

Nov. 5-27th - Forrest in the Saddle

For Those Who Ride With Forrest...

Following the successful engagement at Johnsonville, Tenn. (for which we have already reported on this month) Major Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest and his two Divisions were ordered south to join Gen. John Bell Hood now encamped at Tuscumbia, Alabama. Hood was making preparations for the battered but high spirited Army of Tennessee to move north into Tennessee to capture or destroy Thomas' Federal Army currently entrenched at Nashville. Many of the Confederate soldiers of the AOT had not set foot in their native state for over a 1 1/2 years.

Major Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest has been given command of the Cavalry assigned to the Army of Tennessee

Nov. 5th - Gen. James R. Chalmers and his Division march south by river roads to Iuka, Miss. Gen. Abraham Buford follows with his Division for a destination of Corinth. Rain poured in torrents preventing Forrest's troops from crossing the bank swollen Tennessee River. Capt. John Morton's artillery struggled with the axle deep mud and moved at a very slow pace.

Nov. 12th - Gen. Forrest and his Escort reach Corinth first. He takes the Memphis & Charleston Railroad to Cherokee Station, Ala. and thence on to Tuscumbia, Ala. to meet with Gen. John Bell Hood.

Nov. 16th - Bedford Forrest orders his two Division to Florence, Ala. Gen. William H. (Red) Jackson's Division is assigned to Gen. Forrest command, swelling Forrest Cavalry Corps to 5,000 men and horse.

Nov. 17th - Gen. Forrest issues orders to his entire command to make preparations for the field and the forward movement into Tennessee on the 21st.

Nov. 19th - Generals Buford, Chalmers and Jackson's Division ride northward to reconnoiter and to secure provisions from the countryside.

Gen. Buford's Division in advance, makes contact with Federal foragers at Butler's Creek and a spirited fight ensues. Gen. Frank C. Armstrong's Brigade of Jackson's Division joins in the fight.

Nov. 22nd - Generals Buford and Jackson attack the Federal forces occupying Lawrenceburg. Yankee troops withdrew towards Pulaski.

Nov. 23rd - Gen. Edwin Rucker's Brigade struck a Federal cavalry force at 3:00 p.m. on the turnpike from Waynesboro to Mt. Pleasant. Gen. Forrest and his Escort get personally involved in the running fight. Forrest's Escort are armed with Spencer Repeating Rifles which had been captured earlier from the Federals.

Gen. Buford's command engaged a Federal division and maintained a vigorous fight at Campbellsville, Tenn. Gen. Jackson's Division came up and both divisions were thrown into the enemy. The effect was a complete route of the Federal troops.

Nov. 24th - Gen. Rucker's Brigade, rapidly marching north by way of Mt. Pleasant, overtook the

rearguard of Schofield's Federal army at daylight near Columbia, Tenn. Both engaged in a lively skirmish, with the Yankees withdrawing to within their fortifications in and around that city.

Nov. 25th - The Fourth and Twenty-Third Federal army corps, plus Gen. James H. Wilson's cavalry were now occupying Columbia. Generals Buford and Jackson pressed their skirmishers back at several points.

Nov. 26th - A good deal of skirmishing was kept up between the enemy and Forrest's command. Confederate artillery was employed with decided execution and the Federals were forced to quit their outer lines of defense. Gen. Hood's infantry arrived on the field, and proceeded to replace Forrest's Cavalry with holding the enemy in check.

Nov. 27th - Gen. Forrest was called to Hood's headquarters. Forrest's Cavalry was then ordered to cross the Duck River early on the 28th to cover the construction of a pontoon bridge. However the enemy had evacuated Columbia during the night and had taken up a fortified position on the north bank of the river.