

No. 412.

Report of Brig. Gen. Bushrod R. Johnson, C. S. Army, commanding Provisional Division.

HEADQUARTERS,
Chattanooga, October 24, 1863.



SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the division under my command in the action of the Chickamauga:

At 5 a. m., September 18, four brigades and three batteries of artillery from Catoosa Station and vicinity of Ringgold, Ga., moved under my command with orders from headquarters Army of Tennessee to proceed, via Pleasant Grove Church, to Leet's Tan-yard. Law's brigade, under Colonel Sheffield, not having cooked its rations, was ordered to do so and follow as promptly as possible. Benning's brigade was left, in compliance with orders, to guard the depot at Ringgold. My command then consisted of the following brigades, which moved in the order in which they are named, viz: Johnson's, McNair's, Gregg's, and Robertson's, with batteries (Everett's, Culpeper's, and Bledsoe's) in the center, and trains in rear of their respective brigades.

The head of the column had not proceeded more than 3 miles on the road when a dispatch was received from Colonel Brent, headquarters Army of Tennessee, directing me with the forces under my command to retrace my steps to the vicinity of Ringgold and there to take the direct road to Reed's Bridge and to make a lodgment on the west bank of the Chickamauga, Forrest's cavalry covering the front and right flank of my column on its march from Ringgold. The command was promptly put on the new line of march, and soon after I received orders and the plan of operations by which I was directed, as commander of the right column of the Army of Tennessee, to attack the enemy in my front in whatever force I might find them, and after crossing Reed's Bridge to turn to the left by the most practicable route and sweep up the Chickamauga toward Lee and Gordon's Mills, while Major-Generals Walker and Buckner, crossing at Alexander's Bridge and Thedford's Ford, were directed to join in my movement. The orders and plans of operations indicated that the attack on the enemy's left wing was expected to be initiated by the column under my command.

About 11 a. m., in compliance with orders previously received, I halted the column near Peeler's Mill, on the Graysville and La Fayette road, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the former place. Captain Thompson, assistant chief of artillery of General Bragg's staff, reported to me at this point with orders to move forward immediately, and through him my arrival and the hour thereof was reported to headquarters Army of Tennessee.

Being informed by citizens that the enemy were about 1 mile in advance, I formed a line of battle along the La Fayette road—McNair's, Johnson's, and Gregg's brigades in front, batteries in position, and Robertson's brigade in reserve. While forming the line Brigadier-General Forrest joined me with his escort, and proceeded to the front to develop the position of the enemy, and was soon skirmishing with them. Just as my line was formed Major Robertson came up from the direction of La Fayette, and reported to me with eight pieces of artillery. My line of skirmishers in front was now

promptly advanced to Pea Vine Creek, which offered some obstructions to regular movements, and caused some delay in crossing the troops. Captain McDonald, of the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment, opened fire with his company upon the enemy's pickets about 180 yards west of the creek, and repulsed a charge of their reserve which was made down the road to the creek. Major Robertson placed some four pieces of artillery from his own command and a section of Everett's battery in position and opened upon the enemy, part of whom were dismounted, driving them back with a section of artillery which they had posted in good position. As soon as the command could cross the creek the line, preserving its formation, with Robertson's brigade supporting McNair's on the right, was pressed forward to the top of the hill, dislodging the enemy from a second position. The cavalry on the right kept up the skirmishing during the ascent. We found in front of the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment 3 Yankees killed and 1 mortally wounded.

It was now ascertained that the enemy's force consisted of three or four regiments of mounted men. Pressing down the western declivity of this hill, the enemy were again found in position at Reed's Bridge, over which they had passed. The skirmishers of the Twenty-third Tennessee Regiment becoming engaged, the whole regiment, supported by the brigade, charged with a shout and run, and drove off the Yankees before they could destroy the bridge. The Twenty-third Tennessee Regiment here had 5 men wounded. After our skirmishers and some of the regiments had passed, the enemy opened a battery on the bridge, which was silenced by a section of Bledsoe's artillery. Lieutenant Hastings, of the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment, was wounded at the bridge by the enemy's artillery.

My command commenced crossing the Chickamauga about 3 p. m. Major-General Hood having appeared in the column, I reported to him, and submitted to him my orders just before passing the bridge in person.

Having crossed the Chickamauga partly by the bridge and partly by the ford above the bridge, by 4 p. m., the command advanced to Jay's steam saw-mill, about 1 mile west of Reed's Bridge, where there are two roads leading to Alexander's Bridge. I ordered the formation to be preserved and the line of battle, extending across the right-hand or western road, to move forward. General Hood, however, here took command, and directed one regiment of Gregg's brigade to be marched in line of battle, extending across the left-hand or eastern road, and the other regiments of the command to be moved in the rear along that road in column of companies. Marching in this order, we proceeded rapidly past a burning house near Alexander's Ford, penetrating between the enemy and the Chickamauga to a point nearly opposite their center, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the steam saw-mill and about 1 mile west of Dalton's Ford, when in the darkness of the evening the skirmishers at the head of the column became engaged, and Gregg's brigade was immediately deployed under a sharp fire, which wounded 3 men, 1 (first sergeant of Company D, Seventh Texas Regiment) mortally.

McNair's and Johnson's brigades were immediately deployed, facing southwest and supporting Gregg's brigade. Robertson's brigade formed a line near the wagon train in rear, facing northwest, while the Forty-fourth Tennessee Regiment, of Johnson's brigade, remained as rear guard of the train. Our front line was now about 800 yards from Vineyard's house, on the road from Chattanooga to

Lee and Gordon's Mills. The whole Yankee army was in our front (mainly at Lee and Gordon's Mills), on our right flank and rear, while our army was still on the east side of the Chickamauga. My command was first to cross this stream, and none of our troops crossed at any point until our columns had swept the west bank in front of their respective places of crossing. One-third of our forces was required to remain awake during the night, and the rest slept upon their arms. Obstructions to cavalry were hastily placed in our front, skirmishers were thrown out to the field east of Vineyard's house, 150 yards in front of our left flank, and scouts were sent out nearly to the road to Lee and Gordon's Mills.

September 19, on making an examination of our position early in the morning, I discovered that our skirmishers were within 150 yards of General Preston's division, which had crossed the Chickamauga at Dalton's Ford during the night; that our line was in front and nearly perpendicular to his, and that most of our army had crossed at points lower down, placing our column near the left of our army. Major Robertson, with his eight pieces of artillery, was now detached from my command, and Robertson's brigade was united with the other brigades of Hood's division, under Brigadier-General Law, which had come up during the night, leaving three brigades under my command. These two divisions were placed under the command of Major-General Hood.

Our line of battle was formed about 7 a. m. in a curve around the crest of an elevation in the woods, about 1,000 yards east of the Chattanooga and Lee and Gordon's Mills road. My right brigade faced nearly west and my left brigade about southwest. In my division Johnson's brigade, commanded by Col. John S. Fulton, of the Forty-fourth Tennessee Regiment, was placed on the right, Gregg's brigade on the left, and McNair's brigade in reserve in rear of Gregg's brigade. Everett's battery was posted in position on the right of Johnson's brigade, and Bledsoe's First Missouri Battery on the right of Gregg's brigade. Captain Culpeper's three guns were held in reserve in rear of McNair's brigade. Law's division was posted on my right and Preston's on my left, a little retired, so that the left of the Fiftieth Tennessee Regiment, on the left of Gregg's brigade, was thrown back with a view to form a connection, which was never regularly made. The fighting commenced on the right of our army about half a mile northwest of the burned house, near Alexander's Bridge. The first gun was fired at 7.30 a. m.

