

History 225
Re: BCF, Chpt. 27

Nashville
Begins w/ Sherman's decision to cut loose from his supply lines w/ Chatanooga and move across Georgia foraging as he went. Grant and Lincoln were initially reluctant but ultimately conceded to Sherman's plans.

(Point here: Lincoln did not try to micro-manage. He allowed his proven generals great latitude even when his instincts and understanding weighed against this apparant risky venture.)

Hammer Blows
Sherman's statement about bringing the war right into the homes of Southerners. War is hell and he would "make Georgia howl."

Sherman's bummers/ escapees from Anderson rile Sherman's soldiers on the march.

Sherman takes Savannah/ Thomas destroys Hood's army in battle of Franklin. Hood's fantastical attack on Yankee entrenched positions ended in losing more men than Grant lost at Cold Harbor. Loses of rebel generals and line officers was atrocious. The Gray Army of Tennessee was devastated beyond reconstitution. This is the first time in the war that an army dissolved on the field. All this became manifest when Thomas crushed the Confederates at Nashville in December 1864. This was truly the end of the Army of Tennessee.

Then came another blow--the surrender of Ft. Fisher. With Fisher now in Union hands the port of Wilmington, N.C. was closed to blockade runners and supplies to Lee's troops in the East now virtually sealed off.

The abortive Hampton Rds. conference. Lincoln faces Confederate delegates to the conference with "unconditional surrender" terms. He did not move an inch on this position. Davis as bitter-ender. War will continue until the South will emerge victorious, etc.

By March the endgame was near. Thomas was to send an army into hitherto uninvaded Alabama while Sherman's army of 60,000 marched into South Carolina. If Georgia was to howl, the home of secession was made to "SCREAM." It was only a matter of time before Ole Dixie was pulled own.

McPherson has some vivid descriptions of the logistical problems Sherman's army confronted in the So. Carolina campaign. By comparison the March thru Georgia was a cake walk. Rebels did not believe that Sherman could make any time through the swamps and washed out roads of a Carolina winter. In the contrary, Sherman's army built cordoroy roads, bridges, waded thru swamps up to the arm pits, and made miles and miles of causeways, etc. General Hardee likened this army to the Legions of Caesar.

Concludes w/ the burning of Columbus, S.C.

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Discusses General Cleburne's January 1864 proposal to arm the slaves. Discusses the development of this for several pages. In fine, once the Congress passed on this in March '65 it was never certain whether freedom was, in fact, guaranteed as the quid pro quo. The language of the act was ambiguous.

Develops Lincoln and radical's efforts to get the 13th Amendment through Congress and over the opposition of the Democrats. Lincoln played politics and made offers to those Democratic lame duck members of the House to get them to support the amendment. (See Wanda Cox on Lincoln and Black freedom).

Sherman and Field Order 15--origins and purposes. The setting up of the Freedman's Bureau.

Lincoln and radicals grow closer together by 1865. The Sherman Field Order 15; the appointment of S. Chase to SC as Chief Justice; Lincoln's hint in his State of the Union message in December that he was willing to meet Congress half way on reconstruction--all auguries of Lincoln moving to the left.

The final campaign in the East. Appomatox and the end of the Army of No. Virginia.