

Marshall

Judge Advocate General's Office  
March 27<sup>th</sup> 1862

Hon. Edwin M. Stanton  
Secretary of War

Sir:

I have the honor  
to transmit for your consideration, the  
accompanying depositions of:  
Corporal William Pittenger, Co. G. 2<sup>d</sup> Regt. Chio. Vols.  
Private Jacob Parrot, Co. K. 33<sup>d</sup> Regt. Chio. Vols.  
Private Robert Buffum, Co. H. 21<sup>st</sup> Regt. Chio. Vols.  
Corporal William Reddick, Co. B. 33<sup>d</sup> Regt. Chio. Vols.  
Private William Bensing, Co. G. 21<sup>st</sup> Regt. Chio. Vols.  
taken at this office on the 24<sup>th</sup> inst in compliance  
with your written instructions; from which the  
following facts will appear:

These noncommissioned officers and  
privates belonged to an expedition, set on foot  
in April 1862, at the suggestion of Mr. J. S.  
Andrews, a citizen of Kentucky, who led it, and  
under the authority and direction of General  
C. M. Mitchell, the object of which was to destroy  
the communications on the Georgia State Rail  
Road, between Atlanta and Chattanooga.  
The mode of operation proposed, was to reach  
a point on the road, where they could seize  
an engine and train of cars, and then dash  
back in the direction of Chattanooga, cutting

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the telegraph wires, and burning the bridges behind them, as they advanced, until they reached their own lines. The expedition consisted of twenty four men, who, with the exception of its leader Mr Andrews, another citizen of Kentucky - who acted on the occasion as the substitute of a soldier - had been selected from the different companies for their known courage and discretion. They were informed that the movement was to be a secret one, and they doubtless comprehended something of its perils, but they knew nothing of its precise direction or object. They however, voluntarily engaged in it, and made their way, in parties of two and three, in citizens dress, and carrying only their side arms, to Chattanooga, the point of rendezvous agreed upon, where twenty two out of the twenty four, arrived safely. Here they took passage, without attracting observation, for Marietta, which they reached at 12 o'clock on the night of the 11<sup>th</sup> April. The following morning, they took the cars back again in the direction of Chattanooga, and at a place called Big Shanty, while the engineer and passengers were breakfasting, they detached the engine and three box cars from the train, and started at full speed for Chattanooga. They were now upon the field of the perilous operations proposed by the expedition, but sudd-



only encountered unforeseen obstacles. According to the schedule of the road, of which Mr Andrews had possessed himself, they should have met but a single train on that day, whereas they met three, two of them being engaged on extraordinary service. More than an hour was lost, in waiting to allow these trains to pass, which enabled their pursuers to press closely upon them. They removed rails, threw out obstructions on the road, and cut the wires from time to time, and attained when in motion a speed of sixty miles an hour; but the time lost could not be regained. After having run about 100 miles, they found their supply of wood, water and oil exhausted, while the rebel engine which had been chasing them, was in sight. Under these circumstances, they had no alternative, but to abandon their cars, and fly to the woods, which they did, under the direction of Mr Andrews, each one endeavoring to save himself as best he might.

The expedition thus failed, from causes which reflected neither upon the genius by which it was planned, nor upon the intrepidity and discretion of those engaged in conducting it. But for the accident of meeting the extra trains which could not have been anticipated, the movement would have been a complete success, and the whole aspect of the War in

the south and southwest would have been at once changed. The expedition itself, in the daring of its conception, had the wildness of a romance, while in the gigantic and overwhelming results, which it sought and was likely to accomplish, it was absolutely sublime.

The estimate of its character entertained in the south will be found fully expressed in an editorial from the "Southern Confederacy" - a prominent rebel Journal - under date of the 13<sup>th</sup> April, and which is appended to and adopted as a part of Mr Pittenger's deposition. The Editor says: "The mind and heart shrink back appalled at the bare contemplation of the awful consequences which would have followed the success of this one act." "We doubt if the victory of Manassas or Corinth were worth as much to us as the frustration of this grand coup d'état. It is not by any means certain that the annihilation of Beauregard's whole army at Corinth would be so fatal a blow to us as would have been the burning of the bridges at that time, by these men."

