

Joseph T. Glatthaar, *The March to the Sea and Beyond: Sherman's Troops in the Savannah and Carolinas Campaigns* (1985)

Comparison of Grant and Sherman. Grant was a small, meek-looking man, w/ brown hair and gray eyes. He was unprepossessing. Sherman was tall and lean, w/ piercing black eyes, reddish brown hair, and a face lined w/ wrinkles. Sherman was prepossessing except for the stub of a cigar. he was also usually disshevelled. Armies were for fighting and not parade.

Sherman and Grant were close. Grant had his detractors; he had a drinking problem. Sherman, in his first year of the war, had a mental breakdown. The bonds bet/ them were strong. Sherman once said. "He stood by me when I was crazy and I stood by him when he was drunk."

1. The Army: There was a soul to an army noted Sherman. And Sherman commanded the soul of his men. He was worshipped by his men. He was "Uncle Billy."

His army had more command experience than any other army in the North. His army had fought on almost every major battlefield during the first three years of the war. Three of the four corps were in the Western theatre and were used to long marches. Except for Kenneshaw Mt. and perhaps one or two other occasions Sherman did not used his army in frontal assaults. His men loved him for that as well. Note the way he got the Rebs out of Atlanta w/ comparatively little bloodshed.

Most of the men in his ranks were veterans with two or more years experience at war. About 1 out of 2 men had re-enlisted for a second three year term, compared w/ 1 in 15 in other federal armies. About 98% of the noncoms had entered the service in either 1861 or 1862. They knew each other very well.

2. The Army and the Cause

3. Army and Blacks

Sherman was skeptical about blacks as fighters. there was only one black regiment in his army and he used them largely for noncombat jobs.

4. Army and Southern Whites

Part of the reason for bitterness directed as Southerons and the adoption of a policy of destruction was that nearly 80% of the army were veterans. They directed all their anger at the South was starting this war and depriving them of their civilian lives.

Glatthaar, March to Sea  
Page two

A second reason was the horror of prison camps. During their march through the South they liberated several (camps Lawton in Ga. and Sorghum in SC). The sight of the emaciated prisoners sparked a great rage.

#### 5. The March

Engineering feats of the army. They laid and reworked about 800 miles of corduroy roads. Sometimes they had to march 25 miles a day while they corduroying roads and tearing up railroad tracks. Before the march was over the army was generally also in tatters; their cloths simply wore out.

#### 7. Foraging

No army of this size (60,000) had ever lived off the land during this four years of war.

They took from the countryside a staggering amount of food, fodder, and animals. From Georgia alone they confiscated 6,800 mules and horses, 13,000 head of cattle, 10.4 million pounds of grain and 10.7 million pounds of fodder. . . Less complete for SC but they were of similar magnitude.

#### 8. Destruction/Pillage

Sherman policy, subscribed to by Lincoln, was that this war was a revolution, the Union Army had not only to defeat the Confederate armies in the field but also to break the will of the Confederate people to resist federal authority

The targets for destruction were loosely defined as military targets and contraband of war. Anything that was regarded as being useful to the South in prosecuting the war. That meant--train car sheds, the depots, machine shops, foundries, rolling mills, merchant mills arsenals, laboratory, armoury. They burned millions of bales of cotton, cotton gins, cotton presses, sawmills, gristmills, etc. They even killed dogs which Southrons used to track escaped prisoners of war. They worn-out horses and mules purposely so they could not be used after a few weeks of rest after they were abandoned. Whipping posts, slave pens, and auction blocks were set to the torch.

Sherman "neckties" was the treatment for railroad tracks. Some times they would shape them into the letters "U.S." as a calling card.

Homes of prominent Confederates were generally put to the torch.

Gaathaar, March to Sea

Page three

SC was entirely different. Giving SC hell. The troops were determined to wage unholy war in that state. The result was that they burned whatever homes they wanted to, which amounted to many. They burned a dozen towns before reaching the state capital. When they reached Columbia they set fire to the city

When the army entered No. Carolina they were ordered to be circumspect. North Carolina was the last southern state to secede. For the most part they restrained themselves.

Dealing w/ bushwhackers. . . Sherman ordered retaliation by burning the buildings they used or if Union soldiers were murdered by guerrillas or Rebels, Sherman retaliated against Rebel prisoners.

Fortunately for the South the news of Lincoln's assassination reached Sherman's army at the end of the campaign. There was a threat to burn down Raleigh, NC, after the news reached the army but it was headed off by loyal Sherman forces under General Logan. . . .