Archer: War of Rebellion Series"I, Vol XLII, Part II, "ichmond Campa ign etc. Serial No. 88 p 54

"eadquarter Army of the Potomac, Office of the Provost Marshall-General August 5,1864. Major-General Wumphreys, chief of staff

General: A deserter from the econd Maryland attalion came into the lines of the colored division of the Ninth Corps orly this a.m. This is the infantry battalion of the Maryland line which lay all winter at Hanover Junction.

notes that they then be a seen that the seen the

When our tro ps reached Cold Harborthis battalion was added to the consolidated brigades of Archer and Walker in Heth's division, the brigade being now commanded by Colonel Mayo of the Forty-seventh Virginia.

This man(an Irishman) says that "eth's division lies opposite the colored division; thahe does not think wilcoc's division has returned from the other side of the James radad yet; that he has heard of a troops being sent south; that the enemy are afraid of other mines which they understand se are going to explode; that the troops of Heth's dw ision are gotten under arms at 2 o'clock every night and so kepp until some time after daylight; that they are particularly afraid of an expected explosion to the (our) right of the exam said colored division where a ravine ones up to a hill or upied by the enemy; that he knows of no mining goi on by the enemy anywhere on this part of their line, but he has heard that somewhere on Beaure and's part of the line the enemy are preparing a mine. He has heard no late news from Early, but heard yesterday that out "est General Stoneman was captured with 500 prisoners.

col. etc.

p. 304

Headquarters Third Division Second Corps, Aug 19,1864,8'40 p.m.
Mai.Gen A.A. Humphreys, chief of steff: I have the honor to report

the Thirteenth (Nineteenth?) Indiana. The Seventh Wisconsin connects with my left, but report no connection on their left. Prisoners report three brigades as the attacking force comminded by Archer, Clingman and Mahone.

very etc. G. Mott, Brigadier -General.

p. 1011 Hesiquarters Army of the Potomac Office of the Provost MarshallGen September 25,1864, Majo. eneral Humphreys, Chief of Staff. General: Tw o deserters from the Fourteenth Tennessee Regiment, Archer's brigade, "eth's division have just been forwarded. They came into thelines of the second 'avalry Division this a.m. They state that two brigades of eth a division are on the extreme right of the enemy's line. Archer's and Airkland's; the other two brigades of the division lie b tween Mahone's division and Beauregard; are extending their lines fa ther to the right, and in the direction of the South bide "ailroad. Butler's division of cavalry connects with the infantry on the right, Young's brigade adjoining Archer's brigade. Are not aware of any reinforcements arriving, or any troops sent away. Deserters from the Mississippi and "labama brigades, of "ahone's division, forwarded this a.m. They locate Mahone's di ision as formerly reported; have no k owledge of any other part of the li e. Four of kwx .H. Lee's scouts were captured, n ar Sycamore Church last night; found lurking within our lines. They freely confess that they came in for information and have been in sundry times before. They are regularly detailed scouts and are attached to "eneral Lee' headquarters, belonging to the Nith Virginia Cavalry. Very etc.

mo c. Babcock.

D. ROASK

p 1139

Special Orders No. 196 tj and Insp. eneral's Office, Richmond Virginia, August 19,1864

XXXVII, Pargraph XIV special or ers No. 187 (\*) current series is hereby revoked and rig. Gen. J.J. Archer, Provisional Army, C, S. is assigned to duty with the Army of Northern Virginia and will report to General R.E. Lee, commanding

By com and of the secretary of war Jno. Withers, assistant adjutant general

Special Orders No. 197-- Hdqrs Army of Northern Virginia, August 19,1864
II. Brig. Gen J.J. Archer is assigned to the command of Archer's and Walker's brigades (temporarily united), of Heth's division, Third Corps, and will report accordingly)

(\*) See Vol XXXVIII Part V, p. 953

P 1218. Organization of the Army of Northern Virginia Aug 31,1864

Machae's brigade; Conke's brigade.

