

Ringgold Gap

November 27, 1863 Georgia

"The hills on both sides of the gap were lined with busy sharpshooters, and the shell and grape came plunging and hurtling into and around our position."

BG. John W. Geary

Background

After the spectacular Union victory at Missionary Ridge Braxton Bragg's Confederate Army of Tennessee began its retreat into Georgia. General Bragg's main concern throughout this withdrawal was for his artillery and vast wagon train, which he feared may be lost to the pursuing Yankees. To secure the time necessary to extract his vulnerable 'tail', Bragg ordered Major General Patrick Cleburne to "check the pursuit of the enemy" at Ringgold Gap.

Cleburne, probably the best divisional commander in the West, immediately deployed his veterans to cover the narrow gap and the wooded ridges to either side, concentrating mainly on the right hand crest and deploying two brigades in reserve.

The Federals, under "Fighting Joe" Hooker, first met resistance from some Rebel cavalry who quickly retired through the pass. Osterhaus, whose division comprised the Union vanguard, soon ran into trouble when his men uncovered Cleburne's carefully prepared positions. Just as soon as each of his brigades could be marshalled, Osterhaus ordered them forward against White Oak Ridge. These moves were intended to outflank the Confederate defenders but were expertly foiled as Cleburne dispatched reserves to each danger point. Despite being reinforced by Geary's Division the Northerners found themselves unable to force a Rebel withdrawal.

About 1 p.m. Cleburne received a dispatch from his superior, General Hardee, stating that the trains were now safe and that he could abandon his position whenever he was able. The Confederates managed to disengage without a Union pursuit as Grant arrived to order Hooker back to Chattanooga.

Despite being outnumbered Cleburne had held his ground for some five hours, reporting losses of 20 killed, 190 wounded and 11 missing. Federal casualties numbered 80 dead, 465 wounded and 40 missing.

THE WARGAME

The engagement starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 1 p.m. as Cleburne starts to withdraw his division. Carlin's Brigade, although present, was kept in reserve and took no active part in the conflict. However, if you think it should be available to the Union commander then it may arrive at B or C at 11:15 a.m. Federal troops arriving at A may instead arrive on the table edge to the south of Chickamauga Creek, however this will incur a delay of two moves. The 17th and 29th Missouri (Union) fought together under the colonel of the 17th as a "battalion", the 17th was armed with Colt repeaters, therefore may be designated as having these weapons. The 5th & 13th Arkansas and Semple's guns are behind hasty works.

The exact positions of the Rebel troops have not been shown on the map as it is recommended the Confederate player uses hidden movement.

The USA moves first and the CSA second.

DEPLOYMENT

The Federals arrive at the following points at the relevant times:

Woods A, 08:30;

Williamson B, 9 a.m.;

Creighton C, 9:15;

Cobham B, 10 a.m.;

Ireland A, 10:45;

Carlin's Brigade at B or C at 11:15 a.m. (Strongly suggested)

Union artillery A, 12 a.m.

For the Confederates the 6th, 10th & 15th Texas and the 17th, 18th, 24th & 25th Texas set up in the clump of heavy woods on the western face of White Oak Ridge to the left and right;

Granbury and his remaining regiment are above the others on the ridge.

Austin's cavalry to the north of Granbury.

In the gap itself Govan's regiments are lined up behind the 5th & 13th Arkansas in successive lines with the 8th & 19th Arkansas being the closest and the 2nd, 15th & 24th Arkansas the furthest away.

Lowrey's Brigade forms up on the west bank near the first railway bridge, Polk at the bend of the river just to the north.

The 16th Alabama should be placed on Taylor's Ridge. Cleburne is with the 5th & 13th Arkansas.

TERRAIN

Chickamauga Creek is fordable as difficult. All movement on the ridges is open terrain.

The small wood to the northeast of the 17th & 29th Missouri is heavy, the rest are light.

VICTORY CONDITIONS

The Federals must inflict a 50% defeat on the Rebels or force them out of the gap before 1 pm, this would require Union possession of the high ground on both Taylor and White Oak Ridges.

COMMANDS:

Union - 6

Confederate - 4

SCALES:

Time – 15 minutes per turn

Units – Strengths are base roughly on 100 to 1000 man Regiments and their Experience. The nonlinear numbers for Infantry and Cavalry can be changed to a linear numbers, by reducing the next number in the row by one, down to the last.

