

been given by their promotion of the services of the department which I have had the honor to control.

I transmit, herewith, reports of officers, with many tables, giving in detail information of value in relation to the operations of the department. To these I respectfully call your attention.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

M. C. MEIGS,

*Brevet Major General U. S. A., Quartermaster General.*

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON,  
*Secretary of War.*

*The following list of documents, accompanying the Quartermaster General's annual report, will be found in the unabridged report of the Secretary of War.*

1. Financial statement.
2. Report of First Division, public animals, Brevet Brigadier General J. A. Ekin.
3. Statement of claims, First Division.
4. Report of Second Division, clothing and equipage, Colonel A. J. Perry.
5. Statement of clothing on hand at the more important depots, 30th June, 1864.
6. Statement of camp and garrison equipage on hand at the more important depots, 30th June, 1864.
7. Statement of materials for manufacture of clothing purchased during fiscal year ending 30th June, 1865.
8. Statement of clothing and equipage purchased and manufactured during the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1865.
9. Statement of clothing on hand at the more important depots, 30th June, 1865.
10. Statement of equipage on hand at the more important depots, 30th June, 1865.
11. Statement of aggregate expenditure for purchase of clothing and equipage at the purchasing depots, New York, Philadelphia and Cincinnati.
12. Statement of materials for clothing and tents purchased at the depots of New York, Philadelphia and Cincinnati, from May, 1861, to 30th June, 1865.
13. Statement of number of the principal articles of clothing and equipage purchased at the principal depots of New York, Philadelphia and Cincinnati, from May, 1861, to 30th June, 1865, exclusive of articles manufactured at those depots.
14. Statement showing highest and lowest prices paid for articles of clothing and equipage during the war.
15. Statement of claims, Second Division.
16. Report of Third Division, ocean and lake transportation, Colonel E. D. Wise.
17. Statement of vessels chartered or employed by the Quartermaster's department on ocean and lake service during the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1865.
18. Statement of vessels owned by the United States, and employed on ocean and lake service by the Quartermaster's department during the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1865.
19. Summary statement of vessels owned and chartered at various times by the Quartermaster's department.
20. List of vessels employed by the Quartermaster's department in supplying General Sherman's army on the coast.
21. Strength of fleet employed in supplying armies before Richmond in the spring of 1865.
22. Report of Fourth Division, river and rail transportation, Brigadier General L. B. Parsons.
23. List of steamers and other vessels, belonging to the United States, employed on the western rivers, 30th June, 1865, by the Quartermaster's department.
24. Report of operations on the United States military railroads for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1865.
25. Statement showing the number of persons employed on United States military railroads at various dates.
26. Statement of claims, Fourth Division.
27. Special report, transportation of 23d army corps from the Tennessee to the Potomac, by Colonel L. B. Parsons, chief Fourth Division.
28. Report on movements, during the war, on the western rivers and railroads, by General L. B. Parsons.
29. General Orders, No. 17, Quartermaster General's Office, March 16, 1865, regulations concerning transportation by rail and river.

30. General Orders, No. 18, Quartermaster General's Office, 16th March, 1865, designating points for settlement of accounts for transportation.
31. General Orders, No. 29, Quartermaster General's Office, 9th May, 1865, regulations concerning transportation of freight.
32. Report of transportation of army supplies in New Mexico during the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1865.
33. Instructions from Quartermaster General's Office, May 10 and May 27, 1865, for the transportation of the troops to their homes.
34. Report of the Fifth Division, forage, fuel and regular supplies, Colonel S. L. Brown.
35. Annual report, purchases of forage, by Colonel S. L. Brown.
36. Summary statement of public moneys for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1865, purchases of forage, Colonel S. L. Brown.
37. Statement of expenditures for rail and river transportation for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1865, by Colonel S. L. Brown.
38. Statement of expenditures for ocean and lake transportation during the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1865.
39. Report of number of passengers and tons of freight transported by Colonel S. L. Brown during the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1865.
40. Report of quantities and value of forage shipped to armies on the James during the winter of 1864-'65.
41. Report of cost of transportation of grain to posts on the western plains.
42. Report on forage and fuel purchased during the war.
43. Statement of forage, fuel, and regular supplies, purchased during the war.
44. Summary statement of forage received at the depot of Washington during the war.
45. Summary statement of fuel received at the depot of Washington during the war.
46. Report of Sixth Division, hospitals and barracks, Colonel J. J. Dana.
47. Report of interments.
48. Report of Captain J. M. Moore, national cemeteries and interments, near Washington, the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, and Andersonville.
49. Report of Seventh Division, military trains, Colonel B. C. Card.
50. Report of claims, Seventh Division.
51. Special Orders, No. 44, trains of the army before Richmond, Lieutenant General Grant.
52. Report of Eighth Division, inspections, Colonel G. V. Rutherford.
53. Statement of clothing and equipage reported by officers as received, captured, issued, expended, or lost, during the fiscal year, or remaining on hand at the termination thereof.
54. Statement of property reported by officers as received, captured, issued, expended, lost, or sold, during the fiscal year, or remaining on hand at the termination thereof.
55. Statement of vessels owned by the United States and employed in the Quartermaster's department during the fiscal year.
56. Statement of vessels chartered, impressed, or employed, during the fiscal year.
57. Statement of property captured by the army during the fiscal year.
58. Statement of property captured or destroyed by the enemy during the fiscal year.
59. Summary statement of transportation furnished during the fiscal year.
60. Summary statement of cost of transportation during the fiscal year.
61. List of officers of the Quartermaster's department in charge of divisions in the Quartermaster General's Office during the fiscal year.
62. List of officers who have served as inspectors or the Quartermaster's department.
63. Chief quartermasters of armies and army corps.
64. Chief quartermasters of departments.
65. Chief quartermasters of principal depots.
66. Chief quartermasters of important depots.
67. Officers specially mentioned to the Quartermaster General for good service.
68. Quartermasters who have been brevetted for good service during the war.
69. Report of Ninth Division, records and correspondence, Colonel B. C. Card.
70. General Orders, No. 35, rules and regulations for consideration of claims under act of July 4, 1864.
71. General Orders, No. 43, Quartermaster General's Office, September 23, 1864, rules and regulations relating to purchase and distribution of horses and mules.
72. General Orders, No. 276, August 8, 1863, troops on transports.
73. General Orders, No. 24, April 29, 1865, reductions and retrenchment.
74. General Orders, No. 25, April 29, 1865, reductions and retrenchment.
75. General Orders, No. 28, May 8, 1865, sale of horses and mules.
76. General Orders, No. 42, July 15, 1865, sales at auction.
77. Executive Orders, September 28 and October 14, 1865, relinquishment of military railroads, and transfer of railroad material.
78. Annual report on military telegraphs, by Colonel Anson Stager, chief of military telegraphs.
79. Report of Major T. T. Eckert, superintendent of military telegraphs.
80. Report of Captain R. T. Clowry, assistant superintendent military telegraphs.
81. Report of Captain G. Fuller, assistant superintendent military telegraphs.

