

## **Peachtree Creek – East Flank: General Bate enters the fray**

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Created by Nathaniel St. John and inspired by a George Anderson scenario.

### **Background**

In July 1864, General Sherman approached Atlanta with three armies: the Army of the Cumberland, the Army of the Ohio, and the Army of the Tennessee. General Thomas' Army of the Cumberland marched directly from the north towards Peachtree Creek. The creek's steep banks were covered in heavy undergrowth making it difficult to traverse. It was the last natural barrier before Atlanta's defenses.

On July 19<sup>th</sup>, Hood learned that Thomas was crossing Peachtree Creek, while Sherman's other armies were separated away further to the east. Hood's plan (originally envisioned by General Johnson) was to catch Thomas' Army off guard and drive them into the creek where they would surrender or be destroyed. Once Thomas was defeated, Hood would then defeat Sherman's other forces in detail. The Confederate assault would commence at 1 pm on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

Unfortunately (depending on your perspective), Hood's plan was disrupted. During the morning of July 20<sup>th</sup>, he learned that Sherman's other armies were threatening Atlanta from the east. This forced Hood to redeploy troops in response and delayed the attack for three hours. At 4 pm, Walker's division commenced the Confederate attack on the east flank of the Union position. Further east and in difficult terrain, Bate's division was unable to locate the Federal line and effectively missed the battle.

Walker's division surprised Newton's division of Federal troops, which fought desperately to halt the Rebel advance. Federal infantry reserves and artillery (one battery being led by General Thomas himself) managed to secure their flank, preventing Walker from rolling up the Federal line.

But... What if Bate's division had arrived in a timely manner on the east flank?

## THE WARGAME

### VICTORY CONDITIONS

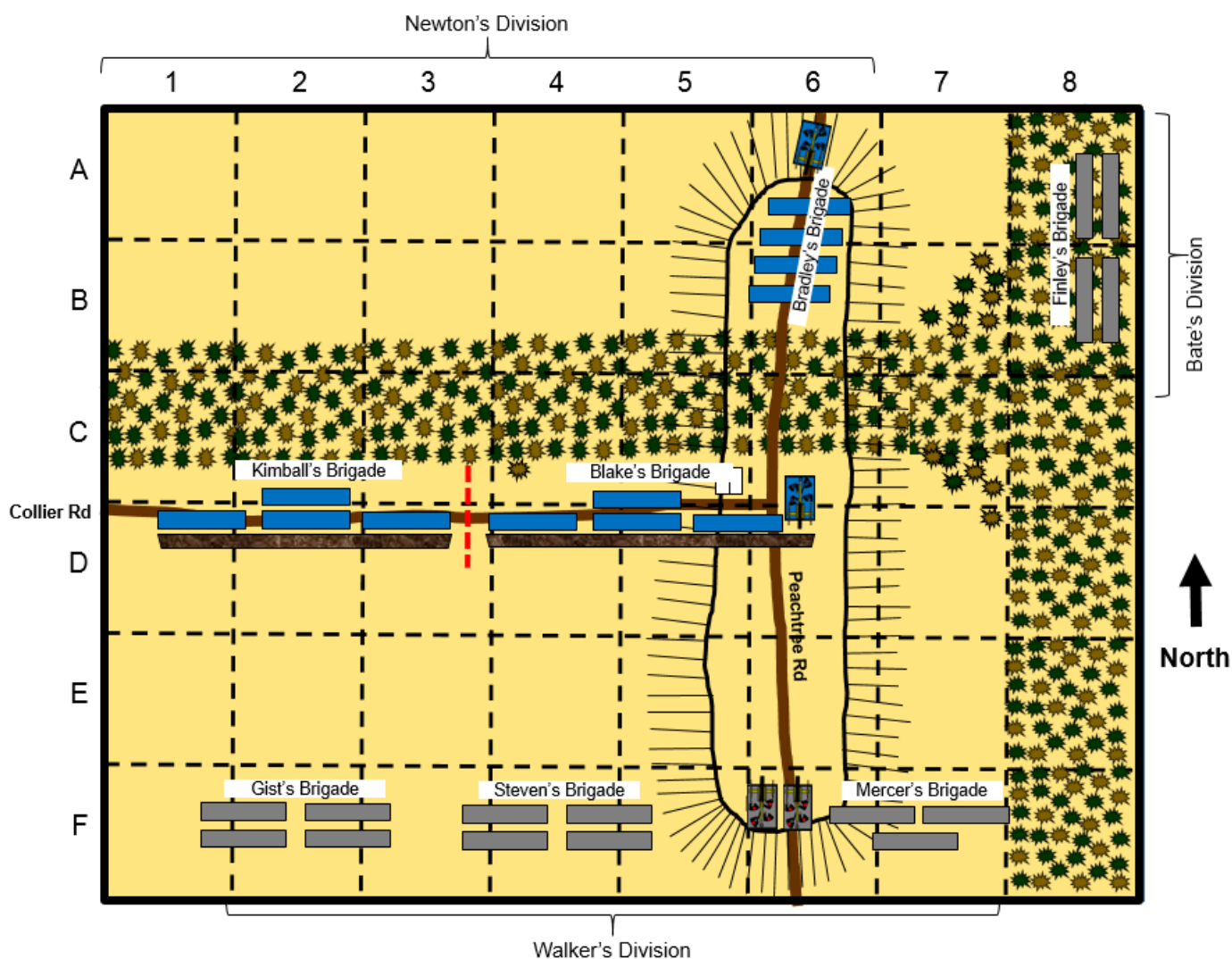
Hood's plan was to drive Thomas' army into Peachtree Creek to its destruction. Critical to this plan was the seizure of the heights as delineated by Collier Rd. Therefore after four hours of game play, the victor is the side solely with units on Collier Rd. If both sides have forces on Collier Rd it is a draw.

