

COPIES OF ORIGINAL CIVIL WAR LETTERS

COLONEL JAMES A. WILLIAMSON

Commanding Officer

SECOND REGIMENT, ARKANSAS MOUNTED RIFLES



Camp near Boston Mountain (Arkansas)

2nd March, 1862

To: Miss Carrie M. Muldrow

I take a moments liesure to write you a hasty note to give you my whereabouts and a further assurance that you are always first in my thoughts.

Our Company returned yesterday from a very fatiguing scout of five days. I was in command of all the effective men in my own Company, and thirty of another Company. We were all under the command of Major Rob, of Texas, who has considerable reputation as a scout.

There were about 550 men in all. We flanked the enemy and went in their rear to Kirksville, Missouri, where we found two Companies of the enemy and attacked them. In the night we had a little fight that lasted about 15 or 20 minutes. We killed some of the enemy, estimated at from five to twenty five. We could not tell the precise number as they were in the bushes, and it was quite dark. We burned five wagons loaded with suttlers supplies and took about 60 horses and mules. The trip was altogether the most fatuging we have ever been on.

The men were out of provisions hlaf the time, and our way was through the most rugged mountain country I have ever proled over. The horses were many of them entirely winded.

I am happy to report there was not a man killed on our side, and only one or two slightly wounded. I think considering the manner in which the attack was made that it was a most providential escape I have ever known.

This morning orders have been issued for the whole division to prepare six day's rations, and we expect to have to attack the enemy. They are between Fayetteville and the Missouri line. We do not know what their force is. (They did not know it, but they were preparing for the Battle of Pea Ridge, which was to follow in a few days--WTL).

The weather is very cold this morning, snow, sleet and freezing.

I cannot write you in full. You must excuse this hasty note and write to me often. I have just this morning received your very welcome letter of the 18th. I assure you it afforded me the greatest pleasure to know that you are well.

My health is perfectly good now and I will comply with your wish touching my likeness (picture-WTL) as soon as possible.

Excuse this hasty note, and my sincere prayers that you may be spared from every ill.

I remain fondly yours,

(Signed) J. Williamson



Camp Mc Intosh, near Corinth, Miss  
2 May, 1862

To-  
Miss Carrie M. Muldrow

Dear Miss-

Your most welcome letter of the 2nd ult. came to hand this afternoon, and learning that Major Brown, of our Regiment (2), who has resigned, starts for home, I embrace the opportunity of writing you again, fearing that the time is now at hand where all communication between us and our homes will soon be cut off. I do not know that a letter from here would go (through), even at this time, by mail.

You all doubtless know before this that the Federals are in possession of New Orleans (captured by Federals April 24, 1862--WTL), and there is every prospect of their commanding the entire Mississippi River. When I reflect that we will soon be cut off from all communication with home, I sometimes become almost desperate, and am eager for the battle that seems to be pending, hoping it may be something to stop the progress of a foe that seems determined to crush us.

I wrote you from Little Rock and again from Memphis (3), both of which I hope you have received, and in which I gave you some of the reasons why I did not write you sooner after the battle of Elk Horn (March 7-8, 1862--WTL). I know it is hard to give a satisfactory excuse for not writing a letter when we feel it is due, but I think you will see from the circumstances that surrounded me during that time that it was impossible for me to write you without giving to our correspondence more publicity than you would desire, and I am vain enough to believe that believe that you will not attribute it to my luke-warmishness.

I wrote to Father, believing you would hear the substance of my letters to him, and in that way learn where I was.

Truly I am now in one of the most trying periods of my life. Duty seems to call on me to remain where I am, and all my hopes of happiness, and every tie that is social calls me home. I feel, however, that unless my entire Company is released, it will be my duty to remain with them ( he was the Captain--WTL), let their fate be what it may.

There is a prospect of our Regiment being ordered to reorganize in a few days for two years longer (4). I cannot yet foretell what will be the effect of the order. Our Regiment is now a skeleton Regiment-- so many being sick and otherwise (Corinth was a very unhealthy place--WTL). I am almost afraid to venture a surmise as to what is to be the effect of the Conscript Law.

I know you expect me to give you many interesting facts about our Army here, but I must surprise you by saying really I know very little about it. Our Division of the Army, i. e., the Trans-Mississippi Division is encamped together, and since our stay here of eight days, I have not been 500 yards from our own tent, and cannot give you even a reasonable guess as to the number of troops here. We can hear all kind of rumors in camp, but none in which I place any confidence.

Our pickets have been fighting some, with what success I cannot tell. The enemy are encamped between this place and the Tennessee River, some say at seven miles distance, others at fourteen. Report says both the right and left wing of the enemy are wavering, while the center is remaining stationary. Their numbers are estimated variously-- some say 100,000 and others 200,000. I have great confidence in our success if we come to an engagement, but I expect the battle to be terrible when it comes.



Letter 2nd May, 1862--Continued

I am almost afraid to give vent to my feelings-- even to you-- touching my great desire for a honorable termination of this war. I fear that you might think that I was prompted in some measure by a desire to shun the dangers of battle, but I assure you that the battlefield is not the only place that tries the patience and endurance of the soldier. There are many other things in camp that are far from pleasant, and officers as well as soldiers have their trials.

I feel almost disconsolate at the idea that I am to lead this life for a period that I do not know the length of. That I am to be denied the pleasure and good effect of home association, and above all, that I am not to know when I shall meet you again-- all these are sad reflections, but let us hope that through the mercy of one that ruleth over all, all may yet be well, that you may be spared from all the ills of life, and that I may be protected from the dangers of battle, and that our meeting shall yet be joyful, and our path through life smooth. (Note his sentiment here: Army life was beginning to tell on him, but he thought more of the happiness and health of his future bride than of himself--WTL).

I fear you will think from the tenor of this letter that I am sad and desponding. I do not think I am, but the situation of our country is such that I think we should all be serious and earnest, and prepare ourselves too meet every turn of fortune.

Robert Huldrow has not been well for a few days, but is quite well today again. He has had a bad cold and some fever with it. He is quite cheerful this evening and was quite rejoiced to get a letter from you.

T. Mc Faddin is in fine health, but, like myself, anxious to know what is to be the end of all this.

I desire to be remembered kindly to your father and mother, sisters and brothers, and how happy I should be to meet you all again. With prayers for your safety, I remain,

Fondly yours

(Signed) J. A. Williamson

Notes

1. Apparently for their former camp, near Ozark, Arkansas, which had been named for their first Regimental Commander, Colonel (Brig. General) James Mc Intosh, killed at Pea Ridge.)
2. Major (Lt. Col.) Henry K. Brown, who organized Company "C", Second Regiment Arkansas Mounted Rifles, was not elected at the reorganization, and so resigned and returned to his home in Sevier County.
3. The Regiment moved through Little Rock and Memphis enroute to Corinth, hoping to participate in the Battle of Shiloh, but were detained at De Valls, Bluff, Arkansas, and thus arrived in Memphis after the battle.
4. The Regiment was reorganized at Corinth on May 8th, 1862, and Captain James A. Williamson was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel of the Regiment. He was now on his way up !



Letter written to Lieutenant Colonel James A. Williamson by his proud father,  
in which some wise counsel is given by this great man of God.

Washington, Arkansas  
30th May, 1862

My dear Son:

I received yours of the 12th on yesterday, and we were truly thankful to God to learn that you were well. I wrote you last Monday by Captain Carter, from whom I learned that you had been elected Lieutenant Colonel, which I was glad to hear, as you will have less labor than as a Captain, and will be more nearly associated with Colonel Flanagin (Colonel Harris Flanagin, the Regimental Commander, who was later to be elected Governor of Arkansas without his personal knowledge--WTL), in whom, as a man and a gentleman, I have the utmost confidence.

General and Mrs. Royston spent the day with us yesterday (James Williamson had read Law under General Grandison D. Royston, an old friend of the family, prior to the war--WTL). I gave him fully my opinion of the Conscription Act (you wrote it "proscription", which is a very different thing!), as unconstitutional and despotic; but he pleads in defense, the necessity of the country and (as the Congress supposed) the terrible and decisive impending battles, as if a battle or two, resulting as they may, could have any favorable influence in stopping the ravages of this horrible war, urged on as it is by all the bad passions of ambition, avarice, and malice. The necessity is that a few men must be sustained in high offices and on fat salaries, which the people of the whole country, North and South, are crushed with enormous taxes and privation, and the most illboding symptom of the times that I have seen is the lengthy essay in the WASHINGTON TELEGRAM (published at Washington, Arkansas, throughout the war--WTL) on the prospects of the Confederacy after the war is over.

It appeared to be an editorial, and is a more vile and malignant abuse of free (that is) Democratic Government than we have been accustomed to find in the English press. It speaks in exciting terms of the universal popularity of the Conscription Law; of the approval of the English Monarchy by nine tenths of the South; comes to the sage conclusion that our Independence will soon be recognized by foreign powers and that then the Confederacy, as a grand, centralized, consolidated nation, will settle down into a Monarchy by electing a President and Senators for life-- or under a Military Dictator, after the model of Napoleon.

Now that such intimation should be thrown out while our brave men are suffering all the hardships of war, and dying by thousands, in what our leaders call a "death struggle for Freedom", far transcends my most gloomy anticipation, of the motives of men desiring to control public opinion.