82. Report of Captain W. L. Gross, assistant superintendent military telegraphs.
83. Report of Captain J. R. Gilmore, assistant superintendent military telegraphs.
84. Report of Captain J. T. Lynch, assistant superintendent military telegraphs.
85. Report of Brevet Major General Robert Allen, chief quartermaster, valley of Mississippi.
86. Report of Brevet Major General Rufus Ingalls, chief quartermaster, armies before Richmond.
87. Report of Brevet Major General J. L. Donaldson, chief quartermaster, military division of the Tennessee.
88. Report of Brevet Major General D. H. Rucker, chief quartermaster, depot of Washington.
89. Report of Brevet Brigadier General L. C. Easton, chief quartermaster, armies under General Sherman.
90. Report of Brevet Brigadier General L. C. Easton, on the march to the sea.
91. Report of Captain Henry M. Whittlesey, chief quartermaster, 20th army corps, on the march from Atlanta to the sea.
92. Report of Major G. E. Dunbar, chief quartermaster, Sherman's cavalry, on the march from Atlanta to the sea.
93. Report of Lieutenant Colonel G. L. Fort, chief quartermaster, 15th army corps, on the march from Atlanta to the sea.
94. Annual report of Lieutenant Colonel G. L. Fort, chief quartermaster, 15th army corps.
95. Report of Lieutenant Colonel J. E. Remington, chief quartermaster, 14th army corps.
96. Report of Brevet Brigadier General L. C. Easton, chief quartermaster, army under General Sherman, on the march from Savannah to Richmond.
97. Report of Captain H. M. Whittlesey, chief quartermaster, 20th army corps, on the march from Savannah to Goldsboro'.
98. Report of Colonel A. J. Mackay, chief quartermaster, army of the Cumberland and department of the Tennessee.
99. Report of Colonel M. C. Garber, chief quartermaster, department of Tennessee.
100. Report of Colonel Thomas Swords, assistant quartermaster general, Cincinnati.
101. Report of Colonel George H. Crossman, assistant quartermaster general, Philadelphia.
102. Report of Colonel D. H. Vinton, deputy quartermaster general, chief quartermaster, depot of New York.
103. Report of Colonel E. B. Babbitt, chief quartermaster, Pacific coast.
104. Report of Brevet Brigadier General S. Van Vliet, quartermaster, New York.
105. Report of Colonel J. C. McFerran, chief quartermaster, department of New Mexico.
106. Report of Colonel C. W. Moulton, chief quartermaster, depot of Cincinnati.
107. Report of Brevet Brigadier General William Myers, chief quartermaster, depot of St Louis.
108. Report of Colonel W. M. McKim, chief quartermaster, depot of clothing and equipment, Philadelphia, Pa.
109. Report of Colonel R. N. B. Bachelder, chief quartermaster, army of Potomac.
110. Report of Colonel J. B. Howard, chief quartermaster, army of the James.
111. Report of Lieutenant Colonel E. J. Strang, repairs and supplies, armies before Richmond.
112. Report of Colonel J. A. Potter, chief quartermaster, depot of Fort Leavenworth.
113. Report of Colonel H. Page, chief quartermaster, army of the Shenandoah.
114. Report of Captain F. J. Crilley, quartermaster, military railroads.
115. Report of Colonel G. D. Wise, chief quartermaster, western gunboats.
116. Report of Captain A. Ainsworth, agent on opening communication with General Sherman at Fayetteville.
117. Report of Colonel M. J. Ludington, chief quartermaster, department of Washington.

## REPORT OF THE COMMISSARY GENERAL OF SUBSISTENCE.

OFFICE COMMISSARY GENERAL OF SUBSISTENCE,  
Washington City, D. C., October 20, 1865.

SIR: In compliance with the special instructions of the War Department of October 7, addressed to chiefs of bureaus, I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the Subsistence department during the past year:

The subsistence stores required for distribution to the several armies in the field have during the year been purchased, as was done during the earlier years of the war, in the principal markets of the northern States. The facilities and cost of transportation to the various points where they were required for issue, the relative prices in the different markets, and a due regard to the general commercial interests of the country, have governed this department in apportioning these purchases among the several market centres of the country. New Orleans, gradually resuming a healthy commercial condition, already enables this department—and in further aid of such resumption—to obtain in that market a considerable portion of the supplies required for distribution from that point. Although the present general condition of the southern States is not such as to afford a large amount of supplies for the troops on duty therein, still the officers of this department are able in some parts of those States to enter into contracts for beef cattle and slaughtered beef, as also to some extent to purchase therein other articles. The principal purchasing officers of the Subsistence department have performed their duties with great fidelity to the interests of the country and with much mercantile ability, and also, as I am frequently assured, to the general satisfaction of the commercial men of the country with whom they have transacted the business of this department.

So far as has been practicable, subsistence stores have been obtained by advertising for and receiving sealed proposals for their delivery. During the past six months four hundred and two such advertisements have been received and placed on file in this office.

The principal commissaries immediately responsible for the subsistence of the several armies in the field have performed the important and often difficult duties of receiving, protecting, and distributing the supplies forwarded to them with commendable efficiency and success. They have also, by great energy, been able, to a considerable extent, to subsist the troops upon the resources of the country in which the armies were operating or through which they were passing.

It is believed that during the entire war no campaign, contemplated movement, or expedition has failed on account of the inability of the Subsistence department to meet its proper requirements. It is also believed that the troops, wherever stationed or operating, have, with rare exceptions, been supplied with rations in good and wholesome condition.

While the Subsistence department has furnished a constant, timely, and adequate supply of subsistence for the several large armies occupying widely different fields of operations, as also for the troops at all the separate positions occupied throughout the entire country, it is due to the Quartermaster's department that its vast labors in the transportation of these supplies be recognized as having been performed with a readiness and efficiency worthy of the highest commendation. As a single item indicating the amount of these labors, I instance the fact that during the year 1863 the Quartermaster's department shipped from the port of New York an average of seven thousand packages of subsistence stores per day for every working day of the year, and for the year 1864 six thousand seven hundred and twenty-seven packages per day.

The sudden close of the war, and the consequent immediate muster-out of a large part of the army, unavoidably left on hand in some of the depots an excessive supply of subsistence stores. This excess has been sent to other points, where stores were required, instead of meeting such requirements by further purchases. By this course a considerable part of these supplies have been, or will be, economically disposed of. Surplus and damaged stores are in process of being disposed of by sale. A considerable quantity of hard bread, surplus or too old for issue to troops, remains to be disposed of. A sufficient quantity of this and other surplus articles have been held back from an earlier sale with the view of meeting, in an economical manner, the urgent wants of those people, white and colored, who have, by the events of the war, been reduced to a suffering condition; to whom it has been deemed an act of charity, due from the government, to make limited issues of food.

I have the honor to report that, under your orders of June 29, 1865, directing the discontinuance of the whiskey ration, and the sale of the whiskey on hand, the issue of that article was at once stopped. The sale has already taken place at many points, and will soon be completed.

\* During the past year, as in the previous years of the war, a very considerable income has been derived from the sale of the hides, tallow, and other parts of beef-cattle not issuable as beef to the troops. The total amount of such sales has not been ascertained. At the Washington and Alexandria depots alone they amount to \$344,468 98½ for the year ending 30th of September, 1865, and to \$1,377,875 93 during the four years ending at that date.