So soon as those composing the expedition had left the cars, and dispersed themselves in the woods, the population of the country around, turned out in their pursuit, employing for this purpose the dogs which are trained to



to hunt down the fugitive slaves of the south.  
The whole twenty two were captured. Among  
them was private Jacob Parrot of Co H, 33<sup>rd</sup> Regt.  
Ohio Vols. When arrested, he, was without any  
form of trial, taken possession of by a military  
officer, and four soldiers, who stripped him,  
bent him over a stone, and while two pistols  
were held over his head, a lieutenant in rebel  
uniform, inflicted with a raw hide, upwards of  
a hundred lashes on his bare back. This was  
done in the presence of an infuriated crowd  
who clamored for his blood, and actually brought  
a rope with which to hang him. The object  
of this prolonged scourging was to force this  
young man to confess to them the objects of the  
expedition and the names of his comrades—  
especially that of the engineer who had run  
the train. Their purpose was no doubt, not  
only to take the life of the latter, if identified,  
but to do so with every circumstance of humili-  
ation and torture which they could devise.  
Three times, in the progress of this horrible  
flogging, it was suspended and Mr Parrot,  
was asked, if he would not confess, but steadily  
and firmly to the last, he refused all disclos-  
ures, and it was not till his tormentors were  
weary of their brutal work, that the task of  
subduing their victim, was abandoned as

hopeless. This youth is an orphan, without father or mother, and without any of the advantages of education. Soon after the rebellion broke out, though but eighteen years of age, he left his trade, and threw himself into the ranks of our armies as a volunteer, and now, though still suffering from the outrages committed on his person in the south, he is on his way, to rejoin his regiment, seeming to love his country, only the more for all that he has endured in its defence. His subdued and modest manner, while narrating the part he had borne in this expedition, showed him to be wholly unconscious of having done anything more than perform his simple duty as a soldier. Such spartan fortitude, and such fidelity to the trusts of friendship and to the inspirations of patriotism, deserve an enduring record in the archives of the government, and will find one, I am sure, in the hearts of a loyal people.

of their last chief by the Confederate authorities, prominent among whom was an officer wearing the Rebel uniform of a Major. No part of the money, thus easily taken was, ever returned.

During this imprisonment at Chattanooga, their leader Mr Andrews, was tried & condemned.



The twenty two captives, when secured, were thrust into the Negro Jail of Chattanooga. They occupied a single room, half under ground, & but thirteen feet square, so that there was not space enough for them all to lie down together, & a part of them <sup>were</sup> in consequence, obliged to sleep sitting & leaning against the walls. The only entrance was through a trap door in the ceiling, that was raised twice a day to let down their scanty meals, which were tumbled in a bucket. They had no other light or ventilation than that which came through two small grated windows. They were covered with swarming vermin & the heat was so oppressive that they were often obliged to strip themselves entirely of their clothes to bear it. Add to this, they were all handcuffed, & with trace chains secured by padlocks around their necks, were fastened to each other in companies of two's & three's. Their food, which was doled out to them twice a day, consisted of a little flour wat. with water & baked in the form of bread, & spoiled pickled beef. They had no opportunity of procuring any supplies from the outside, nor had they any means of doing so. Their pockets having been rifled of their last cent by the Confederate authorities, someone among whom was an officer wearing the Rebel uniform of a Major. No part of the money thus easily taken was ever returned.

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a day & was subsequently executed at Atlanta the  
- of them. They were strong & in perfect health when  
they entered the cages last, but at the end of something  
more than three weeks, when they were required to  
leave it, they were so exhausted from the treatment to  
which they had been subjected, as scarcely to be able  
to walk, & several staggered from weakness, as they passed  
through the streets to the cars.

