Notes for Gen. O. T.
Alexander

The 17th Ga Volunteer

This regiment was organized and mustered in Brannan's barn on the 17th of Aug., 1861. It was organized for the war. The first colonel was Henry B. Benning. First Lt. Col. was Major Thomas Walker. 1st adjutant was Capt. J. M. Stewart. 2nd adjutant was Charles J. Howard. 3rd Lt. Col. was Capt. D. E. Smith. It was assigned to Torr's 5th regulars. Afterwards it went over to the 11th regulars, which was then a part of the 2nd division.

Torr's Brigade (afterwards Benning's)

This brigade, or two, were

By other change was
never made in its Composition.
Until its surrender in Apr. 65 it
was in constant service. Chiefly in
Va., but some in Tennessee. It reached
Chicka Mange March 20th. then
fired to the trent of 1863-4 in E. Tnensns
with Gen. Langstomt.
Battles in which the
brigade participated.

1. Garnett's farm Apr. 27, 1862
2. Malvern Hill May 8th
3. Thoroughfare Gap June 28th
4. 2nd Manassas Aug. 30th
5. Sharpsburg Sept. 17th
7. Gettysburg 20th 21st July 1863
9. Chicka Mange Sept
10. Lookout Valley Sept.
11. Fort London 9th
12. 2nd day in Wilsong Aug 1864
13. Near Spotsylvania Oct. 10th
16. Near M. Marth June 16th
17. Fort Gilman Sept. 25th
18. on Rappahannock road Oct 1st
19. 1st Aug 1866
20. Petersberg 28th
21. Tarmony
At Burnside's Ford, I learned of the brig. not commanded by Gen. Toombs. Afterward on the day our army started for Maryland, Toombs had assaulted Gen. Jone's and the Command devolved on me. I commanded at Thoroughfare gap, and at 2d Manassas until late in the fight when Gen. T. arrived having been that day released from Henshaw, which place he had been ordered to arrest.

At Sharpsburg the brigade was commanded by me under Gen. Toombs who Commanded that was Called a division of which it made the Chief part. He was wounded disabled and did not again command the brigade until winter. I therefore commanded at Fredericksburg. In Dec. 1862 Gen. T. resigned. In the 17th Jan. 1863 I was appointed brig. Gen. to resign to Sumner's Brigade. In March of 1863 I was transferred to Toombs's brig. with which I remained until the close of the war. Commanding in all of the above mentioned battles until the 2d day in the Wils.
The shoulder early in the action.

The Command devolved on Col. D. R. Rose. He continued in command until Nov., when I rejoined the brigade & commanded it after the surrender of the army on 10th April, 1865.

What was done by the brigade while I was wounded (from 6th May to Nov. 1864) I know only by hearsay. For the rest of the time I have personal knowledge.

On the arrival from Petersburg my wagon was taken by the Ge. M. T. My desk with most of the brigade papers was lost. I had however at home rough drafts of some of my reports, and a few regimental reports. They furnish few of the details requested. Numbers engaged, Casualties, arms, etc. We had orders not to state in reports of battles the numbers lost.

I send you a rough draft of a map of Gettysburg and Chickamauga. With a very rude diagram of Gettysburg. It is however in the main correct.

I am Confident...
and gained to a position some what sheltered and plant their colors in line at segmental distance as nearly as they could judge. They did so. The brigade followed after as fast as the men officered could run a confused mass. But when the colors were planted every man be every officer rushed to his own place in the line and the line was formed in I thinkts one minute. Then the brigade marched back in perfect order to the place assigned to it. The loss in the operation was about forty men. Most of these pickets to whom the order to retreat had not been communicated.

The brigade at Gettysburg had 1280 men & 110 officers according to my recollection.

I have no idea you heard that I refused to advance fresh day. If you think of putting the incident in your book I beg to be welcomed to send you a brief statement of the facts. Therefore I beg to know your pleasure. I have no objection to your doing so, only wish a correct statement of the facts. My opinion was this that the safety of our left of the cause colors depended on the ship.
The brigade has lately engaged both days. The first day the number of officers then was about 550. The loss this day was very heavy but it was never reported separately. At night about 50 more joined the brigade. Next day the loss was again heavy. For both days it amounted to about 510 of whom nearly all were killed or wounded. The field officers out of eight were killed or wounded. Seventeen officers out of twenty two in the 26th Ga. were killed or wounded. All our men lost but I remember what I have stated. The field officers were: St. Col. Matchett, 17th Ga., mortally wounded. St. Col. Seago, 20th Ga., shot through the lungs. Capt. McLevy, acting Maj. 21st Ga., lost a leg. St. Col. Shepherd 22nd Ga. St. Col. DeRose were also wounded but not so severely.

