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Battle Cry

Founded 1961,
Newsletter of the Sacramento Civil War Round Table
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President's Message

Greetings One and All,

October is the most beautiful month, yes? Children are back in school, releasing us to travel with fewer gaggles of kids underfoot. Gardens forgive us our lack of attention. Rain washes summer's franticness away and allows us to take a day and curl up with a book, guilt free. A month for grown-ups. October always seems golden and mellow and settled. Ahhh.

This month we are favored with Tad Smith for another of his scholarly presentations. "The Coins and Currency of the Confederacy" is the engaging topic. I've always wondered why money has so many nicknames: cash, bucks, scratch, bread, dough, and my favorite...moolah... besides a host of others. All nationalities do this, for instance, *dosh* in England, *swag* in Australia, and *klover* (clover) in Sweden. Perhaps this name dodging arises from the admonishments of grandparents when we were children: Money is a taboo topic. Aren't we lucky that October is the month for grown-ups, and we have this opportunity to discuss money as it pertains to the Confederacy?

October of 1864 had John Bell Hood and William T. Sherman mixing it up in Georgia, Grant and Lee bogged down with the Siege of Petersburg, and Phil Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley making his famous ride of his steed, Rienzi, which prompted the famous poem, "Sheridan's Ride," by Thomas Read. (By the way, the ride was one of the three most painted and reproduced images of the Civil War before the turn of the 19th century. The other two were the Battle of Gettysburg and the naval duel between the *Monitor* and the *Virginia*.) Sheridan's image was used to sell anything from plows to land. A different form of currency, yes? However, history tends to emphasize different aspects of itself according to the fashion of the time. The "Lost Cause" historians have relegated Sheridan's Union successes in the Shenandoah Valley to "the Burning." This refers, of course, to the scorched earth policy of Grant's. He ordered "that nothing should be left to invite the enemy to return. Take all provisions, forage, and stock wanted for the use of your command. Such as cannot be consumed, destroy." Grant's armies became as ruthless off the battlefield as Lee's were on.

A lighter note. I have it on good authority that we no longer need donations for our West Coast Conference raffle. Please keep your goodies for our monthly meetings.

I hope all of you are registered and good to go for the Conference. Since it's local, I have been able to encourage friends who may not be able to attend the whole conference, to at least attend part.

See you all on October 8th!

Anne Peasley, President

MINUTES
SACRAMENTO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE
Wednesday, September 10, 2014
HOF BRAU RESTAURANT, 2500 WATT AVENUE, SACRAMENTO

ATTENDANCE -27

MEMBERS – 20: Anne M. Peasley, President; Donald J. Hayden, Vice President; George W. Foxworth, Treasurer; George D. Beitzel, Joan M. Beitzel, Alice C. Corley, Monica S. Foxworth, John W. Greer, Robert E. Hanley, IPP; Scottie Hayden, Nina L. Henley, MAL; Wayne Henley, MAL; James Juanitas, Dennis Kohlmann, Arnold Kunst, Rick A. Peasley, Nancy B. Samuelson, Nicholas Scivoletto, Robert A. Williams, Silver N. Williams, Program Director

GUESTS – 7: , Chris Highsmith, Rebecca Highsmith, Jim Neff, Shoko Neff, Milo Turaylich, John Uhas, Don Zajic