General Royston condemns the price alluded to as I do, but still it shows there is "something rotten in Denmark". That such sentiments will meet the reprobation of the people is certain, but that there are individuals, who were not Secessionists panting for Monarchy, and an established religion is equally true. They cry loudly for war and Independence that by a charge of the cost of thousands of lives. They may bring in by a standing army a system of government that will elevate the chosen few and make vassals of the vulgar hordes, and it is for this that we are fighting! My hope is still the God of our Fathers-- that he may save our country from a tyrant's grasp, and preserve us as a free people.

Our spring has been wet; corn is looking well where I got a stand at first planting. We finish today ploughing the second time all my early corn-- about 90 acres. My second planting is up pretty well and our cotton planted the first of the month came up very good, and we are now thinning it. I had the best appearance of oats I ever had till a week ago-- the rust struck it, and it will be as bad as last year. My rye is excellent.



Letter of 30 May, 1862--Continued

Your mother is suffering for the last few days with something of flux, and at times is very painful, though not alarming. Your sisters are well, but would be much better if this wretched war was over and you were at home.

Our Negroes are all well but Susan, she has something of a scrofulous tumor on her neck that has kept her in for the past month.

Your Sis, A, was well ten days ago.

Your horse is improving, and has every attention. You, of course, must buy a (another--WTL) horse, and I hope you will get a good one, and you must uniform as becomes your grade in the Army (that of Lieutenant Colonel--WTL).

BE NEAT, CLEAN, AFFABLE AND DIGNIFIED; KIND TO THE SOLDIERS AND DILIGENT IN SERVICE, AND, ABOVE ALL, PUT YOUR TRUST IN GOD AND IN THE CRACIOUS REDEEMER WHO GAVE HIS LIFE FOR OUR REDEMPTION, AND BE ASSURED THAT MY PRAYERS ASCEND DAY AND NIGHT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF YOUR LIFE, AND YOUR FINAL SALAVTION !  
(The capitals are mine. Wasn't this a fine bit of advice ?--WTL)

Your mother and sister unite in love.

Your affectionate father

(Signed) S, Williamson

P. S. Isom's money came safe and I will divide it as he desires (Isom was the Colonel's colored body-servant--WTL).

This I send by Mr. Barksdale (a courier--WTL), or whoever may leave tonight for the Army.



Camp near Tupelo, Mississippi  
11th June, 1862

To: Miss Carrie M. Muldrow

Learning that there is a possibility of getting a letter through to Arkansas this morning, I embrace the opportunity of writing you again, knowing when I do so that it is remarkable doubtful whether it will ever reach you or not, but judging from my own anxiety to receive a letter from you, I feel it my duty to risk a great deal to get one to you.

It really seems a long time since I have received a letter from you. The last one bears date of April 7th, and I do think I ought to have got one since that time.

In my last letter to you, which was sent by Major Brown (see letter of May 2, 1862-WTL), I indulged in some gloomy forebodings for which I have blamed myself since, but really in writing to you I write just what I feel, and I hope you will not regard that as strange. Nothing has occurred since writing that letter which should make me feel that the prospect of my meeting the loved ones at home is better, yet I am becoming accustomed to the idea that I am to remain in the Army longer than I supposed I would.

The thought of not being allowed to visit home this summer did cut short some of my bright dreams, but if my duty to my country requires that I should remain here, I will try to do so cheerfully.

An unfeeling enemy seems to be using every human effort to subjugate our country, and it now requires great effort on our part to withstand them.

I have no local news that could be of interest to you. We are in a large army, where we get to know what are the real duties of a soldier. In an army of the size of this there is a very poor chance to get anything in the way of country supplies (fresh vegetables and fruits--WTL), yet we do manage to get something occasionally. I am remarkably fond of vegetables, and the only ones I have got this entire spring and summer has been a few onions-- not the most delicate vegetable! We live chiefly on army stores, and they are pretty rough, and sometimes not very abundant.

Your cousins are both quite well, and your acquaintances, except Mr. Hardy, are all well. Mr. Hardy is at a hospital sick. I learn he is improving very rapidly.

I have not time to write a longer letter as the gentleman leaves soon who I expect to carry this hurried note. I do think you ought to write to me oftener. I feel that if you know what a comfort it was to me to receive a letter from you, you would write oftener.

In the hope that we may meet in brighter days, I remain

Fondly

(Signed) J. A. Williamson

Note: This letter was written at Tupelo, Mississippi, after the Confed rate troops had evacuated Corinth, Mississippi. Without knowing it, they were soon to embark on the "Kentucky Campaign."



Camp near Chattanooga, Tennessee (1)

29 July, 1862

My dear father:

As an opportunity offers of sending a letter across the Mississippi, I embrace it to write you again. My health continues good, indeed I am in better health now than I have been since we crossed the Mississippi. I think the health of our Regiment is better than it has been since the Elk Horn battle (March 6-7, 1862 - WTL).

We are now moving our tents and baggage into Chattanooga to take the cars tomorrow morning for Loudon (Tennessee) (about 30 miles from Chattanooga-WTL). Our Division, composed of two brigades (2) is to go. Our Brigade goes tomorrow, and the other is to follow the next day.

Your friends and acquaintances are all well that are here. T. Mc Fadden is with the Regiment and in good health. Tom got up to the Regiment about a week ago, but had not completely recovered and was complaining and not able to do anything, but today I took him into Chattanooga and sent him by the train to Uncle Thomas Adams, and wrote Uncle to keep him until he was entirely well (3). I will write Uncle again so he can know where I am, and when Tom recovers he can send him to me.

I was anxious to go to see Uncle Thomas, but the orders have been so rigid that I have not asked for a leave of absence.

We know very little about the position of the enemy. General Buell's (Federal) Army is in the neighborhood of Stephenson (Tennessee) and Bridgeport. I have no correct idea of the size of it. It is reported here that they are moving in the direction of Knoxville, by way of Sequatchie Valley, and I presume we are being sent to reinforce General Kirby Smith's force to try to stop them (the enemy-WTL) from getting out in that direction (he was right--WTL). They are possibly trying to make a junction with the Federal troops at Cumberland Gap.

We know very little about the position of things now. We feel quite safe, however, on this side of the River, and I do not think either of the Armies are very anxious for battle. I think they are both checked by the River.

I have nothing of interest to write you, but must remind you to be sure and write by every possible chance to get a letter through. I have not received a line from home since the 5th of May, and you must know I am very anxious to get a letter.

Your affectionate son

(Signed) J. A. Williamson

TO: Rev. S. Williamson D. D.,  
Washington, Hempstead County, Arkansas

Notes: (1) This letter was written while the men were preparing for the "Kentucky Campaign."

(2) This Division, commanded by the gallant Arkansan, Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne, consisted of the following:

Cleburne's Brigade (Commanded by Col. B. J. Hill)  
Smith's Brigade (Commanded by Col. Preston Smith)



JAMES ADAMSON WILLIAMSON

(Extracts From Military Career)

- Early 1861 Assisted George E. Gamble in recruiting company at Washington, Arkansas, later known as Company "H", Second Regiment Arkansas Mounted Rifles.
- 8/4/61 Enrolled in Confederate Army at Crane Creek, Missouri, by Lt. Col. McCrae for 12 months, after traveling 300 miles. Was elected First Lieutenant of the company at this time.
- 8/10/61 Participated in Battle of Oak Hills, Mo. (Also called "Wilson's Cre
- 9/23/61 Promoted to Captain Company "H", succeeding George E. Gamble, decea
- 3/7-8/62 Participated in Battle of Pea Ridge, Ark. (Also called "Elk Horn Tan
- 5/8/62 Promoted to Lt. Colonel, succeeding Henry K. Brown, resigned.  
(Succeeded as Captain, Co. "H" by Charles Carter, later killed  
in Battle of Richmond, Kentucky.)
- 8/30/62 Participated in Battle of Richmond, Kentucky.
- 11/8/62 Promoted to Colonel, succeeding Harris Planagin, elected Governor  
of Arkansas. Succeeded as Lt. Col. by James T. Smith, later killed  
at Ezra Church, Georgia.
- 12/31/62 Participated in Battle of Murfreesboro, Tenn. (Also known as  
Stone's River.)
- 3/26/63 Married at Washington, Arkansas, to Miss Carrie May Maldrow.
- 7/4/63 Returned to his command on Big Black River, Mississippi, on  
the day Vicksburg, Mississippi, was surrendered.
- 9/19-20/63 Participated in Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia. Here more than  
one-third of his Regiment was either killed or wounded, yet Colonel  
Williamson was not touched. Most of his staff officers who were  
casualties were struck within 30 feet of him.
- Early 1864 Participated in "Atlanta Campaign", fighting the enemy almost every  
day.
- 5/14/64 Lost leg in Battle of Resaca, Georgia.
- Later retired for Physical Disability and returned to his home.



Camp Stephens, near Bentonville, Arkansas

November 11, 1861

My dear father:

Mr. Gill, from our county, leaves camp in a few minutes and I take this opportunity to write you that I am well, and where I am.

When I last wrote you we were in a hurried retreat from near Carthage, Missouri, the object of which was to get our forces between the Federal forces and Arkansas. After coming near to this point our Regiment advanced about 32 miles towards Springfield (Missouri), where the Federal forces are encamped.

We encamped about 12 miles above Cassville, and remained about a week, during which time we were scouting and trying to ascertain the force of the enemy. Our Company was sent with a detachment to within twelve miles of Springfield. Last week we were out four days without anything but what we took on our horses, but the weather was warm and pleasant. The object of our trip was to devastate, burn, and lay waste the country, which we did to a good extent. The forces of the enemy are reckoned at fifty thousand, with 120 pieces of artillery, which makes them so much superior to us that we cannot risk an engagement without reinforcements.