Map - 1" = 40 yards / Each square is 12 inches

This Scenario was developed from “**Rebel Yell, Yankee Hurrah!**” by George Anderson & Ryan Toews, Potomac Publications. Their scenarios books can be Purchased at the Wargames Vault:

<https://www.wargamevault.com/browse/pub/4892/Potomac-Publications?term=potomac> **Highly recommend!**

To use this scenario, you will need a copy of the “**Blücher**” rules by Sam Mustafa are available at: <https://sammustafa.com/store/> **Also, highly recommended!**

Updated: 01.31.22

UNION ORDER OF BATTLE

Hooker's Command

BG Joseph Hooker

(2) (Inspiring & Hero) (Artillery)

First Division, Fifteenth Army Corps

MG Peter J. Osterhaus

(2)

First Brigade

BG Charles R. Woods

(2+1d6)

13th IL (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) -/+1

3rd MO (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) -/-

12th MO (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2)(2) -/+1

17th & 29th MO (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) +1/+1

RR

31st MO (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(1) -/+1

76th OH (6)(5)(4)(3)(3)(2) -/+1

Second Brigade

Col. James A. Williamson

(2+1d6)

4th IA (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) -/+1

9th IA (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) -/+1

25th IA (6)(5)(4)(3)(3)(2) -/+1

26th IA (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) -/+1

30th IA (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) -/+1

31st IA (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) -/+1

Artillery

F, 2nd MO (4)(4)(3)(3)(2)(2) **SBH** +1/+1

CONFEDERATE ORDER OF BATTLE

Cleburne's Division

MG Patrick R. Cleburne

(2) (Inspiring, Hero, & Vigorous)

Smith's Brigade

Col. Hiram B. Granbury

(3) (Inspiring & Hero)

7th TX (8)(7)(6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(1) -/+1 **CC**

6th, 10th & 15th TX Cav. (dsmt)

(8)(7)(6)(5)(4)(4)(3)(2) -/+1 **CC**

17th, 18th, 24th & 25th TX Cav. (dsmt)

(8)(7)(6)(5)(5)(4)(3)(2) -/+1 **CC**

Lowrey's Brigade

BG Mark P. Lowrey

(5) (Inspiring & Hero)

16th AL (8)(7)(6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) -/+1

33rd AL (8)(7)(6)(5)(4)(3)(3)(2) -/+1

45th AL (8)(7)(6)(5)(4)(3)(3)(2) -/+1

32nd & 45th MS (8)(7)(6)(5)(4)(4)(3)(2)(3) -/+1

15th MS (8)(7)(6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(1) -/+1 **SS**

Liddell's Brigade

Col. Daniel C. Govan

(4)

2nd, 15th & 24th AR (8)(7)(6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) -/+1

5th & 13th AR (8)(7)(6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) -/+1

6th & 7th AR (8)(7)(6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) -/+1

8th & 19th AR (8)(7)(6)(5)(4)(3)(3)(2) -/+1

E, PA Lt Art (6)(5)(5)(4)(3)(3) RL -/-

Second Division, Twelfth Army Corps

BG John W. Geary

(2) (Hero)

First Brigade

Col. William R. Creighton

(2+1d6)

7th OH (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) -/+1

66th OH (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) -/+1

28th PA (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) -/+1

147th PA (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) -/+1

Second Brigade

Col. George A. Cobham Jr.

(3+1d6)

29th PA (6)(5)(4)(3)(3)(2) -/+1

111th PA (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) -/+1

Third Brigade

Col. David Ireland

(2+1d6)

60th NY (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(1) -/+1

102nd NY (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(1) -/+1

137th NY (6)(5)(4)(3)(3)(2) -/+1

149th NY (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(1) -/+1

First Brigade, First Division, Fourteenth Army

Corps

BG William P. Carlin

(3+1d6)

104th IL (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) -/+1

38th IN (6)(5)(4)(3)(3)(2) -/+1

42nd IN (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) -/+1

88th IN (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) -/+1

2nd OH (6)(5)(4)(3)(3)(2) -/+1

33rd OH (6)(5)(5)(4)(3)(2) -/+1

94th OH (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) -/+1

Cavalry & Mobile = CC

Impetuous = II

Counter Battery = CB

Polk's Brigade

BG Lucius Polk

(3) (Inspiring & Hero)

1st AR (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) -/+1

2nd TN (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(1)(1) -/+1

3th & 5th Conf. (8)(7)(6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) -/+1

Artillery

Semple's Bty (4)(4)(3)(3)(2)(2) SBH +1/+1

Austin's Cavalry

3rd, 8th, 10th Conf., 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th TN

(6)(5)(4)(4)(3)(2) -/+1CC

Sharpshooters = SS

Repeaters = RR