Archer's brigade: 1st Tenn sse Lieut Col Newton J. George
7th Tennessee Col John A. Fite; 14th Tennessee Co. "illiam & Comb,
13th Alabama, Lieut Col James Aiken

p 1263

Headquarter's Johnson's Division, Petersburg, Va, Sept. 20,1864
Maj. George C. Brown, Asst. Adt Gen Lieut Gen Ewell's Staff,

Johnson's old brigade against conso idation with any other command. The original application of Brigadier-General Archer for the consolidation of Johnson's brigade with his own, which called forth this remonstrance was sent to Colonel Hughs, about two weeks ago for his remarks, with instructions to return the paper to these headquarters, p 1264 quarters. It has not yet been returned and it is supposed that Colonel Hughs forwarded the paper directly to your office; if it is still in your office please place the inclosed with it and for ard them together. If, however, the original application has not re ched your office, be in the direct Colonel Hughs to forward it immediately in order that it may accompany the inclosed re onstrance. I am etc. P.E. Foots assistant adjutant general:

headquarters, Johnson Srigade, Signal Hill, Va, Sept. 12,1864

The application of Brigadier General Archer for this brigade to be transferred to his command having been submitted to us, we the undersigned in behalf of the officers and men of this command, respectfully beg beave to enter our sclemn protest against conso idation with or transfer to any brigade. The membersof this command, to a man, are opposed to any arrangement by which they may lose their identity as a brigade. We have existed as an organization, known as Johnson's brigade, now excepting two long years. We have fought on many bettle-fields and undergone innumerable hardships together. Officers and men have vied with each other tomake Johnson's brigade second to none in the armies of the Confederate States.

After the battles of Shiloh and Perryville, where we lostover one -half of our original number, we entered Tennessee and recru ted to a very large brigade before the battle of Murfreesborough.

on that memorable and ensang incd field the brigade acted a conspicions part, being in Cleburne's division and on the extreme left of the max enemy. There we lost 672 officers and men. Even after this heavy loss we again recruited the com and to almost the maxi um number required by law. At Hoover's Gap we suffered severely, Stewart's division of which we formed a art being the only troons confronting the enemy at that point and Johnson's brigade bringing up the rear of the army in Chattanooga. After the demoralization of the retreat from our own State and a campaign in East Tennessee and North Georgia we again met the enemy on the glorious and ever memorable field of Chickamauga. Here, a you are aware, our losses were very heavy, being over one-halfof the entire command.

About 23rd of November, 1863 we left the "rmy of "ennessee to reenforce General Longstreet at Knox ille. "e arrived in time to take art in the engagement. At Bean's Station the command composed one third of the force in your \*\*REMX\*\* successful attack and rout of a greatly superior enemy numbering a bout five to one. The whole winter of 1863 was a series of active ore rations. The troops of this com nd were kept centantly on outpost duty and suffered immensely, both from exposure and lack of supplies., never remaining stationary or in quarters but for a few days at atime.

we were taken fr om that scene of action about 1st of May,1864 and brought to Richmond, Va. where we arrived just in time to confront the enemy at Port Walthall and Fort Lifton. It will be remembered th to a detachment of men from this brigade, under Libut F.M. Kelso, manned the guns at Fort Clifton and resisted successfully the advance of five of the enemy's cun boats, sinking one and disabling nd repulsing the others. At Dodder 3dd Drewry's Bluff on XX 16th of May following, our losses were heavy, both in officers and men.

On the 15th, 16 and 17th and again on 30th of June and the 1st of July we were en aged in but tles before Petersburg, Va. Our losses were agumented including valuable officers.

This brigade has lost twelve field officers killed and three permanently disabled from field service. Seven of these field officers were killed i fi hts around Richmond and Petersburg in the present campaign.

On every field Johnson's brigade has shown uniform valor gaining laurels of which they are justly proud. Fould it not be injustice to consolidate such a command an cause it thereby to lose its identity? To say the least, would it not be ungrateful?

When our absent embers who are not permanently disabled and prisoners of war shall return, we will muster, as shown by our reports over 1,650 officers and men. Should we be so fortunate as to again enter our beloved State we pledge ourselves to recruit the command to its maximum numberin six eeks.

Johnsonn's brigade is as well and favorably known and mainly composed of men living south of Murfreesberough.

