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## STREIGHT'S RAID.

A Federal Brigade Rode Into Northern Georgia,

BUT RODE NOT BACK AGAIN

'Twas a Quarter of a Century Ago Come This May Day.

Col. Abel D. Streight, of Indiana-A Brave Man, but Fate Was Against Him-Portraits of Generals-A Plucky Confederate Girl Guided Forrest's Cavalry to a Ford, Which They Crossed After Streight Had Burned a Bridge Behind Him.

In approaching the subject of Col. Streight's raid in northern Georgia in 1863, one is profoundly impressed that there is such a thing as fate, or luck, in the destinies

Grierson's raid in Mississippi was undertaken about the same time Col. Streight began his trip to northern Alabama and Georgia. Both men had the sanction of their respective commanders in the tasks before them. Gen. Rosecrans, indeed, commander of the Army of the Cumberland at that time, himself planned Streight's expedition. Both were expected to forage on the country through which they passed. Very different were the closing scenes in the two dramas. Grierson, victorious, laden with spoils,

brought news to the north that the Confederacy was "a mere shell." He became a major general. Streight, over in northern Georgia, 200 miles to the eastward, was overwhelmed by Forrest and his cavairy, and after doing all that a 6 brave man could, was compelled to

surrender with his whole command the day after Grierson's victorious entry into Baton Rouge. His expedition ended in disaster. Himself and his officers were sent to Richmond, Va., to Libby prison. After making one of the most remarkable prison escapes on record in any time, a year

later Streight rejoined his command with

the Army of the Cumberland. The failure to supply Rosecrans' army with proper cavalry horses was undoubtedly the chief cause of Streight's failure on the raid into Georgia. He was sent out with troops on foot, and was expected to capture horses enough from the Confederacy to mount his whole force. This he only partly succeeded in doing, hence the failure of his

Col. Streight was an Indiana man, living in Indianapolis at the beginning of the war. At the first call in the north for three years' men, he formed a regiment of Indianians and early went to the seat of war. His regiment was the Fifty-first Indiana. He took part in all the campaigning under Buell in Kentucky and Tennessee during the first part of the war. He was noted for his bravery, ability, and fine soldierly character.

Streight was at Nashville early in 1863. In connection with his raid appears another name invested for his countrymen with a pathetic interest-the name of James A. Garfield. "James A. Garfield, brigadier general and chief of staff," signed the order from Rosecrans directing Streight's course. The order said to Col Streight:

"You have been assigned to the command of an independent provisional brigade for temporary purposes. \* \* \* You will with all reasonable dispatch push on to western Georgia and cut the railroads which supply the Confederate army by way of Chattanooga. To accomplish this is the chief object of your expedition, and you must not allow collateral or incidental schemes, even though promising great results, to delay you so as to endanger your return."

In a later order Garfield tells Streight: "If you dress your soldiers in the costume of the enemy they will be liable to be treated as spies; you should not do this without the consent of the men, after they have been fully advised of the possible consequences."

One Illinois and part of two Ohio regiments, his own Fifty-first Indiana, in all 1,800 men, were placed under Streight's orders, "You will draw your supplies and keep your com-mand well mounted from the country through which you pass," said the first order to Streight. To capture horses enough to mount 1,800 infantry, and then go with them and destroy two railroads, appears in the light of twenty-five years after like cutting out considerable work for Col. Streight.

If the reader will kindly observe a map of the southern states, it will be easy to trace out the route pursued by the ill fated expedition. They left Nashville April 27, 1863. Gen'l Pass. Ag't At Eastport, Miss., they were to join, and partially co-operate with a force under Brig. Gen. Dodge. His body of troops was considerably larger than that under Col.

Brig. Gen. Grenville M. Dodge at that anded the Federal troops in north-ern Mississippi.



Gen. Dodge was a Massachusetts man, born in 1881. He received a soldier's training at a military academy Connecticut, hence he went west as a railroad surveyor, in which pursuit be excelled. The war of 1861 found him in Iowa He at once enlisted a regiment, the

GEN. DODGE. Fourth Iowa, and became its colonel. At the battle of Pea Ridge, 1862, he commanded the extreme right brigade, still plain colonel, and was wounded. After that he was promoted to be a brigadier general. During Sherman's Georgia campaign in 1864 he was promoted to major general, and commanded the Sixteenth army corps. After the war Gen. Dodge retired gracefully from military service and entered the civil service, being elected member of congress from Iowa.

