

1: Blz | Soldiering in the Army of Tennessee, Larry J. Daniel

In Soldiering in the Army of Tennessee Larry Daniel offers a view from the trenches of the Confederate Army of Tennessee. his book is not the story of the commanders, but rather shows in intimate detail what the war in the western theater was like for the enlisted men.

A third corps was formed from troops from the Department of East Tennessee and commanded by Edmund Kirby Smith ; it was disbanded in early December after one of its two divisions was sent to Mississippi. The attacks started at 6 a. Bragg expected Union commander William S. Rosecrans to retreat during the night but Rosecrans decided to remain. Bragg retreated during the night and halted near the Duck River. When he learned of the dispute, Confederate President Jefferson Davis sent Joseph Johnston to inspect the army and take command if he thought it necessary to relieve Bragg. Johnston however refused to take command of the army. Due to the low level of the river, Bragg felt compelled to retreat back to his supply center of Chattanooga, Tennessee , where he established his headquarters. Hardee was transferred to Mississippi in July and replaced by D. The cavalry was reorganized into two corps commanded by Wheeler and Forrest; a two-division Reserve Corps was also organized under the command of W. This convinced Bragg that Rosecrans was crossing the river to the north; however, Union forces were actually crossing to the south of the city. This forced Bragg to fall back into northern Georgia , abandoning the important railroad hub of Chattanooga on September 8. On the evening of September 18, Bragg concentrated the army near Chickamauga Creek; he thought that only part of the Union army was nearby but Rosecrans had concentrated his army faster than Bragg had expected. During September 19 at Chickamauga , both sides fed in reinforcements as the day progressed. Hood , on the left. Bragg considered a direct attack on the city too costly, and a lack of supplies and pontoons caused him to reject a plan to cross the river and break the Union supply line to Nashville. Instead he spread the Confederate army along the Tennessee River, cutting the Union railroad supply line into the city and reducing the amount of supplies the Union army could get into the city. Meanwhile, Hill, Buckner, and Longstreet, along with several division commanders, signed a petition to Davis, asking that Bragg be relieved of command. After Davis rejected the petition, Bragg made several changes to the command structure of the army. Polk was relieved of command and was charged with disobedience during the Chickamauga campaign and failure to attack when ordered; instead of being court martialed, Polk was transferred to Mississippi and Hardee took command of the First Corps. Hill was also relieved of command and replaced by John C. Breckinridge; both the Third Corps and Reserve Corps were merged into the other two corps, with Buckner and Walker demoted to division command. Grant , now in overall command of Union forces in the west under the newly created Military Division of the Mississippi , replaced Rosecrans in command with George H. Thomas; Grant had command of the combined Union forces. The final Union attack on the Confederate army started November 24, when Hooker captured Lookout Mountain and threatened the Confederate left flank. The next day, Sherman attacked the Confederate right flank on Missionary Ridge but was stalemated. To help Sherman and to draw Confederate units from the right, Grant ordered a demonstration against the Confederate center. This demonstration by Thomas turned into a full-fledged attack which broke through the Confederate line. Bragg retreated back into north Georgia, regrouping around Dalton. His request to be relieved was accepted on December 1. Hardee temporarily took command of the army, but refused an offer or permanent command. Instead Davis appointed Joseph Johnston to command the army in December Hood took command of the Second Corps, while Polk was transferred to the army in May with the Army of Mississippi, which was re-designated the Third Corps. Sherman , whose orders were to destroy the Army of Tennessee, with the capture of Atlanta as the secondary objective. Johnston, who felt the continued existence of his army was more important than protecting territory, tended to avoid battle with Sherman. During May and early June, Johnston took up several defensive positions but withdrew from each after Sherman outflanked each position. Polk was killed at Pine Mountain on June 14; he was temporarily replaced by W. Loring until July, when A. Stewart took command of the corps. Lee was reassigned from Mississippi to take command of the Second Corps. Beauregard, who had just been appointed