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:58 PM by President Anne Peasley.
2. Rick Peasley led the gathering in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. President Peasley introduced visitors.
4. President Peasley thanked members for their continued Conference raffle donations. Dennis Kohlmann showed the quilt (Civil War reproduction) that his wife (Garda) has prepared for the Conference raffle.
5. President Peasley introduced the speaker, Dennis Kohlmann. His topic was “The Blockade.”
6. The Blockade was poorly understood. While the coasts were 3,500 miles long, only a small part such as ports had to be covered. It was the merchant smugglers against the United States Navy. There were 51,500 sailors on blockade duty during the War.
7. The blockade offshore destinations were The Bahamas, Bermuda, Cuba, and Halifax, Canada. From these locations, the runs were made into the United States. Normally, the Bermuda runs went to Wilmington, North Carolina; and the Cuba runs went to the Gulf of Mexico.
7. There was no combat action. The blockade runners were unarmed and the Navy tried to capture them for rewards.
8. While 80% of the attempted runs through the blockade were successful, the blockade running ships were smaller than the merchant ships before the blockade. The United States Army played a major role by capturing forts and thus closing the ports. Fort Fisher in North Carolina was captured in January 1865 which closed the last port in Wilmington.
9. President Peasley thanked Dennis with words and Silver thanked him with wine. Dennis provided all present with an outstanding presentation.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM. President Peasley conducted the monthly raffle.
11. The next board meeting will be on Wednesday, October 8, 2014, at 10 AM at Brookfield’s Restaurant. Come one, come all!

George W. Foxworth, Acting for Secretary Paul Ruud

Treasurer’s Report

The cash balance following the September 10, 2014 meeting was \$4,458.71. Thanks to Anne M. Peasley, other members, and guests, the raffle brought in \$54.00.

George W. Foxworth, Treasurer

Coming Programs for 2014 and 2015		
Date	Speaker	Topic
October 8th	Tad Smith	"The Coins and Currency of the Confederacy"
November 12th	H. James Harper	"Abraham Lincoln"
December 10th	Tim & Ginny Karlberg	"Captain John Groetsch"
January 14 th	Erin McCabe	"Women Who Fought in the Civil War"
February 11th	Donald J. Hayden	"Oliver Wendell Holmes, Father and Son"
March 11th	George Beitzel	"Flight To Oblivion"
April 8th	Richard Sickert	To Be Determined
May 13th	Paul Ruud	To Be Determined
June 10th	Nancy Samuelson	"Nathan Bedford Forrest"
July 8th	Joe Maxwell	George Armstrong Custer, Part II
August 12th	Bob Hubbs	To Be Determined
September 9th	Fred Bohmfalk	"A Personal Look at the Lives of Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan"

NEWSLETTER CIVIL WAR ARTICLES

Civil War articles/book reviews are welcome. The submission deadline is the 1st of each month for that month's Battle Cry. Submit your items in Microsoft Word or regular email to:

gwfoxworth@sbcglobal.net

The Battle Cry is the monthly newsletter of the Sacramento CWRT. Submissions are subject to availability of space and size limitations. Submissions do not necessarily reflect the views of the organization or the Editor. The official address of this organization is: Sacramento Civil War Round Table, Post Office Box 254702, Sacramento, CA 95865-4702. <http://www.sacramentocwrt.org> is the web site address. Check the web for past newsletter editions and information about the group.



2014 West Coast Civil War Conference
Sponsored by Sacramento Civil War Round Table

1864

November 7 - 9, 2014, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Sacramento

Our Speakers are:

Craig L. Symonds: Joined the United States Naval Academy faculty in 1976. He served as Chairman of the History Department in 1988-1992 and was appointed Professor Emeritus on his retirement.

Harold Holzer: Is a leading national authority on Abraham Lincoln and the political culture of the Civil War. A writer, lecturer, frequent television guest, and Chairman of The Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation.

Thomas Cartwright: Is a leading authority and author on the Battle of Franklin who conducted tours of Western Theater battlefields for 20 years. Appeared on many TV shows and is a frequent CWRT speaker.

Jim Stanbery: Professor of Political Science and History at Los Angeles Harbor College, and speaker at the West Coast Civil War Conference for more than twenty years.

Theodore Savas: Is an attorney, adjunct college instructor, award-winning author, Partner and Managing Director of Savas Beatie LLC. He specializes in military history and the American Civil War.

Ron Perisho: A member of the Sacramento CWRT, Secretary-Treasurer of the Center for Civil War Photography (CCWP), and a Soils and Foundation Engineer specializing in repair of distressed structures.