General Fremont has been superseded by General Hunter, who is now in command of the Federal forces (1).

I wish you to tell everyone that you see if they do not want to see Arkansas devastated and laid waste, they had better rally to her defense. I learn that the impression is common that we have a strong army in the hills. They are encamped near us and I learn from those well informed that they have not more than 12,000 effective troops, and I do not think General McCulloch has more than half that number, and the most we can do is to fight bush fights and devastate the country before them, unless we are reinforced rapidly.

Our Company got 14 good recruits with Lieutenant Carter, which was quite an acquisition. They are all good men.

Your acquaintances are all well except Lieutenant Moore and Lieutenant Vaughan, who are absent sick. I learn that Mr. Moore is quite sick, though I hope not dangerous.

I will get the clothing you sent by Lieutenant Carter today. He left it at Bentonville as he went up.

We got to this point late yesterday evening, and he (Lt. Carter) has gone with some wagons for it today, and will be back this evening. He tells me you got everything I need, and of the best quality.

This morning we have bad weather.

In haste, I remain your affectionate son

(Signed) James

Rev. S. Williamson,  
Washington, Arkansas



November 11, 1861---Continued.

To: Miss

- (1) Federal General John C. Fremont became intoxicated with his own glory. On August 28, 1861, he issued a Proclamation of Martial Law in Missouri, declaring that any citizen-soldier caught with arms in his hands would be summarily executed, and also proclaimed freedom for the slaves of all persons engaged in the rebellion against the United States.

President Lincoln was trying to appease the slaveholding state of Kentucky, and ordered Fremont's proclamation withdrawn and relieved him. Hunter, who succeeded him, had a short tenure of office. On November 9, 1861, General Halleck was made Commander of the new Federal Department of Missouri, who promptly placed General Pope, in what was designated as the "Central Missouri District," relieving General Hunter--WTL

NOTE: When this letter was written James Williamson was Captain, Co. "H", Second Regiment Arkansas Mounted Rifles, having assumed command of the Company on the death of its first commander, George E. Gamble on September 14, 1861.

Williamson had also been elected Lieutenant Colonel of the Regiment, effective with the reorganization of the Regiment the following spring, but it will be noted that no mention of either promotion was evidenced in this letter. He was evidently a very modest man--WTL



Letter of 29 July, 1862--Continued

Notes: (3) It was the policy of the Confederate Government, because of the acute shortage of hospitals, to send the wounded and sick into the homes of relatives and friends nearby until they could recover sufficiently to return to active duty. While some of the men took advantage of this privilege, most of them under loving care could be restored to duty much quicker than in the military hospitals.



This letter describes the  
battle of Richmond, Kentucky.

Camp near Walton, Boone County, Kentucky (1)

13 September, 1862

To: Miss Carrie M. Muldrow

Dear Miss:

Knowing your anxiety to hear from me and your other friends, I embrace the first opportunity of writing you.

Since the 6th of August our command has been constantly on the march, and for a good portion of the time, near the enemy.

We were the first Brigade that crossed the Cumberland Mountains, and were on forced marches and short rations until the 30th of August. On that day we fought the battle near Richmond, Kentucky, which I think was the most complete and brilliant victory of the war.

Our Brigade was not engaged until about four o'clock p. m., which was the last stand the enemy made. Our Brigade made a most gallant charge and the rout of the enemy was complete.

Our Cavalry were thrown in advance of the routed foe and took prisoners all that remained with their command. I regret to state that one whom I hold in the highest esteem as a gentleman and soldier fell upon the battlefield. I allude to Captain Charles Carter, who commanded my old Company (Captain Carter had assumed command of the Company when Williamson was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel--WFL). His death casts a gloom over all the glories of the battle.

The fighting commenced about 8:00 a.m., and continued through the entire day. There were three infantry engagements, but the most of the time it was artillery fighting. I cannot give you anything like a detailed account of the battle.

Your cousins escaped untouched and bore themselves gallantly through the fight. A spent ball struck me on the left arm and for a moment I thought it was entered, but I soon discovered that it had not. It made a blue spot for a few days, but is all gone now. It did not even go through my coat.

I feel quite proud of the behaviour of our Brigade and Regiment. After the battle of Richmond, which was on Saturday, we rested one day, Sunday.

I must tell you my estimate of the losses:

I think the enemy lost in killed on the field about 200, wounded 600, and prisoners 3,000, making their total loss about 4,000.

We lost in killed about 100, wounded about 400. We had about 6,000 troops in the battle; the enemy about 7,000. Their troops, however, were new troops, and it was the first time they had been under fire.

Our forces have been considerably increased since on Monday, after the battle, with reinforcements. We marched towards Lexington. The enemy evacuated at (Lexington) on Monday night, and we took possession Tuesday (These dates are remarkably accurate in the light of later recorded history--WFL).

I do not think any portion of the South that we have been in has shown more devotion to the cause of the Confederacy than the Blue Grass region of Kentucky. Many really shed tears for joy. Indeed the whole population seems for us.



Letter 13 September, 1862--Continued

I do now think the Federal authorities have exercised a tyranny over the citizens of this state that nothing could warrant. Many of the leading citizens are now at Camp Chase, in Ohio, imprisoned-- merely for opinion's sake.

Our Brigade left Lexington on Thursday, the 4th, and marched to Georgetown, where we were ordered to meet some of the enemy that were at Cynthiana (Kentucky), and we were marched very hard, but the enemy left a day before we got there. We were marched from there by way of Williamstown to the vicinity of Covington, on the Ohio River opposite Cincinnati. We reached our camp five miles from Covington on Wednesday, September 10th, and remained there in range of the enemy's artillery until yesterday morning, when we were ordered back to this point. We are now 19 miles from Covington. The enemy are at Covington with a large force and we do not know how soon we may be engaged with them.

I cannot give you any idea of our forces as this letter might possibly fall in the hands of the enemy (he was a careful soldier--WTL), but with anything like good generalship I think our army safe. I have great confidence in the troops we have here.

I write in haste.

I received your letter by Captain Carter and was sorry to learn that you had been sick (Captain Carter was killed in the battle of Richmond shortly after he delivered this letter--WTL). Do hope your health is fully restored and that you are enjoying every comfort and blessing (was this sour grapes?--WTL).

May God in his mercy spare us for a happy meeting, is the prayer of

Yours fondly,

(Signed) J. A. Williamson

P. S. Do write often. How thankful I was to receive your last letter.

Note: (1) In 1962 Walton was on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, 21 miles south of Covington.



Cumberland Gap. Tennessee

25th October, 1862

To: Miss Carrie M. Muldrow

Dear Miss:

Your letter of the first of August is the last I have received. Mr. Hill, who brought me a letter from father, and brought letters to a great many of our Regiment, returned without one from you, and I assure you that I was greatly disappointed in not receiving one as I confidently expected it.

I saw one from your father to Robert, and inferred from it that you were well. In your letter of the first of August you spoke of being sick, and I imagined that you had been more seriously ill than you wrote me, but I thought your father would have mentioned it if such had been the case, and I was glad to have an opportunity of hearing from you, even in that indirect way. I do hope your health is fully restored.

I wrote you a long letter from Walton, Kentucky, about the 10th or 12th of September (September 13, 1863- See- WTL), in which I gave you all the particulars of the Richmond Battle, which I hope you will have received before this reaches you.

In that letter I mentioned that we have been marching very hard, and that we were quite destitute of the comforts of camp life. From that time to the present there has been an improvement in our condition.

It is cloudy and cold in this mountain region this evening, and we have not a single tent in the Regiment, but singular to tell, our troops enjoy unusually good health, and would be in good spirits if they could get enough to eat. I suppose you will hardly believe me when I write you I have seen numbers in our Regiment eating acorns from hunger. This, however, was when we were on picket duty in rear of the Army on the retreat from Kentucky.

Our Army General, Kirby Smith, formed a junction with General Braxton Bragg at Harrodsburg, Kentucky, and were put in line of battle one evening and the retreat ordered next morning. I can give you no reason for the movement. The world at large is denouncing General Bragg, and it may be that he deserves it, but he has heretofore been a favorite with me, and I will not give up my good opinion of him until I have time to see that he is wrong.

Our retreat has not been a very hurried one, yet it was a full retreat. Some say that the retreat was ordered from Richmond, Virginia, but we who are in the Army have no better idea of the reasons for the movements of the Army than you have.

Your relatives and friends are quite well, indeed I have been perfectly astonished to see how well youths that have been well and delicately raised have stood the march. Most of them really look better than before the campaign commenced.

We have no idea as to what our future movements are to be. Some seem quite disheartened at the thought of our being left to guard this Gap (Cumberland Gap-WTL). I don't think myself that they need be uneasy, for I believe as soon as it is ascertained that the enemy will not try to force a passage here, we will be put in the field again, and if there be any hard marching I am satisfied it will fall to our lot. I sometimes think that many portions of the Army soldier for grandeur and when there is hard marching or fighting to be done on this side (of the Mississippi River--WTL) they look to Arkansas and Texas troops to do it! (Emphasis mine--WTL).



Letter 25 October, 1862- Continued

I fear you will think this a very prosy, dry letter, but I must tell you under what circumstances it is written. Our non-conscript writing by a fire made today, and I propose sending it every few seconds nearly putting my eyes out with the smoke, and about every minute some one asking me questions about getting discharge papers fixed, so you will see I can have little to say--WTL). I thought through the letter (Not a very good one).