commander of the Military Division of the West. Hood started north at the end of September, capturing several Union railroad garrisons and destroying several miles of tracks. When Sherman followed the Confederates, Hood started moving west into Alabama instead of fighting in northern Georgia. By the end of October, Sherman decided to give up his pursuit of Hood and instead launched his March to the Sea. The army reached Tusculum on the Tennessee River but a lack of supplies and the need to repair the railroad to the city in order to accumulate supplies prevented the army from crossing the river until November. Hood tried to trap part of the Union army under John M. Schofield near Columbia but failed; he then tried to march past Schofield and reach Nashville first before any Union reinforcements reached the city. Hood caught up with Schofield at Franklin and ordered an immediate frontal assault, despite only having two of his three infantry corps present; he also ignored the advice of his subordinates to outflank the Union fortifications and avoid a head-on attack. During the resulting battle, Hood lost 7,000 men, almost a quarter of his strength, including six generals killed or mortally wounded, another six wounded, and one captured. He deployed the Confederate army along a range of hills and ridges south of the city in a line for a total of four miles and started digging entrenchments and redoubts. Since there was a total of 21,000 men present in the army, Hood was unable to completely surround the city; the Confederate left was four miles from the Cumberland River, while the right was one mile from the river. Thomas attacked again the next afternoon, using another feint against the Confederate right while launching another flanking attack against the Confederate left. Hood decided to abandon the state due to the poor state of the army. The army initially retreated to Corinth but since the railroad was too damaged to supply the army, Hood ordered a further retreat to Tupelo. Stewart commanded the army during this time, with William W. Johnston was given command of the Confederate forces in the region, which he dubbed the Army of the South. At this time, the Army of Tennessee was reduced to only 40,000 men and lacked many supplies, including weapons, artillery, and wagons, and suffered from desertion along the way east from Mississippi. Stewart drove back the left wing of the Union XIV Corps, capturing three cannons and several hundred prisoners, but the army became disorganized as a result and the attack had to be temporarily halted for the army to reform. During the three-week encampment around Smithfield, Johnston reorganized his force into a single army, adopting the name of the Army of Tennessee for the combined forces. Most of the regiments were consolidated into single units, while the infantry was divided into three corps commanded by Hardee, Stewart, and Lee; Hampton was given command of the cavalry corps, while Wheeler remained in command of the divisions formerly in his corps. The artillery was reorganized from sixteen batteries into seven batteries of four cannons each. When Sherman started after Johnston on April 10, Johnston retreated through Raleigh, North Carolina, abandoning the city on April 12 before continuing westward along the North Carolina Railroad to Hillsborough; he planned to surrender but thought that the Confederacy could get better terms if he negotiated from a position of strength. Johnston and Sherman met and negotiated terms of surrender on April 17 and 18 at the Bennett Place near Durham Station, North Carolina; Sherman not only accepted the surrender of the Army of Tennessee but promised to recognize the Confederate state governments. These terms were immediately rejected by the Union government, forcing Sherman and Johnston to negotiate a new agreement. The new terms of surrender, signed on April 26, were modeled on the terms given at Appomattox Court House and included not only the Army of Tennessee but also all other Confederate forces in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina; the number of Confederate troops included in the surrender totaled almost 90,000 men.

2: Army of the Tennessee - Wikipedia

Read the full-text online edition of Soldiering in the Army of Tennessee: A Portrait of Life in a Confederate Army ().

Confederate General Service Coat Button. CS 81B, 23 mm. CS 81 A, 23 mm. Excellent non dug example with an untouched patina. This variant has shorter letters. CS 81 B, 23 mm. Excellent non dug example of this iconic Confederate Button. This button has service wear and looks fantastic. Confederate General Service Kepi Button. CS 81 Bv, 13 mm. Untouched bronze patina on this very scarce button. Confederate General Service Coat Button on old card. This card came out of an old East Tennessee estate and originally had a Georgia and Virginia button attached on either side of the CSA. Both were sold before I had a chance to get this one with the card. Confederate Artillery Coat Button. CS A1, 23 mm. Fantastic button that shows service wear. CS , 23 mm. Blank back and obvious service wear. Untouched and loaded with gold plate. This one was purchased directly from a Middle Tennessee Family who claimed it was worn by one of their Confederate Ancestors. CS 1, 26 mm. Loaded with gold plate. CS 4, 25 mm. Beautiful button in flawless condition. Much more scarce than the CS 1. CS 7, 23 mm. All four in superb untouched condition with sharp details, straight shanks and gold plating. Originally purchased from a Texas Family whose ancestor had worn them on his coat. CS 26B, 22 mm. Flawless non dug example loaded with gold plating. This type is dug in the Western Theater and associated with the Army of Tennessee. CS 41, 22 mm. Eagle holding wreath surrounded by stars. Flawless non dug example. Very scarce to find this button non dug. CS 36, 24 mm. Confederate Army Staff Coat Button. Common non excavated button but in mint condition with mirror like gold. CS 5, 24 mm. High quality example with an untouched patina. CS 5, 18 mm. Confederate Infantry Coat Button. Non excavated example in perfect condition. These solid cast brass buttons were most likely produced at Tuscaloosa, AL. Non excavated example in perfect condition with light service wear an an untouched bronze patina. These were most likely produced in Richmond, VA. Rare Confederate Infantry Coat Button. Very nice condition with a pewter channel back. CS , 25 mm. Flawless non excavated button. CS A, 25 mm. Most excavated examples come from Carolina Coastal sites. CSI A1 Tice , 23 mm. Rare button in great non excavated condition other than a slight push. These have copper fronts and tinned iron backs. CSI B1, Tice 23 mm. Flawless non dug condition with brass back and ring of dots. Rarely encountered non excavated. CS A, 22 mm. Totally untouched with a beautiful patina. Untouched patina and a beautiful button despite slight push. Matching pair of Confederate Infantry Kepi Buttons. CS Av, 13 mm. Ideal for dressing up a Confederate Kepi, many of which are missing the buttons.