The Conference cost is \$195 per person which includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and dinner, as well as all sessions. A full breakfast buffet is included for guests staying at the hotel.

Partial day attendance: Friday only \$50, Saturday only \$95, Saturday dinner only \$50, Sunday only \$50. There will be a no-host bar set-up Friday and Saturday evenings for your enjoyment before dinner.

For more information, contact Paul Ruud at 530-886-8806 or by contacting www.sacramentocwrt.com where information and registration forms will be available.

Room reservations are available by calling Crowne Plaza directly 877-270-1393 or www.crowneplaza.com Crowne Plaza Hotel has rooms set aside for us at \$99 per night, plus tax. Please mention the Conference.

Please print this page, fill it out, and return the form with your check for your registration. Make checks payable to: **Sacramento CWRT** and mail to: George W. Foxworth, 9463 Salishan Court, Sacramento, CA 95826-5233.

Name / Organization as you want it on your badge

Organization: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Day phone: _____ Other phone _____

Email: _____



Atlanta to Savannah

Sherman's March to the Sea

15 Nov. – 21 Dec. 1864

The genesis of Sherman's thinking regarding a march to the sea is not precisely known, but there is some indication that it occurred early-on. According to a staff member who asked him somewhat jokingly while at Chattanooga what his plans were after he took Atlanta, his response was; "Salt Water." Five months later Sherman rode into downtown Atlanta. CSA General Hood left town 1 Sept. with a "bang" after blowing up his own 80 car ordinance and ammunition trains, four engines, and the adjacent Rolling Mill and Depot. (Had Hood withdrawn 36 hours earlier, before the last RR was cut, he could have saved the trains but he didn't think in such terms.) Ten weeks later, Sherman, on 15 Nov. 1864 also departed Atlanta, heading east to a then undisclosed location.

Events during this two and one-half month interlude were many. Sherman ordered Chief Engineer Orlando Poe to develop a compact defense system to protect the heart of the City only (3 miles in perimeter, versus an earlier 12 mile system) which would require a minimum garrison, by leaving out much of the residential area. Many houses would thereby have to be destroyed to provide lines of fire. He also issued a controversial order to depopulate the city, but rigorous enforcement was not needed due to the large voluntary exodus.

In a reply to one of his many detractors, the Atlanta mayor, Sherman wrote, "You cannot quantify war in harsher terms than I will. War is cruelty and you cannot refine it; and those who brought war into our country deserve all the curses and maledictions a people can pour out. I had no hand in making this War, and I know I will make more sacrifice today than any of you to secure peace. But you cannot have peace and a division too. If the United States submits to a division now, it will not stop until we reap the fate of Mexico which is eternal war."

Sherman accumulated a large supply reserve via the W&A Railroad then made plans for removing the rails and burning the bridges back to the Etowah River. Rails were to be stored at Dalton. The railroad, which was the Federals only supply line to Atlanta, had been attacked many times by the

Rebels during this interim period after the capture of Atlanta, each time being unsuccessful, but Sherman estimated that to keep the road open would cost the Union an excessive casualty rate. He had been planning to leave Atlanta all along and had never really intended to permanently garrison the City.

Writing to Grant on Oct. 9, Sherman said, "I propose we break up the railroad from Chattanooga, and strike out with wagons to Milledgeville, Millen, and Savannah. Until we can repopulate Georgia, it is useless to occupy it, but the utter destruction of its roads, houses, and people will cripple their military resources. By attempting to hold the railroad we will lose 1,000 men monthly, and will gain no result, I can make the march and make Georgia howl." After further correspondence, he obtained approval (with some reservation) from Grant and Lincoln for the march, and his planning continued.