Under the able and judicious management of Brevet Brigadier General William Hoffman, United States army, Commissary General of Prisoners, the prisoners of war, held under his charge at thirty-two forts, prison barracks, camps, and hospitals, have been well and humanely subsisted, having received a sufficient portion and variety of the ration to insure health, leaving in the hands of the several issuing commissaries, as "savings," that portion of the ration not deemed necessary for persons living in entire idleness. The pecuniary value of these "savings" has constituted a prison fund, available, under the instructions of the commissary general of prisoners, for the purchase of articles necessary for the prison barracks and hospitals, and for meeting other necessary expenses of the prisoners. General Hoffman has already, under your instructions, transferred to the Subsistence department a "savings" credit of the amount of \$1,507,359 01, and reports that there remains yet to be transferred an amount not less than \$337,766 98, making a total amount of \$1,845,125 99.

The discharge of volunteer forces, and the consequent reduction of the expenses of this department, will enable it to meet all demands without exhausting the appropriation for the current fiscal year.

The current work of this bureau is, habitually, up to date. The examination of the money and property accounts is nearly as close up to date as it is practicable to have it. It would, however, facilitate the prompt examination of the money and property accounts of the officers of the Subsistence department, if the law permitted the former, as well as the latter, to be sent, by the officers rendering them, direct to this bureau for its administrative action before going to the accounting officers of the treasury. I do not doubt that the Third Auditor is of the same opinion.

Under section 3 of the act of July 4, 1864, authorizing the claims of loyal citizens in States not in rebellion for subsistence actually furnished to the army of the United States, and receipted for by the proper officer receiving the same, or which may have been taken by such officers without giving such receipt, to be submitted to the Commissary General of Subsistence, and making it his duty to cause each claim to be examined, there have been submitted as follows:

Whole number of claims submitted, 1,470.	
Number approved for payment.....	50
Number disallowed.....	413
Number awaiting explanations, &c.....	650
Number awaiting examination.....	357
	1,470

With your approval, it is proposed to ascertain and exhibit, in a tabular form, the total quantity of each article of subsistence stores purchased for use of the army during each year of the war, from 1861 to 1865, inclusive. Such a statement would form an interesting addition to the mercantile statistics of the country.

Under the act of March 3, 1865, for the better organization of the Subsistence department, authorizing, during the continuance of the rebellion, the selection and assignment of commissaries of subsistence of the volunteer and regular service to geographical military divisions, to separate armies in the field, to military departments, to principal subsistence depots, and to the office of the Commissary General of Subsistence as assistants, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of a colonel of the Subsistence department, there have been so selected and assigned nine commissaries of subsistence; one from the regular service, and eight from the volunteer service. There have also been selected and assigned, under authority of the same act, to inspection or other special duty, two commissaries of subsistence with the rank of lieutenant colonel; one from the volunteer, and the other from the regular service. Also, to divisions, two commissaries of subsistence with the rank of major; both from the volunteer service.

During the past year two vacancies have occurred in the regular service of the Subsistence department; one by the brief sickness and death, after much zealous and efficient field service, of Major John Kellogg, and the other by resignation of Captain Edward R. Hopkins, a valuable officer. Both of these vacancies were filled by selections and appointments from the volunteer branch of the Subsistence department.

The Subsistence department, at the commencement of the war, contained but twelve officers of all grades; it had reached this number by small additions, authorized by law, from time to time, as the army was increased and the territory occupied by it extended; the several additions subsequent to the act of April 14, 1818, by which a Commissary General of Subsistence was originally authorized, being as follows: by the act of March 2, 1820, two commissaries; by the act of July 5, 1838, five commissaries; by the act of September 20, 1850, four commissaries. Since the commencement of the rebellion there have been added as follows: by the act of August 3, 1861, twelve commissaries; by the act of February 9, 1863, five commissaries; making a total of twenty-nine officers of all grades. A further increase is not recommended until it shall be made to appear that the present number of officers is inadequate to the service required of the department.

The officers of this department, regulars and volunteers, have, with but few exceptions, performed their duties with signal fidelity and success. Some of them have been held from serving with troops in the field, much against their choice and ambition.

To the able senior Assistant Commissary General of Subsistence, and to the other officers on duty in this bureau, is largely due the credit of the general good condition of the affairs of the Subsistence department which I am enabled to report.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. B. EATON,

Commissary General Subsistence.

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

## REPORT OF THE SURGEON GENERAL.

WAR DEPARTMENT, SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Washington, D. C., October 20, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following statement of finances and general transactions of the Medical department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1865:

## RECEIPTS.

Balance in the treasury July 1, 1864.....	\$914, 135 10
Balance in the hands of the disbursing officers.....	324, 061 65
Balance remaining of appropriation for artificial limbs for soldiers and seamen, per act of July 16, 1862, chap. 182, sec. 6.....	4, 265 00
Annual appropriation for the year ending June 30, 1865, by act of June 15, 1864, chap. 124, sec. 1.....	8, 930, 640 00
Deficiency appropriation for the current fiscal year, by act of March 2, 1865, chap. 73, sec. 8.....	3, 251, 000 00
Annual appropriation for the year ending June 30, 1866, by act of March 3, 1865, chap. 81, sec. 1, required for disbursement during the present fiscal year, and placed to the credit of the Medical department for that purpose March 22, 1865.....	6, 000, 000 00
Amount drawn from appropriation made by joint resolution of April 29, 1864, to cover expenditures for medical attendance and medicine for hundred-days volunteers.....	300, 000 00
Amount refunded by the Subsistence department for board of sick and wounded soldiers in private hospitals.....	64, 293 40
Amount refunded for medical attendance and supplies furnished prisoners of war.....	140, 506 08
Amount received for subsistence of officers in hospitals.....	286, 281 04
Amount disallowed in account of Eben. Swift, United States army, for June, 1863, and refunded from appropriation for pay of volunteers.....	17, 762 91
Proceeds of sales of condemned and unserviceable hospital property.....	59, 671 41
Proceeds of sales of ice not required for hospital use.....	12, 352 25
Value of books and surgical instruments sold to medical officers and private physicians.....	8, 311 30
Received for hospital property sold to the Quartermaster's department.....	7, 003 61
Received for medicines, &c., issued to refugees and freedmen..	554 73
Recovered for hospital property lost or damaged in transportation.....	534 45
Recovered of Acting Assistant Surgeon J. S. Geltner, United States army, for property and moneys illegally disposed of	1, 000 00
Amount received for care of patients belonging to the United States navy.....	283 00
Amount received from all other sources.....	446 20
Total credits for the year.....	20, 323, 102 13
Amount over-expended by disbursing officers.....	166, 578 34
	<hr/>
	20, 489, 680 47

## DISBURSEMENTS DURING THE YEAR.

For medical and hospital supplies.....	\$15, 204, 497 20
For pay of private physicians.....	1, 865, 821 82
For pay of hospital employes.....	949, 462 46
For expenses of purveying depots.....	683, 830 33
For care of sick soldiers in private hospitals.....	240, 476 11
*For artificial limbs for soldiers and seamen.....	126, 538 00
Expenses of hospitals for officers.....	243, 876 37
Miscellaneous expenses of the Medical department.....	13, 996 94
	<hr/>
	19, 328, 499 23
Balance in the treasury June 30, 1865.....	1, 161, 181 24
	<hr/>
	20, 489, 680 47

The ample provision for sick and wounded existing at the date of my last annual report was increased during the ensuing months until a maximum of (204) two hundred and four general hospitals, with a capacity of (136,894) one hundred and thirty-six thousand eight hundred and ninety-four beds, was reached. Field hospitals, hospital transports and cars, ambulance corps, and the purveying depots, were kept in condition to meet all possible requirements, and General Sherman's army was met at Savannah by four first-class sea-going steamers, thoroughly equipped as hospital transports, with extra stores and supplies for five thousand beds, should it have become necessary to establish large hospitals upon his line of operations.