I would burn this and write again, but the non-conscripts are in quite a hurry to get home and purpose leaving very early in the morning pending two months and a half where we don't enjoy the luxury to read or write by after dark!

I fear if I continue to paint camp life as I imagine that under the circumstances really worse off than life is nothing that could inspire a very elegant train of thought for letter writing.

I must tell you of the mountains just at the corner of Virginia and Kentucky, and on the Tennessee line. The corner stone between Virginia and Kentucky, stands the strongest gap within fifty yards of the summit of the ridge a number of forts and rifle pits and natural points of defense. I don't think there is much danger of our being attacked here, as I think it would be madness in any commander to attempt to take it.

Two Brigades are hoped confidently that after our fatiguing campaign through Kentucky we might be transferred to West of the Mississippi this winter. Our Generals to see our friends, but from orders issued of absence, but I have frequently found do not intend to return seemed to include one course of conduct, others would be pursued. If there be any good opportunity for me to get home this winter, I will and come.

I hope here that Colonel Flanagin (the Regimental Commander--WTL) is elected Governor of Arkansas (he was--WTL). If that be the case it will diminish my chances of getting to visit you (Williamson was in line to succeed Colonel Flanagin--WTL). You cannot imagine how exceedingly anxious I am to visit you, but I am in comparison of our correspondence is engaged in person and spending even one evening with you!

I beg you not to neglect to write me. You cannot imagine how low-spirited it makes me to see every one getting letters from home, and I remain yours,

In the fond hope of  
(Signed) J. A. Williamson

P. S. My letter is soiled, but the smoke and ashes are so bad I cannot



Camp near Loudon, Tennessee

November 10, 1862

TO: Miss C. M. Muldrow,

Dear Miss:

I wrote you a long letter from near Walton, Kentucky, giving you a full report on the battle of Richmond, Kentucky (see letter of 13 September, 1862--WTL), and again from near Cumberland Gap on the 25ult, (see--WTL), which I sent by Mr. Oldham. I cannot tell when you will receive them, but I am satisfied you will have received the last letter before this reaches you. I, therefore, can give you no news prior to the date of the last letter.

On the morning after I wrote you last (that is, October 26th--WTL), I woke to find the earth covered with snow, and for the entire day, and part of the night, I never have seen such an incessant snow storm. It fell to the depth of about twelve inches. This is not figurative, but an actual fact, that we who had not a hut to protect us can speak of knowingly. On the Wednesday following, we took up the line of march for this point. On the Saturday night following (November 1st--WTL) I was handed a letter on the back of which I did not see my own name, but I recognized the handwriting to be yours in an instant. I forgot all my troubles and fatigue immediately, and felt that I was refreshed.

I was glad to learn from it that you were well again. In my last I think I told you how bad I felt at receiveing no letter by Mr. Hill, but this last, being unexpected at the time I received it, it was doubly welcome.

I feel that responsibilities are increasing with me (this was his way of telling her that he was now the "Old Man"--the Commander of the Regiment--WTL). Colonel Flanagan has gone to take his seat as Governor of Arkansas, and I am left with the responsibility of governing a Regiment. The office of Lieutenant Colonel (his former rank--WTL) is one of ease and not attended with much responsibility (he was being modest--WTL), but a Commander of a Regiment has many unpleasant details to perform. I am fortunate, however, in having the conviction that I have the confidence of the Regiment, and I believe, without partiality, I can say I have the best Regiment to control I have ever seen--- without meaning to reflect on the many good men of our Regiment that we left West of the Mississippi River of necessity.

I believe that all the bad portion of our Regiment left us about the time we crossed the Mississippi River, and about the time of the reorganization (at Corinth, May 1862--WTL), and now we have none but patriotic soldiers that are willing to do their duties. The unpleasant part of my office is to give the men satisfactory reasons for the shortcomings of the Commissary and the Quartermaster Departments-- touching something to eat and wear (he was famed for being considerate of his men--WTL). I hope, however, we will not have to undergo any more such privations as we have undergone (they did, even much worse, before it was all over--WTL).

I see I am telling you my own troubles, instead of writing something that would interest and entertain you better. I believe I have given you a full history of our past movements, and as for the future, I can do nothing more than give you my conjectures and camp rumors which are always unreliable. My conjectures have been that our Division would be marched from this point by land across towards Middle Tennessee and have an active winter campaign. I hear in camp today on good authority that General (J. P.) Mc Com is ordered West of the Mississippi. Camp rumor says he has asked that our Division go with him, and says further that General Kirby Smith has half consented. We amuse ourselves with these kind of reports whenever we are still for a few days.



Letter of November 10, 1862--Continued

Our troops have been paid up to the last of August since we came to this camp.

We are now having doubtful weather (there was no connection between this and the pay-roll--WTL).

I sent out and bought a hog today at  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents a pound, gross, so you will see I do not intend to starve.

Isom (his personal colored servant--WTL) left me yesterday for home. He became so delicate that he was of no value to me. The exposure at Cumberland Gap came very near killing him, and I thought I would give him a furlough for the winter (note his concern for his trusted "darkie"--WTL).

I believe I have given you all my private history, and must conclude with this request-- that you write me by every opportunity. I think I have embraced every reasonable opportunity of writing (to you).

Living in the pleasure of the hope of meeting you,

I remain fondly yours,

(Signed) J. A. Williamson



In camp near Reedyville, Tennessee (1

22nd December, 1862

To: Miss C. M. Kuldrow

Dear Miss:

Days, weeks, and months elapse and I receive no letters from you, yet I find myself seated again to write you. The last line from you bears date 3rd October, and that was received about the first of November. Since that time I have not heard a word from you.

I wrote you last from Manchester. Since then we have moved to this point. We are now about 12 miles south of Lebanon, Tennessee. We have had some very severe weather, but it is now pleasant, and everything seems to indicate that we will move soon, but where I can give no idea.

There is a report in camp that seems to deserve some credence-- that the enemy are evacuating Nashville (this was a false report--WTL). We all fear for the purpose of moving their army down the Mississippi River, and possibly more troops into Arkansas.

We are all quite anxious to know what is doing in Arkansas. We have a report that the Hindman forces had a battle in North Arkansas. The Federals claim a victory, and our papers claim a victory.

Our entire Brigade are quite anxious to be transferred to that side (that is, West of the Mississippi--WTL), and I assure you none more so than I. It seems like more than a year since I was in Hempstead County.

I will give you a history of my daily labors, and I think you will excuse me if this should prove a dry and uninteresting letter.

I am on the parade ground instructing in Company Drill from 9 till 11 o'clock, and from 11 until 12 o'clock drilling officers. In the afternoon we have Regimental Drill from 3 until 5 o'clock, then Dress Parade, and after dark I hear all the officers of the Regiment recite in Tactics-- all this besides the routine business of my office.

I am sometimes almost glad that I am kept this busy, as it prevents me from thinking too much about those that it is impossible for me to see-- and as I have to remain here, I think the more constantly I am employed, the better for me.

I do think you should break the monotony of this life by letting me receive a letter from you more frequently. It reconciles me to the labors of my office more than anything else.

I have seen an account of the meeting of the Synod at Washington (Arkansas) in the Southern Presbyterian Church, which is the latest news I have had from there. I notice that a Mr. L. M. Boyd was examined for the Ministry. Do write me if it was the same gentleman who marries Miss Emma Finley. I hope it is.

Having nothing else to write you about myself--as I do not go out of camp-- I must say that I received a most acceptable present this afternoon in the shape of a pair of woolen socks. Nothing could have been more timely as I really needed them. They were sent to me by a young lady that I have never seen, and I think the probabilities are I never will as she lives some fifteen miles from this camp.

I have not eaten a meal in a house for a month, and have not spoken to a lady since I left Kentucky. I sometimes wonder to myself if I would know how to deport myself in society !



Letter of 22nd December, 1862--Continued

I do not know anything that would interest you from camp. Your relatives and friends are well. Mr. Robert Lloyd is with the Regiment and nearly well.

My own health continues good, and I feel that if I could have the pleasure of meeting you, and spending my evenings with you, I could be almost happy in the army.

Please write me often. I write you by every available opportunity.

Remember me kindly to your family, and accept the kindest wishes of a devoted heart for your welfare.

Fondly yours,

(Signed) J. A. Williamson

To: Miss C. M. Muldrow,  
Washington, Arkansas

Note: (1) He points out that this place was 12 miles South of Lebanon, Tennessee.



(This letter tells about the Battle of Murfreesboro, Tennessee--December 31, 1862-  
January 2, 1863--WFL)

Camp near Shelbyville, Tennessee

13 January, 1863

Miss C. M. Muldrow

Dear Miss:

I have just learned that a gentleman will leave in a few minutes to go West of the Mississippi River, and embrace the opportunity of writing you a line that you may know I am well. I wish very much I had time to write you a long letter.

On the 31st of December (1862) I was in the most terrible battle that I have ever participated in. My Regiment suffered severely, the total casualties being 119 in the Regiment.

I am thankful to be able to write you that I escaped untouched, although exposed for more than six hours where the balls were flying continuously. Our Regiment behaved with signal gallantry, and I feel that my Regiment has covered itself with an unfading honor.