This battle was a brigade commander's fight, the division commanders are not represented in this game.

### TERRAIN

Woods are all open woods. The Hasty Works in front of Kimball's and Blake's brigades should be treated as a fence line for game purposes.

Note for Atlanta residents: the Collier House (map square C5 at the intersection of Peachtree and Collier Roads) is the location of today's Piedmont Hospital. Both Peachtree and Collier Roads remain in essentially the same locations. Peachtree Creek is located a few hundred yards north of this map.



Each map square is 12" across. If playing with 1" stands, each map square is 8" across.

## UNION - Second Division, Fourth army Corps (Brig. Gen. John Newton)

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### First Brigade (Brig. Gen. Nathan Kimball, Capable)

- 36<sup>th</sup> & 44<sup>th</sup> Illinois            5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars
- 73<sup>rd</sup>, 74<sup>th</sup> & 88<sup>th</sup> Illinois    5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars
- 15<sup>th</sup> Missouri                    5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars
- 24<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin                5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars

Deployed in a line (as shown on map) along Collier Rd (map squares C1 to C3) behind Hasty works.

### Second Brigade (Col. John W. Blake, Capable)

- 100th Illinois                    5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars
- 40th & 57th Indiana            5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars
- 28th Kentucky                 5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars
- 26th & 97th Ohio               5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars

Deployed in a line (as shown on map) along Collier Rd (map squares C4 to C6) behind Hasty works.

### Third Brigade (Brig. Gen. Luther P. Bradley, Capable)

- 27th & 42nd Illinois            5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars
- 51st & 79th Illinois            5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars
- 3rd Kentucky                    5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars
- 64th, 65th & 125th Ohio    5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars

Deployed on Peachtree Rd (map squares A6 and B6) in a Column of Regiments. Specifically each regiment in line facing south astride Peachtree Rd.

### Artillery

- Battery M, 1st Illinois    3 x 3" Rifle Stands, Regulars
  - Deployed in map square C6 behind hasty works
- Battery A, 1st Ohio        3 x 12# Napoleon Stands, Regulars
  - Deployed in map square A7.

## CONFEDERATE: Walker's Division (Maj. Gen. William H.T. Walker)

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### Gist's Brigade (Brig. Gen. States Rights Gist, Capable)

- 46th & 65th Georgia 5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars
- 5th & 8th Mississippi 5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars
- 16th & 24th South Car. 5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars
- 2nd & 8th Georgia. Bn 5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars

Deployed in map squares F2 and F3.

### Stevens' Brigade (Brig. Gen. Clement H. Stevens, Capable)

- 1st Georgia (CSA) 5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars
- 25th & 29th Georgia 5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars
- 30th Georgia 5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars
- 66th Georgia 5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars

Deployed in map squares F4 and F5.

### Mercers Brigade (Brig. Gen. Hugh W. Mercer, Capable)

- 1st Georgia 5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars
- 54th & 57th Georgia 5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars
- 63rd Georgia 5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars

Deployed in map squares F6 and F7.

### Artillery

- Phelan's (AL) & Marion's (FL) Combined Battery 4 Mixed Gun Stands, Regulars
  - Deployed in map square F6

## CONFEDERATE: Bate's Division (Maj. Gen. William B. Bate)

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### Finley's Brigade (Brig. Gen. Jesse J. Finley, Capable)

- 1st & 3rd Florida 5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars
- 6th & 7th Florida 5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars
- 15th & 37th Tennessee 5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars
- 20th & 30th Tennessee 5 Rifled Musket Stands, Regulars