to their own State. They arrived here by Lieutenant General Hardee's order; about ten o'clock that night.

For full particulars of the engagement near Grahamville, S. C., I refer you to the reports of subordinate commanders which will be forwarded as soon as furnished.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,

(Signed)

G. W. SMITH,  
Major General.

[Copy.]

MACON, November, 19, 1864.

*General*:—General Beauregard has informed me by telegraph, that you will take immediate command of the forces in Georgia, and directed me to report to you by letter. My own proper command consists of one division of Militia—four brigades of Infantry, numbering in all, nineteen hundred effective muskets when we left Lovejoys. I have not yet received the return since their arrival here yesterday afternoon. Besides the Militia, there was temporarily assigned to me by Gen. Cobb, one regiment and two battallions of Reserve Infantry, numbering about nine hundred; some three hundred Reserve Local Cavalry, and one battalion of Confederate Artillery. The forces other than Militia proper will, I take for granted, be now placed under some other Commander. The enemy moved their strongest column through McDonough, and when I was at Griffin, they had passed through McDonough, and were nearer Macon than I was. When I roached Forsyth, having made 50 miles in 48 hours, they were reported crossing the Ocmulgee, and could, by a rapid march, reach Macon by the left bank of the Ocmulgee, without opposition. Gen. Cobb ordered the cars to Forsyth for the Infantry, and directed me to move the whole command to this place without delay. Gen. Wheeler was the senior officer on this theatre of operations, and without giving direct orders to the Infantry and Artillery strongly advised, as soon as he developed the strength of the enemy, that I should move to

Macon at once. I fully concurred in opinion with both Gens. Wheeler and Cobb. Gen. Wheeler is confident that Sherman has with him in this movement, at least thirty-five thousand effective men, and informs me that the 14th army corps is moving in addition to join Sherman. Since I commenced this letter Lt. Gen. Hardee has come in. I will show him this letter before mailing to your address. I remain, General,

(Signed) Very Resp'tfully and truly yours,  
G. W. SMITH,  
Maj. Gen'l 1st Div. Geo. Militia.

Lt. Gen'l RICHARD TAYLOR,  
Com'dg, &c., &c., Selma, Ala.

[Duplicate sent to Montgomery.]

P. S. General Hardee has just shown me his orders from Richmond dated 17th inst., stating that he commands all Georgia south of the Chattahoochee, and directing him to gather convalescents, local troops, etc., to garrison this place.

G. W. S.

In the above I omitted the two regiments of State Line troops—they joined us the day before we left Lovejoys—the two together numbering about 400 muskets.

G. W. S.

[COPY.]

HEADQUARTERS 3D BRIGADE }  
EAST MACON, Nov'r. 24, 1864. }

BRIG. GEN'L. PHILLIPS,  
Comm'd'g 1st Div. G. M.:

*General*:—Below please find a report of the casualties of the 3d Brigade, which would have been forwarded sooner, had I not been too unwell since my return to camp, to do any business until this morning.

My brigade went into the action on the 22d inst., I suppose about 2 o'clock, as you are aware, on the extreme left of the command. After driving the enemy through the field, across the ravine to the edge of the woods about one hundred yards beyond the ravine, I halted them, and although our ammunition was nearly exhausted, I held that position firing slowly until dark. The enemy having ceased firing, and having been informed that our forces were being withdrawn on the right, I withdrew my brigade slowly, and in good order, and reported to you at Griswoldville. I am glad to be able to say, that the men and officers of my command, although they suffered severely as the list of casualties will show, acted well.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signed]

C. D. ANDERSON,  
Brig. Gen'l. 3d. Div.

[COPY.]

HEADQUARTERS G. S. LINE, }  
NOVEMBER 24th, 1864. }

BRG. GEN. PHILLIPS, Commanding Division:

*General:* I have the honor to report the part of my command took in the engagement with the enemy on the 22d November.

Having been ordered to lead the advance on the march on the 22d, upon arriving within one mile of Griswoldville, I was informed by Major Cook, of the Twenty-Third Battalion that the enemy had reoccupied the place. I immediately sent forward a line of skirmishers to feel the position of the enemy and drive their pickets, this line advanced through the village and halted at enemy's picket line, at this point my line of battle joined the battalion of Major Cook and Major Jackson, who formed on my right, we advanced again our skirmishers, and drove in the enemy's line of pickets and took position on the edge of the old field recently occupied by the enemy. We soon discovered the enemy drawn up in line of battle in the opposite woods behind temporary breastworks. I had been in line but a few moments before ordered to advance and attack the enemy in front, Major Cook and Major Jackson on the right, my left being supported by General Anderson's Militia Brigade who were to make a simultaneous attack on the enemy's right. By some misunderstanding or mistake the order to advance did not reach Major Cook till my command had been some time in motion. We charged down through the old field alone, but were soon supported handsomely by Majors Cook and Jackson on my right, both regiments of the State Line keeping a fine line under a most galling and destructive fire from the entire line. The command advanced to the branch in front of the enemy's works, halted and delivered a heavy and destructive fire on the enemy's front, and immediately advanced across the branch under the slope of the next hill, where they again halted, firing on the enemy's front, causing them to abandon the houses and take refuge behind their works. While in this position, the second line composed of the Militia reached the branch, at which point they, supposing our men to be the enemy, fired into my ranks producing a temporary confusion. Just at this moment the command of General Anderson, (Militia) having been ordered to move by the left flank, the order was also obeyed by one of my regiments, the second, to avoid this rear fire, the First Regiment still touching as ordered to the right upon Majors Cook and Jackson, thus causing a small gap in my centre that was immediately filled by the Militia who were then in the branch.