Generals Thomas and Schofield with their armies were ordered back to their headquarters (with the exception of XX Corps) at Nashville and Knoxville, respectively. For good measure, he later sent General Schofield and the Army of the Ohio to join Thomas' Army of the Cumberland. This would ensure the destruction of Hood. Then, Sherman sent all disabled troops and numerous baggage trains, tents, and other equipment to the rear. For the march, he created a veteran army of 62,000 men; made up largely from his old Army of the Tennessee. He brought 600 ambulances, 20 days rations, five days forage, 5,000 head of beef cattle and minimal personal luggage. There would be no supply train. Sherman gave Hood two equally bad options: follow him to the sea and risk battle against a superior force, or fight Thomas in heavily fortified positions in Tennessee.

On Nov. 14, the majority of the army stepped out, marching briskly to the "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Never in history, had so large an army divided itself in the midst of battle, nor had one section of that army marched directly into enemy territory without a supply train or communication line to a home base.

General Sherman, his Chief Engineer, and a single Corps, stayed back to oversee the destruction of all crucial military installations in Atlanta that might be of some use to the Confederacy. They burned arsenals, the armory, the railroad roundhouse, train-car shed, warehouses, machine shops, a laboratory and other industrial and

business facilities, and every species of machinery that was not destroyed by fire was broken up and made worthless in original form.

After sending all of the rolling stock north they then removed the railroad rails and burned all bridges on the W&A RR back to Dalton. This burning of Atlanta, coupled with the earlier evacuation order, left their terrible mark on the horrified citizens of Georgia as Sherman set out to "make the state howl." Outlandish charges have been made against Sherman for his action. That one-third of the City which possessed military targets was deliberately razed is indeed true; but the remainder of any complaint, then or now is Lost Cause fiction. (An interesting Barnard picture highlights the point, the Feds burned a Bank building, but they left the Billiards Parlor-Pool Hall next door intact!)

Sherman's well equipped force of 55,000 Infantry, 5,000 Cavalry, and 2,000 Artillerymen (64 guns) was organized into two wings. The Right Wing under O. O. Howard consisted of Osterhaus' XV Corps and Blaire's XVII Corps. The Left Wing under Slocum was composed of J.C. Davis' XIV Corps and A.S. Williams' XX Corps. The Cavalry which did most of the limited fighting was Judson ("Kill Cavalry") Kilpatrick's Division. The only rebel forces in the area to stop Sherman were Hood's 13,000 troops centered on Lovejoy, but Hood with Davis' blessing decided to move North into Tennessee and everyone now knows what happened to him then. Sherman's new opponent in Georgia was P.G.T. Beauregard, and Sherman was familiar with his thinking from West Point and ultimately outguessed him. Hardee now also commanded limited rebel forces in eastern Georgia.

The two wings marched out of Atlanta, 50 to 60 miles apart, feinting assaults toward Macon on the south, and Augusta on the north. This flexibility kept Generals Hardee and Beauregard of the Confederate command totally confused. They were outmanned to be sure; but, they could never mount any defensive posture that could halt Sherman. After Sherman's initial moves, Beauregard rushed to have Macon covered first, and then Augusta; but Sherman moved too quickly for the rebel generals, as he swung his Wings into the center and converged up on the Georgia State Capitol then at Milledgeville, his original target.

A few days prior to his arrival in the capitol city on 23 Nov. the legislature had passed a

resolution calling on citizenry to "...die as freemen rather than live as slaves," but then they and Governor Brown left town in a hurry. Sherman spent the night in the Governor's mansion; but slept in his bedroll on the floor since the Governor had taken all of the furniture. The next day the younger members of his staff held a mock session of the legislature at the capitol building and voted Georgia back into the Union. Sherman occupied Milledgeville but briefly before moving on. He swung his cavalry from right to left, to the outskirts of Augusta, reined them in, and separated his two flanks again. He used the left wing to destroy 100 miles of the Central Georgia Railroad, and then converged on Millen, Georgia. These rapid maneuvers and the continuous rampage completely confused and terrified the enemy.