We have made this statement to you in justice to ourselves and the brave men we represent, trusting that you will use every end avor to prevent our being swallowed up by any other command. We feel our indebtedness to you in a great me sure for our pre ent standing, and believe that you will take interest in your old brigade which will defeat this measure.

If we are allowed to emain as a separate orban zation and continued in the "epartment of Richmond until it becomes generally known throughout the South, we believe that there are Tennesseeans enough within our lines, "refugees from home" to swell our ranks to a respectable number.

We hear daily of men in the enemy's lies desirous of joining as, but what chance have they at present? It is true that it may be urged that the transfer proposed is to be only temporary, but experience has shown that those temporary annexations do, after a large of time, by general assent, become permanent.

Should this transfer be ordered in the face of the present strong opposition to it the most unhappy results may be anticapated, the energies of the officers would become paralyzed, and the spirit of the men broken. ery respectfully John M. Hughs, colonel commanding Johnson's brigade.

Wm. H. Fulmerson, major, commanding Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment.

U.C. Harrison, senior captain, Seventeenth Tennessee Regiment.

Lieut. Col. Commanding 17th and 2x 23rd regiment, Horace Ready.

R.B. Showden, lieut col. comdg. forty-fourth and families twenty-fifty

Tennessee

J.E. Swencer, senior fapt and act major forty-fourth Tennessee regiment.

## indorsement

the glorious associations of the past.

Thought I may be excused for peculiar sentiments of recard for this brigade, I believe, in recommending that the combination proposed by not authorized, but pointedly sdbeddd subserve the real interest of the Confederacy and the public good.

B.R. Johnson, major-general

Inspector Feneral's Office, Army of Northern Virginia, September 23, 1864, General S. Cooper, adjutant and inspector general:

This corps is stationed in the trenches in front of Petersburg, composing the right of our infantryline. During the month of August ajor Wingate, assistant inspector general of the corps was absent on sick leave; Capt dams signal officer on General Hill's staff acted in his place.

Capt A has made no eport b t has sent the accompanying note(not found) st ting his inability to make any personal inspections. I do not consider his reasons for not inspecting are sufficent; with proper energy and dilimence two if not three of the divisions could have been inspected.

Captain A is inexperienced in the duties of the office and has rendered me but little assistance.

Between the 9th and 13thof August I inspected in the trenches under arms Heth's division.

General Meth had but recently occupied the line, which he found in bad condition, havin been badly policed, and full of indivual bomb-proofs and covered ways that rendered it difficult to keep in good order. I first inspected Prigadier-General Davis's brigade consisting of twenty-sixth, He venth, Second and Forty second Mississipi, Fifty-fifth Trth Carolina and Confederate Battalion.

he brigade was commanded by Col. A. w. Reynolds, , General Davis having left a day or two before on sick leave.

found the arms and accounterments in very bad condition in all the regiments except the Second, Col J.M. Stone and leventh, Maj R.O. Reynolds.

the Second they were good; in the leventh very good, clean inside .

and bright outside; the accounterments attached to he guns which were secured by pegs driven in the breast-works. The trenches were clean, and the general app arance wasnest andmilitary.

One At other parts of the line of the brigade, guns and bayones were lying loosely about the renches and under the shelter tents of the men, peelings of fruit and rinds of melons were dropped promiscuously bout the trenches which, together with the accumulated dot, indicated a neglect in the most necessary feature of cleanliness.

The Twenty-sixth Mississippi commanded by apt. A.B. Early was in the most descridit ble condition; Company -, Lieutenant Jackson was the worst company of the r giment. I called the attention of the officers to the number of guns of sick men thathad not been turned in to ordnance officers as required by the orders.

There was much in the a earance of the command to reflect upon the br igade inspector, Tapta in Tameron, when I regretted to find absent as I wished to call his attention to the irregularities which he allowed to go unreported. If he cold not correct hem it was his duty to have reported them, which he did not do.

cooke's brigade I found in excellent or or as it always is. I inspected this brigade the day General Cooke took command of it at redericksburg. I then was compelled tomake an adverse report. I have inspected it three times since, and each tile have found it equal to any in the army in all respects. Whether in camp, in the trenches or on the march, it is distilguished for its light discipline and good conduct. I consider the highs take of perfection which it has reached attributable more to the energy and devotion of its commander than any other cause. Other brigades have as good material, bu few brigades have so watchful and skillful a commander.

he arms and accounterments were so generally good that there is

no occasion for fault f nding with any.