The Second Regiment State Line in their movement towards the left, encountered the enemy on the right flank, and poured a well directed fire into their ranks, causing them to exhibit some confusion, while the right wing were actively engaged on the right, the firing was incessant, both my regiments were well



supported by the Militia who moved up to my line, and became mingled with my men, all forming the same line, that it was difficult to distinguish them, thus matters continued till night and ammunition being well nigh exhausted the command retired in good order. Too much commendation cannot be bestowed upon the men of both regiments of the State Line for the handsome manner in which they bore themselves in the charge through the field for a distance of five hundred yards, under a most destructive fire from the enemy, keeping an unbroken front amidst a hailstorm of of bullets, as well as for their determined courage in maintaining their position during the whole engagement. Accompanying herewith I send a list of casualties. Among them is some of my best men and officers. Considering the number engaged my loss is heavy.

I am, General, your most ob't serv't,  
 (Signed) B. D. EVANS,  
 Lieut. Colonel Com'ng Ga. St. Line.

[COPY.] HEADQUARTERS 1st DIV. G. M. )  
 4½ O'CLOCK, NOVEMBER 22D, 1864. )

BRIG. GEN'L. PHILLIPS:

I am directed by the Major General to instruct you to withdraw your troops immediately to some convenient camp this side of the Cross Keys, and take a suitable position for the night, unless you receive further orders. You will leave your camp this side of the Cross Keys at daylight to-morrow morning and come back to the fortifications. Your note of two o'clock has been received, keep the courier who brings this until you march, and notify us accordingly. When you leave to-morrow morning, send a courier stating the time you begin your march for the fortifications. Put your scouts well out to-night upon all roads leading from Clinton, or if the enemy mass upon you from any direction fall back to the lines of fortifications upon their approach and immediately report the facts. There is a good branch just this side of Walnut Creek. Our cavalry were near Clinton this morning, but are being pushed back by the enemy.

By order, &c,  
 (Signed) T. H. JR., A. A. G.

[LATER.]

BRIG. GEN. PHILLIPS:

The Superintendent of the Central Railroad will have a train by 9½ o'clock at the break about two-and-a-half miles this side of Griswoldville. Dr. Rains will accompany the train and will do all in his power to relieve your wounded men. You will please have your wounded removed to this point with all possible speed. The Major General takes this method of tendering

you, and the troops of your command his grateful acknowledgements for their gallant conduct in the engagement through which you have passed, and is gratified at your success in driving before you the enemies of your country. Had anything of this character been anticipated, the Major General and staff would have been with you to have shared your danger and your honor. The reported advance of the enemy from Clinton makes it necessary that you have your command in position in our works at a very early hour to-morrow morning. You will therefore withdraw them as directed in a previous order, after making suitable arrangements for your wounded, and giving sufficient time for your men to recover from the fatigue incident to an engagement. The Major General expects information here from the column advancing from Clinton, and if anything of a serious nature occurs he will meet you in person to aid you in giving proper directions to your command.

(Signed)

T. H. JR., A. A. G.

[copy]

HD. QUARTERS 1st DIV. G. M. }  
 12:20 P. M., Macon, }  
 Nov. 22d, 1864. }

BRIG. GEN. PHILLIPS :

*General* :—Wheeler having retired to the right, keep a close look out with your skirmishers, and avoid a fight with a superior force. You can best judge of the direction. The wagon train will not leave this evening.

By command

Gen'l SMITH,

[Signed]

R. TOOMBS, Ch'f Staff.

P. S.—If it be dangerous to get back, take down the Marion Road.

LATER : 12:45 P. M.

*General* :—Since this note was written, a courier has come in from Maj. Cook, stating that the enemy were advancing upon him at Griswoldville. The wagon train is still here, and it had already been determined not to send it by the route you are on before this information came in. If pressed by a superior force fall back upon this place without bringing on a serious engagement if you can do so. If not, fall back upon the road indicated in Gen. Toombs' note. Anderson Battery started out this morning—has probably joined you. Let me know as soon as possible exactly what is going on in your front.

[Signed]

G. W. SMITH, Maj. Gen'l.

If the brigades are not concentrated before this reaches you, Capt. Hawkins is instructed to show this to each Brigade Commander and to Maj. Cook. If Anderson's battery has not al-

ready joined the Infantry, it will return to this place, or join the Infantry as may be best in the opinion of the ranking officer present. [Signed] G. W. S.

Capt. E. HAWKINS,  
A. D. C. to Maj. Gen. Smith.

GRISWOLDVILLE, Nov. 22d, '64, 3:20 P. M.

*General* :—The whole division including Cook's battalion, is one mile in advance of this place on the Central R. R. in line of battle, with the State Line troops thrown out in front skirmishing with the enemy. Anderson's battery opened upon them just as I rode up to the line, the enemy's battery replying. Gen. Phillips does not know what their force is, and on receiving your instructions, concluded not to advance farther. On the movements of the enemy depends whether or not he will fall back to this place, or remain where he now is.

Very Resp'tfully, your ob't serv't,

[Signed] E. HAWKINS, A. D. C.

P. S.—I will remain to see any developments which may be made before I report in person. [Signed] E. H.

[COPY] HD. QUARTERS 2d BRIADE, G. M. }  
December 8, 1864. }

COL. THOS. HARDEMAN, A. A. G :

*Colonel* :—I have the honor to make the following report of the operations of the four brigades under my command on the 22d November last.

The command left East Macon at about 8 A. M., and arrived without incident at 12 or 1, within about one mile of Griswoldville, where I found the Athens and Augusta battalions (under command of Maj. Cook) drawn up in line of battle. I also met a number of cavalry at and near this point, all of whom informed me that the enemy was in Griswoldville, and had been engaged with some of our cavalry. He was represented to be about 8 or 1200 strong. I formed a line of battle, with Gen. Anderson's Brigade on the right, the Athens and Augusta battalions on his immediate left, and Brig. Gen'l McCoy's brigade on the left of the line. The Second Brigade, under Col. Mann, was formed in the rear as a reserve. The State Line under Lt. Col. Evans was deployed as skirmishers and advanced on Griswoldville, where the enemy had just burnt some buildings and retired before we arrived--of which facts I informed the Major General Commanding at about 2 o'clock P. M.