Referring to the map again, the reader will see that the Tennessee river flows northwest. Streight and his men proceeded from Nashville to Fort Henry, on the Tennessee river. There they took steamer and went up the river in a southeasterly course. The eceentric Tennessee flows through many states. It touches the northeast corner of Mississippi. On its left bank, about twentyfive miles southeast of Corinth, is the village of Eastport, Miss. There Streight's force united with that of Gen. Dodge. The two together then struck off eastward, into northern Alabama. They entered Tuscum-

bia and took possession of it, ronting the Confederate force there.

Rosecrans' order through "Garfield, chief of staff," had said to Streight: "After having marched long enough with Gen. Dodge to create a general impression that you are part of his command, you will push to the south-

At Tuscumbia, accordingly, the two com-mands separated. Dodge went southward, swept around through northern Alabama and returned to his headquarters at Corinth. His part of the raid had been successful.

Streight turned his eye enstward to Georgia. Once more, if the kindly reader will turn to his map of the southern states, he will rote the important lines of railway that traverse Georgia and lead to Chattanooga, Tenn. Over these roads went the supplies that maintained the Confederate army in its stronghold at Chattanooga, which Rosecrans was trying to reduce.

Had Streight's raid been successful, it would have been followed with important

But it was not to be. Hardly had Streight left Tuscumbia when the avenger was on his track. The avenger was the combined Confederate cavalry forces of Col. Roddey and Gen. N. B. Forrest. They were 4,000 strong, well and powerfully mounted. The cream of the horseflesh of that region had been skimmed for their armies, leaving worthless animals and mules for Streight. His mount consisted almost wholly of mules. Ere many hours Forrest and Roddey, on

Col. P. D. Roddey had been stationed four miles from Tuscumbia, Ala., with 1,400 cavalry. He was a brave and skillful commander, and kept the region alive with trusty scouts, who informed him of every one of the Federal movements as soon as it was made. Thus he found out immediately that Dodge had left Streight, and that Streight was proceeding eastward and south-

their fleet horses, were up with the Federal rear. Then began a fight which lasted four

ward toward Georgia. Roddey sent a courier to Forrest, some distance away, with the information. Forrest at once caught the gravity of the situation, and hastened with all dispatch to frustrate the Federal movement. He rode night and day to overtake Streight. This was one of the most important and specessful of Forrest's campaigns. One day his troops were quite worn out with hard riding and loss of sleep. It seemed impossible to urge them forward further. They were resting in

Ail at once a company of southern ladies came in visiting the camp. Friends and relatives of some of them had been captured by Streight. The ladies wept and wailed, and urged the soldiers to recapture their lost ones. The jaded Confederates, roused up by the sight, were inspired to new effort, and swore to do so. The interview with the ladies sent them into the saddle, galloping onward again.

Col. Roddey had been in command in northern Mississippi with his cavalry brigade, but early in the year had been

sent to join Van Dorn in Tennessee. and unite his force with that of For Romantic incidents are told in Forrest's memoirs of his pursuit of Streight. There

were day fights and night fights. Streight still following his orders to enter Georgia. He fought and de COL. P. D. RODDEY, C. S. A. stroyed property

as he ran, burning corn and army supplies in great quantities. Forrest and Roddey were close behind him. Forrest had divided his force into two columns. That under Rod dey followed directly after Streight. The other made a detour to the northeast to cut off any attempt the Federal raiders might mak- to retreat and get back to their head-quarters. This second column Forrest him

The hottest fighting took place in the mountains of northern Alabama. At Day's Gap, Sand mountain, there was a sharp conflict April 30, in which the Confederate captain, W. H. Forrest, N. B. Forrest's brother, was killed. Streight repulsed Roddey's command but dared not wait. He was word. mand, but dared not wait. He was away again, going toward Blountsville, Ala.
Forrest instantly discovered the movement
and sent a force off to the Federal left, on the
north, to head Streight off and prevent his
escape. The Union soldiers were speedily
overtaken, and there was another battle the
same day. April 20. Forrest treating the same day, April 30. Forrest was in the thickest of it, and one horse was killed under him and two others wounded. The second fight of April 30 lasted from 5 p. m. until 2 in the morning of May 1.