The inspection was creditable in all respects as if it had been made in winter quarters. Notes containing the strength of this brigade, the number of absent officers, and by what authority absent, and other points of information, were made by men in conjunction with Captain Grinnell, the acting division inspector. Captain was wounded a few days after the inspection was made and the notes misplaced. The eneral cooke declines to send in a report of his briade on the ground that he is not allowed an inspector. For these reasons I cannot furnish the facts. I took a memorandum of the inspection.

Fry's brigade, commanded by Co lonel Mayo, is composed of Archer's and field's old brigades, with following regiments: First, Seventh and Courteenth Tennessee; Thirteenth Alabama; Second Maryland Estation; Twenty-second, Fortieth, Forty-seventh, and Fifth-fifth 'irginia regiments. After the Pennsylvania 'ampaign Field's old brigade, commanded for some time by 'olonel Prockenbrough and what was left

of Archer's after his captre at Gettysburg, were

carriarran consolidated and placed under command of

General H.H. Walker, who was wounded at potsylvnia

court-house. Subsequently General Fry took

commanded by clonel Mayo it presented, as it has done at pr vious inspections, but few evidence of discipline.

In the curteenth and Seventh Tennessee guns and accounterments (in) fair condition, very rustic. Lieut. G.w. Callaway, companies A and showed great neglect in the general appearance of his com and. Lieut. Lipscomb was specially neglectful of police. In the irginiaregiments the guns for the most part were in serviceable order.

Fortieth ir inia, Cap. H. . Coles , spec ally bad police.

This brigade is comman ded

by Brigadier-General Archer, who will doubtless improve the discipline and general condition of this command. The Tennesseans have never been entirely satisfied since the consolidation.

deneral Archer is almost idolized by man them, and ill, no doubt, harmonize the antagonisms that have heretofore existed. Improvement is already apparent in this command since the date of my inspection, 13th of August (now 23rd of September)

MacRee's brigade, formerly commanded by "eneral Kir land consisting of corty-seventh wirth Carolina, Major W.C. Lankford, ; Forty fourth, Major C.M. Stedman; Twenty-sixth, Col. John R. Lane; Leventh, ol W.J. Martin; fifty-second, Maj. R. Erson, I found in good order, in discipline arms and accounterments, and clothing; police was fair.

Gneral Mac-ae had recently been assigned to is command from General cooke's brigade, and as devoting himself with reat energy to the comfort and efficiency of his command.

General Mac as is a strict disciplinarian but has secured in an eminent degree the confidence of his men as was shown in his successful charge at Ream's Station on 25th of August...

Hospital:

Heth's di ision hospital, octor Hub ard in charge, was inspected by me about the 5th of Sentember in company with Doctor Breckenridge medical inspector of the arm, octor Powell, medical director of the corps, and Major "ingate, assist ant inspector general." "e found the hospital well QQa located in a very beautiful grove near

Petersburg, with the gro nd sloping favorably for policing.

The police was ye y bad. With exception o being too much croweed, the situation was a good one. In fact, no attention seemed to be paid to cleaning up the grounds immediately i and about the hospital., nor was proper attention bestowed upon the sinks.

The ground between the hospital and the sinks hadbeen used for uncleanly proposes by the patients, making it offensive to the sight as well as the smell. In this important for ture of cleanliness there was evident and inexcusavleneglect.

I found the sickness of this division was on the decre ase and the diseases r ported of a mildform. There was and had been a sufficient supply of medicines, except in Pavis' britade. Strength of Pivision, 5,525, total number sick in 'ospital 376; disabled 32.

The attention of 90000 Surgeon Guild, medical director and General Heth and General Lee was called to the want of proper police in the hospital

p. 1275 ... ecapitulation

Two brigales of Meth's division, Cockers and Mac Rae's, it will be seen, are in specially good or er and com anded by two most excellent officers, who are strict diciplinarians, but who have gre t influence over their men in camp and on the field.