Whilst in Griswoldville, Maj. Cook withdrew the Athens and

Augusta battalions from the line, informing me that he was ordered by Lt. Gen'l Hardee to proceed to Augusta) and proceeded down the Central Rail Road. I soon ordered the command to move down the C. R. R. until it should clear the village and halt, to await further orders from Maj. Gen. Smith. The rear of the column had not cleared the village, when firing of small arms was heard, some half mile in advance of our column, which was between the advance and rear guards of Maj. Cook and the enemy. I ordered an advance of the command, and on arriving, I met Maj. Cook who pointed out to me the enemy, posted on the opposite eminence in line of battle, behind some temporary entrenchments and fortifications. Maj. Cook's skirmishers were then engaged with the enemy on his left. I disposed of the forces represented by the accompanying diagram, viz: The Athens and Augusta battalions on our right, (owing to the position they then held) making rather an obtuse angle, with the State Line on their left, and Gen. McCoy's brigade on the left of the State Line—Gen. M's. left resting near and south of the Railroad. Gen. Anderson's brigade was formed on the north side of the Railroad, his left resting parallel with the Railroad, and posted Capt. Anderson's battery of four guns at an eligible site on the Railroad on the north side. The Second Brigade under Col. Mann was drawn up in rear of the State Line, and Gen. McCoy's brigade in a secure place to act as reserves. In this position an advance was ordered. Gen. Anderson with his brigade to attack the enemy on his right flank, Maj. Cook with his to attack him on his left flank, whilst Capt. Anderson, with his battery, the State Line and Gen. McCoy's commands attacked him in the front. The State Line and Gen. McCoy's brigade moved forward in fine style under a heavy and galling fire, until they reached within some fifty yards of the enemy's works, which position they maintained during the contest, and from which position they delivered a telling fire. Col. Mann deeming that his brigade could be of more service near the lines, advanced it to near the same position, where it participated in the general action. From some misconception of orders when the general advance was being made, Gen. Anderson's brigade faced to the right and swept across the Railroad (saw a small detachment on his extreme left that was cut off by a deep cut in the Railroad) and participated with the State Line and Gen. McCoy's brigade in the direct attack, where they, both officers and men, sustained themselves with decision and gallantry. After the action had progressed for some hours, Gen. Anderson took the detachment of his men that had been cut off, went round to the enemy's right flank, when a most spirited and desperate fight ensued, lasting some hour or more and a half, but the enemy was too firmly established and the General's force too small to dislodge him. The order to Major Cook (from some cause of which I am not aware)

to turn the enemy's left, was never carried out, yet his command participated fully in the action, deported themselves gallantly, and I regret to say, suffered much from wounds and deaths. Captain Anderson with his battery did good and valuable service, soon silencing the enemy's battery and forced upon him many telling shots. He is a skilfull, brave and meritorious officer. The officers and men deported themselves well during the entire action, which lasted from 3 P. M., until dark, held their positions and retired in good order to Griswoldville, where I had intended to encamp and bring off those of our wounded and dead that had not been removed from the battle-field, but on my reaching Griswoldville I received an order from the Major General Commanding, ordering me to fall back to the trenches at Macon, where I arrived about 2 o'clock, A. M. I can but believe if the flank movement had been carried out with all the forces assigned to that duty, that it would have resulted in dislodging and probably routing the enemy—notwithstanding he was, I am satisfied fully equal, if not superior, to our forces. Whilst we have to regret the loss of many gallant officers and men, yet we cannot but hope, that they died not in vain. Accompanying please find a diagram of the field and position of the forces, and the reports of all the officers that I have been able to procure.

I am with high regard, your ob't servant,

(Signed)

P. J. PHILLIPS,  
Brig. Gen. Commanding Div. Ga. Militia.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST DIVISION G. M.,  
CAMP NEAR AUGUSTA, January 26th, 1865.

MAJ. GEN. H. C. WAYNE, A. & I. G. :

*General*—Some weeks since, I transmitted for your information and that of His Excellency the Governor, a copy of my report to Lieutenant General Hardee, of the operations of the Militia from Lovejoy's Station to Savannah, dated December 6th, 1864. I received yesterday the report of General Phillips, who commanded at Griswoldville, and sub reports from his subordinates, all of which are sent herewith, together with copies of orders sent to General Phillips during the day from my Headquarters, and request that these papers may be filed in your office, with the copy of my report to General Hardee, above alluded to. The casualties in the battle of Griswoldville were 51 killed and 472 wounded, and it is believed the loss of the enemy was equally as great.

Very respectfully,

Your ob't serv't,

(Signed,)

G. W. SMITH,  
Major General.

STATE OF GEORGIA, )  
 ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, )  
 Milledgeville, February 6th, 1865 )

To His Excellency

JOSEPH E. BROWN,

Governor of Georgia :

*Your Excellency* : An accidental injury to my right hand has prevented a report earlier, of the operations of the Militia under my command since the evacuation of Milledgeville by the State Forces on the 19th November, 1864.

Parting with your Excellency on the evening of the 19th of November at Gordon, where I had been ordered by you at the request of General Cobb, C. S. P. A., dispositions for the night were made as well as could be done. The command consisted of the Corps of Cadets, Prudens' Battery of Artillery, Talbot's Company of Cavalry, Williams' Company of Militia, the Factory and Penitentiary Guards, and the Roberts Guards, (convicts.) In all, nominally, 500 men, with 460, aggregate, actually fit for effective service, and all under the immediate direction of Major F. W. Capers, Superintendent of the Georgia Military Institute, whom I had appointed Executive Officer.