Your cousins escaped unhurt. Victor Green had a severe wound in the arm. J. E. Smith, from near Fulton (Arkansas), and John Thomason, from Prairie D'Anne (near the present site of Prescott, Arkansas--WFL), were both killed in my old Company.

The slaughter of the enemy on the part of the field that we fought over exceeded anything by far I have ever seen. I do not exaggerate when I say we killed more than five to one. I feel that I should be thankful that I am alive, and feel more anxious than ever to meet you once again.

Excuse this short note. I have received no letter from you since 3rd of October, and none from (my) home since 6th October.

I must close as the opportunity for sending this short note may be lost.

I am as every time I write,

Fondly yours

(Signed) J. A. Williamson

To: Miss C. M. Muldrow,  
Washington,  
Arkansas



More about the BATTLE OF MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

Camp near Shelbyville, Tennessee

16 January, 1863

Miss C. M. Muldrow

Dear Miss:

More than a year has elapsed since I have had the pleasure of seeing you, yet you live as fresh in my memory as the day that I bid you "good bye." When I think of many things that have transpired since my last visit to Hempstead County, it seems like an age, but I feel as if it were but a short time since I saw you last.

I can account for this in another way than from the fact that I think of you so often, and all that transpired at our last meeting; I can scarcely bring myself to believe that it really has been more than a year since we met. Do write me honestly how it seems to you. I wish to know if I am singular in this feeling.

I wrote you a hurried note a few days ago (see letter of 13th January, 1863--WTL), simply to say to you that I had passed through the terrible battle of Murfreesboro untouched. When I read the list of killed and wounded officers in my Regiment and know that I shared all the dangers with them, I feel that my escape is almost a miracle.

Every Field and Staff officer in my Regiment except myself was wounded, and all of them were wounded in fifteen feet of me! My horse was struck with a piece of shell within a foot of my leg. Of seven Captains in my Regiment, all were killed or wounded. Of three Lieutenants commanding Companies, all were killed or wounded. More than one third of my entire Command were killed or wounded. Myself and two Lieutenants if my Regiment are all the officers that encountered all the dangers of the entire battle that did not receive a scratch!

We fought three distinct and severe battles, different troops each time; in two we were entirely successful, killing, wounding, and capturing a large number of the enemy, taking surely twelve, and some say, fourteen pieces of enemy artillery, and routing the enemy completely. In the last engagement, we were not able to rout the enemy from his strong position. At the time we charged, one (Federal) battery that was pounding shot and shell upon us, and two others, one on each side, turned loose with a perfect hail of balls on us. Many of my Regiment got within sixty yards of the enemy guns, but were compelled to give back for want of support. It seemed the Commanders expected our Brigade and a Texas Brigade that fought beside us to rout the entire Federal army, as I am satisfied that in this last engagement we fought the enemy at the odds of ten to one! We could see three distinct lines of infantry supporting the enemy Batteries that seemed to have no end either way. I feel, however, that I should feel thankful, knowing what we passed through-- that as many of us are spared as are. My Regiment had one hundred and nineteen (119) killed, wounded, and missing. I am thankful, however, that many of the wounds are slight, and a number of the wounded are now with the Regiment and ready for duty (again--WTL).

Lt. Gen. E. Kirby Smith has been ordered to take command of the Army West of the Mississippi River (1), and is now gone to Richmond. He wrote to General Mc Com that he would make an effort to take our Division with him. Colonel Harper, of our Brigade, has gone to Richmond to try to have our Brigade transferred to that Department (Trans-Mississippi--WTL), and I have some hopes they may succeed.

It would be a day of universal rejoicing in our Brigade if they do succeed. If I am to be kept in camp as close as we are here I can hardly say whether I would be rejoiced or not. There is one thing, however, that makes me desire to go, and that is the hope of receiving letters from you more frequently. I have not received a line from you since your letter of the 3rd of October. Do write soon.



Letter of 16 January, 1863--Continued

The last letter I received from (my) home was by the same person, dated 6th of October, 1862.

I have lost all hope of furlough this winter, and feel that my prospects for seeing home during the War are very slim. My health continues so distressingly good that I cannot make that a plea, and even if I could, it is quite doubtful whether it would succeed.

I had the pleasure a few days ago of meeting your friend and acquaintance, William Haynes Montgomery. He is on General Wither's staff, I believe, but I do not know in what capacity. He seems to be in good spirits and health. I have not had any conversation with him socially. He has promised to come and spend some time with me, but has not yet. He is camped within a mile of us now, I believe.

I fear you will think my letters remarkably practical and prosy, but leading the life I do, I cannot deal in flowery epithets and honeyed phrases, but ask you to believe me when I write that I love you as becomes a soldier (this is the first time he has come right out and told her that he loves her--in writing, anyhow--WTL).

I remain

Fondly yours

(Signed) J. A. Williamson

P. S. I believe Robert Muldrow is writing by the same Courier, and will give news of himself and mess.

JAW

Notes: This letter was written while the Second Regiment Arkansas Mounted Rifles were in Winter Quarters near Shelbyville, Tennessee.

- (1) On February 9, 1863, Lt. Gen. E. Kirby Smith was placed in command of the Confederate Trans-Mississippi Department, consisting of troops in Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and the Indian Territory. This change was made chiefly at the request of Arkansas citizens. Finding it difficult to handle the affairs as far away as Richmond, Virginia, the Trans-Mississippi Department was created with Kirby Smith, promoted to the rank of Full General, in charge.

The Trans-Mississippi Department was an "empire" more or less on its own. Richmond was so far away that ordinary records were not normally forwarded there, resulting in difficulty in later years in tracing the records of many individual soldiers.

General Smith assumed command of the Department, March 7, 1863, at Alexandria, Louisiana, later making his headquarters in Shreveport, Louisiana, and was to hold this position until the close of the war.



Camp near Shelbyville, Tennessee

8 February, 1863

(Continued on 13 February, 1863)

Miss C. M. Muldrow

Dear Miss:

Your very welcome letter of the 2nd ult. has been received, and after so long an unbroken silence I assure you it was a joy to me to look on your familiar handwriting.

Lieutenant Moore with others reached this place on the 27th ult. To his great mortification he lost a large box of clothing belonging to his Company. Robert Muldrow's bundle and I. Thomas's and my own (a very small one) came through safely, having been put in a separate box.

We have had some excitement in our Brigade on the subject of consolidating Regiments. My Regiment and the First Arkansas Mounted Rifles were to be thrown together and constitute one Regiment, and one half of the officers of each relieved from duty for a time, by which operation I indulged the hope that I would be permitted to visit home. The consolidation meets with so much objection that I have not urged it, and I now think it doubtful, although the other Regiments in the Brigade have done so. It would require two Companies to be thrown into one, and take a part of the officers from each, and the Companies are unwilling to part with them, and so with the Regiments (1).

Colonel Harper, who commands the First Regiment, is not present, but will be in a few days, when something definite will be agreed upon. I wish very much that I could be allowed to visit you and home, but the indications now are that in any event I will probably have to remain. I purpose, however, making every reasonable effort for a temporary absence. I sometimes wish very much that I could know your wishes touching what I should do. I can only guess what I believe it would be, and act accordingly.

Our camp here is quite unpleasant. The mud is nearly, or quite as bad as the black lands. We have had rain or snow about one third of the day since we came to this point, and Middle Tennessee is famous for mud. Our tents are quite inferior, and we have not enough even of that kind, and more than all, the rations are getting very bad. Commonly we have nothing but inferior beef and corn meal, or inferior flour. Don't understand me as complaining of my situation, for I bargained for all this when I became a soldier, and I write this particularly from the belief that I think you would like to know how I am living.

I can tell you nothing as to what we will probably do. I do not know whether the intention of our Commanders is to go forward, backward, or stand fast. Generals Joseph E. Johnston and Braxton Bragg are both in Shelbyville at this time. We are now connected with General Polk's Corps. We are tossed about so much that it sometimes makes me angry-- it seems that every Commander we get uses us until he gets his promotion, and then turns us over to some one else!

General Evander Mc Nair is going to Arkansas in a few days, and my opinion (between us) is that he will not return to his command (2). I think his aim will be to get a Command on that side of the Mississippi River and be promoted.

I was glad to learn from your letter that you had been on a visit to father. I wish very much you would go often and take your father with you, as Mattie writes me father is in quite low spirits and she thinks it in consequence of my absence.

I am anxious that my friends should visit him, as I know he is quite fond of company.



February 13, 1863--Continued

I was pleased to see that you place a proper appreciation on Isom's ( the Colonel's personal colored servant--WTL) powers of embellishing, for I can form no idea as to what he may tell. One thing I know, however, and that is that where facts fail to make his yarns interesting, he has quite a fertile imagination to fall back on (see his letter of November 10, 1862, about Isom--WTL) !

I can scarcely refrain from chiding you for asking me to write oftener, when you write so very, very seldom -- think of it-- just three months between your letters-- that would be from a year. I will not retaliate !

February 13, 1863

A Courier leaves immediately, and I must send this unfinished note. I have received your letter of the 20th ult. and will forgive you for not writing oftener, on condition you continue to write punctually.

As ever, sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. A. Williamson

P. S. I have a faint hope that I may get to visit home soon. I am making an effort to go on a recruiting trip.

JAW

Notes: (1) Apparently this consolidation was later placed in effect on a temporary basis, for on April 1, 1863, Harper's Third Brigade, Commanded by Colonel Robert W. Harper, formerly Commander of the First Regiment Arkansas Mounted Rifles, included the following:

"First and Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles (Dis.), under the Command of Colonel H. D. Reynolds.