About 2 p. m. the enemy in my front advanced and drove in my skirmishers. I ordered Bledsoe's and Everett's batteries to open fire, and Culpeper's battery was brought into action on the left of Gregg's brigade. These guns all fired in a direction bearing toward Vineyard's house, from which direction the attack seemed mainly to come. The right of Gregg's and the left of Johnson's brigades repulsed the attack in that vicinity, but the engagement still continued on the left of Gregg's brigade, where the left regiments were suffering severely. The Fiftieth Tennessee Regiment lost 12 killed and 45 wounded before it moved from its position.

About 2.30 p. m., by direction of Major-General Hood—having instructed my artillery to move with the infantry and to come into action whenever opportunity permitted, particularly cautioning my command to preserve its connections, to wheel slowly, and to touch to the right—I ordered the division to advance and engage the enemy. This movement did not extend to the division on my left.

In front of Gregg's brigade the woods presented a thick undergrowth, in which that brigade at once becoming hotly engaged, its progress was impeded, while Johnson's brigade advanced some 600 yards before the enemy opened fire upon it. The artillery advanced and fired by section, keeping well up with the infantry. Gregg's brigade advanced some 300 yards, obliquing in endeavoring under fire to keep the connection to the right. The connection, however, was broken in the thick woods between the second and third battalions, the two right regiments preserving their connection with the line on their right, and wheeling with it to the right; the third and fourth regiments, advancing less obliquely, faced more to the south, while the left regiment of that brigade (the Fiftieth Tennessee Regiment, under Colonel Sugg) moved more directly to its front, which was in a southern direction, owing to its left having been thrown back to connect with Preston's division, and at the same time it stretched out to the right just north of Vineyard's fields to cover the increasing interval, until nearly the whole regiment was deployed in open order as skirmishers. This movement of the Fiftieth Tennessee Regiment was induced by the heavy attack of the enemy on that flank, but it did not succeed in preserving the connection, and it became separated from the brigade. In this condition the brigade fought gallantly and kept up a heavy fire all along its broken line, and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy.

Two regiments of McNair's brigade, the Thirty-ninth North Carolina Regiment, under Colonel Coleman, and the Twenty-fifth Arkansas Regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel Hufstedler, were sent forward between the Fiftieth Tennessee Regiment and the brigade to which it belongs. These two regiments came up to the left of the Seventh Texas Regiment, of Gregg's brigade, about 400 yards in front of the position from which my line had moved, and advanced gallantly to the road from Chattanooga to Lee and Gordon's Mills, north of Vineyard's farm, and left still a wide interval on the right of the Fiftieth Tennessee Regiment, which regiment continued to present an extended line and to fight gallantly and persistently the heavy forces in front, while its ranks were being continually thinned.

It will be seen by the report of Colonel Coleman, of the Thirty-ninth North Carolina Regiment, forwarded herewith, that the two regiments from Gregg's brigade drove the enemy in rapid flight across the Chattanooga road, and passed a small house in a corn-field west of the road and north of Vineyard's house; and that here, though the enemy in their front were in flight and broken, those regiments fell back for want of support and on account of re-enforcements received by the enemy and a flank fire on the left.

In the meantime, the brigade of Brigadier-General Robertson, of Hood's division, was brought up and advanced on the right of the Fiftieth Tennessee Regiment, which now contracted the line and concentrated its fire upon the enemy on the left in the vicinity of Vineyard's. Under the spirited charge and heavy fire of Robertson's brigade the enemy were driven back some distance. The operations of this brigade will be more properly reported by its division commander. It will, however, be proper for me to state that during a halt, before Robertson's brigade reached the Chattanooga road, Brigadier-General Gregg rode out in front to reconnoiter the enemy's position. He very soon found himself near the enemy's line, and was suddenly halted by the Yankee skirmishers. Turning his horse to ride back to the rear he was shot through the

neck. Having fallen from his horse the Yankees proceeded to take from his person his spurs and sword, when Robertson's brigade charged forward and recovered possession of him and his horse. Brigadier-General Gregg deserves special commendation for his gallantry and activity on the field. The brigade which he commanded is an excellent one, and is commanded by a worthy and able officer.

Colonel Sugg, of the Fiftieth Tennessee Regiment, also merits particular notice for the manner in which he from time to time disposed his regiment and protected our flank, which was necessarily exposed in our advance, as the movement did not extend to the division on our left.

While these operations were going on in my left brigade, the right one (Johnson's), with which the Forty-first Tennessee Regiment, under Lieut. Col. James D. Tillman, and the Third Tennessee Regiment, under Col. C. H. Walker, of Gregg's brigade, preserved their connection, having advanced some 600 yards, received the fire of the enemy's artillery and infantry, and became hotly engaged. The enemy were posted upon rising ground. A battery swept our ranks with grape-shot while their infantry delivered heavy volleys from small-arms. The contest continued here nearly an hour, when the enemy, after a stubborn resistance, gradually retired to an open woods beyond the road from Chattanooga to Lee and Gordon's Mills. Approaching the road, a part of the brigade halted and poured its fire into the enemy's ranks, now in full view 200 yards in front; again advanced, crossed the road, and gained the cover of the woods on the left of the field in which the enemy's battery was posted, a clearing with inclosure intervening.

The Twenty-fifth Tennessee Regiment, under Lieut. Col. R. B. Snowden, and part of the Twenty-third Tennessee Regiment now wheeled to the right, moved on the flank of the battery, gained the cover of a fence north of the clearing, poured into it a few volleys, charged, and captured the battery.

This was well and gallantly done, and Lieutenant-Colonel Snowden, with the officers and men under his command, deserve especial consideration for the manner in which the movement was accomplished.

The remainder of the brigade, save about one-third of the right regiment, now crossed the road. The Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment, the left regiment, had moved about 200 yards beyond it, and the Third and Forty-first Tennessee Regiments, of Gregg's brigade, which had continued to move with Johnson's brigade, had advanced somewhat farther, when the enemy, marching by the flank, suddenly appeared on the left and rear of the last two regiments. Colonel Walker, of the Third Tennessee Regiment, on discovering this movement, faced his regiment by the rear rank and moved back across the road, while Colonel Tillman hastened to communicate the knowledge of the movement to Colonel Fulton, commanding Johnson's brigade. The movement of the enemy down the Chattanooga road was so prompt that they penetrated our line on the left of Johnson's brigade, filed off to the left, and fired a volley into its rear. This brigade now moved by one impulse to the right, and fell back to the east of the road from Chattanooga to Lee and Gordon's Mills, leaving 11 officers (including Major Davis, of the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment), 60 men, and the captured battery in the hands of the enemy.