On Sunday morning, the 20th, my telegraphic communication with Macon was cut at Griswoldville by the enemy, about 10:30 A. M. At 12 M., I learned that the enemy, in force, were moving on my right towards Milledgeville. Further information of the enemy's movement on Milledgeville reached me in the afternoon. At 8 P. M., having received no communication from Macon since the cutting of the wires in the morning, and feeling in consequence that I was thrown upon my own responsibility, I determined, on consultation with my principal officers, to abandon Gordon, as its occupation was of no value, either for the protection of property (all trains and stores having been sent off), or as a military position, and to fall back to the Oconee Bridge, as the most important point on the Central Railroad to be defended. Telegraphing for a train from below, to move down to this new position, one was sent up on Monday, at about 12:30 P. M. The guns and baggage were immediately put on, and at 4 P. M., as the men were getting on, a report of the enemy in heavy force three miles off, was brought in. Talbot's Cavalry was sent forward to hold them in check, while the train moved off, and did so handsomely, covering it also from a flank movement on our right to cut us off, and the retreat of the Artillery horses sent down with their drivers by the Irwinton Turnpike. A few scattering shots as the train moved off, dropping harmlessly around it, announced the entrance of the advanced guard of the enemy's 15th Corps into Gordon. We brought off everything safely, and arrived at the Oconee Bridge at 6:30 o'clock, P. M.

At the bridge, I found a guard of 186 men, consisting of Heyward's Company of South Carolina Cavalry, a section of Artillery (two pieces) under Lieutenant Huger, and a Company of the 27th Battalion Georgia Reserves, under Major Hartridge, C. S. P. A., sent up two days before by General McLaws, from Savannah.

Tuesday, the 22d, was spent in examining the ground and in preparations. The orders from my superiors were to hold the bridge to the last extremity. The movement of the enemy was not a little raid, but his army marching on Savannah. The bridge could be flanked on the right from Milledgeville, Buffalo Creek only intervening, and on the left by Ball's Ferry, eight miles below, as well as attacked in front. The long and thick swamps on our side of the river prevented the use of Artillery or Cavalry at either the bridge or Ball's Ferry. An Infantry defence only could be made, and rough field works, to be hastily thrown up, as there were no previous preparations for cover. Major Hartridge, on his arrival, had judiciously burned the main bridge over the Buffalo and guarded the crossing, and placed a light picket at Ball's Ferry, but his force was too small to prevent any formidable resistance. Three other bridges over the Buffalo were destroyed, the crossings guarded, and the picket at the Ferry strengthened. Reinforcements were called for from Savannah, but General McLaws had none to send, and the small command, of not quite seven hundred men, had twenty miles, at least, of line to watch and guard. Held to extreme orders, with an overwhelming force in front and on both flanks, these gallant officers and men cheerfully prepared to do their duty and meet their fate.

Wednesday, the 23d, the enemy (a Brigade of Kilpatrick's Division of Mounted Infantry, as we were informed by prisoners taken) appeared on our front at the bridge, about 10:45 A. M., and commenced the attack, which was handsomely met on the west bank of the river by the Cadets, under Captain Austin, and by a detachment of the 4th Ky. Mounted Infantry, under Colonel Thompson, sent to my assistance that morning by General Wheeler, and by one gun of Pruden's Battery, mounted on a platform car, under the gallant Pruden himself. Retiring slowly as they were pressed back to the bridge by the superior force of the enemy, the detachment of the 4th Kentucky was withdrawn. The Factory and Penitentiary Guards and Williams' Militia sent in, and a line formed on the east bank of the river, under the direction of Major Capers, who had been assigned to special command at the bridge. At 12:30 P. M., it was reported to me from the ferry, that the enemy, in numbers, were on the opposite side, had driven in our pickets, seized the flat which the officer in charge there had not destroyed on the approach of the enemy, as he had been ordered to do, and were crossing the river. Major Hartridge was immediately sent down with Heyward's Company

of South Carolina Cavalry, Talbot's Cavalry, the Company of the 27th Battalion, the Roberts' Guards and Huger's section of Artillery, to meet this force and drive it back over the river, reclaim the flat, and establish a strong guard at the ferry. This duty the Major performed in a most gallant manner, marching ten miles, driving back over the river between two and three hundred of the enemy who had crossed—carrying out my orders completely. Leaving Talbot's Cavalry and the Roberts' Guard as an additional guard, and picketing Blackshear's Ferry, still four miles lower down, he rejoined me with the remainder of his troops at the bridge, at 10:30 P. M. The force Major Hartridge encountered was subsequently reported to be the advance of the 15th Corps.

As the attack at Ball's Ferry, if successful, necessitated the abandonment of the bridge, by placing the enemy in our rear, the forces at the bridge being as it were in a pocket, I had directed the baggage to be packed, the telegraph to be disconnected, and prepared for an orderly retreat, should we be compelled to abandon the ground. Taking post at the head of the trestle, I awaited the result of Hartridge's movements. His success re-established our position. In the meantime, the enemy at the bridge had been hammering Capers and his command in a lively manner, but without making any impression. Night closed active operations, but only to excite our men to sleepless vigilance, lest, under the shelter of darkness, the enemy might, with his larger numbers, seize an advantage.

Thursday the 24th opened bright and cold, and with daylight recommenced the attempt on the bridge. At Balls Ferry the enemy had fallen back to his main body. Talbot crossed with some of his cavalry and gathered forty-three rifled carbines, and a quantity of clothing, knapsacks and other articles apparently abandoned in a hurry. Prisoners and scouts reported the enemy in three columns, about sixty thousand strong, moving in our front, and on our right and left. At 1:30 P. M. the enemy opened at the bridge with light, long range of artillery, but after throwing a few shells withdrew it. Enemy reported building a raft in the woods below Capt. Warthen with fifty-three men, Washington Militia, some mounted and some on foot, reported for duty. At 5 P. M. enemy reappeared in small numbers, a reconnoitering party at Balls' Ferry, and after delivering a few shots retired. Bridge hard pressed all day—small parties of cavalry marauding on the other side of the Buffalo, and occasionally feeling the crossings. At 8:15 P. M., the enemy under cover of night, and of heavy volleys of small arms, succeeding in forcing a firing party up to the far end of the trestle on their side, almost without range of our best rifles, and fired it. Colonel Gaines, with five hundred men joined me at midnight by direction of General Wheeler, who had crossed in the morning at Blackshear's Ferry, and at Dublin. Friday 25th, at 1 A. M., General