However, the soldiers were not merely marching. They were living quite handsomely off the land. Each brigade sent a foraging party of 50 to 100 men, "Sherman's bummers" as they became known, off every morning to pick the countryside clean. They gathered food of all sorts; the harvest was sitting freshly picked in bins at every farm; they took horses, cattle, and supplies in addition. Wealthy plantations were picked clean; poor farmers were left virtually untouched, a Robin Hood principle of sorts. Any town that showed resistance, faced retribution; large plantations were burned, as were cotton gins, powder factories and other mills. It is estimated that some 90,000 bales of cotton were destroyed.

Despite rumors to the contrary, the foraging process was tightly controlled. The wholesale appropriation of supplies was the policy, and it shocked the population, who felt the hard hand of war directly. On the issue of random burnings, rapes, or robbery, Union officers were empowered to prosecute any offenders to the limit, and generally did. That there were incidents of burnings and personal acts of violence is undeniable, but the army's treatment of people in Georgia was remarkably civil.

During the march from Atlanta the Union army destroyed some 320 miles of railroad track, and put the South's only east-west rail systems entirely out of commission. Sherman and his engineering units (He often traveled with the engineers) always left their signature when they had finished with a particular area. His men had developed an ingenious method of lifting, heating,

and melting the iron rails over a fire of the wooden ties, and then wrapping them around trees to cool. A bent rail could be straightened in the field and reused, but a twisted rail was useless. The results were called “Sherman neckties”.

The Federal forces reached the outskirts of Savannah (1864 population about 24,000) on 10 [Dec.](#) but found that Hardee had entrenched 10,000 men in good positions, and had flooded the surrounding rice fields, leaving only narrow causeways available to approach the city. Sherman was blocked from linking up with the [U.S. Navy](#) as he had planned, so he dispatched cavalry 12 miles south to Fort McAllister, guarding the [Ogeechee River](#), in hopes of unblocking his route and obtaining supplies awaiting him on the navy ships. On 13 [Dec.](#), W. B. Hazen's division of Howard's Wing stormed the Fort and captured it within 15 minutes. Many of the 134 Union casualties were caused by torpedoes, a name for crude [land mines](#) used during the Civil War. (Such mines are today called IED's, Improvised Explosive Devices. After the war General Henry Slocum wrote: “Planting torpedoes for the defense of a position is legitimate warfare, but the act of planting them in a highway where no contest was anticipated is something like poisoning a stream of water; it is not recognized as fair or legitimate warfare.” (*Tell it to the Islamic Extremists.*)) Rebel casualties were 48. Sherman made the Fort's POW's locate, dig up and disarm the mines. No further casualties were reported.

Now that Sherman had connected to the Navy's South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, then under RAdm. [John Dahlgren](#), he was able to obtain the supplies and siege artillery required to invest Savannah. He sent a message on 17 Dec. to Hardee demanding surrender. Hardee decided not to surrender, but to escape. On 20 [Dec.](#), the rebels crossed the [Savannah River](#) on a pontoon bridge hastily constructed of rice flats. Sherman's forces, led by Geary's division of XX Corps occupied Savannah the next day. Hardee, the fine general that he was, made a wise decision for he prevented war damage from occurring to one of the most beautiful cities of the country.