In the meantime, the Third and Forty-first Regiments Tennessee

Volunteers, which were falling to the rear, were placed in position by Capt. W. T. Blakemore, my aide-de-camp, who was on duty in that part of the field and discovered this movement of the enemy, and by his instruction charged the column which had so suddenly appeared in our rear and drove it back. Colonel Walker now placed these regiments diagonally across the road, the right advanced, facing the enemy, in which position I ordered him to remain for a time. I have no doubt that we here encountered a portion of McCook's corps, of the Federal Army, moving to support their left. Our scouts, thrown out in front of our skirmishers, and my brigade-inspector, Lieutenant Black, after a personal reconnaissance, had previously reported the enemy moving artillery and infantry in that direction. With the heavy force of the enemy still in vicinity of Lee and Gordon's Mills, this advance of my division, unsupported by any movement on my left, was pushed quite as far as was judicious.

Finding my line now (about sunset) quite irregular in its formation, I proceeded immediately to reform it in the wood about 600 yards east of the road from Chattanooga to Lee and Gordon's Mills, where, by order of Major-General Hood, temporary breastworks of timber were put up along the line, behind which my command rested during the night, with skirmishers thrown out to the road.

During this brief engagement the loss of the division was quite heavy. The Third Tennessee Regiment reports 12 men killed and 45 wounded before it was ordered to advance. The Seventh Texas Regiment had several killed and wounded at the same time. Lieut. Col. Thomas W. Beaumont—well and honorably known in civil as well as military life—Captain Williams, and 2 other company officers, of the Fiftieth Tennessee Regiment, were killed, 7 officers wounded, and 1 missing, while it lost heavily in men. The Forty-fourth Tennessee Regiment had Lieut. Col. John L. McEwen, jr., commanding, a gallant and able officer, who has rendered faithful and efficient service in our army, and 5 company officers wounded, 1 (Capt. Samuel Jackson) mortally. It lost about 50 men wounded and 6 killed, 1 of whom (Sergt. T. A. Johnson) was particularly distinguished for gallantry. The command of this regiment now devolved upon Maj. G. M. Crawford. The Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment had 1 officer killed and 2 officers and 20 men wounded. Col. H. B. Granbury, of the Seventh Texas; Maj. S. H. Colms, of the First Tennessee Battalion, and Major Lowe, of the Twenty-third Tennessee Regiment, were severely wounded. The Twenty-third Tennessee lost in all 1 officer and 5 men killed, 5 officers wounded, and 58 men wounded and captured. The losses of the other regiments are not reported in this connection.

Captain Jackson, of the Forty-fourth Tennessee Regiment, has since died of his wounds. Known to me long and familiarly in youth and manhood as Capt. Samuel Jackson has been, I feel unable to do justice to his many virtues, his pure and admirable character, or his merits as an officer and a soldier.

Sunday, September 20, my line was formed by 7 a. m., with McNair's brigade on the right, Johnson's brigade in center, and two regiments (the Fiftieth Tennessee Regiment and the First Tennessee Battalion, consolidated, under Maj. C. W. Robertson, and the Seventh Texas, under Major Vanzandt) on the left. The rest of Gregg's brigade, commanded by Colonel Sugg, formed a second line. Culpeper's battery was placed in position on the right of McNair's bri-

gade; Everett's on the right of Johnson's brigade, and Bledsoe's on the right of the two regiments in the front line from Gregg's brigade. Hindman's division formed on my left and Stewart's on my right. Hood's division, commanded by Brigadier-General Law, formed in rear of my division, giving us a depth of three lines.

About 10 a. m. our skirmishers fell back under the advance of the enemy. My line promptly opened a steady fire with artillery and small-arms, which soon repulsed the attack. Ten minutes after 11 a. m. a general advance was ordered, which, commencing somewhere on the right, included Hindman's division on the left. The enemy occupied the ground in our front along the road leading from Chattanooga to Lee and Gordon's Mills. Their line was formed along the fence at Brotherton's house, and they had a battery in the open field south of the house where Johnson's brigade had captured a battery on Saturday. The enemy also occupied two lines of breastworks made of rails and timber extending along my front and to the left of it in the woods west of Brotherton's farm. By order of Major-General Hood, I moved my division forward and at once engaged the enemy. We advanced about 600 yards through the woods under a heavy fire of artillery and infantry, which swept our ranks with terrific effect, and crossed the road to Lee and Gordon's Mills, the left brigades of my division passing on either side of Brotherton's house. Our charge was irresistible, and the Yankees who did not flee were killed and captured at the fences and out-houses. Among the latter is especially mentioned Col. F. A. Bartleson, of the One hundredth Illinois Regiment, who was captured with many others by Johnson's brigade.

Everett's battery now took a position in a field south of Brotherton's house and opened to the front and left, firing about 6 rounds to the piece, and my line again moved forward under a heavy fire from the enemy's breastworks. The fire was so heavy that my right brigade faltered for a moment, and some of the men commenced falling back, but it was soon rallied and moving forward again. My whole line, Gregg's brigade in rear, supported by Hood's division, under Law, in a third line, swept forward with great force and rapidity and carried the breastworks, from which the foe precipitately retreated under a heavy fire, particularly directed to the left from my left brigade. Having advanced some distance in the woods west of Brotherton's farm to the foot of a small ascent, covered with a thick growth of young pines, my right brigade halted under the effect of a heavy fire, which was also severely damaging my second line. Colonel Sugg now pressed to the front the three regiments of Gregg's brigade which had formed my second line, Johnson's brigade moving to the left at the same time, and again my line advanced rapidly on the enemy, driving them from the woods east of Dyer's house, McNair's brigade bearing to the right.

Our lines now emerged from the forest into open ground on the border of long, open fields, over which the enemy were retreating, under cover of several batteries, which were arranged along the crest of a ridge on our right and front, running up to the corner of a stubble-field, and of one battery on our left and front posted on an elevation in the edge of the woods, just at the corner of a field near a peach orchard and southwest of Dyer's house. The scene now presented was unspeakably grand. The resolute and impetuous charge, the rush of our heavy columns sweeping out from the shadow and gloom of the forest into the open fields flooded with sunlight, the glitter of arms, the onward dash of artillery and mounted men, the

retreat of the foe, the shouts of the hosts of our army, the dust, the smoke, the noise of fire-arms—of whistling balls and grape-shot and of bursting shell—made up a battle scene of unsurpassed grandeur. Here General Hood gave me the last order I received from him on the field, "Go ahead, and keep ahead of everything." How this order was obeyed will be best determined by those who investigate all the details of this battle.

The unusual depth of our columns of attack in this part of the field, and the force and power with which it was thrown upon the enemy's line, had now completely broken and routed their center and cast the shattered fragments to the right and left. Everett's battery was here ordered into action on the right of Johnson's brigade and opened upon the retreating foe, while my line continued to advance.

There was now an interval of about 800 yards between Hindman's division, on my left, and my command. Johnson's brigade, on the left, bore but slightly to the right, its left regiment stretching across the road from Dyer's house to Crawfish [Spring] road and passing on both sides of the house. Gregg's brigade, in the center, moved a little to the right, so as to flank and capture 9 pieces of artillery on its right, posted on the ascent to the eminence in the corner of the field north of Dyer's house. McNair's brigade, now somewhat in rear of the two left brigades, moved obliquely to the right and directly upon this eminence. My line was here uncovered by Hood's division, which must have changed its direction to the right.