Hardee arrived with a portion of his staff. At daybreak, the enemy opened heavily at the Ferry on Talbot, with two pieces of artillery and small arms. Trestle work burning slowly towards the bridge, enemy covering its progress. At 9 A. M., General Hardee returned to No. 13. Enemy reported moving in large force on Sandersville and No. 13. At 11 A. M., Lieutenant Colonel Young, 30th Georgia, sent to the Ferry with a portion of Gaine's command to reinforce Talbot, who was hard pressed, but well covered and confident. The 4th Kentucky detachment patrolling the roads to our right. During the afternoon the fire having approached the bridge, the enemy withdrew from our front, moving to our left. In the evening, Major Capers assuring himself that the enemy had entirely left our front, extinguished the flames which had reached the bridge, but only charred a few feet of it. The attempt to destroy the bridge by a direct attack in front had failed. At 9:15 P. M., Colonel Young commanding at Balls' Ferry, reported that the enemy were preparing to cross above and below him, that his men and ammunition were nearly exhausted, and if held in his position until daylight, his command would be sacrificed. On telegraphing this report to General Hardee, at No. 13, for which point the enemy were also making, I received orders to withdraw all my forces, and fall back on No. 13.

Saturday, 26th, 5 minutes past 1 A. M., the forces were withdrawn, bringing off everything, and at 5:30 A. M., reached No. 13. Here Huger's Artillery was turned over to General Wheeler, who was impeding the enemy's march from Sandersville. At 9 A. M., left for the Ogeechee bridge, No. 10, which I had been ordered by General Hardee to occupy. Arrived at 1 P. M. at the Ogeechee.

Sunday 27th—Enemy cut the Waynesboro Railroad at Waynesboro in the morning. Ordered to fall back to Millen and fortify. Cavalry left in the front by order of General Hardee, to watch the bridges. Arrived at Millen 3:30 P. M., with the infantry and Pruden's Battery, in all 423 strong. Fortified around the Railroad Depot.

Monday 28th—At 2 A. M., received information from General Wheeler that Kilpatrick with his command of between 4,000 and 5,000 men had left Waynesboro for Millen. My scouts on that road gave us no notice of the enemy. At 8:15 A. M., Major Black, Inspector General to General Hardee, arrived from up the road with the same information. As Kilpatrick, was on good authority, reported to have left Waynesboro for Millen, and as my scouts on the direct road between the two places give me no hint of his approach, I concluded that his march was to cut me off at No. 5 below, and that the safety of my command required me to fall back to or near that point. Major Black concurring, the command was moved back to No. 4 behind the little Ogeechee Bridge, arriving there at 3:30 P. M.

Thursday 29th—Occupied in preparing defences. Sent Major Hartridge with his company, of the 27th Battalion, to Savannah, as ordered by General Hardee. Rumors vague as to the movements and force of the enemy above. Command reduced to the Cadets and Milledgeville Battalion of Infantry, Prudens' Battery, and the Washington County Militia, in all 350 men.—Emanuel Militia, mounted, numbering about thirty men, reported for duty under Captain Clifton.

Wednesday November 30—Sent Major Capers, with an engine up the road for information; communicated with General Wheeler.

Thursday, December 1—Moved with the command up the road to No. 6, as a corps of observation. Leaving the command there, proceeded on the engine with some of my staff to No. 7. Enemy reported in force at No. 8, and crossing to west bank of the Oconee. Can learn nothing positively of the force on the right.

Friday, December 2—Captains Bridwell and Darling, Quartermaster and Commissary, C. S. P. A., who had volunteered their services at Gordon, returned to their station at Milledgeville, the enemy having left that place. Ascertained positively that the enemy, said to be the 17th corps, are moving down the road; and that another column, reported to be the 15th corps, are three miles below me on the other side of the Oconee. A courier from General Wheeler reports a heavy cavalry force moving down on my right from Waynesboro'. Fell back again to No. 4½, arriving there at 4 P. M.

Saturday, December 3—Daybreak joined by the State Line and 1st Brigade Georgia militia, of General Smith's Division, from Savannah, under direction of Colonel Robert Toombs, Inspector General 1st Division, 10½ A. M. Learned that the 15th corps, on the other side of the Ogeechee, was moving for No. 2, as I had supposed. As this march, if not anticipated, would cut my rear, determined on consultation with Colonel Toombs, to fall back to that point, our only dependence being upon the railroad, having no wagons nor other means of transportation and no cavalry to cover our movements. Three columns of the enemy being also in our front on the railroad and on our right. At 11 A. M., joined by General Baker, C. S. P. A., with his Brigade of North Carolinians. Explaining to him the position of the enemy, he agreed with me that No. 2 was our post, and the command was accordingly moved down to that station. On arriving at No. 2, I was met by Major Black, of General Hardee's staff, with instructions to return to No. 4½, and that further reinforcements would be sent to me. Obeyed the instructions, though in opposition to my own judgment and of my officers, and reoccupied No. 4½ about 7 P. M.

Sunday, December 4—Reinforced early in the morning by Anderson's and Phillips' Brigades, Georgia militia, of General

Smith's Division. Formed line of battle behind the little Ogeechee, throwing back the right to protect that flank, as the river was fordable above us, with open pine barren to the Savannah river, enabling a superior force to envelop us easily. Our force consisted of about 4000 men and three pieces of Pruden's battery. No cavalry. Assigning General Baker as executive officer in command of the line, and Major Capers as Chief of the Staff, waited for events. At 1:35 p. m., the advance of the 17th corps appeared on our left in front of the cadets, one of whom—Coleman, a vidette—brought down the officer of the party, who demanded his surrender. Skirmishing began on our left and in front of the bridge on the railroad. At 4 p. m., General McLaws arrived from Savannah with orders from General Hardee to assume the command. At 5½ p. m., General McLaws having learned the position, directed me to withdraw the troops quietly during the night and fall back to 1½. At 7 p. m., enemy ceased skirmishing and began entrenching in our front.

