

The War Between the States: America's Uncivil War

Chapter 27 – Franklin/1864/West II

Summary:

The events that concluded the previous chapter set the stage for the beginning of the decisive Western Theater campaign of William Sherman. Even though Atlanta had fallen, however, a potent Confederate army remained in the area. Sherman could not accomplish his daring objectives while that army remained intact in the field, so he took measures to destroy it. The Confederate force, meanwhile, faced a very difficult challenge in trying to slow the Yankee juggernaut; any option available to it involved desperate measures with steep odds for success. Plus, the Confederate leadership—right up to the President—was divided over what tactics to use, and whom to lead them.

Meanwhile, a host of colorful characters—among them a variety of Indian tribes—engaged in other actions ranging across the Western Theater, from South Texas through the Indian Territory, Missouri, Tennessee, Georgia, and even Colorado. These were not as pivotal to the war's outcome as those surrounding Sherman and his immediate opponents, but each in its own way propelled the epic event forward toward its climactic stages.

Identification:

1. John Chivington
2. Joe Wheeler
3. Santos Benavides
4. William Tecumseh Sherman
5. John Bell Hood

Completion:

1. Former Governor and now Confederate General _____ led the South's tenacious but ultimately unsuccessful defense of the trans-Mississippi border state of _____.

2. The first military campaign outside the Eastern Theater (which was discussed in Chapters 24 and 25) was the Federals' invasion of the state of _____, which was rebuffed by the Confederates.
3. Confederate General _____ was considered a good _____ commander, but not a success as a corps commander.
4. In addition to the fall of Atlanta, the Confederates suffered another crucial defeat in late 1864 at _____ in Tennessee, which wiped out the heart of the remaining Western Confederate army. Over _____ Southerners fell there, including Generals _____ and _____.
4. Wartime Georgia Governor _____ chastised Confederate cavalry leader _____ for his leadership during Sherman's rampage through Georgia.
5. _____, former mayor of the Texas border town of _____, led the successful Confederate defense of that town by lining up huge cotton bales as barricades.
6. Federal generals including William _____ campaigned through present-day Oklahoma in 1864, forcing the Confederate Indians into the southern part of the territory and North Texas in bitter and sometimes barbarous fighting.
7. Cherokee chief and Confederate General _____ led a determined guerilla warfare resistance against the Federals in _____ Territory. The culmination of his efforts came with his electrifying victory at the Battle of _____.

Thought Questions:

1. Why was the battle called the "Gettysburg of the West" referred to as such?
2. Describe the events at Sand Creek and offer your commentary.
5. In your opinion, who is the most interesting character in this chapter, and why?