Their spiris are specially good since the brilliant victory which they, under General Heth, achieved at Reams! on 25th of August.

Archer's brigade, which heretofore has suffered from relaxation of discipline from causes referred to, will soon present

a marked improvement under the commander of their choice.

Davis's brigade, which has been less distinguished for discipline, will be seen by second inspection report made on 5th of peptember, and to which attention is called in apendi x to this recrt.

This division has done hard and distinguished service during the campaign and has sustained very heavy losses. General Heth is active and energetic in the discharge of his duties and a devoting himself with zeal to the 1 proved efficiently of his command.

artillery, suffered much from ague and fever.

p 1233

Tealquarters Johnson's pivision, retersburg, Va, Sett. 24,1864

Tir: I send to the c iginal application of general Archer to have Johnson's old brigade consolidated with his own. Please inclose this with the paper forwarded on the same subject the other day. (2? etc. R.F. Foote, assistant adjutant general (See Foote to Foote, Sept. 20 p. 1263

p 1284

add arters Arc er's and Walker's Brigades, August 27,1864

Col W.H. Taylor, assistant adjutant general, Army of Northern VOQd

Virgin a.

colonel: I have the ho or to request the transfer of the Tennessee brigade (Late Bushred Johnson's) to my brigade.

The Tennesseeans of my com and who are anxious for this transfer and have asked me to apply for it, as ure mo that it is equally the desire of Bushrod Johnson's brig de. Johnson's brigade is on provost duty in ichmond. Respectfully, your obedient servent J.J. Archer brigadier general first endorsement

Respectfully forwarded and recommended to the favorable consideration of the general commanding. I suggest that "alker's old brigade

be put on d ty Johnson's brigade now performs. "alker's brigade is much Deduced, and being a Virginia brigado, stationary and near their homes, would fill up. It numbers now 600 men for duty.

"esp ctfully, 4. H th, major-general

second indorsement

Headquar ers Third Army Corps, August 28,1864

Respectfully forwarded, recommended

It is certainly advisable to brigade together all the Tennessee troops in this army.

A.P. Hill, lieutenant general

third endorsement

"eadquarters Army of Northern Virginia, August 30, 1864
Respectfully referred to General Beauregard for remarks. By
order of General "ee

".H. Taylor

adjutant general.

fourth endorsement

Respectfully returned to army headquarters. The Tennessee briade, known as Johnson's, is on in the Pepartment of Richmond under Lieut. General Ewell. For General Beauregard: Jno M. Otey, "ssistant adjutant general

Fifth indor ement September 1,1864

Respectfully returned. It was known that this brigade is at this time in the Department of Richard. As it constitutes a part of Johnson's division and is only temperarily detached, the application for its transfer to another command, by exchange, was abmitted for the views of General Beauregard. The exchange is deemed ad isable. By order of General Tee W.H. Taylor, assistant

## Sixth indorsement

General Johnson. By command of General Bequregard. George Im. Brent, colonel and assistant adjustant general.

Seventh indorsement

Respectful y refer ed by direction of wair-General Johnson for the views of regimental commanders. By order of Colonel Kub Hughs, commanding brigade, "alter weir, assistant ad utant general.

## -inhth endorsement

H drs 17th and 23rd Tennessee Resiments, Tignal Hill, September 9,1864.

Respectfully returned; Frommy long connection with what is known as General R. B. Johnson's old brigade, an from recent ex ressions of ovinion on the part of the officers an men comp sing the brigade. - am justified in saving in beir behalf, and onmy own pat, that we are not willing to enter into any arran ement that will in any ay d stroy our identity as a brigade. "e are now in the Pepartment of Richmond under Ljeutenant-General Ewell, but not in Richard on provost duty. as stated by General "reher. I" my opinion the consolidation of this brigade with any ther brigade, and more especially with one in the Army of Northern Virginia, to which we do not roperly be ong, would be injurious to the service in severalways. Each regiment in this brigade has three times recruited its often hinned and deciminted ranks my to the maximum prescribed by law, and though nowmuch educed by the many recent engagements which it has been in, it can again be recruited to the maximum num er if allow d to return to Tennessee to remain where we are a sufficient time for our friends to lear our whoreabouts

H. Ready, lieutenant colonel.

Hdqrs 44th and 25th Tennessee regiments, Signal Hill, Sept. 11,1864

... at present we are on outpost duty in front of Signal Hill and doing good service... When our prisoners—about 500 in number are exchanged—and our convalescents, sick and slightly wounded, in num er about 450 returned, w will have more than an average brigade...