Monday, Dec. 5, 2 A. M.—Troops withdrawn, and in march for 1½ Central Railroad. Arrived at 1½, and while examining for a line, received orders to fall back still farther and take up a position within three and a half miles of the city of Savannah.

Tuesday, Dec. 6—Arrived at the lines, within three and a half miles of Savannah, at 2 A. M. At 10 A. M., examined the line to be occupied by the State Troops. It extended from the Central Railroad to the Savannah river. Batteries were erected at the Central Railroad, at the Augusta Road and at Williamson's plantations on the river, but no lines for infantry, nearly three-quarters of a mile, had been thrown up.

Wednesday, Dec. 7—Gen. Smith returned to duty, having been temporarily unwell, and turning over to him his own Division and Major Capers' Battalion, I reported to General Hardee for any assistance I could render him.

Remaining in Savannah until Monday, the 19th of December, when General Hardee informed me he had orders to evacuate the city, I left with my Staff in the evening, and riding up on the South Carolina side, reached this place again on Tuesday, the 27th December, and resumed my office duties as Adjutant and Inspector General of the State.

In concluding this report, I take the opportunity of bringing to the notice of your Excellency, and of officially expressing my thanks to Majors Hartridge and Capers, and to the officers of my Staff improvised for the occasion, viz: Major John O. Ferrell, Assistant Adjutant General; Messrs. S. P. Myrick, of Baldwin; Chas. J. Harris, of Bibb; Benjamin Myrick, of Baldwin; Hon. Francis L. Gue, of Chatham, (member of the Legislature;) R. L. Hunter, of Baldwin, and Captains Bridewell and Darling, C. S. P. A., for their valuable counsel, confidence and active assistance at all times and under any circumstances.

My thanks are also due to the gallant officers and men whom I had the honor to command, and to whom I am indebted for

support. I would conspicuously mention Majors Hartridge and Capers, and Captains Talbot, Pruden, Austen and Warthen. The gallantry of these gentlemen cannot be surpassed. To Major Capers I am under the greatest obligations. His qualifications for military command are of the highest order, and entitle him to a prominent position. They have been brilliantly illustrated by the Corps of Cadets, whose gallantry, discipline and skill equal anything I have seen in any military service. I cannot speak too highly of these youths, who go into a fight as cheerfully as they would enter a ball-room, and with the silence and steadiness of veterans. The Washington county and Emanuel county militia (forty days' men) deserve commendation, consisting as they did of gentlemen advanced in life, to whom the hardships of camp must have been severe, whose homes were being overrun by the enemy, and yet who, from the purest incentives of patriotism and of duty, offered their lives in defence of their State. My thanks are also due to Drs. S. D. Brantley and James R. Smith, of Washington county, who volunteered their surgical skill and instruments during our contest on the banks of the Oconee.

The Roberts' Guards (convicts) generally behaved well. Their Captain, Roberts, is a brave and daring man. Enclosed is a list of those of the Company, who, sharing the fortunes of our troops, have returned to this place and been furloughed for thirty days. I recommend them for the full pardon conditionally promised.

With deep gratitude to a kind Providence, it is my pleasure to report that my losses were small. But 5 killed and 5 wounded. One of the wounded, Cadet Marsh, has since died, as also Mr. Stephen Manigault, of Charleston, S. C., of Heyward's Cavalry, who received his death wound under Hartridge, at Ball's Ferry, on the evening of the 23d of November. Advanced in years, possessed of wealth, and of high social position, all of which might have screened him from military service, he nevertheless did not hesitate to uphold, as a private in the ranks, the political opinions he maintained. He fell gallantly fighting for them. His friends have already embalmed his memory, but it may be permitted to his accidental commander, personally a stranger to him, but who had learned his worth, to add a leaf to the chaplet of laurels that crowns his tomb, and to hold up his conduct as an example for imitation.

What injury was inflicted upon the enemy we could not learn. Prisoners taken reported their loss at 45 on the first day, 23d November. Three bodies unburied were found at the Ferry on the 24th, and I have learned since my return that a number of graves opposite the Ferry mark in part the stubbornness of Talbot's resistance.

Very respectfully,

Your ob't serv't,

HENRY C. WAYNE,  
Major General.

*List of men, Members of Captain Roberts' Company who have been furloughed for thirty (30) days, from the 24th of January. At the expiration of which time they are to report to the Adjutant and Inspector General with certificates, showing that they have been mustered into the service of the Confederate States :*

A. M. Penfield.  
 Thomas Tuggle,  
 W. I. Humphries,  
 John W. Lester.  
 J. T. Golden,  
 W. M. Brown.  
 J. E. L. Stornland,  
 W. Bustle,  
 John R. West.  
 Leander Watts,  
 W. G. Bowman,  
 Anderson Hudgins,  
 Joseph Hulsey,  
 W. Raspberry,  
 Wilson Gallaway.  
 James Wilson,  
 D. G. Hollis,  
 Z. Rainwater,  
 P. Williams,  
 Henry J. Jones.

James Jones,  
 Robert Jackson,  
 A. J. Abels,  
 John Henderson,  
 J. M. Reed,  
 Robert Beavers,  
 M. C. Colton,  
 Jeremiah Moses,  
 W. Gillispie,  
 Eana Fowlkes,  
 Thomas Rooney,  
 S. T. Sellars,  
 Beverly Watkins,  
 W. Woods,  
 E. A. Roberts,  
 John Agan,  
 W. H. Turner,  
 T. C. Craven,  
 W. Smith,  
 J. Donaldson.

HENRY C. WAYNE,  
 Adjutant and Inspector General.

JANUARY 19TH, 1865.

*Memoranda.*

1st. There is no better established fact in military history than this: "When a Sovereign State determines to keep in service a regular army she must pay the expenses." Money is just as necessary to Militia whilst in service as it is to regulars. The Legislature of this State should make an appropriation at once for the support of the Militia. If this is not promptly done the organization should be given up.