3: Army of Tennessee: Battleflags of the Army of Tennessee

Auto Suggestions are available once you type at least 3 letters. Use up arrow (for mozilla firefox browser alt+up arrow) and down arrow (for mozilla firefox browser alt+down arrow) to review and enter to select.

See Article History Alternative Titles: Although the army fought in numerous engagements, it won few victories. Historians have identified the string of defeats suffered by the Army of Tennessee as a primary cause of Confederate defeat in the war. Origins and early campaigns Although the Army of Tennessee would not receive its permanent title until November , for all intents and purposes its origin can be found with the formation of the Provisional Army of Tennessee, organized by Gov. Harris in the spring and early summer of . By July, however, that state force had been turned over to the Confederate government. Over the next several months the army would serve as the nucleus of a larger force that fought under a number of titles, including the Army of the West and the Army of Mississippi. Albert Sidney Johnston , was tasked with shielding the young Confederacy from invasion along the Tennessee - Kentucky border. However, after Union forces captured Fort Henry and Fort Donelson , the army was forced to abandon this line of defense and retreat before consolidating with other Confederate forces at Corinth , Mississippi. Library of Congress, Washington, D. Johnston, hoping to stave off further disaster in the Western Theatre, decided that he would launch a surprise attack against Gen. This attack ushered in the Battle of Shiloh April 6â€”7, , which initially went well for the Confederates. However, Johnston was killed in action a few hours into the battle, and his successor, Gen. Beauregard , soon ordered his forces to halt. Overnight, Grant was reinforced by another Union army commanded by Gen. Don Carlos Buell and quickly turned the tide on the Confederates the following day. Owing to conflicts with Confederate Pres. Jefferson Davis , Beauregard was replaced by Gen. Kirby-Smith in the invasion of Kentucky. Bragg attacked an isolated wing of the Union army and forced it to retreat. However, Bragg was unable or unwilling to maintain the initiative , and as the Federal force began to receive reinforcements he ordered his army to retreat back into Tennessee, above the protests of some of his lieutenants. Following this retreat the army was reorganized and joined by other Confederate forces in the region and renamed the Army of Tennessee. Bragg ordered the army to take up a defensive position at Murfreesboro , Tennessee, where it awaited the arrival of the Union Army of the Cumberland, commanded by Gen. The Battle of Stones River December 31, â€”January 2, began when Bragg struck at the approaching Federals, forcing their right flank to fall back. As at Perryville, Murfreesboro first appeared promising for the Confederates. The Confederate momentum could not be sustained, however, and by nightfall the two armies were eyeing each other from their trenches. Nevertheless, as the new year dawned, the Union lines remained. B Bragg, intent on retaking Chattanooga and hoping to crush the Union army, welcomed this battle. At Chickamauga, Bragg received many reinforcementsâ€”including two divisions from Gen. At Chickamauga the Army of Tennessee won its only major victory of the war. Nonetheless, determined resistance by Union troops under Gen. George Thomas allowed the rest of the northern army to safely retreat back to Chattanooga. The siege, however, was a failure, and the Union army was able to open an effective supply line and soon received reinforcements. Grant â€”recently appointed commander of all Federal forces in the Westâ€”took command at Chattanooga. Making matters even worse for the Confederates, northern forces in the city were reinforced by another army under Gen. The combined might of these forces was too much for the Army of Tennessee, and as a result of the Battle of Chattanooga November 23â€”25, , it was forced once again to retreat into north Georgia. Control of Chattanooga gave the Union control over an important rail centre. National Archives, Washington, D. The Atlanta Campaign The army settled into winter quarters at Dalton , where Bragg resigned his command and was replaced by Gen. During the winter of â€”64, Johnston, an officer very popular with the rank and file, went to great lengths to improve the poor morale that plagued the army, and when campaigning resumed in the spring, the Army of Tennessee was arguably the most confident it had ever been. Hood Hood, John B. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, Washington, D. While they were bold in their conception , these Confederate attacks were typically undermanned and poorly coordinated. As a result, Hood was forced to abandon the city on September 2. During the spring and summer of , the Northern populace, growing weary of