Finally twelve of the number, including the five who  
have deposed & Mr Mason of C. R. 21 Regt. Geo. Inf., -  
who was prevented by illness from giving his evidence -  
were transferred to the prison of Knoxville Tennessee.  
On arriving there, seven of them were arraigned before  
a Court Martial charged with being spies. Their  
trial of course was summary. They were permitted  
to be present, but not to hear either the argument of  
their own Counsel or that of the Judge Advocate.  
Then Counsel however afterwards, visited the prison  
& read to them the written defence which he made  
before the Court in their behalf. The substance of  
that paper is thus stated by one of the witnesses, Corporal  
Pittenger. He (the Counsel) contended that one being  
dressed in citizen clothes, was nothing more than what  
the Confederate Government itself had authorized &  
was only what all the Guerrillas in the service of the  
Confederacy did on all occasions. when I would be  
advantage to them to do so, And recited the instance  
of Genl Morgan having dressed his men in the uniform



of our Soldiers & passed them off as Living from  
the 9th Cavalry Regiment, & by that means succeeded  
in reaching a Railroad & destroying it. This witness  
was mentioned to show that one being in disguise  
clothes, did not take from us the protection awarded  
to Prisoners of War. The plea went on further to state  
that we had told the object of our expedition - that  
"I was a purely Military one, for the destruction  
of communications & as such, lawful according to  
the rules of War"

This just & unanswerable presentation of the  
case appears to have produced its appropriate impression.  
Several members of the Band & martial afterwards called  
on the Prisoners & assured them that from the evidence  
against them they could not be considered as traitors,  
that they had come for a certain known object & not  
having lingered about or visited any of their camps,  
obtaining or seeking information, they could not  
be convicted. Soon thereafter all the Prisoners were  
removed to Atlanta Georgia, & they left Prisoners under  
a belief that their comrades, who had been tried,  
either had been or would be acquitted. In the  
meantime however the views entertained and  
expressed to them by the members of the Band were  
overcome, & may be & safely assumed, under the  
prompting of the remembrance of their arrival at Richmond.  
In the 15th of June, after their arrival at Atlanta  
where they rejoined the comrades from whom they

had been separated at Chattanooga—their prison door  
was opened, & the death sentences of the seven, who  
had been tried at Knoxville, were read to them. —  
No time for preparation was allowed them. They  
were told to bid their friends farewell & to be  
quick about it. They were at once tied & carried out  
to execution. Among the seven, was private Samuel  
Robinson Co. G. 33<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Inf., who was too ill to walk.  
He was, however, imprisoned like the rest, & in this  
condition, was dragged from the floor on which he  
was lying, to the scaffold. In an hour or more  
the execution record, which had accompanied them,  
was seen returning with the cart, but the Cart  
was empty—the tragedy had been consummated.

On that evening & the following morning,  
the prisoners learned from the Provost Marshal &  
Guard, that their comrades had died as all true  
Soldiers of the Republic should die, in the presence  
of its Enemies. Among the revolting incidents  
which they mentioned in connection with this  
cowardly butchery, was the fall of two of the victims  
from the breaking of the ropes after they had been for  
some time suspended. On their being restored to  
consciousness, they begged for an hour in which  
to pray & to prepare for death, but this was refused  
them: the ropes were readjusted & the execution  
at once proceeded.

Among those who thus perished



was Private Alfred Wilson Co. C. 2nd Ohio Inf. -  
He was a mechanic from Cincinnati, who, it  
seems, in the exercise of his trade, had travelled  
much through the States North & South & who  
had a greatness of soul, which intensely sympathized  
with our struggle for National Life, and  
was in that dark hour filled with poignant concep-  
tions of our final triumph. Though surrounded  
by a scolding crowd impatient for his sacrifice,  
he did not hesitate while standing under the  
Gallows to make them a brief address. He told  
them that though they were all wrong, he had no  
hostile feelings towards the Southern people -  
believing that not they but their leaders were re-  
sponsible for the rebellion; that he was no spy,  
as charged, but a Soldier regularly detailed for  
military duty; that he ~~had~~ did not regret to  
~~sigh~~ to die for his Country, but only regretted  
the manner of his death; ~~he~~ added for their  
admonition, that they would yet see the time,  
when the Old Union would be restored, and  
when ~~the~~ its flag would wave over them again.  
And with these words, the brave man died.  
He, like his comrades, calmly met the ignominious  
doom of a felon - but happily, ignominious for  
him and for them, only so far as the martyrdom  
of the traitor ~~the~~ hero can be degraded by the <sup>hang</sup> of  
ruffians & traitors.