Colonel James A. Williamson was at that time on Detached Service in Arkansas, during which time he was married to Miss Carrie May Muldrow on March 26, 1863 ! The temporary consolidation proved a wonderful thing for them, after all.

(2) Colonel Williamson was very correct in this guess. Brig. Gen. Evander Mc Nair was eventually transferred West of the Mississippi, and the proud Brigade he had led through several battles was turned over to Daniel H. Reynolds, who led them to the very end, culminating with the final battle at Bentonville, North Carolina, March 19-21, 1865, where Brig. Gen. Reynolds was seriously wounded, and turned the Command over to Colonel Henry G. Bunn, later Justice of the Supreme Court of Arkansas.



This is the first letter we have which was written by Colonel Williamson to his wife. They had been married on March 26, 1863, while the Colonel was in Arkansas on Detached Service for Recruiting Duty. He gained one real recruit, didn't he ?

In camp in Mississippi

July 18, 1863

Dear Carrie:

I learn that a Courier will leave our Brigade in the morning to go to Arkansas. I embrace the opportunity of writing you a hasty note that you may know that I am still alive.

I reached my Command on the 4th of July-- the day that Vicksburg surrendered, since which time we have had the most trying time I have undergone for a long time.

We were camped near Big Black River (Mississippi) when Vicksburg fell. On the 6th we commenced retreating to Jackson, and reached there on the 7th, and remained there until the night of the 15th, when we evacuated Jackson. We were under the firing of the enemy's shell for eight days, but were entrenched and lost very few men. The enemy lost more than we did. They made a small attempt to storm our breast-works, but were repulsed with a loss of some five or six hundred killed, wounded, and taken prisoners.

We are now falling back towards Meridian. We are now about 30 miles East of Jackson.

I cannot give you any general news of interest. I feel that the opportunity of communicating with you is very bad, but I do hope something may turn up that will give me a chance to write often. I almost despair sometimes at the thought that I am so perfectly cut off from you and home.

Your friends and acquaintances are all well. They have been undergoing hard times. Yesterday it rained on us tremendously. The men could not have been wetter if they had been put in a creek, and last night, after traveling in mud a foot deep, they had to sleep on the wet ground, with nothing but the blanket they carry (between them and the mud !--WTL). Today we are resting.

I can give you no idea as to where we are going, or when we will start. It is said that General Grant is following us with a force quite superior to General Johnston's. We know nothing about what is going to be done until there is an order issued to do it.

Our Army is very much fatigued and worn out, but the health of the men is as good as could be expected.

General McNair ordered me on the 5th of July to take temporary command of my Regiment, since which time we have not had an opportunity of getting any permanent action by any superior officer. I am quite anxious to know what effect the fall of Vicksburg has on the people of Arkansas. I fear they will become entirely discouraged.

Rumor says that Charleston, South Carolina, has fallen, but that is not true, however the enemy are besieging it, and I begin to think they can take any place they determine to.

Do write by every possible chance. I have not heard a word from you since I left you. May God grant that you enjoy good health, and that we both be spared to meet again at an early day, is the prayer of your devoted husband.

(Signed) J. A. Williamson



( Letter to Colonel James A. Williamson from his father, Rev. S. Williamson)

Washington, Arkansas

September 24, 1863

My dear Son:

Mr. Barksdale (a courier--WTL) is to leave for the Army in a day or two; if able to ride ( he has been sick ever since he came back, but is now recovering), and I write that if possible you may get a letter from home.

My White family has been generally well through the Summer, and are all now in good health. Your sister, Ann, has been with us about five weeks, is still able to walk about quite fleshy, and has a good appetite, but suffers from swelling of the feet and legs, not uncommon for her situation. She brought the little girls with her, and they must remain here until she is better.

Mr. D ( Ann's husband) is in the army, having volunteered in the State Troops under the call of Governor Flanagin, and is in camp at Arkadelphia. He obtained a furlough and came over yesterday to see his family, and is now here and in good health.

Our Negroes have had a great deal of fever, and some cases bad, but none fatal. All are slowly recovering. Sam T, Big John, Manice, Mary, Liz, Gus, Little Jim, Little John, Sam W, and Rufus, have all had a spell, and are now able to be up, but still weak (Notice the consideration shown the Negroes-- and the people in the North insisted that the Southern whites hated them !--WTL).

One third of my corn did not get the fodder off (because of the illness of the Negroes--WTL), saved, however, plenty if the Army does not take it all.

Your letter of the 15th August I received, and was glad to hear you and my friends in the army were well. Carrie (Colonel Williamson's wife--WTL) sent me your letter to her of the 6th September, by which I learned you had orders to Atlanta, so that I suppose you have gone to General Bragg's Army (This was so. Mc Nair's Brigade was hurriedly ordered to Atlanta, Georgia, to help save the Confederate Depots there, but when they arrived in Atlanta, finding the situation better, they continued on to the vicinity of Dalton, Georgia, where they were to participate in the Battle of Chickamauga, September 19-20, 1863--WTL).

It has been a gloomy and illboding Summer to the Confederate cause and Army. God only knows what is to be the result.

In this State nothing but defeat and disaster has attended our Army from Prairie Grove, Arkansas Post, Helena, Fort Smith and Waldron, and last of all the surrender of Little Rock without a fight (September 10, 1863--WTL), and the rapid retreat of General Price's army to Arkadelphia, where they are now.

The panic from Little Rock to Red River is great. The public roads are covered day after day by families and Negroes flying to Texas.

Attorney General Ashley's connections, and many others from Little Rock are near Washington (Arkansas) waiting till they can provide places for refugees farther West. Doother Welch, who goes with General Ashley, spent last Sabbath night with us. Has preached for me two Sabbaths at Washington.

General Royston (in whose office Colonel Williamson had read law before he entered the service--WTL) is hastening to get off with his family and Negroes to Texas.

Charles (?) has, I believe, got a place on General Kirby Smith's staff.



Letter of September 24, 1863--Continued

All wagons and teams fit for service have been pressed for three weeks hauling Commissary Stores from Camden to Washington (Now the temporary State Capital--WTL)--- some ten thousand hogsheds of sugar and molasses, and salt to an immense amount.

Yesterday I was called on for a hand (a manual laborer--WTL) to shell corn at Washington. I sent Isom (Colonel Williamson's former personal body servant--WTL), and today an Officer called for one-third of the Negro men between 16 and 60 to make a road from Washington to Arkadelphia. This call I could not comply with, as my Negroes are not able for such work (due to their ill health previously mentioned--WTL), but now we need make no claim to property or personal interest. The foundations are destroyed, and what can the righteous do ?

It is thought that if General Price (the Confederate leader in Arkansas--WTL) gets large reinforcements he will make a stand at Arkadelphia-- if not, he will fall back to Texas, in which case we will be in the sweep of the Armies, and will have nothing left. I cannot run, but must abide (submit--WTL) the issue.

I fear General Price's Army is in poor state for fighting, as it is said some 2,000 have deserted in the past two weeks, and a flying army fights with poor spirit !

It appears that Arkansas will be entirely abandoned to the Federal Army, and that we may have much trouble from within, as there are, doubtless, many disaffected (disloyal--WTL) men ready for raids and mob law in our own limits.

(Reverend Williamson was really blue. Read on !--WTL)

Nor do I believe Texas will be any safe refuge for the thousands rushing there. You will be ready to say that my mind, on the subject of this wretched war, has been always too gloomy ! Well, I have seen nothing from the commencement to give me much comfort, and the nearer the enemy approaches in this extremity of the country; the more I see of the suffering of poor families of soldiers; and of desertions from the Army, and of Officers scrambling for places and profit, the weaker is my confidence in the patriotism of the country ! Love of gain and power seems to have extinguished the love of country !

There has been an unusual amount of fever this summer (probably Malaria--WTL), though not very fatal. Mr. Jerome Campbell died on the 15th, leaving a large and helpless family of small children. Dr. Conway was buried last Sabbath week, and Judge Trimble two weeks before.

I have heard nothing by letter from East of the Mississippi except your letters, for the last year. If you have time, write to our friends to learn how they are.

Trusting in God and his Protecting Mercy, I must remain at home with my family, and be assured you are remembered in my constant, earnest prayers.

Carrie (Colonel Williamson's wife--WTL) was quite well last Saturday, and said she would write you by Mr. Barksdale.

"Fear God and keep his Commandments, for this is the whole duty of man."

Mr. D. (Colonel Williamson's brother-in-law--WTL) unites in love to you, and to all our friends with you.

Your affectionate Father

(Signed) S. Williamson



Letter of September 24, 1863--Continued

P. S. I will let Mr. D. ride your gray (horse) a month or two, which I think will keep him safer than if I had him at home.

Mr. D. is in Cavalry. Mr. Reed, of Arkadelphia, is his Captain.

Later: Your gray horse is now in good order, and I wish you had him (with you). He is a most splendid horse.

John (Rev. Williamson's horse--WTL) is in fine order, and I have them backed in (into their stalls--WTL) at night, for fear of their being stolen, and if the (Federal) Army comes to Washington, I must send them off."