Streight hastened on toward Blountsville, Ala., Forrest close after him still. The Federals were soon overtaken, and there was a ranning fight from Blountsville to the Black Warri r river, which he reached May 1. Streight crossed Black creek, a swift and deep affluent of the Coosa river. With the Confederates in sight behind him he burned the bridge over which he passed and planted

a cannon on the bank. Forrest came up and wondered how he should cross. Some women approached. One, a tall girl of 18, named Emma Sanborn,

"You are Gen. Forrest, I am told. I know an old ford to which I could guide you if I had a horse. The Yankees have taken all Gen. Forrest rode to a log. "Jump up be-

hind me, Miss," said he.

They rode thus to the ford, and reconnoitered it under a shower of Union bullets. Forrest explored the region on his hands and knees. Some balls passed through the girl's skirt. At that she stood up and waved her sun bonnet at the Union soldiers on the other

side of the creek.

Forrest speedily finished his examination, found the ford practicable, and in two hours his army was across.

The Confederate legislature of Alabama voted a section of the public lands of the state and a gold medal to the plucky Emma

Sanborn.
Streight took up the west side of the Coosa river in Georgia. Saturday, May 2, there was another sharp fight at Turkeytown, near the Coosa. That night Streight still fied on. Sunday morning, May 3, at 9 o'clock in the morning, the chase ended. Streight's ammunition and horses and men were exhausted. Forrest's command had by this time been diminished in numbers by his sending back a large force with prisoners and wounded. It is claimed by the Confederate authorities that

is claimed by the Confederate authorities that his force was far smaller than that of Streight at this time. At any rate, he demanded Streight's surrender and obtained it. During the parley under flag of truce he kept detachments of cavalry moving in a circle, so as to impress Streight with the strength of his command. The surrender took place at a point om-inously called Straight Neck precinct, in the valley between the Cocca and Chatooga rivers, about twenty miles from Rome, Ga. Forrest marched his prisoners to Rome under guard of his staff and a single regiment, all the men he had immediately available, ac-cording to the Confederate account. He told Streight that, "as forage was scarce," he

would send no more men along.

The common soldiers of Streight's command were paroled and afterward ex-changed. The officers were, however, sent to Libby prison, at Richmond, under a Georgia law which charged them with liber-ating and arming negroes, some having been found with Streight's captured command. The charge was, however, denied by the Federal soldiers.

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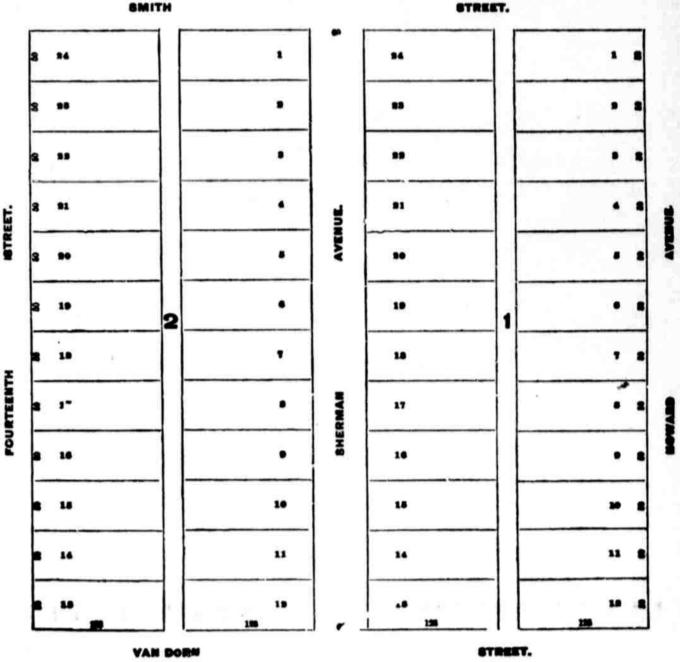
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