The remaining prisoners, now reduced to fourteen, - were kept closely confined under General guard in the jail at Atlanta, until October, when overbearing a conversation between the Sailor and another Officer, they became satisfied that it was the purpose of the Authorities to hang them as they had done their companions. This led them to form a plan for their escape, which they carried into execution on the evening of the next day, by seizing the Sailor when he opened the door to carry away the bucket in which their supper had been brought. This was followed by the seizure also of the seven guards on duty, & before the alarm was given eight of the fugitives were beyond the reach of pursuit. It has been since ascertained that six of these, after long & painful wanderings, succeeded in reaching our lines; of the fate of the other two, nothing is known. The remaining six of the fourteen, consisting of the five witnesses who have deposed & Mr. Mason, were recaptured & confined in the Barracks at Richmond. There they were shut up in a room in Castle Thunder, where they shivered through the winter without fire, thinly clad & with but too small blankets which they had saved with their clothes, to cover the whole party. So they remained until a few days <sup>later</sup>, when they were exchanged, & thus at the end of eleven months, terminated their fruitless persecutions.



in the prisons of the South—persecutions began and  
continued, amid indignities & suffering on their  
part, & of atrocities on the part of their traitorous  
foes, which illustrate far more faithfully than any  
human language could express it, the demoniac  
spirit of a revolt every throat of whose life is a  
crime against the very race to which we belong

Very Respectfully,  
Your Obedient-Servant  
W. H. Mott

Sudge Advocate General

Hon. Edwin M. Stanton  
Secretary of War

Testimony  
Depositions of

Corporal William Peltenger, Co. G, 2d Reg. <sup>Ohio</sup>  
Private Jacob Parrot, Co. K, 33d Reg. " <sup>volunteers</sup>  
Private Robert Buffum, Co. H, 21st Reg. " "  
Corporal William Keddick, Co. B, 33d Reg. " "  
and Private Wm Bensinger, Co. G, 21st Reg. " "

Taken at the Office of the  
Judge Advocate General of the Army,  
in the city of Washington,

On the 24th of March, 1863,

Before N. Callan, Justice of the Peace

In compliance with the  
Written Instructions of the  
Secretary of War.



Corporal William Pitenger was duly sworn  
and examined as follows:-  
By the Judge Advocate-General.  
Q. - Will you state what position you hold in  
the military service?

A. - I am a Corporal in Co. G, second regi-  
ment, Ohio Volunteers.

Q. - Will you state whether you belonged to the  
Expedition fitted out in the Spring of 1862  
by Gen. A. M. Mitchell, for operations in the  
State of Georgia?

A. - I did.

Q. - Please state the character of that expedition,  
the number of men engaged in it, its op-  
erations, and the final result.

A. - The expedition was planned between Gen.  
Mitchell and Mr. J. F. Andrews, a citizen of  
Kentucky, then in the secret service of the  
government. Mr. Andrews asked for a detail  
of 24 men from the three Ohio regiments of  
the brigade then commanded by Col. ~~James~~ <sup>afterwards</sup> Sells.  
Of these 24 men, only 22 succeeded  
in getting through the lines. The object of the  
expedition was to destroy the communications on  
the Georgia State Railroad, between Atlanta  
and Chattanooga, by burning the bridges.  
For this purpose we intended to seize an engine  
and a train of cars, at a place where there

could be no other engine and train of cars  
to pursue us, and to run ahead, cutting the  
telegraph wires, and burning the bridges behind  
us, if possible until we should reach our own  
lines. Gen. Mitchell at that time was moving  
on Huntsville, and it was supposed that he  
would be there as soon as we could reach there.  
We started in citizen's clothes; we were ordered  
to drop in citizen's clothes, armed with side arms  
only, and we were to pass through the lines  
in squads of three or four, to meet at Chat-  
tanooga. We met no pickets or opposition  
of any kind on the way, there being no large  
military force there - nothing but camps of  
instruction, for new recruits in that section  
of the country. From Chattanooga we proceeded  
to Marietta, Georgia, by rail, and arrived  
there on the night of the 11th of April at  
midnight. On the morning of the 12th we  
took passage back again from Marietta towards  
Chattanooga, and at a place called Big Shanty,  
while the passengers, the engineer and conductor  
were at breakfast, we detached the engine and  
~~the~~ <sup>three</sup> box cars from the train and started. There  
was no engine there to pursue us, but we were  
pursued by a hand car. Mr. Andrews, the  
leader of the expedition, had a schedule of the  
road; and according to that schedule we had