Upon the receipt of General Orders No. 77, dated War Department, Adjutant General office, April 28, 1865, immediate measures were taken to reduce the expenses of this department. Of the (201) two hundred and one general hospitals open on January 1, 1865, (170) one hundred and seventy have been discontinued. Three of the four sea-going hospital transports have been discharged; the fourth is now constantly engaged in the transfer of sick and wounded from southern ports to the general hospitals in New York harbor. All of the river hospital boats have been turned over to the Quartermaster's department, and but a single hospital train is retained in the southwest.

The vast amount of medicines and hospital supplies becoming surplus through the reduction of the army have been carefully collected at prominent points, and are being disposed of at public auction, most of the articles bringing their full value, and in some instances, their cost price.

Since April, 1861, there have been appointed (547) five hundred and forty-seven surgeons and assistant surgeons of volunteers; mustered into service (2,109) two thousand one hundred and nine volunteer regimental surgeons, and (3,882) three thousand eight hundred and eighty-two volunteer regimental assistant surgeons; employed as acting staff surgeons (75) seventy-five; as acting assistant surgeons (5,532) five thousand five hundred and thirty-two.

As far as returns have been received, during the war (34) thirty-four officers of the medical staff have been killed or died of wounds received in action, (24) twenty-four wounded, and (188) one hundred and eighty-eight have died from disease or accident incurred in the service; (1) one died in a rebel prison, (6) six of yellow fever. A completed record will increase this number.

Two hundred and fourteen (214) surgeons and assistant surgeons of volunteers, reported as supernumerary, have been mustered out.

\* Furnished during the year—artificial legs 1,388; arms 1,121.

In compliance with the act of Congress, hospital chaplains have been reported for muster-out when the hospitals to which they were attached have been discontinued. Of the two hundred and sixty-five (265) appointed during the war, twenty-nine (29) are still in commission.

The business of this office has been largely increased by the necessity for immediate examination and settlement of the accounts of staff and regimental medical officers mustered out of service, while the number of applications from the Pension bureau for "official evidence of cause of death" now averages one thousand five hundred and fifty (1,550) a month, the number received and acted upon in the last fiscal year being over nineteen thousand (19,000); other official inquiries, requiring reference to records and hospital registers, are very numerous.

The returns of sick and wounded show that of white troops one million fifty-seven thousand four hundred and twenty-three (1,057,423) cases have been treated in general hospitals alone from 1861 to July 1, 1865, of which the mortality rate was 8 per cent. In addition to the alphabetical registers of dead, not yet fully completed, the records of the Medical department contain thirty thousand (30,000) special reports of the more important forms of surgical injuries, of disease, and of operations. These reports, with statistical data, and a pathological collection, numbering seven thousand six hundred and thirty (7,630) specimens, furnish a mass of valuable information which is being rapidly arranged and tabulated as a medical and surgical history of the war, for the publication of the first volumes of which an appropriation will be asked.

In this connexion, and as illustrating more in detail the importance of this work, the army medical museum assumes the highest value. By its array of indisputable facts, supported and enriched by full reports, it supplies instruction otherwise unattainable, and preserves for future application the dearly-bought experience of four years of war. Apart from its great usefulness, it is also an honorable record of the skill and services of those medical officers whose contributions constitute its value, and whose incentive to these self-imposed labors has been the desire to elevate their profession. A small appropriation has been asked to continue and extend this collection.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1865, an army medical board was appointed to meet in Cincinnati, Ohio, on the 18th day of October, 1864, for the examination of candidates for the medical staff of the army, and of assistant surgeons of that corps for promotion. Nine applicants for admission into the medical staff were invited to present themselves before this board. Of this number, two were fully examined and approved; one withdrew before his examinations were concluded; two were rejected as unqualified, and four failed to appear. Six assistant surgeons were examined for promotion and found qualified. Two assistant surgeons were reported for re-examination. Of the approved candidates, two have been appointed assistant surgeons.

Boards have been in session at New York, Washington, D. C., Hilton Head, S. C., New Orleans, La., Memphis, Tenn., Little Rock, Ark., and Cincinnati, Ohio, for the examination of candidates for appointment in the volunteer medical staff. One hundred and fifty-two candidates were invited before these boards, fifty-eight of whom passed satisfactory examinations and were appointed accordingly. The remainder were rejected, failed to appear, or withdrew before examination was completed. These boards were discontinued in June, 1865.

The casualties in this corps since June 30, 1864, are as follows: appointed, 96; promoted, 40; restored, 2; resigned, 32; declined, 1; died, 7; dismissed, 3; discharged, 3; dropped, 1; mustered out, 19; cancelled, 7.

Boards for the examination of candidates for appointment as medical officers to colored troops have been in session permanently at Boston, New York, Washington, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, St. Louis, and at such other points from time to time as the necessities of the service demanded.

In nearly all sections of the country the health of the troops has been fully equal to that of the preceding years, though military movements of unprecedented magnitude have been pushed to successful termination without regard to seasons. An epidemic of yellow fever prevailed at Newbern, N. C., in September, October and November, 1864, causing two hundred and seventy-eight (278) deaths among the troops stationed there, of whom five hundred and seventy-one (571) were attacked. The released or exchanged prisoners arriving at Wilmington, N. C., from rebel prisons suffered from an epidemic of typhoid fever, which, however, was arrested by strict attention to hygienic rules and prompt transfer to northern hospitals. With these exceptions no serious epidemics have appeared, and it is interesting to note that quarantine regulations strictly enforced by military authority have proven, during the occupation of southern seaports and cities by our troops, to be an absolute protection against the importation of contagious or infectious diseases. In view of the apprehensions entertained in regard to the Asiatic cholera, now devastating the shores of the Mediterranean, this becomes a significant fact.

For recommendations of measures tending to the greater efficiency of the Medical department, you are respectfully referred to the special report from this office, called for by circular dated War Department, Adjutant General's office, October 7, 1865.

In conclusion, I desire to bear testimony to the ability, courage and zeal manifested throughout the war by the officers of the Medical department under all circumstances and upon all occasions. With hardly an exception they have been actuated by the highest motives of national and professional pride, and the number who have been killed and wounded bears most honorable testimony to their devotion to duty on the field of battle.

To the medical directors of armies in the field and of military geographical departments especial praise is due for the successful execution of their arduous and responsible duties.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOS. K. BARNES, *Surgeon General,*  
*Brevet Major Gen'l, U. S. Army.*

Hon. E. M. STANTON, *Secretary of War.*

#### REPORT OF THE PAYMASTER GENERAL.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

*Paymaster General's Office, Washington, October 31, 1865.*

Sir: I have the honor to submit a report of the official transactions of the Pay department of the army for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1865.