This letter was addressed on the back:

Col. J. A. Williamson

Army of Tennessee

Gen. Mc Wair's Brigade

Politeness of Mr. Barksdale



(See reverse for explanation)

REG			
NWC	F.S.S	12/15/61	

20. Co. 2nd Mounted Rifles Arkansas

Camp Near Meridian Miss.  
Nov- 29<sup>th</sup> 1863-

Col-

I have the honor to apply for leave of absence, Sixty (60) days for the purpose of visiting my home in Hempstead County Arkansas - I was ordered to detach on detached duty during the temporary consolidation of the Regiments of this Brigade in March last and on the 25<sup>th</sup> of said month I consummated a matrimonial alliance that had been postponed in consequence of the war - I remained at home on duty until early in June when in pursuance to my orders I returned to my command - During my stay there my duties require me to go frequently to some remote from my family -

I have been an officer in this Regiment since 4<sup>th</sup> of August 1861 - had leave of absence for 30 days in December 1861 - and for two days in November 1862 - and have never been absent from my post of duty a day on any other account - My command has been in several engagements in all of which it has been my fortune to be with them -

The Lt. Col. of the Regiment is present and the Regt. is due on 30 days leave which will expire about the 10<sup>th</sup> prox.

The Regiment reports total present 288 enlisted men -

I have the honor to be Sir -

Col. R. S. Cross  
C. A. S.

Your obt Servt -

J. Williams Col.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Regt Ark. Co. 20



in this letter he tells about  
The Battle of Chickamauga, Ga.

Camp near Brandon, Mississippi  
October 24, 1863  
October 25, 1863

Dear Carrie:

I am in receipt of your long and very welcome letter of the 24th ult. Be assured that it was no small pleasure to me to receive it. It is the second since I returned (following their marriage--WTL).

I wrote you a hurried letter by Lieutenant Kirkpatrick, who left last Tuesday. He will be able to give you all the news from us, and I feel that I have nothing of interest to write. (Kirkpatrick was an officer in the Colonel's former Company--Company "H").

Reverend William Green, brother of Victor Green (see letter of January 13 '63--WTL), reached here last night with Victor. I cannot tell how long he will remain with us. I will do all I can to keep him, but our camp is not an inviting place now. Yesterday was a cold, rainy day, the most unpleasant by far we have had this fall. We have no tents scarcely, and are poorly provided with anything to give comfort. We have not axes even to cut wood with. It is quite cold and cloudy this morning. While I write my fingers are nearly stiff with cold.

T. Mc Fadden left Forsyth (Georgia) before the Messrs Green (see above--WTL), with the purpose of visiting his Aunt in Alabama, and has not yet reached us. I have no doubt but he is with his Aunt. We look for him soon.

Your friends generally are well. Mr. Hardy is not with us yet, but is still improving slowly. When we moved from Meridian to this point, it was thought we might have a battle near Canton (20 miles North of Jackson, Mississippi--WTL), but the enemy have gone back of Big Black River, and we stopped here.

What is to be our future movement I can give you no idea. We do not know what day may bring forth.

The general news is not interesting. General Bragg's army is near Chattanooga, occupying Lookout Mountain, and has invested (besieged--WTL) the place on the South side of the (Tennessee) River. General Rosecrans and his Federals still occupy Chattanooga. General Bragg has had Lt. Gen. Polk, Lt. Gen. D. H. Hill, and Major General Hindman arrested for dereliction of duty.

I think more of General Bragg than ever, and feel that if his orders had been faithfully executed our victory (at Chickamauga--WTL) would have been much more complete.

I will tell you the rumors as to the cause of the arrests of the Generals. Two Divisions of the enemy were in Mc Lemore's Cove (six miles wide, with sheer cliffs on either side--WTL) when the Confederate army was advancing. General Bragg sent General Hindman with his Division to occupy a gap in the mountains in their rear, with orders to engage the enemy as soon as he had possession of the gap. Bragg sent Hill's Corps and a Division to attack in front as soon as he heard Hindman's guns, but Hindman, after reaching the point to which he was sent, thought the enemy too strong for him to attack, and moved back without attacking. I believe this was on Thursday before the fight. Many think those two Federal Divisions would have been captured if the attack had been brought on as ordered.

On Sunday morning of the battle, rumor says General Polk was ordered to engage at daylight, but for some reason, did not do so until about nine o'clock or after. General Hill, rumor says, was ordered to move on Chattanooga early Monday morning after the battle, and attack the enemy, but replied that his men had no rations and he would not fight them without (their having food--WTL).



Letter Oct. 24/25, 1863--Continued

I do not give the rumors as facts, but simply as rumors, and if they are true I think General Bragg has done nothing but his duty in having these officers arrested, and they ought to be made to answer the charges.

There has been some fighting in Virginia, but I do not think any general engagement. I can learn nothing definite about the position of things there.

I believe all of our armies have adopted General Bragg's policy (which is the proper one) to keep their own councils. Newspaper editors have hurled their venom against General Bragg for this policy for a long time, but instead of doing him an injury, I believe he is one of the greatest--if not the greatest--General of the war!

I was quite sorry to learn that so much of Arkansas had fallen into the hands of the enemy. I did not think that they (the Federals) would cross the Arkansas River this winter, but it is no cause for discouragement. I am one of those that have always believed that the enemy, by their superior forces, could go to any particular point in the Confederacy, but that does not imply that we can be subjugated. If the people of the Confederacy be but true, subjugation is as far from being attained as it ever was!

I hope and believe that the results of the Battle of Chickamauga will be of great advantage to Arkansas, both morally and materially. It will inspire new confidence in the troops there, and if it does not draw away a part of the Federal forces, it will prevent their reinforcing.

Sunday, October 25th 1:00 P.M.

Mr. Green preached for us today. I think a great deal of him. He is quite a nice gentleman, a little difficult, but I think will make a fine preacher. He purposes staying several weeks with us, and then can tell what he can do. He and Victor (his brother--WTL) were both quite anxious to hear from their brother, but you did not mention him, and they had a letter from him dated in July. As Theodore was not here, I told Victor to open Theodore's letter, which he did, but says that Colonel Mc (?) did not mention his brother. The latest news they have from him is his letter of July last.

I will write Father by Mr. Barksdale (the Courier--WTL), and I think I shall ask him to send my gray horse by Lieutenant Kirkpatrick (previously mentioned in the first part of this letter--WTL).

I hope your fears about coming under Yankee rule will all prove unwarranted. I do not believe the Yankees will come South of Little Rock far (he was a bit wrong in this guess--WTL). I felt a good deal of solicitude about your welfare when I first heard that General Sterling Price had fallen back to Arkadelphia, but I still believe Hempstead County is about as safe a place in any of the Confederacy.

I do not believe the enemy will go 125 miles from their base of supplies with a river in their rear.

I see from Father's letter that he has no intention of trying to get away in the event they do come--indeed I do not see how he could move, unless I was there to assist him, of which I do not see much hope. If our Command becomes stationary this winter, and I see an opportunity, I will try to get a short leave of absence to visit home, and see the condition of things there.



Letter October 24/25, 1863--Continued

I have nothing of interest to write you about. Tell Billie that Captain Vaughan (commander of the Colonel's old company) sends his respects. Remember me kindly to your father and mother, Haywood, Billie Belle Cooper, and Sallie. I often think of them all.

Your devoted husband

(Signed) J. A. Williamson

Monday Morning, October 26, 1863

Senators Johnson and Mitchell arrived here last night on their way to Richmond (Virginia).

They say they will do their utmost to have us transferred West of the Mississippi River. We hope they will succeed.

Note: By this time there was little chance of the Second Regiment Arkansas Mounted Rifles being transferred any where except to the thick of the fighting. The Regiment was well known by this time as a "real fighting outfit" and the leaders of the Confederacy wished to keep them where the going was the roughest.  
WTL.

Good bye,

JAW



COPY OF REQUEST FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Camp near Meridian, Mississippi

November 29, 1863

Colonel:

I have the honor to apply for leave of absence for sixty (60) days for the purpose of visiting my home in Hempstead County, Arkansas.

I was ordered to Arkansas on Detached Duty during the temporary consolidation of the Regiments of this Brigade in March last, and on the 26th of said month (March 26, 1863--WTL) I consummated a matrimonial alliance that had been postponed in consequence of the war. (This was his way of announcing his marriage!--WTL)

I remained in Arkansas on duty until early in June, when, in pursuance to my orders, I returned to my command (he joined his Regiment in Mississippi on July 4th, 1863, the day Vicksburg was surrendered--WTL). During my stay in Arkansas my duties required me to go frequently to points remote from my family (he was on Recruiting Duty--WTL).

I have been an officer of this Regiment since 4th of August, 1861. Had leave of absence in December, 1861, and for two days in November, 1862, and have never been absent from my post of duty a day on any other account.

My Command has been in seven (7) engagements, in all of which it has been my fortune to be with them (see list of engagements attached--WTL).

The Lieutenant Colonel of the Regiment (James T. Smith--WTL) is present, and the Major (James P. Eagle, later Governor of Arkansas--WTL) is absent on 30 days leave, which will expire about the 14th prox.

The Regiment reports total present 208 enlisted men.

I have the honor to be, Colonel,

Your obedient servant

(Signed) J. A. Williamson, Colonel  
Second Regiment Arkansas Mounted Rifles

To: Colonel B. S. Ewell,

A. A. G.

(See list of engagements attached)



This letter apparently written while Colonel Williamson was on the Leave of Absence requested on November 29, 1863.

Alexandria, Louisiana

February 7, 1864

Dear Carrie:

I am about twenty miles from the crossing of the Mississippi-- about twelve miles below Shreveport, which is on the Atchafala (his geography was a bit confused-- Shreveport is on the Red River--WTL)--the prospect is good for crossing.