a series of military stalemates, was becoming increasingly hostile toward the administration of Pres. Abraham Lincoln and, in turn, the continuation of the war. Had Sherman not achieved a major victory at Atlanta, it is unlikely that Lincoln would have won the election of Northerners saw Union victory in Georgia as a sign that the war was being successfully conducted under Lincoln. Hoping to turn the tide of the war in the West by recapturing Nashville, he ordered the Army of Tennessee to invade the Volunteer State. John Schofield to deal with Hood. Knowing that his best chance of achieving victory was through attacking those Union forces before they could unite, Hood ordered his army into combat against Schofield—who was attempting to link up with Thomas in Nashville—at the Battle of Spring Hill November 29, Largely unsupported by artillery, the Confederate soldiers taking part in the charge were decimated. Although the Union lines were temporarily broken, Federal troops rallied and forced the Confederates back into their lines. Despite having sacrificed nearly a quarter of his army at Franklin, Hood continued his march toward Nashville. He placed the city under siege; however, given the depleted size of his army, he was not able to completely surround the city. The remnants of the Army of Tennessee retreated into Mississippi, where Hood resigned from command. From there the remains of the army were transferred to North Carolina, where they joined up with other scattered and broken rebel commands to form the Army of the South.

4: Soldiering in the Army of Tennessee

In Soldiering in the Army of Tennessee Larry Daniel has given us a fascinating and important book on the rank and file Confederates who fought those battles.