The tabular statements herewith presented exhibit the details from which the following statement in gross is made:

Balance in hands of paymasters and unissued requisitions in treasury at beginning of fiscal year (July 1, 1864).....	\$86,039,808 87
Received from the treasury during the fiscal year (including unissued requisitions in treasury on June 30, 1865).....	337,200,000 00
Received by paymasters from other sources, exclusive of sums transferred among themselves.....	6,815,137 50

Total to be accounted for.....	430,054,946 37
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Accounted for as follows:

Disbursements to the regular army.....	\$7,839,225 47
Disbursements to the Military Academy.....	153,099 11
Disbursements to the volunteers.....	300,738,635 95
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Total disbursement.....	308,730,960 53
Amount of unissued requisitions in the treasury on June 30, 1865.....	65,900,000 00
Balance actually in hands of paymasters on June 30, 1866.....	55,423,985 84
<hr/>	
	430,054,946 37

This large amount in the hands of paymasters at the end of the fiscal year was an unavoidable necessity from the fact that at that precise period of time the department was everywhere throughout the country under the greatest pressure of payments to mustered-out troops, and money in large sums had to be kept thus distributed.

From the above it will be seen that the sum actually disbursed during the fiscal year and in process of disbursement at the end thereof was \$430,054,946 37.

Since the beginning of the current fiscal year, beside the above sums in the hands of paymasters and the unissued requisitions stated, \$94,000,000 have been disbursed, and distributed for disbursement, making a total expenditure of \$524,054,946 37 during the last fiscal year, and the present one to this date.

Of this large sum more than one-half (\$270,000,000) has been paid to disbanded volunteer troops mustered out of service.

From the early days of June to the present time, this department has made final payment to more than eight hundred thousand officers and men. The number paid cannot be definitely stated for the want of time for full official returns to be received from the many various and distant points of payment throughout the country, especially as these payments are still continuing. Enough, however, is known with certainty to establish the fact that the figures stated are not in excess.

This is an extraordinary exhibit of work performed chiefly within the three months of June, July and August—two hundred and seventy millions of money paid to eight hundred thousand individual men: When the manner of these payments is observed, with a knowledge of the particularity required in each case, the accounts varying in amounts, each to be separately computed in its several items of pay, clothing, bounty, &c., with such stoppages as may be chargeable deducted, the final amount stated and the signature of each officer and man to be appended in duplicate to the receipt rolls, a just appreciation may be formed of the stupendous labor involved. No similar work of like magnitude, regarding its immensity both as to men and money, and the small limit of time in which it has been performed, has, it is believed, any parallel in the history of armies.

The troops for discharge were, under the orders from the Adjutant General's office, transported to their respective State rendezvous as rapidly as the proper officers of the various organizations could despatch the duty of mustering out.

This department engaged to prepare with funds officers at all the sixty different places of designated rendezvous throughout the States, and to make prompt payment in the shortest practicable time, on the arrival of each organization, so as substantially to avert delays, with all their evil consequences at the places of rendezvous. How far this pledge on our part has been redeemed the country can answer. The facts of record in the War Department show no delays of moment occurring in any quarter; none, at least, chargeable to this depart-

ment. The work is mainly accomplished, satisfactorily accomplished, beyond the most sanguine anticipations of those who could understand and properly measure the vastness of the undertaking.

For this result the country is indebted largely to the zeal, intelligence, and sleepless industry of a corps of experienced paymasters who signalized themselves in this the closing act of their military staff service by a faithfulness and devotion which reflects the highest honor upon them as a body, and as individual officers. To them, under the skilful management of their supervising district chiefs, this department owes its success; and I take occasion, as the head of the department, in this public official communication, to render to them the homage of my grateful acknowledgments. The credit is theirs, for without their experience and cordial co-operative efforts, not all the powers of the government combined could have wrought so favorable a solution of a difficult problem.

It becomes my duty also to notice here, in most favorable terms, the valued services of the officers and clerks connected immediately with this office. They appreciated the emergency, and bent themselves to the difficult work, which, for a time, pressed upon the office with almost overwhelming weight. With payments simultaneously progressing at sixty different points, widely separated, with the necessity of keeping each one supplied with funds from day to day, and a necessity also that each should have no more than required for immediate disbursement—drawing from the treasury at the rate of \$20,000,000 per week, and compelled to make close estimate and careful watch of its daily distribution, so that the demand at each given point should be surely supplied, and yet no more than supplied; telegrams and letters continually pouring in, noting the movement and destination of troops, and repeating these notices to the proper points of rendezvous; applications and appeals constantly arriving, requiring immediate answers; new questions arising and referred to this office for instructions, &c.—kept our thoughts, our pens, our press, and the telegraph in constant requisition by day and by night. Mid all this I am happy to bear testimony that every one labored with cheerful alacrity—in some instances, indeed, during the heated season, even beyond their strength. It may be said of these, as I have said of the paymasters in the field, but for their willing efforts, rendered with self-denying devotion, the work could not have been a success.

The unstinted facilities extended, sir, by your authority and orders, in the free use of the military telegraph, the printing press, and all other agencies that could be profitably applied to the end, together with the liberal confidence which you were pleased to repose in this office, leaving to it an almost unrestricted discretion to manage, without hindrance, its own details; your concurrence in, and support of, its acts and orders—these reveal the vital secret of a result so favorable.

I cannot close this branch of my subject without a grateful expression of indebtedness to the officers of the Treasury Department for the courteous and zealous attention with which, during the trying exigency, they always entertained the importunate demands of this office. What often seemed as hopeless impossibilities obstructing the financial path, were, by their fervent efforts, readily dispelled, and thus all our requisitions were met with most satisfactory promptness.

At the date of my last annual report, besides the small number of officers constituting the pay department of the regular army, (and which is without casualty or change since,) there were in the service 409 additional paymasters, contingent appointments under the law of July, 1838. Afterwards, up to March 3, thirty-eight others were appointed and confirmed, making a total of..... 447

Accounted as follows:	
Resigned.....	89
Commission declined.....	1

Dismissed.....	4
Appointments cancelled.....	21
Dropped.....	2
Died of disease.....	5
Lost at sea.....	1
Killed by guerillas.....	2
Died while prisoner of war.....	1
Mustered out.....	111
Total casualties.....	237
Remaining in service.....	210

This reduction may still continue, following with even pace, as their services can be spared and their accounts be rendered, the progress of the reduction of the army.

The sudden disbandment of our volunteer hosts, besides their final payment on the ordinary forms of muster-out rolls and other discharge papers, has devolved upon this department an inordinate accumulation of "referred claims" transmitted for adjustment and payment. These have arisen from various causes, but chiefly from the inability of the officers charged with the execution of the muster-out papers to reach a complete history as to pay, clothing, bounty, &c., of large numbers of enlisted men, so as to enable a final settlement at the time of discharge. To all such certificates of discharge are furnished, upon which are indorsed the fact of non-payment, and the holders are directed to forward the same, as the basis of their claim, to the Paymaster General for adjustment.

Such magnitude has this demand attained, that it has been found necessary to organize a special division of paymasters as an attachment of this bureau, to take exclusive cognizance of this class of claims.

This "division of referred claims" is now composed of a chief supervising paymaster of much intelligence, judgment, and experience, with twelve other paymasters, also competent officers of experience, and a corps of sixty-four active clerks. The peculiar labors of this division could not be near so well performed under any other organization, having, as this does, enlightened paymasters to supervise every branch of the work, each being responsible for his own.

Every claim sent to this division requires for its elucidation a careful and laborious search through all the previous rolls on file in this and the Second Auditor's office, besides constant reference to the Adjutant General's office, to trace out through the past records all the facts touching the case, the charges, stoppages, forfeitures, &c., that it may be stated with accuracy the balance due the claimant. This done, vouchers in form covering that balance are filled out and transmitted to the claimant for his signature, which returned to the paymaster, the latter remits a check for the amount. From this it will be seen how tedious is the work of this division, what careful industry it demands, and how inevitable are the delays complained of by impatient claimants.