(other disap rovals from ". /. lair, captain, comanding 6 rd len essee re iment, Joh N. Hughs, colonel, com anding brigade and E.B. Johnson, major-general.

(p 1283) (To Lieut Gen R.S. Ewell Richmond, Petersburg Va. Sept 25, 1864

.... While I should regr t to see the officers and men of the brigade disappointed in regard to their wishes for the preservation of a distinct organization, the seport of our inspector preents matters very unfavorable thereto, I confess.

If Go ernor tarris would be placed in a mmand both of Archer's and my brigade it would perhaps give satisfaction to these commands, and inthe end gain increased strenth for them....

...I incline to the opinion that it will be well t completely reorganize our army, consolidate regiments so that every regiment from each State shall be at lest 1,000 in effective strength, and return all supernumerary officers to the ranks R.B. Johnson, major general.

(September 30, 1864) S rength of Heth's divis on, Third Army corps, Maj. Gen Tenry Heth commanding.

command

division field and staff aggregate present, aggregate pre ent forduty, ag regate present and absent (all six)

Archer's brigade (Archer) aggregate present for duty 1,283; present, effective for the field, 1,153. Aggregate present and absent 3,601.

Davis Brigade (Davis) 927 and 1972. Aggregate present and absent, 2,869 MacRae's brigade (MacRae) 1,394; 1,231; and 3,099.

Totals: Aggregate present for duty, 3,610; aggregate present and absent 9,578; present effective for the field 3,456.

Organization of kexk Heth's "ivision. "aj. Gen. Henry "eth Archer's and "alker's brigade

Brig. Gen. James J. Archer

13th Alabama , Lieut Col. James Aiken

1st Tennessee , "apt. "illiam S. Daniel

7th Tennessee, Lieut Col. Samuel G. Shepard

14th Tennessee, Col. Will am McComb

2d Maryland Battalion, Capt. John W. Torsch

40th Virginia , Lieut ol Arthur S. Cunningham.

47th irginia, Capt R. I. Wharton

55th irgin a Maj. Robert , Fauntleroy

22nd Virginia Battalion, Lieut Col. "dward ". Xaxiar: Tayloe (cq)

Under Heth . Davis's brigade

Brig. Gen Joseph R. Davis

1st onfederate Battalion, Lieut Col. Francis B. McClung

2d Mississippi, Col. John M. Stone

11th Mississi pi, Maj. Reuben O. Reynolds

26th Mississippi, Col. Arthur E. Reynolds
42d Mississippi, Capt. Thomas R. Smith
55th North Carolina, Capt. "alter ". whitted.

"acRae's Brigade

10016 Brig. Gen. "illiam MacRae

11th North Carolina, Col. "illiam J. Martin

26th Jorth Carolina, Maj. "ames T. Adams

44th North Carolina, Maj Charles M. St dman

47th North Carolina, Maj. William C. Lankford

52nd North "arolina, Lieut "illiam M. Carmichael.

Third Corps "rtillery, Army of Northern Virginia, "ol R.L. Walker commanding. Cutts battalionk McIntosh's battalion, pegramos battalion, Poague's battalion, "ashington Artillery.

Cavalry corps, Army of Northern Virginia, Maj. en Wade Hamption, commanding. Lee a division, Butler's division, Pearing's division, Artillery (Chew)

(Wilcox Division, Ambrose P. Hill's Corps, Maj Gen. Cadmus M. Wilcox, commanding. Included 800 Brig. Gen James H. Lane, brigade; Brig. Gen Samuel Mc Gowan, brigade; Brig. Gen Edward L. Thomas, bridade; and Brig Gen alfr d. M. Sales, brigade.

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