Grant and William Tecumseh Sherman. It should suffice to note that the "nucleus [of troops] around which was to gather the Army of the Tennessee" first took shape in 1861, while Grant was headquartered at Cairo, Illinois. It is not feasible to chronicle every such development here, even at the corps level. At any given time, substantial numbers of troops were engaged in activities not discussed here. Grant, then subordinate to Maj. Rawlins, later stated that "[f]rom this time Paducah promptly became a separate Union command under Brig. Smith, who soon occupied Smithland, Kentucky, at the junction of the Cumberland River and the Ohio. Grant, accompanied by Brig. McClernand, moved a force of approximately 3, to Belmont by water, cut his way into the Confederate camps there, and then had to fight his way back out to regain his transports. While Grant had suffered a repulse, he won favorable press coverage. Louis, to be replaced by Maj. Halleck, whose command was designated the Department of the Missouri. Smith 2nd, and Brig. On February 6, even before he could organize his force for attack, the fort surrendered to U. Navy Flag Officer Andrew H. Foote, commander of the Western Flotilla. Shiloh Union order of battle and Siege of Corinth Union order of battle On February 14, during the Donelson campaign, Grant was given command of the newly created District of West Tennessee; it appears that his troops soon came to be called the "Army of the Tennessee" more often than the "Army of West Tennessee. Halleck, then in command of the Department of the Missouri, assigned Grant to lead an expedition up the Tennessee River from the recently captured Fort Henry. On March 4, however, Halleck ordered Grant to give field command of the expedition to C. Hurlbut 4th Division, Brig. William Tecumseh Sherman 5th, and Brig. On the first day of the battle, the surprised and unentrenched army fought desperately and suffered many casualties. However, long-expected elements of the Army of the Ohio, under Maj. Don Carlos Buell, arrived to reinforce Grant late that day, with many more troops arriving overnight and the following day. Substantially reinforced by Buell and Wallace, Grant counterattacked the Confederate forces on April 7 and drove them from the field and back toward Corinth. Smith died later in April from complications due to his non-combat leg injury. Intending to move against the Confederate forces concentrating at the rail hub at Corinth, Halleck proceeded to gather and organize what was in effect an army group of over 100,000 men. On April 30, Halleck divided this force into three corps or "wings" and a reserve. The left wing was commanded by Pope, the center by Buell, the right wing by Maj. Thomas, and the reserve by John McClernand. This Siege of Corinth culminated with the Confederate forces abandoning the town on the night of May 29. Iuka order of battle and Second Corinth Union order of battle General Henry Wager Halleck In July, Lincoln summoned Henry Halleck to Washington to serve as general-in-chief; Halleck was not replaced as departmental commander, leading by September to the demise of the geographically broad Department of the Mississippi. Grant was nearby and coordinating with Rosecrans, but not on the field, for these two battles; Rosecrans fought Iuka with elements of his shrunken Army of the Mississippi, and Corinth with the addition of two divisions from the Army of the Tennessee. For illustrative purposes, the reported organization and strength of the Army of the Tennessee as of April 30, when it numbered approximately 100,000 in total, can be seen in the Official Records. Champion Hill Union order of battle and Vicksburg Union order of battle In the fall of 1862, Grant began organizing operations against Vicksburg, Mississippi, a Confederate strong point on the east bank of the Mississippi River under the command of Lt. After capturing and briefly occupying Jackson, Mississippi, on May 14, and winning the Battle of Champion Hill on May 16, Grant failed in initial assaults against the Confederate entrenchments at Vicksburg on May 19 and 22 and then settled in for siege operations rather than incur additional casualties. It opened the Mississippi River for the Union and cut the Confederacy in half. And the army itself would shift its operations eastward, closing the chapter of riverine operations on the Cumberland, the Tennessee, and the Mississippi and beginning a series of epic marches. In addition, after Vicksburg, the Army of the Tennessee would ebb in size and usually operated in tandem with other forces, principally the Army of the Cumberland. Chattanooga-Ringgold Campaign Union order of battle After

taking Vicksburg, the Army of the Tennessee "lay, as it were, idle for a time. To set the stage: To address this crisis, Washington elevated Grant, the celebrated victor of Vicksburg, to command of the newly created and geographically broad Military Division of the Mississippi and ordered him to travel to Chattanooga, assume command of all forces there, and defeat Bragg. The War Department gave Grant his choice between continuing Rosecrans as commander of the Army of the Cumberland or elevating corps commander George Thomas to head that army; Grant chose Thomas. Joseph Hooker ; and 17, men from the Army of the Tennessee. On this occasion, then, the Army of the Tennessee ended up playing second fiddle to the Army of the Cumberland. Hurlbut led the left column, and McPherson, the right. He could wage successful war without having to slaughter thousand of soldiers in the process. It fell to Sherman to lead this invasion in the Atlanta Campaign, with the Army of the Tennessee serving as his "whiplash. In March , Lincoln promoted Ulysses S. Grant to the new rank of Lieutenant general and gave him command of all Union armies; to fulfill that role, Grant relocated to the Eastern Theater and maintained his headquarters thereafter in the field with the Army of the Potomac. Johnston and later by Lt. As Sherman began his move southward, Johnston was entrenched at Dalton, Georgia. When that failed, Sherman swung McPherson from the left around to the right in order to resume his southward progress. McPherson himself was killed, and command temporarily passed to Maj. Logan, his senior corps commander. With all his rail communications finally severed, Hood evacuated Atlanta during the night of September 1â€™2. Thereafter, Johnston slipped away to the northwest, and Sherman rendezvoused near Goldsboro with forces Grant had ordered east from Tennessee under John Schofield. Sherman entered Raleigh on April 13, and Johnston promptly opened what became prolonged and politically sensitive surrender discussions. Membership in the Society was restricted to officers who had served with the Army of the Tennessee. The Society erected in Washington, D. McPherson, at Clyde, Ohio.