but one train to pass, at a station but a short distance from where we captured the train, and after that we intended to run the train <sup>through</sup> at full speed, and accomplish the object of the expedition. Unfortunately, however, that morning for the first time, two other additional trains had been put on the road, making three that we had to meet and pass instead of one, and at considerable intervals. We were obliged to wait at one station for twenty-five minutes, and at the second we had to wait; and we were also delayed waiting for the third train. By this means we lost so much time that those pursuing came nearly up with us from behind; and we had no time to accomplish the object of the expedition. We attempted to delay the pursuit by taking up the rails; but they had forethought enough to take a party of workmen with them to lay the rails again. We proceeded until we were within some fifteen or eighteen miles of Chattanooga, when we got out of wood and water, and the pursuing train was so close behind us that we had not time to take in any more, and we therefore abandoned the train. Our leader, Mr. Andrews, told us to take to the woods and disperse, and save ourselves if we could. We were immediately

pursued by the whole population. There was great excitement, and all the planters and people of the neighborhood, turned out with the dogs that they employed to hunt their negroes, and pursued us. Some of our party were taken that day, and some on the next day; two were not taken until three weeks afterwards, but all were finally captured. The party consisted of twenty U. S. soldiers, one citizen of Kentucky, who was on a visit to our regiment, and went in the place of another soldier, and Mr. Andrews, our leader.

2. — Who was Mr. Andrews?  
A. — He was a citizen in the employ of the government. He had been employed in the secret service of the government. ~~He told~~ He told me about several of his expeditions; among others, he stated that he had visited Fort Donelson before it was captured. We were all, 22 of us, taken to the jail, or rather the negro prison in Chattanooga, and confined there in a lower apartment or dungeon of the building, only about thirteen feet square, and about the same height, and partly under ground, having only two windows on opposite sides, not over eighteen inches in diameter, with triple rows of bars. The ventilation there was so imperfect, that it reminded me more



of the Black Hole of Calcutta than anything else. When the first of our party were taken there to the jail, there were others, Union men of Southerner, who were confined there in this same room. As others of our party were taken and brought there, some of these Union men were taken out, until finally there were none there but the 22 of our party. We were placed in irons; were handcuffed, and chained two and two with chains. I think there were two parties of three coupled together, but the remainder were coupled in twos. The trap door of the building, the only entrance, was raised only to let down our meals, which were lowered to us in a bucket by a rope, twice a day. Our fare was very scanty, and we were reduced so as to be scarcely able to walk; although before, we had all been well, hearty, strong men. We were confined there, I think, for a little over three weeks; and when we came out at the end of that time we were scarcely able to walk; some actually staggered along as they marched to the cars. While we were there, Mr. Andrews was tried before a Court Martial, under the orders, I believe, of Gen. Leadbetter, or those of Kirby Smith, his superior. His sentence was not announced until we had

*Brassfield*  
left there. After we had been confined there  
about three weeks, Gen. Mitchell advanced to  
Bridgeport, producing a great panic in  
Chattanooga; and they transferred us South  
to Madison in Georgia. We remained there  
until they found that Gen. Mitchell did not  
intend to advance on Chattanooga, when they  
brought us back. By this time we had been  
put under the charge of a captain, who in-  
terceded for us and procured us some little  
better quarters. We were allowed to occupy an  
upper story of the jail, a room of the same  
size, but having larger windows, and three  
instead of two. We remained there a few days  
I do not remember exactly how long, when  
twelve of us were taken to Knoxville, and the  
remainder were kept in Chattanooga. I was  
one of those who were sent to Knoxville.  
Shortly after we had gone to Knoxville, Mr.  
Andrew's sentence was read to him, and in  
accordance with that he was executed at  
Atlanta, Ga. on the 7th of June. At Knox-  
ville some of our boys were put on trial  
as spies. Only seven were tried, and the  
trial occupied but a very short time. Although  
we were allowed the privilege of employing coun-  
sel, yet we were not allowed to hear the pleas  
of counsel. When our men demanded the



