

Army of the Cumberland under Rosecrans

Timetable

Stone's River

October 30, 1862 -- William S. Rosecrans USMA '42 (5/56) is appointed to replace John Carlos Buell as commander of Army of Cumberland, formerly known as the Army of the Ohio. George Thomas, Thomas L. Crittenden, and Alex McCook are the corps commanders.

November 13, 1862 – Intent upon joining Breckenridge, Braxton Bragg moves his CSA Army of Tennessee from Chattanooga toward Murfreesboro, TN.

December 31, 1862 – Rosecrans' army (41,000 available) and Bragg's army (34,739 available) face each other just west of Stone's River, near Murfreesboro, TN. Each plans to attack the other's right. Hard fighting ensues with the Rebels gaining considerable ground.

January 1, 1863 – Both commanders re-position their troops and some minor skirmishing occurs.

January 2, 1863 – More hard fighting but a massive artillery attack helps to repulse Breckenridge after he attempts to establish a hold on high ground.

January 3-4, 1863 – After achieving a tactical victory, Bragg withdraws during the night toward Shelbyville. Union losses = 12,906; CSA losses = 11,739. Rosecrans does not pursue.

January 31, 1863 – Minor confrontations continue in the vicinity of Murfreesboro.

Tullahoma

May 1, 1863 – U. S. Grant crosses the Mississippi River. Washington is concerned that Bragg will detach troops to reinforce Pemberton for the

defense of Vicksburg. The Army of the Cumberland is the only Federal army not on the move.

June 23, 1863 – From Murfreesboro Rosecrans begins a series of flanking movements with cavalry and infantry to force Bragg to withdraw from Tullahoma across the Elk River. These maneuvers prevent Bragg from moving toward Vicksburg.

June 24, 1863 – After short notice to his subordinates, Rosecrans deploys his mounted infantry to cause Rebel defenders from Hoover Gap, one of Bragg's key defensive positions.

June 26, 1863 – The Federals continue to advance, now overcoming the Confederates at Shelbyville. Thomas resumes the march of his corps toward Manchester, TN, ten mile northeast of Tullahoma.

June 28, 1863 -- Union forces occupy the area around Manchester.

June 29, 1863 -- Bragg leaves his entrenchments at Tullahoma with Sheridan giving chase.

June 30, 1863 – As Bragg pulls his troops across the Tennessee River in a retreat from Tullahoma, Rosecrans sets up in Chattanooga, TN.

July 1, 1863 – The major thrust of the Tullahoma campaign is over as the Southern forces continue pulling toward Chattanooga.

July 3, 1863 -- At last Sheridan is able to cross the swollen Elk River.

July 7, 1863 -- Bragg's army reaches safe harbor at Chattanooga.

Chickamauga

August 5, 1863 – Washington orders Rosecrans and Burnside to gain possession of the upper Tennessee Valley.

August 16, 1863 – Rosecrans starts moving eastward from Tullahoma toward the Tennessee River.

August 21, 1863 – Rosecrans reaches the Tennessee River, and will spend the rest of the month preparing to cross.

September 1, 1863 – Bragg is reinforced by the arrival of Breckinridge and W.H.T. Walker. Rosecrans begins crossing the Tennessee south (downstream) of Chattanooga.

September 4, 1863 – Rosecrans completes the crossing of the Tennessee without opposition.

September 5, 1863 – Convinced that the Southerners are fleeing, Rosecrans moves into the Georgian mountains to pursue the Rebels. Rosecrans separates his army into three groups in order to quickly move through the mountains.

September 6, 1863 – Rosecrans' army reach the valley of Lookout Creek. On the same day, Bragg decides to vacate Chattanooga with his 65,000 troops.

September 9, 1863 – The Army of the Cumberland is now spread in three groups across 40 miles of mountains. Rosecrans is convinced he will chase Bragg to Atlanta if not to the sea but does not realize Bragg is trying to set a clever trap.

September 10, 1863 – Bragg and his staff proceed to spring their trap but ineptly and too soon. Rosecrans now realizes Bragg has no intention to retreat.

September 11, 1863 – Bragg orders another attack on isolated Federal forces but it also fails to materialize.

September 12, 1863 – Rosecrans issues urgent orders to concentrate his forces.

September 13, 1863 – Halleck orders reinforcements under Sherman be sent from Memphis and Vicksburg.

Polk fails to move against Crittenden at Lee and Gordon's Mill as had been ordered by Bragg.

September 17, 1863 – Union forces are now concentrated within supporting distance or one another around Lee and Gordon's Mill.

September 18, 1863 – In order to turn the Federal left flank and to cut them off from Chattanooga, Bragg has ordered a dawn attack against Crittenden's corps on the Federal north flank.

September 19, 1863 – After Thomas orders Brannon's division to reconnoiter toward Chickamauga Creek, both sides become engaged in an all-day battle along a six mile front without either side gaining any decided advantage despite heavy losses.

September 20, 1863 – Rosecrans prepares defensive positions while Bragg, reinforced by Longstreet's arrival during the night, plans an attack that is supposed to move successively from the north to the south. Polk fails to initiate his attack as planned but after Rosecrans makes an error in repositioning units, the Rebels break through the Union lines causing much of the Union army, including Rosecrans, Crittenden, and McCook, to flee to Chattanooga. Thomas holds his position at Snodgrass Hill before retiring later that evening. Union effectives = 58,222 with losses of 16,170. Rebel effectives = 66,326 with losses of 18,454.

September 21, 1863 – Longstreet urges Bragg to move quickly against the retreating Federals but Bragg fails to issue the necessary orders until 4:00 pm, too late to reach the city.

September 22, 1863 – Bragg orders another attack but cancels the orders when his troops find that the Bluecoats are now firmly dug in.

Chattanooga (Phase One)

September 25, 1863 – Hooker is ordered to leave Manassas via rail with the Federals' 11th and 12th Corps.

September 30, 1863 – Hooker's advance elements begin to arrive at Bridgeport. Shortly thereafter 20,000 men and 3,000 horses and mules will arrive having travelled 1159 miles by rail.

October 1, 1863 – Finally realizing that Rosecrans is not going to evacuate from Chattanooga, Bragg finally orders cavalry raids to cut the Union lines of communications.

October 5, 1863 – Wheeler's cavalry breaks a vital Union supply line at Stone's River, near Murfreesboro. In Chattanooga, draft mules are dying by the hundreds, with cavalry and artillery horses weakening from starvation.

October 10, 1863 – Davis arrives in the Rebel camp to try to mediate the feud between Bragg and his generals.

October 16, 1863 – Grant is appointed overall commander of the Western campaign.

October 17, 1863 – George H. Thomas USMA '40 (12/42) is appointed to replace Rosecrans.