The clerical force of this bureau is without material change since the date of my last annual report.

For months past, in anticipation of an early permanent reduction of that force, I have refrained from recommending new appointments to fill such vacancies as have occurred by resignations and other casualties.

This course, I apprehend, may continue without injury or material inconvenience to the public service. Such, however, is the sudden accumulation of the business of the bureau, by reason of the present influx, for examination of rolls and other classes of vouchers, resulting from the recent and continued large payments to disbanded troops already adverted to, that but a very slight reduction in the number of clerks employed will be practicable for some months to come.

I need hardly urge the unqualified conviction, that the compensation allowed by the government to this indispensable class of public agents is quite inadequate in view of the present exorbitant cost of the necessaries of life. The clerks of this bureau, as a body, are highly meritorious and deserving public servants. None, I am sure, better than they, have by faithful industry earned just title to favorable consideration. It becomes my duty, therefore, respectfully, but urgently, to recommend a reasonable increase of the rates of compensation now by law fixed for the clerks employed in this bureau. Especially is this demanded by every consideration of the public interest, of enlightened public economy, for the clerks of the higher grades, and for the chief clerk. I feel sure I have only to present this subject to your attention to insure your influence in the furtherance of a consummation so proper.

In another paper communicated to you, dated the 11th instant, I have had the honor to submit, for your consideration, a plan for the better organization and a permanent increase of the Pay department of the army, to which I respectfully invite your attention in connexion with this report.

The entire of the regular army and the volunteer forces of every description retained in service, and not embraced in orders for muster out, have been paid, or are provided for and in process of payment to the end of the last fiscal year, (to 1st July last.)

Many organizations have been paid to the later date of September 1.

All discharged troops have been paid in full, and all being discharged or under orders for discharge are provided for, and will be paid as fast as they arrive at their respective places of rendezvous.

Paymasters are held in readiness to make another payment to the troops who shall be continued in the service, whenever the needful funds for that purpose may be available.

In conclusion, I beg to present to your attention the following remarkable summary statement of the results in this department during the past four years of war.

The total of money disbursed by the department from July 1, 1861, to the present date, is one thousand and twenty-nine million two hundred and thirty-nine thousand (1,029,239,000) dollars.

Total defalcations in the department for same period, supposing that nothing is made from sureties, (it is believed that more than one-half will be collected from these sources).....	\$541,000
Total expenses for disbursement, including pay and allowances to paymasters and their clerks, mileage and travelling expenses, &c., an average of 350 paymasters and 400 clerks for the term of four years and four months (a large average).....	6,429,600
Total defalcations and expenses.....	6,970,600

Thus it is seen that the total of every character of expense to the government arising from the disbursement of the pay to the armies during the period stated is less than seven-tenths of one per cent. of the sum disbursed.

Surely this is a cost most wonderfully cheap for the execution of duties so important and responsible. It is much questioned if there is another instance on record of public disbursement so cheaply performed.

Respectfully submitted:

B. W. BRICE,

Paymaster General U. S. A.

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON,

Secretary of War.

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER.

ENGINEER DEPARTMENT,

Washington, October 30, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to present the following report upon the several branches of the public service committed to the care of this department, for the year ending on the 30th of June, 1865:

*Duties of the officers during the year.*—The corps of engineers consisted of eighty-five officers, the Military Academy, its officers and professors, and the battalion of engineer soldiers, of five companies.

Of the eighty-five (85) officers of engineers embraced in the corps, fifty-four (54) were on detached duty commanding army corps, divisions, and other military organizations, on staff duty, and as engineers and assistant engineers with armies operating against the rebels, in command of the pontoon bridge service, and in command of the troops of the engineer battalion; and thirty-one (31) on duty superintending sea-coast defences, lake surveys, lake and sea-coast harbor improvements, Military Academy, and assisting the Chief Engineer in connexion with all these duties.

Every officer of the corps has been on continued and uninterrupted duty during the entire year, and four (4) of its members have died in service.

The loss in officers killed, and who have died in service from wounds and other causes during the rebellion, is fourteen (14.)

Twenty-one (21) of the members of the corps still remain on detached service, performing important duties growing out of the rebellion, which prevent their returning to engineer duty.

The value and estimation in which the military talents and practical knowledge of the officers of the corps are held, have, by contributing to the command of the armies, and for staff service, together with the loss of those who have given their lives to the defence of their country, greatly reduced its numbers and efficiency for the many duties devolving upon it. Many of those of highest rank and experience are still on detached service, and the vacancies from casualties have necessarily been filled by junior members, recent distinguished graduates of the Military Academy.

Although the legal strength of the corps is sufficient to perform the proper functions of its members, the present assignment of its officers renders it impracticable to meet the numerous demands upon the department.

For a comprehensive knowledge of the duties of the engineers, a recurrence to the general objects of the campaign is necessary.\*

It will be recollected that, by descending the Shenandoah and crossing the Potomac above Harper's Ferry, the rebel army, in 1864, threatened Washington, Baltimore, Pittsburg, and even Philadelphia, as also intermediate cities. Washington city had become the great depot for immense supplies for all arms of service for months in advance. An extensive ordnance depot, a navy yard, the general hospitals, the archives of the nation, its executive and judiciary, with the public edifices for all national purposes, was the rich prize, to gain possession of which the rebel authorities directed their efforts, as well as to divert our armies from the attack on Richmond. At Antietam and South mountain they had been defeated and driven back into the valley of the Shenandoah. Again they made a powerful effort, and were defeated at Gettysburg, and driven across the Potomac and up the valley. In July, 1864, after the Lieutenant

\* The plans and reports which accompanied this report are necessarily omitted in this abridgement, but can be found in the unabridged edition of the report of the Secretary of War.—Editor.

General had forced the rebel armies, concentrated under Lee, from Todd's tavern, through Spottsylvania and Cool Arbor, into Richmond and Petersburg, they made another effort to divert the Lieutenant General by detaching Early on another expedition down the valley of the Shenandoah and across the Potomac, threatening Baltimore by moving on the Monocacy, where a small body of our troops were repulsed, thus jeopardizing both Baltimore and Washington. The attention of the Lieutenant General was given to these efforts of his adversary to divert him from his main object, the defeat and capture of Lee's army; and, while withdrawing part of the garrison to re-enforce the armies operating against Richmond, he held the command of his rear and Washington by being enabled to transport from before Petersburg as large a force as Lee could detach to operate in the valley and on Washington. Many thousands of wounded and sick occupied the hospitals in Washington, and the troops fit for duty did not suffice to man the armaments of the forts around the city. The engineers had previously constructed a system of detached redoubts and forts around the city, on a circuit of upwards of thirty-five (35) miles. Early, after his success at Monocacy, moved directly upon the defences of Washington, between the Potomac and the Eastern Branch. (See plan No. 1.) Colonel Alexander, of the corps of engineers, was the only officer of the corps whose personal attention could be given to these defences. Colonel Woodruff and Major Kurtz, of the corps of engineers, and assistants of the Chief Engineer, were first ordered to these defences. Subsequently all the officers on the sea-coast, north and east of this city, were detached from their labors of constructing sea-coast batteries, (then threatened by rebel iron-clads building in Europe, as another effort to divert our armies in the field,) and were ordered to the defences of Baltimore and Washington—Major Prime, Captain Robert, and Lieutenant J. A. Smith to the aid of Colonel Brewerton at Baltimore, and Colonel Macomb, Major Blunt, Major Casey, and Captain Tardy to the aid of Colonel Alexander at Washington. The rebel blow was aimed at Washington. The wise foresight of the Secretary of War had caused all the employes of the several bureaus of his department to be organized and drilled as infantry troops. The necessity for the withdrawal of the 6th army corps from Petersburg, and of the 19th from New Orleans, had also been foreseen, and orders sent to them to proceed to this city to meet the blow that was threatened. The Veteran Reserves and convalescents from the hospitals were also ordered to garrison the defences. Requisitions were made upon the governors of States to furnish troops, but with little success. The 6th and 19th corps arrived at the most opportune moment. Early directed his efforts upon Fort Stevens, but finding the garrison re-enforced, and even moving out of the defences to meet him, he suddenly retreated across the Potomac and up the valley of the Shenandoah. The engineers were then ordered to their former stations on the seaboard.