The 9 pieces captured by Gregg's brigade are reported by Colonel Sugg, commanding, as having been taken from the field by a detail under Adjt. Fletcher Beaumont, of the Fiftieth Tennessee Regiment, who caused the Yankee drivers to drive some of the teams to the rear. Four of these pieces (3-inch rifles) belonged to the First Missouri (Federal) Battery and are now in possession of the First Missouri (Confederate) Battery (Bledsoe's), attached to Gregg's brigade. A statement made by Adjutant Beaumont in regard to the capture is herewith inclosed.*

In this advance Brig. Gen. E. McNair, commanding the right brigade, and Colonel Harper, of the First Arkansas Regiment, of that brigade, were wounded, the latter mortally, and the command of McNair's brigade devolved upon Colonel Coleman, of the Thirty-ninth North Carolina Regiment. Colonel Coleman reports that McNair's brigade charged and carried the eminence in the corner of the field to our right, capturing the 10 guns, 8 of which were immediately carried off, and 2 were subsequently removed; and that the brigade fell back for the want of ammunition and support and formed on the left of Robertson's brigade, of Hood's division. Whether Colonel Coleman's report has any reference in this connection to the 9 guns reported as captured by Gregg's brigade, or whether there is any point of dispute between these two brigades as to captured artillery, I cannot now determine. McNair's brigade has been detached from this army and I am unable to communicate with it in time to make my report explicit on this point.

In the meantime, I discovered what I conceived to be an important position directly in our front—an elevated ridge of open ground running nearly north and south beyond the narrow strip of woods on the western borders of open fields in our front, and about 600 yards

* See p. 497.

west of the elevation on which the 9 pieces of artillery had been captured—and I hastened to press forward Gregg's brigade, which had halted for a moment on the flank of the guns that were being removed while Johnson's brigade approached the same position from the left. From the crest of this ridge the ground descends abruptly into a corn-field and cove lying south of Vidito's house. West of the cove is a range of the Missionary Ridge, while north of it a spur of that ridge spreads out to the east. Through a gap at the angle between this spur on the north and the ridge on the west of the cove, and about 1,000 yards from the ridge on the east where my division was now taking position, passes the Crawfish [Spring] road, which continues south along the base of the ridge on the western side of the cove. Along this road a line of telegraph wires extended from Chattanooga to General Rosecrans' headquarters, and at the gorge of the gap a train of wagons filled the road, while a number of caissons and a battery of artillery for defense of the train occupied the grounds near Vidito's house. The ridge on the east of the cove was taken without resistance, though the enemy had there constructed a breast-work of rails, and had piled up a large number of their knapsacks, secure, as they doubtless thought, from the danger of the battle-field.

As soon as this ridge was occupied, which was a few minutes before 12 m., our advance position, commanded by adjacent hills and separated on the right and left as far as I could see from our troops, induced me immediately to send my aide-de-camp, Captain Blake-more, to report our position to Lieutenant-General Longstreet, commanding our wing, and to bring up artillery and infantry to our support, while I disposed of my command for defense. Gregg's brigade was at once posted, partly facing to the north, at the edge of the woods at the north end of the field and partly facing to the west along a portion of the adjacent ridge. Johnson's brigade was posted, facing to the west, on the crest of the ridge about 100 yards to the left of Gregg's brigade. Both brigades immediately advanced their skirmishers to the front. When I discovered the train of wagons at the gorge of the Crawfish [Spring] road the enemy were making every effort to get them away. I promptly posted Everett's battery on the ridge between Johnson's and Gregg's brigades, where it opened fire on the train. The fire of the artillery and some shots from our advancing skirmishers created the utmost consternation among the drivers and teams, causing some of the wagons to be upset and others to be run against trees and up the precipitous acclivities adjacent. Lieutenant Everett also sent forward one piece of artillery to a knoll in the corn-field south of Vidito's house, which fired up the gorge along the Crawfish [Spring] road. A few shots were fired upon us from a battery of the enemy posted on the high ground north of our position, to which Everett's artillery replied, firing about 6 rounds, when the enemy ceased firing on us. A ball from Lieutenant Everett's battery dismounted one of the guns (a rifled piece) near Vidito's house by breaking the axle-tree.

Our skirmishers now advanced and took possession of the wagons, caissons, and guns. Lieutenant Everett sent forward two teams and hauled off 1 Napoleon gun and caisson, attaching for that purpose the limber of a 6-pounder gun found near by the Napoleon, for which no limber was found. This gun has since been ascertained to be one of the guns of Lumsden's battery captured by the enemy on the 19th, and has been returned to that battery. Besides the 2 pieces above

named, a 6-pounder smooth-bore and another piece (description not now known) and 7 caissons were captured. The wagons contained some quartermaster's property, but were mainly loaded with ammunition for artillery and infantry.

Two of General Rosecrans' escort and Captain Hescoek, of the First Missouri (Federal) Light Artillery, Battery G, were captured on the side of the ridge west of Vidito's house, where many other prisoners were picked up by our skirmishers.

My engagements were such at this period as to prevent me from looking after or estimating the number or value of articles captured. Many of the wagons were subsequently removed by other commands in rear of mine, and I now estimate the wagons captured at about 30, a few of which had teams attached.

Before making any disposition for a farther advance, I found it necessary to replenish our supply of ammunition, and consequently I ordered up a supply from the rear and distributed it to the most of the regiments of my command. Subsequently we drew our ammunition from the captured train. Lieutenant Black, of my staff, now brought up Dent's battery of Napoleon guns, of Hindman's division, which he found somewhere on our left, and placed three pieces on the ridge in the northwest corner of the field we occupied. No general officer or re-enforcements having come up, and seeing no troops in my vicinity, my aides having been long absent in search of support, I became impatient at the delay. Giving orders that our position should be held at all hazards, I galloped off in person in search of support.

Having swung slightly to the right from our first position, the connection was broken on our left and I could see no troops in that direction. It subsequently appears that General Hindman's division gallantly drove back to the west and south the enemy's line in his front and on my left, inflicting a heavy loss on them and thus relieving us from danger in that direction.

Riding toward our right and rear some half a mile, I came upon Brigadier-General Kershaw, advancing with his brigade through the open field upon the eminence near to which we had captured the battery of 9 guns in our advance, and where I saw the United States flag now floating, the position having been reoccupied by the enemy. Here I learned that Major-General Hood had been wounded. Colonel Cunningham, of his staff, informed me that Brigadier-General Kershaw's brigade was much needed to attack the position in its front, and I consequently had to seek farther for support. I sent Captain Blakemore, who joined me here, to find and bring up General McNair's brigade, and after riding some time I found on the road approaching my command Major-General Hindman and Brigadier-General Anderson, to whom my aide had communicated my necessities and wishes. Being informed that Brigadier-General Deas' brigade would move to support my left, and that General Anderson was then advancing to fill up the vacancy on my right, I returned to my command, and with a view to driving the enemy from my flank, directed Dent's battery to open fire to the rear of the eminence, about 600 yards to our right, on which I had seen the United States flag floating, and on which I left Kershaw's brigade advancing.