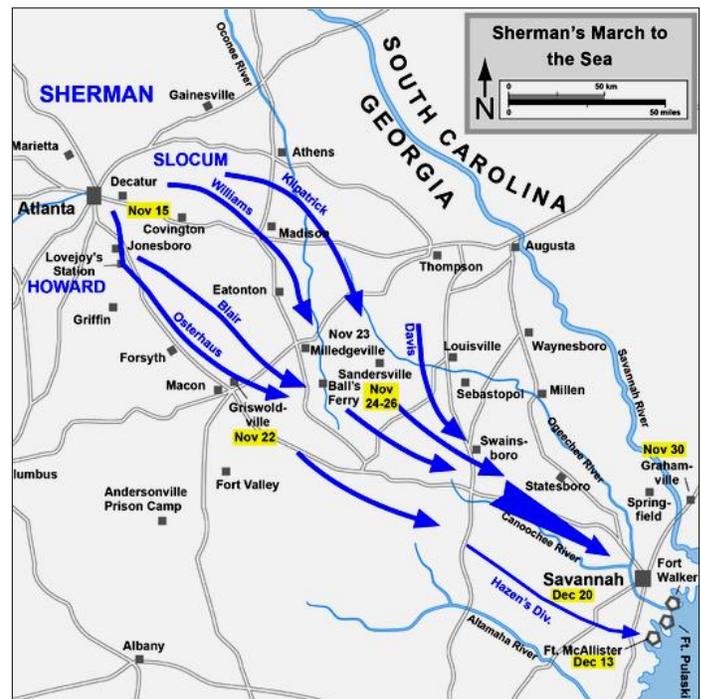
Sherman telegraphed to President Lincoln, "I beg to present you as a [Christmas](#) gift the City of Savannah, with one hundred and fifty guns and plenty of ammunition, also about 25,000 bales of cotton." Sherman's march to the sea brought the Civil War home to Southern civilians.

Few became casualties, but many lost property and were [demoralized](#). In Virginia, desertions in R. E. Lee's army increased. Sherman's psychological warfare of destruction had a major effect on the outcome of the war. It also made Sherman a mean [brute](#) to many Southerners, but he became a hero to Union supporters. By the present century the purpose for the march may be largely forgotten, but Sherman's methods still remain the subject of oftentimes spirited discussion.

References:

“The March to the Sea and Beyond”, by J. T. Glatthaar, 1985: “The Longest Night” by D. J. Eicher, 2001; “Sherman's March” by D. Nevin.1986: “Official Records” S1V44Sr92; “Battles and Leaders” V4 Pt1&2

Bob Williams: 5-15-07, rev. 7-26-14



Atlanta to Savannah, Sherman's March Graphics Page

Principal Union Commanders



Sherman



Slocum



Howard



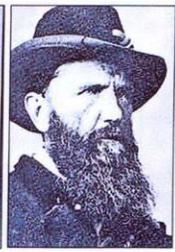
Kilpatrick



Davis



Osterhaus



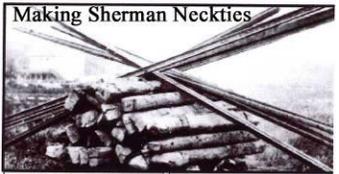
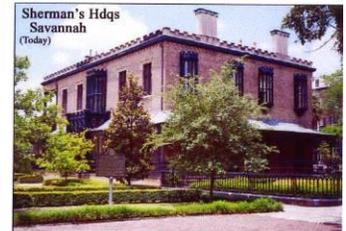
Blair



Williams

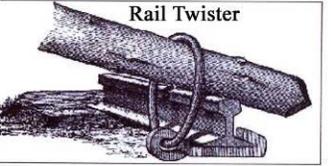
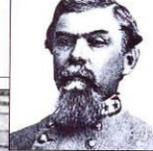