We hear there is a ferry boat, and we will be able to cross--horses and all.

Heywood is quite well-- seems to enjoy the travel. We expect to cross the River tonight, if we are fortunate.

We have traveled through some very poor country since I wrote you by Ison (Colonel Williamson's colored body servant--WTL). If we fail to cross tonight I will write you again.

We are stopping at a delightful place and are very kindly treated.

I must reserve the other half of this leaf of paper (paper was very short long before this time--WTL), and will try to write you after we cross the River.

My love to all,

Your devoted husband

(Signed) J. A. Williamson

To:

Mrs Carrie M. Williamson,

Washington, Arkansas

Note: Apparently Colonel Williamson's Request for leave, dated November 29, 1863 (see-WTL) had been granted. When this letter was written he had apparently been to Arkansas, since he spoke of having to cross the Mississippi River--WTL.

Colonel Williamson lost a leg in the Battle of Resaca, Georgia, on May 14, 1864, and after such a valiant fight, was never to fight again!



This letter was written just five weeks before Colonel Williamson lost his leg at Resaca, Georgia, on May 14, 1864, thus ending his active military career--WTL

Camp near Pollard, Alabama

7th April, 1864

Dear Carrie:

I learned this morning that a Mr. Evans is going to Washington, Arkansas, for the purpose of carrying the Election Returns for a Member of Congress from some of the Northern Districts of Arkansas. I embrace the opportunity of writing you a short letter.

I returned (here) last night from Mobile, where I have been since last Tuesday night as Counsel for a Captain of this Brigade who was tried before the Military Court at Mobile (since Colonel Williamson had been an active attorney before the war, the Captain probably was in good hands!--WTL).

Heywood has gone, and I hope is safe in Sumter District this morning. He left Pollard last Monday night in company with Reverend William Mack. I was at Mobile when he started, and I wrote a letter by him to your uncle, William Muldrow, in which, without saying anything to Heywood about it, I advised your uncle to get him into a command where he would not be exposed to as much fatigue, exposure, and danger as he would be here, if he could do so.

Before Heywood parted with me I advised him if his uncle told him to remain there to do so, but he would not hear to it, but I talked seriously with him and advised him to be governed by his uncle's advice. He did not promise me that he would. My reasons for giving him the advice I did, I cannot give you in full now, but will soon.

The reasons grow out of the situation of our Command. There is some jowring (quarreling--WTL) among officers, and I do not yet know what it may result in. I am not interested (involved--WTL) in it myself, but do not know but that it may make me desirous to change my position to the West side of the Mississippi River, and in that event it would probably be best that he (Heywood) was with his uncle. I do not believe he will consent to remain absent from his Command-- he seems to be very much pleased.

I learned yesterday that Cousin Leo Williamson had gone to Grenada, Mississippi. Tell sisters that the report I got from one of his friends was that a young lady at Grenada (probably his betrothed) was quite ill, and he had been telegraphed for. I hope if the report be true she will recover.

I got no report from West of the Mississippi River that I consider reliable. We see daily reports from reliable gentlemen published in the papers about our defeating the Federals on Red River. I do not believe them, yet I sincerely wish they were true.

I did not say anything about the reports you wrote me about in your last, believing you would learn their incorrectiveness long before my letter would reach you.

General Forrest has been doing good service about Paducah, Kentucky. We have heard nothing recently about his movements, and I suppose you will get all the news from him before this reached you.

Our Command is stationary. The condition and spirit of the troops is as good as I have ever seen them. We have made another effort to be recounted (1). General Maury made the application, but the War Department are of the opinion that there is



Letter 7th April, 1864--Continued

We are willing to sacrifice our wishes, and what we almost regard our right, for the public good.

Our Brigade is now in a Division with strangers. We are with Alabama and Missisipp troops. I know none of the officers in the other Brigades. It is said that one of the Alabama Colonels, who has a large Regiment, remarked that he was ashamed of bringing his Regiment out by the side of ours, from the fact that ours showed that they had been reduced to mere skeletons by the casualties of war, while his had scarce a man missing, showing that they had seen no hard service. Every one seems to have great confidence in our Brigade (wasn't he proud of them?--WTL).

Our Armies are still remaining quiet, and I sometimes almost conclude that the general quiet portends (indicates--WTL) something good, but I fear I arrive at this conclusion from a desire to see Peace and Independence in our country. When our Army is quiet our thoughts naturally turn towards home, and we become more anxious to meet the loved ones there.

There is a price, however, at which even that blessing would be too dearly purchased, and that price is the endangering of our success in this great struggle. As you are aware, I have never hoped for much from foreign intervention, yet I am now almost persuaded that the time is near when the sympathies of foreign countries will take shape and firm, and be productive of good to us, if not by direct acts, at least by having a demoralizing influence in that portion of the United States that have not got mad on the ultraism (radicalism--WTL) of the Black Republican Party.

I always have believed, and still do believe, that there are thousands in the North that have been and still are willing to let us separate from them, and let reason become the arbitration, and not the sword. I have seen some very severe strictures (adverse criticisms--WTL) by a correspondent of the LONDON TIMES on the morals of the North (The Colonel was a "small town boy", but he apparently read a lot--WTL). I believe they are becoming more and more corrupt !

Miss Dickinson is now lecturing, publicly advocating the amalgamation of the races (shades of 1862 !--WTL). I believe that her course will be productive of good to us, by arousing the indignation of all people of virtue and integrity everywhere against her and the party she advocates.

War, as a natural consequence, has produced some demoralization in our country, but I am thankful that it (in the South--WTL) does not approximate that of the North. I traveled yesterday with Brigadier General Cockrell, who commands the First Missouri Brigade. He says he believes his Brigade is composed of the happiest people on the Continent-- (realizing) that they cannot go home, and are now studying to make themselves happy and contented in camp-- and dream of nothing but the pleasures of a soldier's life (rare soldiers, indeed--WTL) !

We are having April showers this morning. The season this far has been cold and unpromising. Reports differ as to whether the fruit has been destroyed or not. I hope the fruit will not be destroyed in Arkansas, knowing your fondness for it.

Your friends are all well. Lieutenant Mc Gee went with Heywood to the cars the other night and placed him under Mr. Mack's care (Reverend William Mack, a Minister). I have no doubt he will get safely to Sumner.

Tell Father I desire him to take things quietly. I am sorry to hear his hog is dying with cholera. I say to him that complaints are useless in war-time-- ALL we can do is to submit to our situation. I do wish I could be at home to attend to him from the troubles and cares of the plantation, but it is not to be. I am, dear Mother, your affectionate son, W. L. G.



Letter 7th April, 1864--Continued

Give my love to my mother and sister, and to your father and mother and sister.

I remain, your affectionate and devoted husband

(Signed) J. A. Williamson

To: Mrs. Carrie M. Williamson  
Washington, Arkansas

etc (7) The Second 1862, at De Valls, Bluff, Arkansas. At that time they were enroute to Mississippi, hoping to participate in the Battle of Shiloh. The boats which carried them to Memphis, Tennessee, were too small for  
Now, two full years later, an effort was being made to remount them !

Efforts were in vain, for the Regiment marched all over the South, but when they finally surrendered in 1865, their paroles proudly bore this

"Second Regiment Arkansas Mounted Rifles--Dismounted !"



Copy of a letter from Governor Harris Flanagin, of Arkansas, who preceded  
Colonel Williamson as Commander of Second Regiment Arkansas Mounted Rifles.  
This letter was written at the time of Colonel Williamson's second marriage.

Arkadelphia, Arkansas

April 18, 1873

Colonel James Williamson

Dear Sir:

I see by the papers that you have recently married.

Accept my congratulations. I wish you all the happiness which I know you  
deserve.

Our prospect for a railroad are advanced, as we expected. The bridge here  
(over Cusachita River--WTL), the builders say, will be done in July, and the  
railroad officials say that they will be ready for it before it is done.

We all expect to see the iron (that is, the rails--WTL) by September or  
October. The merchants expect to bring their fall stocks over it. There are  
some 100 or 150 men engaged at the bridge, and finishing the grade. Some heavy  
grading here.

Our people are in a worse condition than usual---paying debts.

I see that your locality is in our District. Kingston and Page are the  
candidates. We do not want Kingston.

Our crops are backward.

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) Harris Flanagin



Battles and Engagements participated in by Second Regiment Arkansas Mounted Rifles

July 27, 1861 to November 29, 1863

1. August 10, 1861                      Battle of Oak Hills, Mo (Also called "Wilson's Creek")
2. December 26, 1861                  Engagement at Chustenelah, Indian Territory  
(I do not believe that Colonel Williamson actually took part in this engagement since Colonel Mc Intosh (according to his own report) only took four companies A-B-C and E on this campaign. Williamson at that time was in Company "H"--WFL).
3. March 7-8, 1862                      Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas (Also called Elk Horn Tavern).  
Generals Ben Mc Culloch and James Mc Intosh were both killed early in this battle.
4. August 30, 1862                      Battle of Richmond, Kentucky.  
  
Captain Charles Carter, who succeeded Williamson as Captain of Company "H" was killed in this battle.
5. December 31, 1862--  
    January 2, 1863                      Battle of Murfreesboro, Tennessee  
    (Also called "Stone's River")
6. May 14, 1863                      Battle of Jackson, Mississippi.
7. September 19-20, 1863              Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia  
  
More than one-third of Colonel Williamson's Regiment was either killed or wounded in this battle.