More than an hour had now been spent in this position, and I resolved to press forward my line even before support reached me. I therefore proceeded to form my line, facing to the north, along and

in continuation of the north end of the field, Gregg's brigade on the right and Johnson's brigade on the left, extending through the corn-field south of Vidito's house and to the Crawfish [Spring] road.

My line being formed, I was advised that the enemy occupied the ridge beyond Vidito's corn-field and west of the Crawfish [Spring] road, and it therefore became necessary to protect our left flank by skirmishers thrown out in that direction from Johnson's brigade. The advance commenced about the time Deas' brigade formed, facing to the west, on the ridge we had just left. I directed Brigadier-General Deas to move his brigade directly to its front until his right flank should reach the position of my left, then to wheel to the right, sweeping the ridge west of the Crawfish [Spring] road, and come up and form on the left of my line of battle.

The crest of the spur of Missionary Ridge north of Vidito's extends east and west in its general direction, but curves to the south about the middle. At the east and west ends of the crest are the most elevated points of the spur. On the slope north of the west end is Snodgrass' house, at which were the headquarters of Generals Rosecrans and Thomas during the latter part of the battle. Toward the south the slope from the crest is gradual for some distance in several places, and especially so at the west end, and terminates toward the cove in an abrupt, serrated declivity, presenting to our approach from the south several secondary spurs or knobs with intervening short ravines. Along the crest of this spur the last desperate struggle of the Northern Army was made at the battle of Chickamauga.

Gregg's and Johnson's brigades, followed by Dent's and Everett's batteries, advanced in line toward the north, the left passing over the wagons, caissons, and pieces of artillery near Vidito's house and reaching to the Crawfish [Spring] road. There were a number of wounded Federals at Vidito's house. The ladies of the family who had taken shelter from danger on Saturday and Sunday beneath the floor now burst forth and greeted our soldiers with clapping of hands and shouts of joy, presenting an impressive scene. The brow of the secondary spurs north of Vidito's house was gained without resistance by Gregg's and Johnson's brigades and by Anderson's, which had come up on our right during our advance.

The line was then halted, the alignment corrected, and the two regiments of Gregg's brigade, which were formed on the left of my line in the morning, now returned to their brigade. Four of Dent's Napoleon guns and Everett's battery of three guns were placed in position on the spur occupied by Johnson's brigade, and two pieces of Dent's battery were placed upon the hill with Gregg's brigade. There was now no support on the left of Johnson's brigade, though Deas' brigade was every moment expected there.

A few minutes before 2 p. m., after the artillery had opened fire, the order was given to advance from this position with a view of gaining the main crest of the ridge in our front, which was some 1,000 yards distant on our left, but much nearer on our right on account of its curvature to the south in the middle. The enemy opened fire upon our left before it advanced 100 yards. Our movement was, however, continued for a time until my left found a position in which it was enabled to hold the enemy in check; but the Federals moved up on our flank along a secondary spur which united at the elevation at the west end of the main ridge with that upon which Johnson's brigade was fighting, and this movement was held

in check some time by our troops firing obliquely to the left. The advance of Brigadier-General Anderson on our extreme right was a gallant and impetuous charge. It encountered a heavy force of the enemy posted in a strong position, from which they poured a volume of fire that speedily repulsed the charge. Gregg's brigade gained the crest of the ridge after a sharp contest, driving the foe down the northern slope of the ridge and delivering a damaging fire in the retreating masses; but the enemy returned to the attack, and there being now no support on our right, the line commenced falling back on that flank just after Lieutenant-Colonel Tillman, commanding the Forty-first Tennessee Regiment, was disabled by a wound.

The Third Tennessee Regiment, with about 40 men of the Fiftieth Tennessee and Seventh Texas Regiments, on the left of this brigade, claims to have held its advanced position until Johnson's brigade fell back under the flank movement of the enemy on its left. In retiring this regiment had 6 men captured. As my line fell back our artillery opened with canister, and was gallantly served under fire of the enemy's infantry until the troops, rallying in line at the batteries, repulsed the charge of the foe.

I now gave orders to hold the hill and await the re-enforcements from Hindman's division momentarily expected. Soon Manigault's brigade was seen advancing in line of battle through Vidito's cornfield in the cove in our rear. As it came up on the left of my line Brigadier-General Deas reported in person, having with his brigade swept the ridge west of the Crawfish [Spring] road. Having sent a staff officer to place these two brigades in line on my left, I rode toward the right and met General Hindman, who directed me to take command of the left wing and wheel to the right, making the right of my division the pivot. McNair's brigade, under Colonel Coleman, now came up and formed a line in rear of the left of my division. I also detailed 10 men from Johnson's brigade to assist in working the guns of Dent's battery.

Our line, from left to right, was formed of brigades in the following order, viz, Deas', Manigault's, Johnson's, Gregg's, and Anderson's, with McNair's brigade in rear of Johnson's. Deas' brigade occupied the brow of the steep spur which forms the north side of the gorge through which the Crawfish [Spring] road passes Missionary Ridge. Manigault's stretched across the ravine and extended up the side of the adjacent spur to the right, on which Johnson's and McNair's brigades, with seven pieces of artillery, were posted. Gregg's brigade was formed on a spur of some greater length, extending more toward the east, and separated in part from the main ridge by a hollow, with a piece of table-land at its head to the west. Anderson's brigade was formed in two lines on the right, the front line extending up the slope of the spur on which Gregg's brigade was formed on the left and across the hollow on the right. The section of Dent's artillery with Gregg's brigade in the last attack was now moved to the hollow on the right, ready to be run up by hand on the main ridge as soon as it should be carried. Kershaw's brigade was somewhere on the right of, but not connected with, Anderson's brigade.

I proceeded in person to put the line in motion. Commencing with Deas' brigade, and giving careful instructions to preserve the dress and the connection to the right, I passed along the line until I saw it all moving gallantly forward. A most obstinate struggle now commenced for the possession of this spur of Missionary Ridge, the last stronghold of the enemy on the battle-field of Chickamauga.

Our artillery opened on the brow of the ridge and the infantry became immediately engaged. The firing was very heavy on both sides, and showed that the enemy were in strong force in our front, supported by artillery posted near the junction of the two spurs on which Deas' and Johnson's brigades, respectively, moved. Our line pressed determinedly forward for some time, keeping up an incessant volley with small-arms. But the enemy now evidently received reinforcements of fresh troops, which advanced with a shout that was heard all along our lines, and we were driven back to our guns. It was subsequently ascertained from prisoners captured that the reinforcements were a part of General Granger's corps, which we fought the rest of the day. Deas' brigade and the part of Manigault's next to it fell back to the foot of the hill. Anderson's fell back to its first position, and these three brigades, save two regiments of Manigault's next to Johnson's brigade, did not again enter the fight.

In falling back on the spur on which Johnson's brigade and the two batteries fought, McNair's brigade, which formed a second line, mingled with the troops of the first line on the left of Johnson's and the right of the two regiments of Manigault's brigade, and continued to fight in that position during the rest of the day. The retreat on this hill was precipitate, and called for all the exertions I could command to prevent many of the troops from abandoning it. The officers, however, joined with every energy and zeal in the effort to stay the retreat, and by appeals, commands, and physical efforts, all save a few who persisted in skulking behind trees or lying idly on the ground, were brought up to our lines in support of the artillery.