The conduct of the brigade was most excellent. The second day it captured two batteries of four guns each one with the flag and held them after an desperate struggle by the enemy to retake them. None St. Col. Matchett returns his death wound.
with most Consideration galantry. We were forced back behind the batteries about forty yards after having taken them and then we were fell in the desperate hand we made to recover have the guns. We saved them officially the enemy retired out of sight.

But in here the incident of the boy on page 14 + 15.

The 2'd day in the middle of the night

I was wounded early in the action (shot through the shoulder) and then Col Du Boise took command. I have never seen his report. I made some myself. Maj. Gen. Childs, long the day, told me afterwards that the brigade behaved extremely well. He was immediately with me declaring a great part of the fight. Col. Lewis was 335 as I heard by a statement sent me by Capt. R. H. Perry, Brig. Inf. That statement I send you. The number engaged was about 750 officers and men. According to my recollections.

After this battle until November the brigade was commanded by Col. Du Boise & I do not know the history for that period.
except by hearsay. It was engaged in a number of affairs but in no great battles. They were on the above list. It's great battle was fought.

Begin again

Prior to the campaign of 1865:

Notes by Gen. Bening on the Campaign April 1865

After I rejoined the brig and in Nov. 1864 nothing of importance was done by it until the 2nd of April 1865. On that day at about 11 A.M. I marched Peters burg with both regiments, the 2nd 20th by the train from Richmond. The other had 24th 3rd and the rest of the division on the 13th. I was stationed by an order sent to the trains I did not arrive till late in the day. Col. H. T. Fairfax received me. I conducted me to the two regiments through PETERSBURG to Gen. Long, but I was not at Gen. Long's hotel. I was at Cox's hotel. The name of the road. This I think is the name of the road. When near the hotel. Gen. Long asked what was and ordered me to advance on the left of the road and take position on the high ground about a half mile in front. It held it as long as I could safely. Making as much delay as possible. and that when I fell back if I
I should have to do so to face back
from positions to position. Slowly,
The desperate state of things was
visible to every eye. Not an infan-
cy soldier of ours was to be seen.
Fort Gregg was the nearest point
on our line still held by us. The
attack on it had commenced
there was a battery but the
horses were so thin that they
could not pull the guns into
possession until the enemy
were prepared to drive it away
from the position. The enemy
was in the edge of the woods
some miles beyond you had
meantime with batteries near
Nothing between.

We went to the fire
ion initiated which was about 600
as eight hundred yards from the con-
my line in the woods, with open
level ground between. They soon
opened fire on us from a number
of guns. The fire was at first
rather wild but it soon improved
and as the batteries were too far off for
our men, we dropped back a short
distance. I looked up a little forward
position. The batteries made a
Corresponding change and when
their fire again became good
We fell back a second time into a safer position. They again put a position from which they commenced to fire. We again moved back. I got a position which afforded considerable protection to most of our line. We remained for a good while under the artillery fire. We had ourselves rear fired on, then the fire toward Fort Garry ceased. I ran up a long hill and found that the fire had fallen at the same time that the enemy's infantry was advancing. Returning I ordered the 11th regiment to a new position. Here I soon received an order from Gen. Longstreet to take 20 or 25th across the Creek to occupy some incomplete works that had been thrown up recently leaving the 2nd to skirmish with the enemy until they advance as far as possible. This order was executed. The 2nd deployed as skirmishers and kept the enemy skirmishers in check for a long time - pushing back slowly until they came to the hill next the Creek. There they stopped. I held the position all day. Gen. Longstreet complimented them
Them on the field as I was told.
The 20th and 24th of the
Creek. I entered the woods, while
they secured the field of the en-
emy's artillery for some time. His
advancing infantry began to
shovel it self in long line on
the opposite of the Creek, but about
this time day 4 P.M. The other
troops of Polk's division also
arrived & getting onto section
on my right left, I advancing
themselves. The enemy's infantry during this battle our did
it advance afterwards. A shout
for the army was heard.