privilege of hearing the plea of our own counsel,  
and of the Judge Advocate against us, they  
refused it. The first one who was tried  
demanded that privilege, and they refused him  
and said they would not allow it - which,  
of course, amounted to a refusal for all.  
Our lawyer, however, visited us, and read  
his plea to us. I suppose that it was the  
same which he read in Court; in which  
he contended that our being dressed in citizens'  
clothes was nothing more than what the Confed-  
erate government itself had authorized, and  
was only what all the guerillas in the service  
of the Confederacy did on all occasions when  
it would be of advantage to them to do so.  
And he cited the instance of Gen. Morgan  
having dressed his men in the uniform of our  
soldiers, and passed them off as being from  
the 8th Pa. Cavalry regiment, and by that  
means succeeded in reaching a railroad and  
destroying it. This instance was mentioned to  
show that our being dressed in citizens' clothes  
did not take from us the protection accorded  
to prisoners of war. The plea went on further  
to state that we had told the object of our  
expedition - that it was a purely military  
one, for the destruction of communication,  
and as such, lawful according to the rules

of war. What reply the Judge Advocate made to this we never had any means of knowing, as we were not allowed to hear it. Members of the Court-Martial, however, visited us and told us that from the evidence against us we could not be convicted as spies; that is, we came for a certain, known object, did not visit in their camps at any place, did not remain about them or seek to obtain any information of them, and therefore we could not be convicted as spies. Shortly afterwards, they transferred us twelve to Atlanta, Ga., where those who had remained in Chattanooga had been previously taken. After remaining there for a short time, an order came for the execution of our seven comrades who had been tried. It was at that time entirely unexpected to us, although at first it would not have been. Sentence of death was read to them, and they were immediately tried, without any time for preparation being allowed them; they were told to bid us farewell and to be quick about it, and then they were taken out of the prison, and we could see them from the window, in a wagon escorted by cavalry. On the course of something like an hour or so, the cavalry returned without them. That evening, Capt. Forakers, the Provost Marshal, called upon us. We asked



him how our companion had met their fate.  
He told us, like brave men. The next day  
we conversed with the guard who was guarding  
us - with one in particular, who described the  
scene of the execution, where he was present.  
He told us of the speech that one of those  
men, named Wilson, from my regiment,  
had made on the scaffold, and also told us  
that two of the heaviest men had broken the  
ropes when they were hanging, and fell to  
the ground. They afterwards revived and asked  
for a drink of water, which was given to them,  
and they requested for an hour to prepare  
for death and to pray before they were  
again hung up. That was refused them,  
and as soon as the ropes were adjusted, they  
were compelled to ascend the scaffold again.  
The guard told me that Mr. Wilson had  
spoken very ~~bravely~~ <sup>calmly</sup> had told them that they  
were all in the wrong, that they would yet  
see the time when the old Union would be  
restored, and the flag of our country would be  
wave over all of that country - that he had  
no bad feelings towards the Southern people,  
but considered that it was only their leaders  
who were to blame for the course they had  
taken. He also said that although he was  
condemned as a spy, he was none, but was

a regularly detailed soldier, and died perfectly  
innocent of the charge against him - that he  
did not regret to die for his country, but only  
regretted the manner of his death. That is the  
substance of it, as far as I can recollect.  
We all expected to share the same fate as  
our companions.

We remained there confined very closely  
in the city jail. A special guard was  
placed over us <sup>& before</sup> the time of the execution  
on the 18th of June, until in October. We  
were all, fifteen of us, kept in the same  
room all the time - a room not much  
larger than this [the Judge Advocate General's  
office]. I said there were fifteen of us -  
the fourteen surviving members of the expedi-  
tion, and a Captain Foyle, a federal officer  
of East Tennessee, who had been sent ~~from~~  
to Knoxville with us and confined in the  
same room with us, as they considered it  
the securest part of the building.

2. — What knowledge, if any, have you, of  
one of your companions in this expedition, Mr.  
Parrot, having been seized and scourged  
by the Confederate authorities? State all you  
know on the subject, either from your own knowl-  
edge, or from his statements, or from the statements  
of Confederate officers.