In the meantime, our batteries were promptly opened and gallantly served amid a shower of the enemy's bullets, and, together with the best and bravest of our infantry, who promptly rallied on our artillery, poured such a volume of fire upon the advancing foe that his onward progress was effectually stayed.

I cannot here speak too highly of the gallantry of the men and officers of Dent's and Everett's batteries on this occasion. It elicited my highest admiration, and I at once endeavored involuntarily to express personally to the commanders my high appreciation of the work they had so nobly done. It is claimed by Johnson's brigade that they rallied to a man at the batteries. I may be permitted to say for these noble men, with whom I have so long been associated, that I then felt that every man in the brigade was a hero. Of Gregg's brigade I can speak in no less exalted terms. All, indeed, who now participated in this final, protracted, and trying struggle merit the highest praise.

All our troops had now suffered severely here and in other parts of the field. Hindman's division, it is understood, had been especially weakened in the conflict before it came to our support. Neither McNair's, Gregg's, nor Johnson's brigades mustered over 500 guns. The part of Manigault's brigade adjacent to my division—about two regiments, under Colonel Reid, of the Thirty-fourth [Twenty-eighth] Alabama Regiment—participated in the invincible spirit which fired our men, and continued to fight with us. I ordered that the hill should be held at all hazards, and determined that all should be lost before I would abandon it. I felt that this position on the extreme left was one of the utmost importance and might determine the fate of the day. Indeed, defeat here would have let the enemy's right

swing back around our left flank over the strong positions we had won, and here, as at Murfreesborough, where all our movements on the left had been very similar, a chance for victory might be lost.

About this time my aide (Capt. W. T. Blakemore) reported to me some 200 men of Benning's brigade in our rear, under command of a major whose name is not recollected. Upon going to it the officer in command reported it utterly unserviceable on account of its having been cut up and demoralized. I consequently did not put it in the fight.

The enemy were not whipped, and the conflict still raged with varying fortune. Repeatedly our men advanced, and were in turn forced to yield a portion of the ground they had gained. I directed our men to advance as far as possible, then hold their position and never retreat. We thus gradually approached the crest of the ridge.

At about 5 p. m. I sent my acting aide-de-camp (Lieut. George Marchbanks, C. S. Army) back to the foot of the ridge to request Brigadier-Generals Deas and Manigault to bring up their brigades to my support. Lieutenant Marchbanks reports that Brigadier-General Deas replied, that on consultation with Brigadier-General Manigault they had decided that it would not be safe to put their commands in the same position without the support of fresh troops.

Over three hours passed in this conflict, in which officers and men toiled on and manifested more perseverance, determination, and endurance than I have ever before witnessed on any field. We had now slowly driven the enemy on the left up the gradual ascent about half a mile to the coveted crest of the ridge, where they made the last desperate resistance, and our lines gradually grew stronger and stronger under the animating hope of victory so nearly within our grasp.

It was finally nearly sunset when a simultaneous advance swept along our whole lines, and with a shout we drove the enemy from the ridge and pursued them far down the northern slope to the bottom of the deep hollow beyond. We had now completely flanked and passed to the rear of the position of the enemy on the ridge to our right, and I am convinced we thus aided in finally carrying the heights south of Snodgrass' house.

About the time the ridge was carried, Colonel Trigg, of Preston's division, reported to me with a part of his brigade. I sent Captain Terry, of the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment, who was wounded and mounted on horseback, to place Trigg's command on our right, and it relieved Gregg's brigade, which was out of ammunition.

I now proceeded to reform my line, which, in the pursuit, I regret to say, was entirely broken, owing, in part, to the peculiar conformation of the ground over which we passed. I still hoped to follow up the retreating foe. After I ordered McNair's and Johnson's brigades to form on Trigg's, this brigade suddenly disappeared—called away, no doubt, to co-operate with Kelly's brigade in capturing the two regiments of General Granger's corps, which surrendered to them about dark. I felt now that it would be unsafe to advance, disconnected as my command was, and it now being dark (nearly 8 p. m.), I withdrew it some 250 yards to a good position near the top of the ridge, threw out pickets to the front, and sent scouts to find the enemy. My line was arranged for the night in the following order: The two regiments of Manigault's brigade (under Colonel Reid, of the Thirty-fourth [Twenty-eighth] Alabama Regiment) and the left

thrown back to protect our flank, and in succession to the right were aligned Johnson's, McNair's, and Gregg's brigades. On my right Trigg's and Kelly's subsequently formed.

About 8 o'clock at night, abandoning all hopes of advancing farther, I rode away and searched until about 11 o'clock for the headquarters of the army, or the wing, with a view to making a report of my position. Failing in this attempt I returned to my command, worn out with the toils of the day.

The following morning revealed to us the fact that the enemy had left us in possession of the field. Details were now made to collect the spoils and bury the dead.

I ought here to mention the heroic efforts on the part of officers and men which came under my observation, but for want of personal acquaintance with the parties I cannot do justice to all. I especially noticed the faithful toil and heroic conduct of Lieutenant-Colonel Reynolds, of the First Battalion of dismounted rifles, McNair's brigade, who was conspicuous in his efforts to preserve our lines and encourage and press on our men. For hours he, with many other officers, faithfully and incessantly labored in this duty.

In this connection I must in justice mention Col. J. S. Fulton, of the Forty-fourth Tennessee Regiment, commanding Johnson's brigade; Col. R. H. Keeble, of the Twenty-third Tennessee Regiment; Lieutenant-Colonel Floyd and Captain Terry, of the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment, and Lieutenant-Colonel Snowden and Acting Adjutant Greigg, of the Twenty-fifth Tennessee Regiment.

To Colonel Sugg I feel especially indebted for his gallant, able, and efficient services in commanding Gregg's brigade. He is a good and meritorious officer.

Colonel Walker and Lieutenant-Colonel Clack, of the Third Tennessee; Colonel Grace, of the Tenth Tennessee; Captain Curtis, of the Fiftieth Tennessee, and Captain Osburn, of the Forty-first Tennessee Regiment, all of Gregg's brigade, merit special commendation for their services in this protracted struggle.

To the courage and fortitude of the men of this brigade, as well as to every other brigade which struggled with them in our last persistent efforts to drive the enemy from their final position, I trust the proper sense of gratitude will be awarded.

Colonel Coleman, commanding McNair's brigade, did gallant service and carried his command faithfully through all the varying fortunes of the field on the left to the very close of the fight. I regret that I am unable to specify more particularly the services of meritorious officers of this brigade.

I beg leave to call attention to the efficient use made of artillery in my command. My purpose, in accordance with preconceived notions, was to keep my artillery employed to the utmost practicable extent, in conjunction with my infantry, and my little experience on this battle-field only determines me on all like occasions to improve on my practice of this day.

I need add nothing more in acknowledgment of the services of Captain Dent and Lieutenant Everett, commanding batteries in my lines, or of the gallantry of the men under their commands.