2d. All the Militia, or State forces, should be regularly sworn and mustered into the service of the State.

3d. At least one permanent Court Martial should be established by law for the trial of Militia who are charged with having committed offences against either the military or civil laws of the State.

4th. No officer should be commissioned even after being elected until he had first passed an examination before a Board of competent officers, and received from such Board a certificate stating that he was qualified to perform the duties of the office.

All officers now in service should be subject to examination before such Board, on the recommendation of the commander in

the field, and when found incompetent should be reduced to the ranks; a good court martial and good examining board both made permanent, their duties defined and habitually holding their meetings in the camp would be of great service.

(Signed)

G. W. S.

To Maj. Gen. H. C. WAYNE,  
A. & I. Gen'l. Milledgeville, Georgia.

HAMBURG HILLS, S. C.,

February 12, 1865. }

*General*—I have the honor herewith to transmit my report to General J. B. Hood, of the part taken by the Georgia Militia in the operations at and near Atlanta, with the request that you show it to his Excellency the Governor and then have it placed on file in your office. I desire this in connection with the report made to Lieutenant General Hardee, at Savannah, on the 6th of December, 1864, which has already been sent you, to form the official record of their action during the time embraced in the two reports.

Very truly, yours,

G. W. SMITH, Major General.

(Signed,)

MAJOR GENERAL H. C. WAYNE,  
A. and I. G., State of Georgia.

Official:

JNO. O. FERRILL, A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST DIV. G. M.,

MACON, GA., September 15, 1864. }

GENERAL J. B. HOOD,

Commanding Army of Tennessee,

Near Lovejoy's Station:

*General*—I have the honor to make the following report of the part taken by the Georgia Militia under my command during the operations at and near Atlanta.

My appointment was dated the 1st of June. I took command a few days thereafter, relieving Major General Wayne, who returned to the duties of his office as Adjutant and Inspector General of the State. The force then in the field was composed entirely of State officers, civil and military. They had been formed into two Brigades, of three Regiments each, and one Battalion of Artillery, numbering in all a little over 3,000 men. The officers of the militia not needed for these Regiments took their places in the ranks as privates with the civil officers. The command had reported to General J. E. Johnston for duty

and had been ordered to guard the crossings of the Chattahoochee river from Roswell Bridge to West Point, which duty they continued to perform until ordered by General Johnston to cross the Chattahoochee and support the cavalry upon the left wing of his army, the right wing then being at Kennesaw Mountain. In the execution of this order the militia were twice brought into conflict with the enemy's infantry. They behaved well, thoroughly executed the part assigned them. And when the army fell back to the Chattahoochee they were the last infantry withdrawn to the fortified position.

General Johnston, in a letter to Governor Brown, paid a handsome, and I think, well deserved compliment to them for their conduct beyond the river and their services in beating back the enemy in their attempts upon the various crossings. The day we reached the Chattahoochee, we were assigned to your corps of the army. You soon placed us in reserve, which it was thought would give some opportunity for drilling and disciplining the command, no opportunity for this having previously occurred. In the meantime the Reserve Militia of Georgia were ordered out by Governor Brown, and I was ordered to Poplar Spring, near the Atlanta and West Point Railroad, for the purpose of reorganizing, arming the reserves, etc. We had not been there three days before you found it necessary to order us into the trenches on the east side of Atlanta. You had in the meanwhile been assigned to the command of the army, and instructed me to report to you direct, instead of through a corps commander. There were at this time about 2000 effective muskets in the command. We guarded over two miles of the lines, having on them, however, some eighty pieces of Confederate artillery. On the 22d of July, whilst Hardee was attacking the enemy on our extreme right, in the direction of Decatur, you ordered the troops on my left to advance. Without waiting for orders, I closed the intervals in my line, formed line of battle in the trenches, and moved the militia forward over the parapet more than a mile against the enemy's strong works in our front. They were directed upon a battery which had annoyed us very much. Capt. Anderson, who had served with my command beyond the Chattahoochee, volunteered to move his battery with us. He took his position in clear open ground, within about 400 yards of the embrasure battery of the enemy, supported by the militia on his right and left. Within ten minutes, the effective fire of the enemy was silenced in our front, and after this they only occasionally ventured to show themselves at the embrasure or put their heads above the parapet. My troops were eager to be allowed to charge the battery, but the brigade upon my left had given way, and the falling back was extending still further to the left. Hardee's fire upon my right had ceased just after we moved out of the trenches. I considered it useless to make an isolated attack, and therefore held the position awaiting further

developments. In about two hours I received orders from you, directing me to withdraw to the trenches. We lost only about fifty men killed and wounded. The officers and men behaved admirably. Every movement was promptly and accurately made. There was not a single straggler. A few days after this affair of the 22d of July, I was ordered again to Poplar Spring, but was scarcely established in camp there before we had again to be placed in the trenches on the left of the Marietta road, and from this time until the end of the siege, continued under close fire night and day. We had to move from one portion of the lines to another, and had our full share of all the hardest places, extending from the left of the Marietta road across the Peachtree road to our extreme right.

The militia, although but poorly armed, very few having proper equipments, more than two-thirds of them without cartridge boxes, almost without ambulances or other transportation, most of the reserve men never having been drilled at all, and the others but a few days, all performed well every service required, during an arduous and dangerous campaign. They have been in service about one hundred days, during at least fifty of which they have been under close fire of the enemy mostly night and day; they have always shown a willing spirit, whether in camp, on the march, working at fortifications, guarding trenches, or upon the open battle-field; they have done good and substantial service in the cause of their country, and have established the fact that Georgia is willing and able to do something effective in her own name, beyond furnishing more than her quota to the Confederate Armies proper. The greatest number of effective muskets in the trenches at any one time was about 5000.—When Atlanta was evacuated the Reserve Artillery of the army passed out through my lines, and my men were formed as a rear guard. The whole was safely brought to Griffin under your orders. The march from Atlanta to Griffin satisfied me that men over fifty are not as a class fitted for military duty. I have therefore strongly advised the Governor to withdraw them from continuous active service:

There being a lull in active operations the Governor has with my recommendation and your concurrence, temporarily withdrawn the militia from Confederate service and furloughed them for thirty days. This report is hastily written, without access to the detailed records and papers of my Adjutant General's Office, but all omissions can be readily supplied by the returns already forwarded to your office.