5: Journal Of The Army Of Tennessee (Battle Of Nashville)

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Heavy rains in the last forty-eight hours. In obedience to a general order from these headquarters, all military duties except those that are absolutely necessary will be suspended, this day having been set apart by the President as a day of fasting and prayer. Nothing of importance has transpired to-day. General Beauregard moved his headquarters from Tuscumbia to Montgomery, Ala. General Stewart has been ordered to cross the Tennessee River with his corps tomorrow. The whole army will move at an early hour to-morrow. Army headquarters moved at 10 a. The army occupied the same position as designated yesterday. The enemy abandoned Columbia last night and our troops took possession at daylight this morning. The command then went into camp near Spring Hill. Skirmishing was going on, however, till 3 a. Army headquarters for the night just across Harpeth River from Franklin. See confidential circular of December 2, Army headquarters at Mr. Army headquarters remained at Mr. The skirmish line was advanced on some portions of the line. The cavalry, under Chalmers, captured two transports seven miles below Nashville, on Cumberland River, and some mules. Our line remains pretty much the same. General Bate, with the force under his command, was also directed to report to General Forrest. Circular issued to-day to corps commanders for information of the army announcing the capture of "the block-house and fort at La Vergne, with commissary stores, prisoners, 2 pieces of artillery, small-arms and ammunition, 20 wagons, and some teams by General Forrest, and that General Bate had burned three block-houses. See telegrams and letter book, office assistant adjutant-general. Our lines around Nashville about the same, perhaps with slight alteration by corps commanders, under revision of General Hood. The enemy reported very strongly fortified there, and with 6, or 8, troops in his forts. It is not yet determined whether an assault will be made by our forces. Captain Reid, commanding at Corinth, Miss. Scouts from the vicinity of Memphis report that Steele, with 15, men, landed at that point on last Thursday and passed up the river Saturday. News of our forces in neighborhood of Murfreesborough being driven back by the enemy received to-night. See dispatch to General Forrest, field dispatch book. General Forrest was ordered to drive the enemy back to Murfreesborough, and then give him an opportunity to leave the town in the direction of Lebanon, if he chose. Circular issued to corps commanders directing the construction of self-supporting detached works--General Stewart to select all good points in rear of his left; General Cheatham, all good points in rear of his right; and General Lee, all good points in rear both of his right and left flanks, for the construction of these works. General Hood telegraphed to General Beauregard "for all available cavalry to be sent to this army as soon as Sherman completes his raid. The army camped all along the pike from Brentwood to and including Franklin. Army headquarters at Mrs. General Forrest was advised through a staff officer Captain Cooper of the retreat of the army, and directed to make disposition of his troops for protecting it. Lieutenant-General Lee slightly wounded. The army camped between Franklin and Spring Hill in the order of march. Army headquarters at Spring Hill. The army, and such trains and artillery as were not crossed over yesterday, occupied the day in crossing Duck River--Lee first, Cheatham next, and then Stewart. The march was resumed on the Pulaski pike--Lee in front Stevenson commanding, Cheatham next, and General Stewart in rear. The wagon train ordered to move at daylight toward Bainbridge, by the Powell road. General Cheatham not yet come into the main road from the Powell road. The pontoon was being laid across the river as rapidly as the arrival of the boats would allow. December 26 to January 2, inclusive. On the 28th the pontoon was withdrawn. The march was resumed, upon striking the Memphis and Charleston railroad, immediately down the road, in the order of crossing the river, to Burnsville, Miss. Army headquarters were at Tuscumbia from the 26th to the 28th of December, inclusive. On the 29th General Hood, with Colonel Mason and his personal staff, remained during the day at the terminus of the railroad near Tuscumbia, awaiting the train, which did not arrive until late at night. He reached Burnsville on the evening of the 30th, remained there until the morning of the 2d of January, and from thence came by cars to Corinth. All stores reported moved

away from Corinth to Tupelo. See General Orders, No.