I have to regret that no report has been furnished me by Captain Culpeper, commanding the batteries attached to McNair's brigade, and I also regret that neither this battery nor Bledsoe's (First Mis-

souri) battery, commanded by First Lieut. R. L. Wood, and attached to Gregg's brigade, for reasons not known to me, followed their brigades or participated in our fight for Missionary Ridge, where they would have won unfading laurels for every officer and man attached to them.

The gallant conduct of my brigade inspector (Second Lieut. M. W. Black, of the Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment) distinguished him throughout my command, and I feel that I can scarcely do justice to his services. He was always, in the moments of severest conflict, among the foremost ranks, reckless and indifferent to danger. Ardent, active, and zealous, he has proven himself a most valuable officer on the field of battle. While personally aiding in directing a piece of artillery in the fight on Missionary Ridge on September 20, he was severely wounded by a ball that crushed his lower jaw and carried away a part of his tongue. His speedy recovery is, however, now hopefully anticipated.

To my aide-de-camp (Capt. W. T. Blakemore), who has served with me in every conflict of this army, as well as at Donelson, and always with honor and ability, I am indebted for much valuable service on the field, and he merits more than I can say for him here.

My brigade inspector (Lieut. E. R. Smith, of the Twenty-fifth Tennessee Regiment) and my acting aide-de-camp (Second Lieut. George Marchbanks, of the C. S. Army) gallantly and faithfully labored with me on September 19 and 20, and I desire to acknowledge my obligations to them for the zeal and intelligence with which they performed their respective duties.

To the medical staff of each brigade of this division I desire to tender my grateful acknowledgments for their faithful and efficient services in taking care of the wounded.

To my efficient ordnance officer (Lieut. James B. Lake) I feel that a special acknowledgment is due, as well for all his faithful services past as for the prompt supplies which he furnished my whole division from a brigade ordnance train, and yet at the close of the battle exhibiting greater abundance of stores on hand than at its commencement.

In conclusion, it will be observed that the severest conflicts in which my command was engaged on the field of Chickamauga occurred on the evening of the 19th and in the morning and evening of September 20.

On the evening of the 19th, my command suffered as much in three hours as during the whole day of September 20. On Sunday, my command suffered severely until the enemy's breastworks were carried in the morning, and again during the contest for the spur of Missionary Ridge in the evening.

My division commenced to fight in the front line on September 19 and fought in the front line through the conflict of both days, and at the close was far in advance of all support, as it was also at different times during the latter day. The strength of my command and the number of casualties are hereunto appended.

The lists of killed, wounded, and missing in Gregg's and Johnson's brigades were forwarded on September 29, but no list has yet been furnished by McNair's brigade, and the aggregates are only given by Colonel Coleman, who commanded this brigade after General McNair was wounded. I have received no report from Brigadier-Generals McNair or Gregg.

List of the killed, wounded, and missing in Johnson's division.

Command.	Killed.		Wounded.		Missing.		Aggregate.
	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	
Johnson's	3	25	28	243	13	85	397
Gregg's	9	100	39	435	1	17	601
McNair's <i>a</i>							451
	51		336		64		

a Aggregates only are reported in this brigade.

Report of officers and men taken into action on September 19 and 20.

Command.	September 19.			September 20.		
	Officers.	Men.	Aggregate.	Officers.	Men.	Aggregate.
Johnson's	108	761	869	61	495	556
Gregg's	134	1,218	1,352	95	753	848
McNair's <i>a</i>	100	1,107	1,207			
Aggregate infantry			3,428			
Everett's [York's]	3	84	87	3	82	85
Culpeper's <i>a</i>	4	80	84			
Bledsoe's	3	81	84	4	67	71
Aggregate artillery			255			

a Not furnished for September 20.

Everett's [York's] battery fired 428 rounds; Bledsoe's battery fired 125 rounds; Culpeper's battery not reported; Dent's battery not reported, as it belongs to Hindman's division, though it fought with mine from about 1 p. m. until sunset September 20.

I forward herewith the reports of Lieutenants Everett and Wood, commanding batteries, attached, respectively, to Johnson's and Gregg's brigades, and the reports of Colonels Sugg, Coleman, and Fulton, commanding brigades.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. R. JOHNSON,
Brigadier-General.

Maj. W. H. SELLERS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

[Inclosures.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF TENNESSEE,
In the Field, Lee's Tan-yard, September 18, 1863.

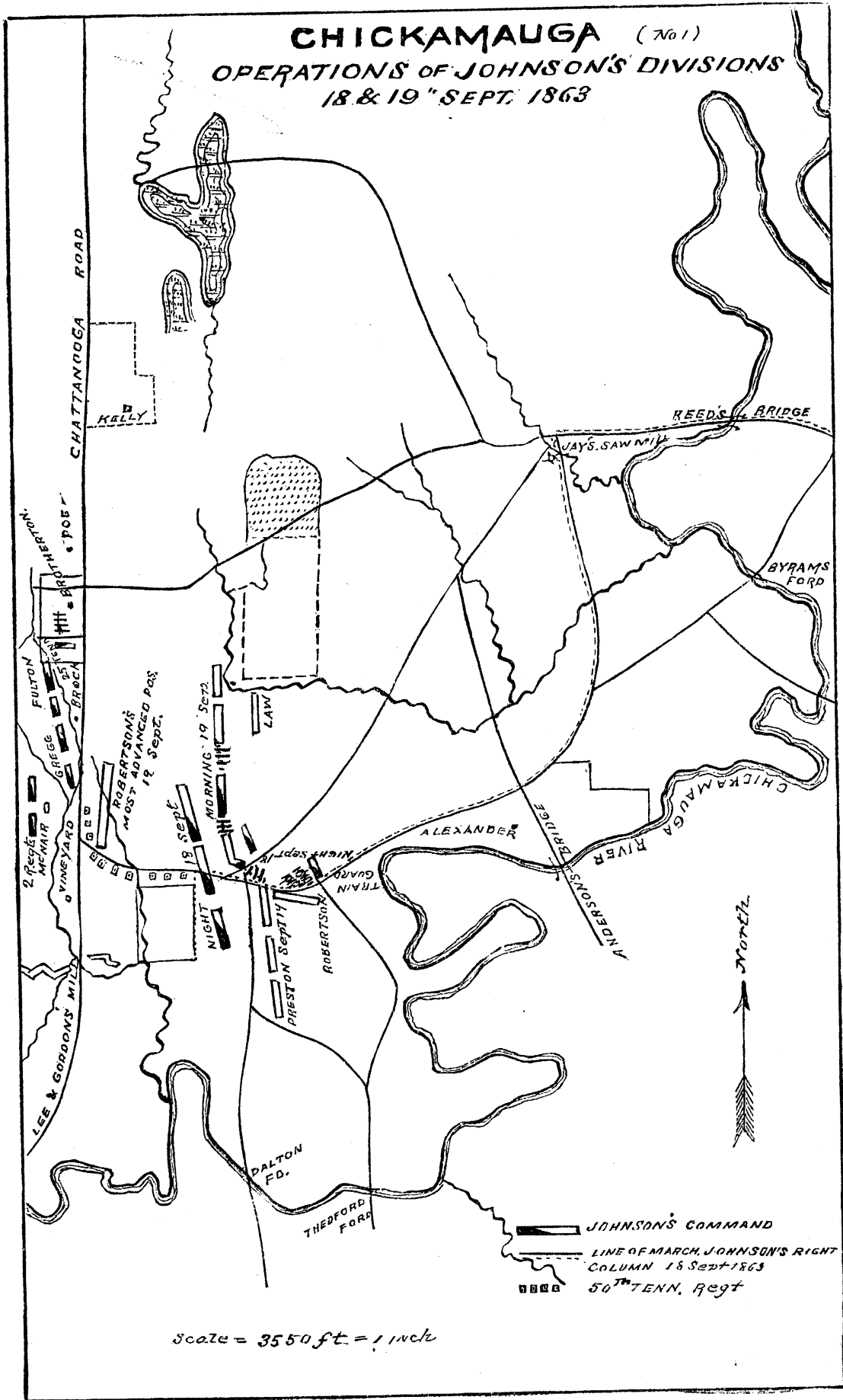
Brigadier-General JOHNSON,
Commanding Column:

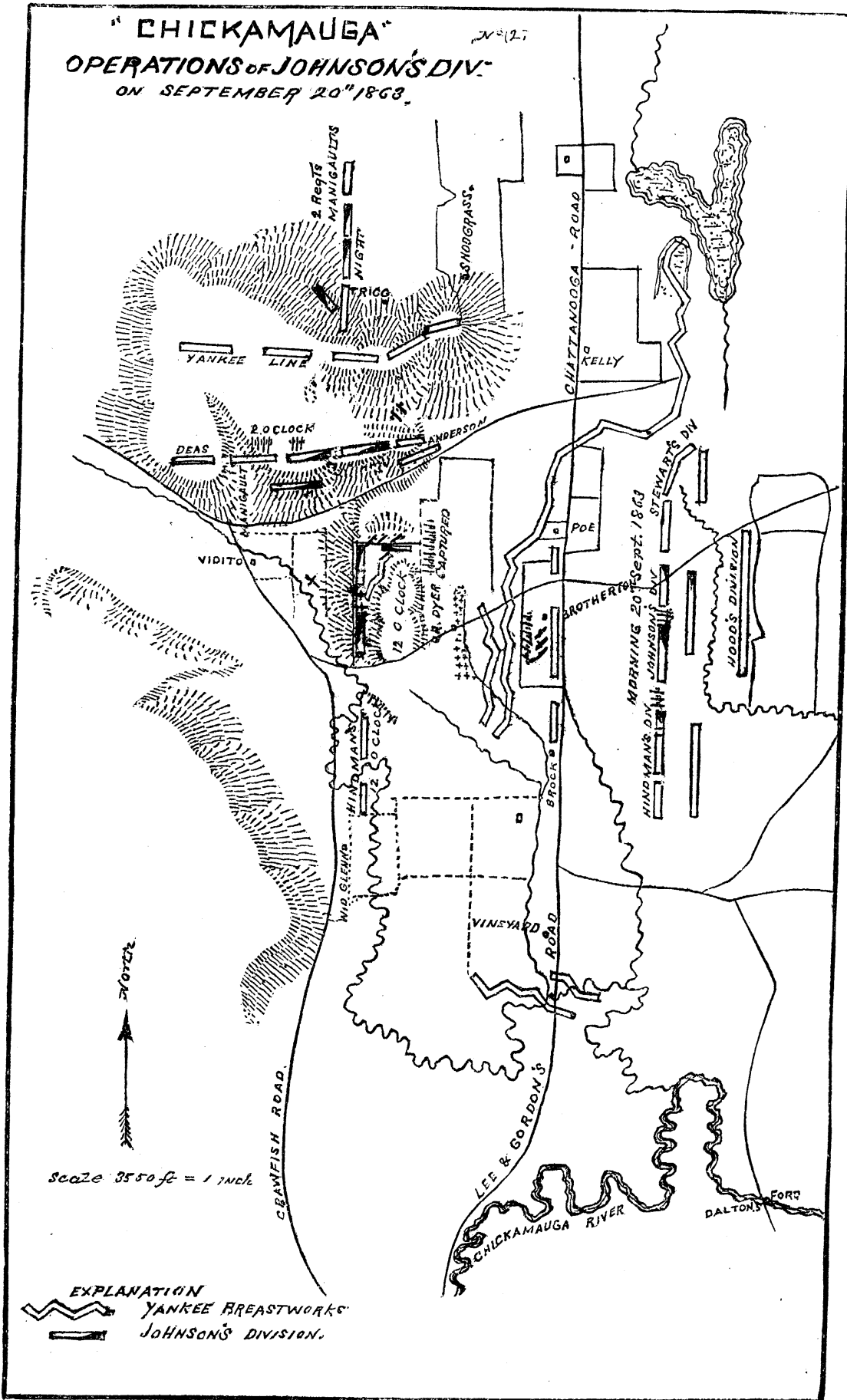
GENERAL: You will proceed without further delay and cross the Chickamauga in pursuance of previous orders and the circular* herewith forwarded.

I am, general, yours, very respectfully,

GEORGE WM. BRENT,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

* See p. 31,





HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF TENNESSEE,
In the Field, Leet's Tan-yard, September 18, 1863—1 p. m.

Brig. Gen. B. R. JOHNSON,
Commanding Right Column:

GENERAL: The general commanding desires that you will push on your column vigorously and engage the enemy regardless of the force in your front. The army is now waiting on your movement.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 GEORGE WM. BRENT,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 413.

Report of Lieut. George Marchbanks, C. S. Army, Assistant Inspector-General.

HEADQUARTERS JOHNSON'S BRIGADE,
Morristown, January 23, 1864.

GENERAL: In compliance with your request, I have the honor to make the following statement relative to the part taken by Generals Manigault's and Deas' brigades in the engagement of Chickamauga, on the evening of September 20:

After our command had driven the enemy from and occupied the hill beyond the Vidito house, Deas' and Manigault's brigades were ordered up to re-enforce us. You ordered them to sweep the hills to our left, and coming up to connect with our left. They filed up the hill to the left of the Crawfish [Spring] road and halted. This was some 800 yards below the Vidito house. While they were thus halted, the enemy attacked our front and you ordered me to hasten these troops forward. According to the best of my recollection, I delivered the order to General Deas. I do not recollect his reply; but the troops were not advanced immediately. I was sent back with the same instructions two or three times; but they did not come up to the field of action until our division had been engaged for some little time. They had scarcely gotten under fire until they began running back—one, two, and three together—until finally both brigades gave back in utter confusion, going principally on the road toward Crawfish Spring. Myself and other officers, however, succeeded in stopping them some 500 or 600 yards below the Vidito house, and forming them up a little ravine to their right. When formed I reported to you the fact. You told me to order them forward again. I delivered the order to General Deas. He replied that he and General Manigault had had a consultation, and that he or they thought that it would not be best to put these troops in the same place; "that they would not stand," or words to that effect. I reported this to you. You ordered me to bring them to the hill which our division formerly occupied. When they arrived at this hill, the sun was nearly down and the firing had entirely or almost ceased. I do not think these two brigades were under fire over twenty minutes.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. MARCHBANKS,

Lieut., C. S. Army, and Asst. Insp. Gen., Johnson's Brig.

Brig. Gen. B. R. JOHNSON,
Commanding Buckner's Division.