Early was pursued by Sheridan with his cavalry, and the troops that drove him from Washington up the Shenandoah, defeating him and his re-enforcements, and eventually annihilating his army. For this expedition Major Stewart, Captain Gillespie, and Lieutenant Meigs, of the corps of engineers, were assigned. In the death of Lieutenant Meigs, while reconnoitring in the neighborhood of Winchester, the corps lost one of its most meritorious and valued members. Captain Gillespie accompanied Sheridan's expedition to the James river, destroying the rebel communications on that river and all others west and north of Richmond, and finally joined the Lieutenant General before Petersburg.

With the investment of Petersburg commenced a series of laborious and difficult engineering operations by the army of the James and the army of the Potomac. The narratives collated from the reports of Colonel Michler and General Michie give the details of these operations. A reference to plan No. 12 will explain the extent of the defences about Petersburg and Richmond, and the



labors of our engineers about Petersburg and the rebel defences on the north side of the James river.

The rebels after being defeated by the army under Lieutenant General Grant and driven from their intrenchments around Petersburg, extending to the Hatchie, evacuated that city on the 2d April, 1865. The evacuation of Richmond followed on the 3d April, when the rebel army under Lee retreated, and was closely pursued and pressed to Appomattox Court House, where it yielded to the superior prowess and skill of the armies of the United States, on the 9th April, 1865, thus breaking up all semblance of rebel authority, leaving Sherman to end it by the capture of Johnston on the 23d April. A map of this campaign is in progress, awaiting information yet to be collected to perfect it as an historical record of these ever-memorable military operations which resulted in restoring the power and union of a nation.

After the evacuation of Richmond the rebel chief and his advisers, who devised this most unjust and unwarrantable scheme to destroy a nation, sought safety in flight towards Georgia. Their movements had been foreseen, and were provided for by a brilliant campaign of a cavalry force under General James H. Wilson, (captain of the corps of engineers,) who posted his troops with great discrimination and judgment, and succeeded in capturing the leader at Irwinton on the 10th May, 1865.

From Atlanta the grand army of the West, commanded by Sherman, commenced moving for the sea-coast, while Thomas occupied Tennessee and Kentucky. The rebels under Hood on evacuating Atlanta operated on Sherman's previous line of march.

The labors of the engineers at Chattanooga under Colonel Merrill, and the volunteer engineers, had rendered this important position as well as Knoxville impregnable; and Hood retrograded towards the Tennessee river with a force so far superior to Thomas's as to cause the latter to fall back gradually upon Nashville. The labors of the engineers in fortifying Franklin, on the Harpeth river, did not suffice, with a single army corps under Schofield, to hold those intrenchments.

Our army fell back to Nashville, where much labor and the skill of the engineers had previously been bestowed in fortifying it by General Morton, Colonel Merrill, Captains Barlow and Burroughs, and other junior officers of the corps of engineers, together with volunteer engineers. In September, 1864, Major Tower, corps of engineers, (brevet major general of volunteers,) took charge of these defences, and perceiving the great importance of Nashville as a depot of supplies as well as other important strategic advantages, commenced to add to and perfect the fortifications, (see plan No. 4,) on which he continued unremittingly until Hood's advance and investment of the place on the 15th and 16th December, 1864.

During the few days preceding Hood's arrival before Nashville, Thomas had concentrated his several available army corps within the fortifications of Nashville, the plan of which is given on plate No. 4.

The importance of these defences was mainly in enabling Thomas to concentrate his army at a depot well stored with munitions of war, and to hold his enemy, flushed with his successful march from Atlanta, in check until he was ready to take the field.

The plan of the fortifications (No. 4) by General Tower and annexed extracts from his report explain more fully the successes of this most important advance of Thomas, resulting in the demolition and annihilation of the rebel power in Tennessee.

During the same eventful period the fortifications that had been constructed by the engineers at Murfreesboro' were successfully held and defended by a part of Thomas's army.

Colonel Merrill, captain engineers, with the volunteer engineers, had during

the year given special attention to fortifying all the important points on the railroads in Tennessee and part of Kentucky, while Lieutenant Colonel Simpson, corps of engineers, had fortified Cincinnati, Ohio, Covington and Newport, Frankfort and Louisville, Kentucky, and the lines of the Louisville, Nashville, and Kentucky Central railroads, thus covering Thomas's rear and defending his lines of communication.

Such is a general outline of the labors of the engineers in Tennessee.

The march of the grand army of the West under Sherman (see plan No. 3) did not call for offensive or defensive fortifications.

The labors of the engineers, Captain Poe, (brevet brigadier general U. S. A.,) Captain Reese, (brevet brigadier general U. S. A.,) Lieutenant Stickney, (brevet major U. S. A.,) Lieutenant Ludlow, (brevet major U. S. A.,) and Lieutenant Damrell, were most advantageously bestowed upon the roads and bridges, and reconnoitring the enemy's movements and positions. (See their narratives.)

The pontoon trains under charge of these officers were indispensable to the success of the army. They consisted of canvas boats, which proved serviceable for the march of this army from the Tennessee to its final disbandment in Washington city in 1865. The advantages of these light trains, their frequent use during the campaign proving their adaptation to our country, are fully developed in the narrative collated from Poe's and Reese's reports.

In September, 1863, Knoxville was captured by our force, and in November of the same year Chattanooga was occupied by our army. At the latter point Sherman concentrated his supplies, and moved in force against the rebels, driving them through Ringgold, Tunnel Hill, Dalton, Resaca, Allatoona, and Kennesaw, to Atlanta.

At this latter place the rebel army was strongly intrenched. The place was first invested by our army on the north and east, when its strength being fully ascertained, Sherman marched his army to the south, defeating the rebels at Jonesboro' and Lovejoy's, thus investing it on the south and compelling Hood to evacuate this stronghold.

The narrative, collated from the report of Brevet Brigadier General O. M. Poe, U. S. A., captain of engineers, gives the important incidents connected with its capture, and furnishes plans of the rebel defences. (See plan No. 2; see narrative.)

While these movements and successes of the armies under Thomas and Sherman were in progress, General Grant ordered a division of his army under General Terry to co-operate with the navy in the reduction of the defences of the mouth of Cape Fear river in January, 1865.