The 24th was commanded
by Capt. 1St. Germain the 20th
by Capt. Little. The number
of officers and men in the former
was about 100 in the
latter about 150 or 160. What the
loss was never reported to me but
it was not large. All to the
officers of men evinced a perfect
apprehension of the situation and
of the object to be accomplished
with precision and executed every
movement with promptitude over
it desired. We were the last to
leave the line on the retreat leaving
it about midnight. Allgray cloud
under the evened light of dawn
about 2 o'clock every of these be-
quently in front of the line of retrench-
Field's Division on the road was sometimes in the front, sometimes in the rear. At Fairview it had a sharp affair with the enemy in which Anderson's Brigade made many hundred prisoners. Bennett's Brigade was not actively engaged. The affair was quite a success.

At Appomattox Court House the division was in the rear with the enemy close up. The organization was perfect and it was not at all demoralized. I saw many men with tears streaming from their eyes, when it was known that Lee had surrendered. They gathered in groups, debated the question whether or not it was right to escape. Many of them attempted to escape. They only wanted to surrender and requested permission to escape. I would not give it. On the contrary I urged them to acquiesce.
not more than four men had been lost as stragglers during the trying March from Petersburg. And I can say almost if not quite a man for every Brigade in the Division. I never made any official report of these events. The facts above (after my arrival at Petersburg) have never been reported by one.
Thorowfare Gap - 28

July 1862 -

I send my rough draft report of the Part the 2nd & 26th Ga had in this action. I regarded the service they rendered there as of an importance not to be overestimated, enabling us to join Jackson in time for the 2nd Invasion Army. Perhaps you have seen my report in Part.

I know not however if it was ever presented. The conduct of the two regiments was admirable.

Notes by Gen. Benning on Battle of Sharpsburg

Sharpsburg - 17 Sept. 1862

My report of this battle you have on print. I suppose.

But I notice a few facts which I wish to state in further to Gen. Tombe.

From was nominally in Command of a Division consisting of his own, Anderson, Big. 1st Dragontail Brigade but at Sharpsburg he had one regt. of Dragontail Big. 50th Va. 5 Companies of the 11th Ga. of Anderson, big. 1st with immediate aid of the rest of the division were under Gen. Jones. Two regts. of Toomb's big the 15th & 17th, the 1st Company of 11th Ga. had been kept off after the evening, that had escaped forever.
had been instructed, we should. As we moved, he said:

"The enemy is lying, one of the
another advancing from the
bridge on our lines that held
their fire, but from me got our
of sight. Presently Capt. Torrey
you observed, and met me. I said the
rear, turned to move faster.
I increased the speed a little. He
soon returned and told me to go
faster. I did so. In a few minutes,
he galloped rapidly back to
said the Gen. urged me to
a double quick. The double
quick was commenced. He
led the way. Soon he turned down
a lane to the right which led
into a hollow. I asked what
it meant. He said the enemy
have the high ground. A field of rank
corn intervened to keep them from
below. As soon as the corn was passed,
their line became visible. A small
army occupying our left line,
about 100 yards distant, with them
a gun of Mr. Stokoe's battery
between us and them. Their line
longed from the corn over to the round
from the cement. The bridge to the
being in the orchard. Shall I
the 15th. 4th infantry and Company of the 11th.
as soon as the head of the line got far I
thought it could not safely let
the rear men behind the Corn nor not to expose
the fire on both sides very effective but not effective. They shot it one, t
the men under them. They soon our fire improved, it became deadly in less than fifteen minutes that
line showed signs of waver, but at this
moment from a gun behind the Capt.

they gave the hill it came out of sight in less than a minute. He then
advanced recovered the situation
and continued to advance.

The enemy were nearly par
forced back across the railroad.

These men - 16th and 17th Company of
The 11th 11th 11th 11th Company of
The 11th 11th 11th 11th Company of
The 11th 11th 11th 11th Company of
The 11th 11th 11th 11th Company of

The plan where the enemy first
broke it nearly all afterwords.

There were some troops on our
right in the Corn. Gen.

Tranch near killed them
by a last of a wound in the
ear. I heard - and others of H. P.

Kills Coopers came up before night,
but none of them had been hurt.
won had any part in first breaking this line.