Painting Depicting Various March to the Sea Events

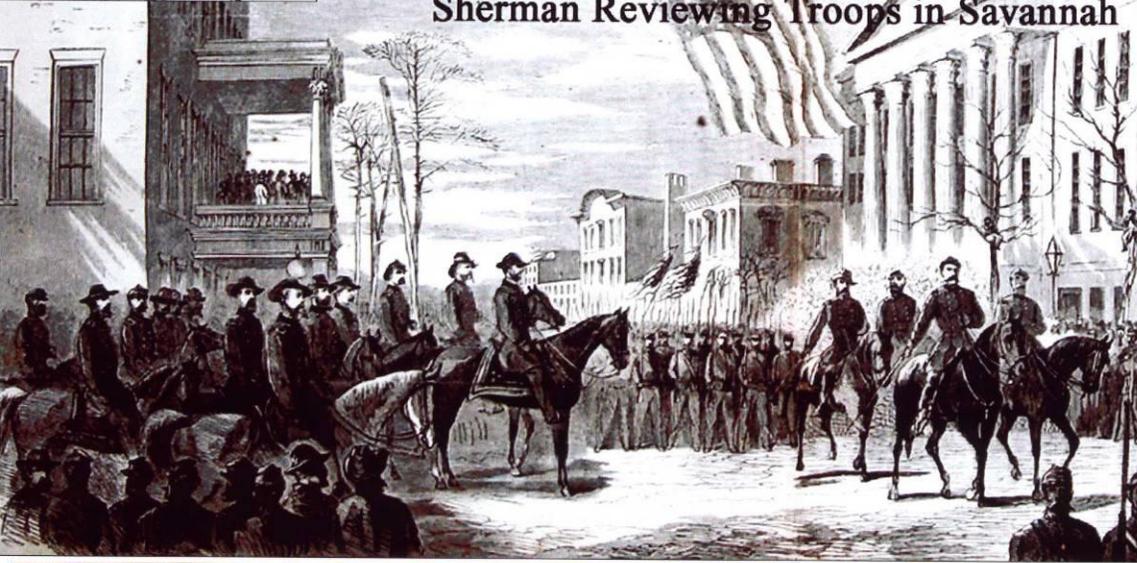


Hardee, CSA

Rebel Mine

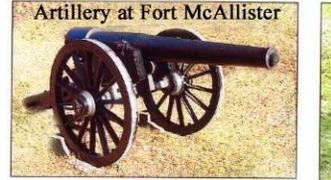


Sherman Reviewing Troops in Savannah



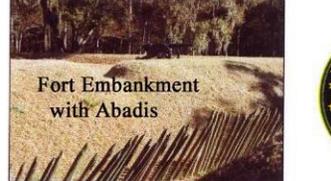
THE MARCH TO THE SEA

On Nov 15, 1864, after destroying Atlanta and cutting the communications with the North, Maj. Gen. W. Sherman, USA, began his destructive campaign for Savannah -- the March to the Sea. He divided his army into two wings. The Right Wing marched south from Atlanta, to meet at Macon but to cross the Ogeechee River above the city and concentrate at Georgetown. The Left Wing (14th and 20th Corps), Maj. Gen. H. W. Slocum, USA, marched east. At Decatur, the 14th Corps, commanded by Gen. Sherman, turned SE toward Milledgeville. The 20th Corps, Maj. Gen. A. Williams, USA, marched east to Social Circle. On the 19th, at Madison, Georgia's division was detached to burn the rail bridge over the Ogeechee River (13 miles E of Madison). It rejoined the Corps near Dennis Station (9 miles S). On the 20th, the Corps camped about three miles north. Next day, it passed through Easton, destroyed a few miles of the railroad, and camped below Dennis Station. Heavy rains having slowed the march and bogged down the trains, little destroyed had marched from Shreve base that day, destroyed Easton factory (2 miles S on Little River) and camped in that vicinity. On the 22nd, both Corps converged on Milledgeville, then the Capital of Georgia. The 20th Corps arrived that day and took possession of the city; the 14th Corps arrived on the 23rd.



FORT McALLISTER
4.5 mi.

East 4.5 miles, on Great Ogeechee River, Fort McAllister was built 1861-62 to guard the "back door" to Savannah. During 1862-63, it repulsed 7 attacks by armored vessels, some mounting 19-inch guns. Dec. 13, 1864, its small garrison of 230 Georgians was overwhelmed by Hazen's Division, 15th Corps, which had marched via this route. Its fall opened the Ogeechee to Union vessels which, loaded with supplies for Gen. Sherman's army, had been lying in Tybee Sound and Port Royal Sound. A wharf and depot were built at King's Bridge on US 17 from which these supplies were distributed to the invading force.



Sherman and Sraff awaiting arrival of Resupply Convoy