Before closing I cannot refrain alluding to a subject which under ordinary circumstances forms no part of reports of subordinates to their commanders. I allude to the outcry from the press and the people against yourself because of the evacuation of Atlanta.

Unsolicited by me, without my consent or knowledge the civil



and military officers of the State of Georgia, when called upon to take up arms in defense of their homes, almost unanimously elected me their leader, and as their leader, I wish in this report to say to you and place officially on record this opinion, viz: Had your orders been properly executed either upon the 20th of July at Peachtree Creek, the 22d of July on our right, or on the 30th of August at Jonesboro, Sherman would have been foiled and Atlanta saved, at least for some time to come; and I am not alone in this opinion.

Commanding a peculiar organization, the ranking officers in the force, of the State within which you were operating, I was invited to, and participated in, your councils. I had every opportunity of knowing what was going on. Your plans were fully explained to your Lieutenant Generals, your Chief of Artillery, Chief Engineer and myself. Opinions and views were called for, and then specific orders were given. I have never known one of them to express dissent to any plan of yours that was attempted to be executed; never a doubt expressed as to the meaning and intent of your orders, nor a suggestion made by them of a plan they supposed would be better than that you ordered. If they are not now unanimous, there is but one, if any, who dissents from the opinion expressed above, namely: Sherman would have been beaten had your orders been obeyed on the 20th of July, 22d of July, or 30th of August. Whatever the press or people may say, the militia of Georgia are more than satisfied with you as their Confederate General, and when they again enter that service, in defence of their homes, will be glad to hail you as their Confederate Chief.

(Signed)

G. W. SMITH,  
Major General.

Official:

JOHN P. FERRILL, A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS, 1st DIV. G. M. )

December 31st 1864. )

CAMP, NEAR AUGUSTA, GEORGIA. )

LIEUT. GENL. W. J. HARDEE,

Commanding Department, &c., Charleston, S. C.

*General:* I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of my command during the recent siege of Savannah.

In compliance with your order of December 7th, my division was placed upon the right of the line, which at this point was about three miles from the city, and extended from the Savannah river to the Central Railroad. One brigade having been previously detached by your order was stationed on the Altamaha river, guarding the Savannah and Gulf Railroad bridge.

The enemy were at that time, within a short distance and steadily approaching by the Augusta and Louisville roads, on both of which slight batteries had already been constructed, and four heavy guns placed in position. Near the river on our right flank, were two small batteries, one thirty-two pounder being mounted on each. There were some rifle pits prepared for skirmishers on a portion of the line; otherwise the position was not fortified, but there was a swamp in front of us between the Louisville and Augusta roads, and rice fields from the latter to the river bank, which gave considerable natural strength to the position. Notwithstanding the deficiency of entrenching tools, a good deal of work was done upon the lines in the course of two days, so that when the enemy appeared in force upon our front on the 9th, we were prepared to make a very effective resistance to any direct attack the enemy might make. A strong detached work was constructed beyond the rice fields near the river bank which enfiladed the whole of our front and added very materially to the strength of the position. My line was two and a half miles in length. We had on it about two thousand men, afterwards a good deal reduced by detachments. The two regiments of the State Line were placed near the Louisville road. The first brigade of Militia held the Augusta road, and the immediate line was occupied by the battalion of Cadets. The whole under command of Brigadier General Carswell. The second and third brigades held the line from the Augusta road to the river bank.

Colonel Hill with a detachment from the third brigade, a detachment of Cadets, and Pruden's Militia Battery, occupying the advanced work beyond the rice fields. The whole of my right was under the command of Brig. Gen. Anderson. Later a portion of Anderson's Battery, eight pieces of Major Hamilton's Artillery and some additional heavy guns were placed in position. The enemy pressed close upon our works, but made no direct or determined attempt to carry them. After the fall of Fort McAlister, it was clearly only a question of time when Savannah would fall into the hands of the enemy. We were informed that no reinforcements could be expected. Our only line of communication was across the Savannah river, upon a narrow rice field dyke. Our supplies of provisions and ammunition were very limited. I urged upon you the necessity of preparing a pontoon bridge, and did every thing in my power to aid in its early construction.

The enemy after the capture of Fort McAlister, effected a permanent lodgment on Hutchinson's Island, crossed the Savannah river, and established works on the South Carolina shore, almost in range of our only line of retreat. In my judgment, as expressed to you at that time, they were in position to prevent the escape of any portion of the garrison for two or three days before we gave up the place.

On the night of the 20th of December, the evacuation of Sa-

vannah commenced. About two on the morning of the 21st, the militia, which formed the rear guard, left the city at day-break, reached the Sand Hills in South Carolina, opposite to Savannah, from which place we marched to Barnburg on the Charleston and Augusta Railroad. At the latter place you deprived us of the transportation which we had brought from in front of Atlanta, and the command came by railroad to this place, where we are now encamped.

The officers and men behaved uniformly well, and are entitled to all the credit and respect due to soldiers who have performed their full duty.

Before closing this report, I wish to call especial attention to three Confederate officers who have long served with the Militia of Georgia, and by their gallantry and skill have materially aided in our success. I refer to Lieut. Col. B. W. Frobels, Chief Engineer; Capt. J. R. Troup, Inspector General; and Capt. R. W. Anderson, who, besides commanding his own most excellent battery, acted at Savannah as Chief of Artillery upon my line.

Much credit is also due to the staff officers of my division, belonging to the Militia proper, for gallantry, skill and good conduct throughout the arduous campaign from beyond the Chattahoochee to Savannah and Augusta.

(Signed)

G. W. SMITH,  
Major General.

OFFICIAL:

JNO. FERRILL, A. A. G.