6: Civil War | Tennessee Secretary of State

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Civil War Randal Rust T Written by Larry H. Whiteaker 9 minutes to read In , as the nation divided, so did Tennessee. West Tennesseans, led by Governor Isham G. Harris, overwhelmingly wished connection with the Confederacy, while in East Tennessee most residents remained fervidly loyal to the Union. In Governor Harris summoned the legislature into a special session to consider secession. At this point the secession fever that had gripped the Deep South remained much more muted in Tennessee and the other border states. By a vote of 69, to 58., a majority of Tennesseans rejected the call for a secession convention, with West Tennessee supporting the convention, East Tennessee rejecting it overwhelmingly, and Middle Tennessee almost equally divided. Secessionists continued to agitate, and Franklin Countians even threatened to secede from the state and join Alabama. Even many of those who had been staunch Unionists in February could not abide the use of force against fellow Southerners. Others, however, seeing the swelling secession tide, began to contemplate taking their countiesâ€”or even all of East Tennesseeâ€”out of the state in order to remain part of the Union. To validate their actions, the legislators called another referendum for June 8. On that date, approximately , Tennesseans voted for secession, while only 47, voted against, but East Tennesseans voted more than two-to-one 33, to 14, to stay with the Union, indicating an enormous anti-secession and anti-Confederacy pocket east of the Cumberland Plateau. Even as the state proceeded to join the Confederacy, Scott County announced that it was declaring independence from the state, and delegates from several East Tennessee counties met in Greeneville to draw up a petition to the legislature to allow East Tennessee to form a separate state. For Confederates the summer and autumn of was a time of celebration and optimism. Young men rushed to join the army units forming in their counties and towns. The soldiers elected their company officers and after being feted and cheered by their neighbors and families set off to Confederate training camps such as Camp Trousdale in Sumner County. For Union sympathizers the same months brought harassment from local Confederates, arrests, and violence. Many Unionist men fled the state to Kentucky and other points north, where hundreds enlisted in the armies forming to invade the South. Ultimately, some 31, Tennesseans joined the Federal forces, more soldiers than all the other Confederate states together provided to the Union side. Governor Harris had already ordered the construction of forts to guard the Mississippi River, but Johnston saw the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers as more likely routes for Union troops. Johnston accelerated work on Fort Henry on the Tennessee and Fort Donelson on the Cumberland and built a defensive front that ran from the Cumberland Gap in the east along a rather ill-defined line through southern Kentucky to Bowling Green and on to Columbus, Kentucky, on the Mississippi River. Johnston himself took up headquarters in Bowling Green. There a Union army commanded by General George H. Thomas compelled the Confederates to abandon their eastern defenses and retreat into Middle Tennessee. To the west, a combined Union army and navy force under General Ulysses S. Poorly designed and unfinished, the fort quickly fell after a barrage of cannon shells by the Union gunboats on February 6. Grant then marched his army overland to Fort Donelson, twelve miles to the east, and laid siege to it as gunboats came up the Cumberland to attack the fort from the other side. On February 16, after a vigorous, but confused, defense of the fort, the Confederates surrendered the fort and some 13, soldiers. In less than two weeks, the Confederate defensive line had collapsed, the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers were under Union control, and Nashville lay at the mercy of the Union armies. On February 23 Union troops entered Nashville, making it the first Confederate state capital to fall. Having retreated from Bowling Green to Murfreesboro, General Johnston and what was left of his army continued southward to Corinth, Mississippi. There Johnston and his second-in-command, General P. Beauregard, reorganized and called upon fellow Confederates for reinforcements and supplies. Hoping to surprise the overly complacent foe, Johnston and Beauregard decided to march back into Tennessee and strike before the two Union armies combined. At the end of the day, Confederates had driven the Federals almost into the Tennessee River, but among the many dead was Johnston himself. The Shiloh victory not only