A. — That occurred before I was myself captured after leaving the train. Mr. Parrot himself gave me a complete narrative of the transaction as soon as we reached Chattanooga, where we were all taken after a time. In addition to his statement, I heard the statement of his companion, the man taken with him, and one of those subsequently executed, who told me substantially the same story that Mr. Parrot did — that Mr. Parrot received over one hundred lashes to make him confess the objects of the expedition, the names of his companions, and particularly the name of the engineer who ran the train — all of which he refused to do. It was said by the Confederates that this flogging was inflicted by a mob, that "they took him and whipped him" — that was the expression they used. Afterwards, when we were going to Madison, at the time when we were taken away from Chattanooga, a Confederate officer called upon us at a station where the cars stopped, and spoke to Mr. Parrot in my hearing and told him that he admired his courage and hardihood in refusing to confess under the flogging he had received, and also stated that he was sorry that they had beaten him so severely.

In October, Col. Lee, who was then

Prison Marshal, having taken the place of the  
former Prison Marshal, came to us and told  
us that he had received a letter from the  
Secretary of War of the Confederacy, inquiring  
why we had not all been executed. Col. Lee  
told us that he had replied that he was per-  
sonally unacquainted with the affair, but he  
supposed it was probable that there were some  
mitigating circumstances in our cases, and had  
referred to the Court Marshal which tried the  
others, for those circumstances. One or two days  
after that, the jailor was overheard talking  
with an officer of the guard, and telling him  
that the remainder of our party were to be executed  
also. From this we supposed that the Secretary  
of War had ordered it, and we determined to  
escape if possible. On the evening of the next  
day, after we had had our supper, when they  
opened the door to take out the buckets in which  
our supper was brought, we seized the jailor  
and held him, opened another room of the  
prison in which others were confined, went  
down stairs and seized the guard - there were  
seven of the guard - and then attempted to make  
our escape; and eight of us succeeded in  
getting off before the alarm was given. The  
others were captured, four on the same evening  
and two others the next day. I was one



of those captured on the same evening. Shortly  
after that, they removed us to the barracks in  
town, where we were better treated - more  
kindly treated - than we had ever been before  
that. We remained there until December, when  
we were sent to Richmond. We were first  
taken to the Libby Prison, and told that we  
were to be exchanged. They sent a very light  
guard along with us, trusting to our belief that  
we would be exchanged; and so believing, we  
went along quietly and made no attempt to  
escape, which we could easily have done.  
We were taken to the Libby Prison and kept  
there about an hour, and then transferred to  
the criminal prison, Castle Thunder. Here we  
were put into a little room up stairs, of which  
three sides ~~only~~ were <sup>only</sup> weather boarded; and there  
we remained during the months of December and  
January, without any fire and with a very  
scanty supply of clothing, as they had taken  
all our blankets from us when we left At-  
lanta, with the exception of two small ones  
which we had managed to secrete when we  
left the barracks. This was the only covering  
we had during those two months, for all  
six of us there. We were very destitute of  
other clothing at that time - nearly out of  
it, in fact. About the first of February,

14  
however, they wanted that room, with a number  
of other rooms on the same floor, for hospital  
purposes, and transferred us to a large room  
down stairs on the ground floor, which was  
assigned to Union prisoners. Here we enjoyed  
more liberty than we had before, and re-  
mained until a special exchange was made.  
They attempted to exchange us as citizens,  
leaving our names on the citizen's list from  
Castle Thunder, although we had our names  
marked as soldiers, and our companies and  
regiments were down on the prison books, and  
in the charges and specifications given to the  
seven of our comrades who were tried and  
executed, it was admitted that they were  
soldiers, and their companies and regiments  
were named.

Q — Were the men engaged in that expedition  
detailed by the officers, or did they volunteer?  
Under what circumstances did they enter upon  
that expedition?