Captain Comstock, of the corps of engineers, (lieutenant colonel, A. D. C., brevet brigadier general volunteers,) had charge of the engineer operations of this expedition.

Fort Fisher, situated at and commanding the northern entrance of this river, was found to be the key of the position. Plans Nos. 5 and 6 give the details of the defences constructed by our army to cover its landing and its rear while operating on Fort Fisher.

A bombardment by the fleet, resulting in dismounting many of the guns on the land front of the work, as well as cutting the electric wires for exploding a formidable system of mines on the same front, preceded a successful assault by the troops under General Terry.

The plans Nos. 5 and 6, with extracts from General Comstock's report, give the details of the rebel fortifications and those thrown up by our troops. (See General Comstock's report.)

Later in the season General Canby concentrated the troops under his command and moved to the attack of the city of Mobile, having the co-operation of the navy. The labors of the engineers under Captain McAlester, (brevet major U.

S. A.) Captain Palfrey, (brevet lieutenant colonel U. S. A.) Lieutenant Burnham, (brevet major U. S. A.) and others, were here called into requisition.

Blakely (see plan No. 7) was invested, batteries constructed and opened upon the formidable rebel batteries covered by strong intrenchments, with abatis surrounding their entire position, with its flanks resting on the Blakely river.

Plan No. 7, with extracts from the report of Major McAlester, gives the details of the operations, final assault and construction of the rebel defences on the 8th April, 1865. (See McAlester's report.)

Spanish Fort was at the same time invested by our army, and the more formidable siege operations of a first and second parallel with approaches and enfilading batteries became necessary, and resulted finally in the capture of the rebel defences by assault, on the 8th and 9th of April, 1865. (See plan No. 8.)

These defences and approaches are given in detail on plans Nos. 7 and 8, which, with extracts from Major McAlester's report, will explain and illustrate this well designed and skilfully executed siege.

The fall of Blakely and Spanish Fort caused the rebel army under Taylor, Gardner, and Maury, to evacuate Mobile, and retreat to the North.

Plan No. 9 gives the formidable rebel defences of the city of Mobile, surrounding it with three lines of detached forts and connecting intrenchments, with the flanks resting on Mobile river. The skilful labors of the rebel engineers about this city were very extensive and the system exceedingly strong.

The determination of the commanding general to turn these works, by first reducing Blakely and Spanish Fort proved successful, and the character of the works as shown on the plan forcibly illustrates the saving of lives and treasure in not first attempting to reduce these powerful defences.

Plan No. 10 gives the position of the entire and connected system of rebel defences that succumbed to the skill and talent of Canby.

While these important operations were in progress in Tennessee and Alabama, Sherman, with the grand army of the West, and Lieutenant General Grant, with the combined armies of the Potomac and the James, together with the garrison of Washington city, were simultaneously leading the national forces to strike a final blow to rebel power, and enforce the restoration of national authority from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

(See plan No. 3.) Sherman's army reached the sea-coast, by first capturing Fort McAllister, on the 13th December, 1864, by Hazen. The strong rebel intrenchments at Savannah were then invested, and the rebel General Hardee driven from them across the Savannah river. The department has as yet received no plans of Fort McAllister or of the defences of Savannah. The labors of the engineers of Sherman's army (see Poe's narrative) were again bestowed principally in reconnoitring the enemy's positions, and manœuvring the canvas pontoon trains to cross the army over the several rivers between Savannah and the last water-course crossed in pursuit of rebels. The success of these bridge trains is given in the extracts from Generals Poe's and Reese's reports. The city of Charleston fell into our power on the 18th February, 1865, after its evacuation by the rebels in consequence of Sherman's movements in its rear, and cutting off its supplies from the interior, while it was already blockaded by our fleet, and invested by land by our army.

Schofield, after the reduction of the entire defences of Smithville, moved upon Raleigh, and united his forces with those of Sherman. The engineer operations on this line were in reconnoitring and manœuvring the pontoon bridge trains for the passage of the rivers, under Lieutenant Stickney, (brevet major U. S. A.) of the corps of engineers. (See Stickney's narrative.) After obstinately contested combats at Averysborough and Bentonville, the rebel power under Johnston was finally overcome and subdued by the capture of his entire command on the 23d April, 1865; after which, by easy marches, the grand army of the West repaired to Washington city.

(See plans Nos. 1, 11, and 12.) The momentous campaign of the armies under the command of the Lieutenant General, with the purpose of capturing Richmond, and overthrowing the rebel authorities holding the semblance of Confederate power in that city, was commenced on the Rapidan in May, 1864. The battles of Todd's Tavern, on the 7th May; of Spottsylvania, on the 14th and 19th, and passage of the North Anna, on the 24th; of Coal Arbor, on the 31st May and 1st June; the march thence and passage of the James river on the 16th, 17th, and 18th, with the investment of Petersburg on the 3d July, 1864, constitute a brilliant series of grand battles and manœuvres that do not come within the scope of engineer reports.

The narrative and information from the report of Colonel Michler, dated October, 1865, give more specifically the labors of the officers of the engineer corps during the progress of this campaign.

#### SEA-COAST AND LAKE DEFENCES.

While most of the officers of the corps of engineers have been actively engaged in the field as heretofore stated, others have given their attention to the important labor of sea-coast defences.

Against predatory expeditions of rebel cruisers and iron-armored vessels, built in foreign ports claiming to be neutral, it was necessary to construct batteries to mount rifle artillery and smooth-bored ordnance of heavier calibres than heretofore used. Colonel Macomb, Major Blunt, Major Casey, of the corps of engineers, were employed in thus fortifying thirteen harbors on the eastern coast. At the same time progress on the permanent sea-coast defences was continued at all the harbors from Maine to Hampton roads, inclusive, at Key West and Tortugas, and at San Francisco; and repairing the permanent works on the Gulf of Mexico that were taken from the rebels, which had been more or less injured by them and by our attacks, to restore them to the Union. On the northern and eastern works, as also on the California coast, the main object has been so to direct the operations as soonest to mount the contemplated armaments, which, at this time, are required to be of such penetrating and crushing power as will in all probability insure the destruction of any iron-armored vessels that can combat them. The introduction of these increased calibres and this power of artillery has made it necessary to renew most of the gun platforms heretofore constructed which were designed for no larger calibre than forty-two pounders. At the present time no smaller gun is prepared for the sea-coast batteries than one-hundred-pounder rifle guns, and ten to fifteen inch rifled and smooth-bored guns.

The further construction of the sea-coast batteries has been retarded by the necessity which now exists of so covering part of our guns and gunners as to render them secure against any advantage that an attacking power in iron-armored ships opposed to them shall possess. So far as we have yet progressed, preparations for guns of large calibre have been perfected, and the guns mounted to throw, collectively, one hundred and forty-seven thousand one hundred and fifty pounds of metal at a single discharge, which is an addition during the year of forty thousand six hundred and fifty-one pounds of metal that can be so thrown against an enemy.

Continuing to increase the armament on our sea-coast in the same ratio, for a reasonable time, will render the harbor defences exceedingly difficult for any maritime power to overcome, and, in combination with other auxiliary means of defence, will carry the cost and time requisite to subdue them beyond the means of foreign powers, provided we hold our works in a perfect condition for both land and sea attacks.

Boards of engineers have been detailed to consider what modifications are necessary at each and every work along our sea-coast to adapt them to resist