solidified the Union hold on Middle Tennessee but made Confederate control of West Tennessee extremely tenuous. On June 6, after defeating the Confederate fleet protecting the city, Union forces took Memphis, forcing Governor Harris and state officials to flee once again. Regrouping in the spring and summer, Confederates in Mississippi created the Army of Tennessee and placed General Braxton Bragg in command. Bragg and the East Tennessee commander, Kirby Smith, decided to launch a northern campaign by their two armies which, if successful, would regain Tennessee and bring Kentucky into the Confederacy. After the battle of Perryville in October, the Kentucky campaign ended in failure. Having been unable to elicit much support from Kentuckians, Bragg retreated into East Tennessee and then moved westward to Murfreesboro. Union forces, now under General William Rosecrans, consolidated at Nashville. Meanwhile, the Union Army of the Cumberland under the command of Rosecrans left Nashville to engage the Army of Tennessee to the southeast. After a lull on January 1 the battle resumed the next day, ending with the repulsion of the Confederate attack. Unable to achieve a victory, Bragg abandoned Murfreesboro and retreated toward Tullahoma to winter quarters. In June Rosecrans resumed his campaign against the Army of Tennessee. In a series of flanking maneuvers, his Union army forced Bragg to abandon Tullahoma and retreat toward Chattanooga. By July 7 Bragg had entered the city itself, leaving most of Middle Tennessee under Union occupation. On September 8 the outflanked Army of Tennessee evacuated Chattanooga and pulled back into northern Georgia. Only valiant resistance from the troops commanded by George H. Thomas kept this from being a Union disaster. With the Union army once more in Chattanooga, Bragg decided that the best plan was to seal the city off and starve it into submission. By early October soldiers and civilians alike in Chattanooga were suffering from food shortages. To avoid disaster, President Lincoln named Ulysses S. Grant the overall commander in the region. Acting swiftly, Grant sent reinforcements to the beleaguered city and forced open a new supply line. When he arrived in Chattanooga, he laid plans to assault the Confederates occupying Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain. Meanwhile, Bragg quarreled with his generals and weakened his position even more by sending Longstreet and about one-third of the army on an expedition to retake Knoxville. The Confederates soon withdrew to Russellville and made winter headquarters; the following spring they returned to Virginia. All of Tennessee was technically under Union control. In the main action in the western theater shifted to Georgia, but violence in Tennessee became more widespread. Dozens of Confederate guerrilla bands, which had arisen earlier in West and Middle Tennessee to belabor Union patrols and harass Unionist civilians, continued to operate. Forrest and other Confederate cavalry commanders attacked Union garrisons, disrupted railroad operations, destroyed or confiscated supplies, and took hundreds of prisoners. Civilian woes also continued to increase. In many counties government collapsed, and institutions such as churches and schools ceased operations. As law and order declined, outlaw bands formed and terrorized communities, stealing livestock and food, burning houses, and murdering their owners. With ordinary commerce disrupted, commodities such as flour, sugar, salt, and coffee became so difficult to obtain that people searched for substitutes. Honey and sorghum molasses replaced sugar, while ground-up okra seeds and dried sassafras made do for coffee. In Nashville and Memphis authorities had to cope with an influx of new residents, including numerous prostitutes, thieves, and gamblers. Andrew Johnson, former U. To suppress Confederate support, Johnson ultimately locked up the mayor and city council, closed four newspapers, and shut down the presses of the Methodist and Baptist churches. A major impact of the Union occupation of the state was the de facto end of slavery. Thousands of blacks fled plantations and farms and made for the Union army camps. In August General Grant ordered the building of camps for the refugees, known as contraband camps, and by Clarksville, Pulaski, Hendersonville, and several other Tennessee cities had facilities where fugitives from slavery received shelter, army rations, clothing, medicines, and jobs. In Nashville some 2, black laborers, for example, helped build Fort Negley and other facilities to protect the city. Thousands more worked on similar projects around Memphis. In those who wished to fight for the Union were allowed to enlist in the army and navy. Of the , African Americans who fought for the United States in the war, some 20, came from Tennessee. In September General William T. At Spring Hill, the Confederates almost trapped their enemy before miscommunications among the Confederate commanders allowed Schofield to escape to Franklin. In the battle of Franklin on November 30 the Army of Tennessee suffered some 6, casualties including 12

generals six killed and 54 regimental commanders. On the following day, Thomas resumed his attack, and the out-manned Confederates finally broke and retreated. The remnants of the once-proud Army of Tennessee did not stop until they had reached Mississippi. Although sporadic cavalry raids and guerrilla attacks would continue until the spring of , for all meaningful purposes the war had ended in Tennessee. The war left much of Middle Tennessee in ruins, with the other two sections bearing deep scars as well, but it also brought enormous changes. Many Tennessee women, for example, had assumed new roles during the war, running plantations and farms, managing businesses, serving as nurses, and spying on the enemy. Economically, it would take the state years to achieve the level of prosperity that it had enjoyed before the war. Tennessee sent over , soldiers to fight for the Confederacy and over 31, to aid the Union and had had more battles fought within its borders than any other state except Virginia. Civilian violence had taken a heavy toll as well. Families across the state had lost husbands, fathers, and sons. Nothing before and nothing afterwards would have such an impact on the state as did the Civil War. Suggested Reading Stephen V. Ash, Middle Tennessee Society Transformed, Connelly, Army of the Heartland: Battles and Leaders ; James M. McPherson, Battle Cry of Freedom: Article Title Civil War.

7: Civil War | Tennessee Encyclopedia

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9: Army of Tennessee - Wikipedia

Army of Tennessee, primary Confederate army of the Western Theatre during the American Civil War (). Although the army fought in numerous engagements, it won few victories. Although the army fought in numerous engagements, it won few victories.

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