I give the above detail for the benefit of Gen. Toombs as I have understood that the credit of relieving Sharpsburg was perhaps in claimed for Gen. H. P. Hill. Toombs is the man however, in some instances (I think it was) was driven from Sharpsburg. The plan was recovered by Toombs acting on his own views in the manner foresaid with the corps of the opposite side. From his aids he sent to Gen. Longstreet, Toombs found he had not the forces he had reported to him the day before the battle of Sharpsburg. Toombs writing that if Gen. Toombs had been able to lay he through he could drive them back quite across the Canal. That said Gen. Jones have not the enemy got Sharpsburg. It was true. They had it least have been driven out. Some have it then Gen. Lee said tell Gen. Toombs to take any ground he can find inside them and he thinks best not general J. W. evidently highly rated. Toombs told the General of course I give the little more of the copy.
John Ray, a Major General, neither太多了 nor any, in his command was ever noticed I believe, till this, though Tromp was wounded severely.

Gettysburg

I was witness to an incident at Gettysburg which you may deem of importance enough at least for a note. On the last night, about 2 P.M., I heard from the Mountain, we had taken the day before, a great shooting in our rear down the Emmitsburg road. We soon distinguished it to be the enemy, Chirn. Very The head of a line of his Cavalry emerged from the wood galloping, laving their swords as if peculi For our Artillery had enforced a crop, the road opened on them. They reared a gauntlet line of infantry. As they moved forward, the muskets opened on them. They then turned to their right to escape taking down a line. Some men of ours (lacking detail) Three them, only behind the stone fence, for the rest of the can open on them as they come across the lane. They then loaded again to the right.
The field extended themselves back towards the point where they had first appeared. On doing so they had to pass a road on their left. From this an enfilade fire opened on them, and their direction was again changed to the right. The result was that they galloped round the round in the large field, finding a foe at every outlet until most of them were killed or captured. Every thing passed before our eyes on the mountain side as if in an amphitheatre.

Some of the men engaged. Cook told me that the prisoner, Gen. Barnum, said to Major Barnum: ‘Boy, they are all drunk. The same man told me that in going over the field for spurs they afterwashed a Jackson horse with the river by his side but not alone. They ordered him to surrender. He replied with a little or something to that effect, and put his hand to his pistol. Drew it to blow his brains out. This was Gen. Barnum with Maj. Gen. E. W. Law, who commanded the division Gen. Head having been wounded.
day before. Made the decision to advance this cavalry. After
short notice he put the artillery across the road. The
road, the 7th to the left, a little beyond the artillery and the
of the 9th on a road at some distance on the other side of the road of the
field. These two regiments were very small having suffered heavily the day
before. They were all that could be
formed from the line of battle. It is there
that you or that their baggage
that crossed. There was
nothing else to protect them. This
was a bad exploit. That excited
my irritation. There was any
thing better manage.
Lieutenant, themselves as every
- did this whole duty."

(Signed) for 70 Gun for which

Col. Binning and

Details, Explanations, and Remarks.

(Note tactical formation and manœuvres in charges; proximity of enemy; captures made; flags lost and won, etc. Write on both sides of sheet, and attach more paper if necessary.)

[Signature]

[Signature]

Lieut McCremon of the 26th/400

In the 16 men not all under him. May Cup

Turned at the Mouth of the Bridge. The enemy

who had moved the Creek above, coming in

behind them to their advantage, while they

met with the enemy in front at the

other end of the Bridge. When the 17
Surrendered the enemy enraged men about to massacre them saying they had fought too long against them. A Colonel rode up on the bridge demonstrated to the men that the food for them and the prisoners would be scared to Gen. Beauregard. He then marched off. The Colonel rode down to the treacherous edge to let his horse drink. Whilst there a shell from one of our guns hit him and killed him.
Details, Explanations, and Remarks.

(Note tactical formation and maneuvers in charges; proximity of enemy; captures made; flags lost and won, etc. Write on both sides of sheet, and attach more paper if necessary.)

B

On the next evening

Some look an order...thinking it was

an order to advance when it was

one to retreat. In consequence I

sent Col. Buell nose with the 15th to

my left front to occupy a line

which had been occupied before.
of Gen. Im. Paws's Div. Dr. Rose after
attacking 500-600 yards found him
half between his advancing lines of the
enemy with none of our troops in
sight. (They had been withdrawn
for two or three hours). He had to
relinquish his doing to lost about
one hundred men. Mostly from
shrapnel.