A. Gen. Mitchell issued an order to the Col.  
of the three Ohio regiments, in Fells' brigade,  
to have a man detailed from each company —  
for the captain of each company to select a  
reliable man of his company for this purpose.  
They were then sent to the Colonel's quarters,  
and told what they were wanted to do —



that they were wanted to dress in citizen clothes and obey the orders of Mr. Andrews. The expedition was not explained to us then, but we were told that we were to obey Mr. Andrews' orders, and to go with him on a secret expedition. The object of the expedition was explained to us that night by Mr. Andrews, who assembled us together about a mile from Shelbyville, after it got dark, and there gave us the main outlines - that we were to go into Georgia, to Marietta, - to make our way there as well as we could, and there to seize a train, and he would be with us all the time after reaching there, to direct us how to proceed.

Q. The leading object of the expedition was to cut the communications & destroy the bridges?

A. Yes sir; the capture of the engine and train was merely a means to that end.

Q. Have you any evidence of the estimate which was placed by the Confederate authorities upon the importance of this expedition, had it been successful?

A. I have a paper here now, one of the most influential in the State of Georgia, at least, called the "Southern Confederacy." The copy which I have is dated April 15, 1862. We seized the train on the 12th of April, and

16  
the paper was printed three days after, and before they had learned the full particulars of the capture. I will read a portion of that article.

[The witness then produced the paper and read from the article referred to.]

Q. How came you in possession of that paper?  
A. The officers of the guard in charge of us had it and laid it down, and I took it and have carried it secreted about my person ever since, which accounts for its soiled and worn condition. I would refer to the entire article as the best answer to your question as to the importance attached to the expedition by the Confederate authorities.

[A copy of the article referred to is hereto appended, as a portion of this deposition.]

Q. Were you personally acquainted with Mr. Wilson, who made the address upon the scaffold before his execution?  
A. Yes sir.

Q. Will you state to what Company and Regiment he belonged, and from what part of the State of Ohio he came.

A. He was a member of Co. B, of the Second Ohio Regiment - my regiment. He had resided in Cincinnati a long time, and came from there. He was a shoemaker by trade,

W.M.S.



17  
a man between 30 and 35 years of age and  
had travelled a great deal over the United  
States, working at his trade. He said he  
had a family of two children; his wife was  
not living.

Q. — Will you please give, if you can, the names  
of all your comrades who were executed, with  
the companies and regiments to which they be-  
longed.

A. There was George S. Wilson, Co. B, 2d Ohio Infantry;  
Marion Rofs, Co. A, 2d Ohio Infantry,  
the Sergeant Major of the regiment;  
Perry G. Phadrack, Co. K, 2d Ohio.  
Samuel Roberson, Co. G, 33d Ohio.  
Samuel Stevens, Co. L, 33d Ohio.  
John Scott Co. F, 21st Ohio.  
William Campbell, a citizen of Kentucky,  
and J. J. Andrews, a citizen of Kentucky also,  
and our leader.

William Campbell was on a visit to our  
regiment at the time this detail was made.

The captain of one of our companies asked him  
if he would go in the place of one of the soldiers,  
and he agreed to do so. We always said, when  
questioned about him, that he was a soldier.

Q. Will you state what you know, if anything,  
in regard to the origin of this secret expedition  
— by whom it was planned, and when?

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18  
A. I do not know of my own knowledge, but Mr. Andrews told me that he himself, in his visit to the South, had noticed that this thing could be accomplished, and that it would be of great benefit to us. He had proposed it to Gen. Buell, who did not give him much encouragement; afterwards he proposed it to Gen. Mitchell, who gave him more encouragement, and gave him permission to take eight men from the 2d Ohio Regiment, which he had been with considerable, and attempt to execute the plan. The men were given him, and he proceeded in the same way that we did, to Atlanta; but on arriving there, they found that the engineer whom Mr. Andrews had engaged to run the train for them was not there, on account of having been pressed to run reinforcements to Beauregard at Corinth. For this reason they were obliged to give up the plan and go quietly back as passengers to Chattanooga, and then return through the country to our camp. Mr. Andrews then told Gen. Mitchell that from all he had seen in that expedition, he still considered the thing easy of accomplishment, and asked for a larger detail of 24 men from the three regiments, which he obtained. He asked to have some engineers selected, so that there should be no possibility of a failure the second time.

like the first. There were consequently four men in our party who could run engines; only one, however, did so on that expedition. None of those on the first expedition went on the second; entirely new men were selected the second time.

Q — Will you, if you can, give the names of the members of that expedition, in addition to those spoken of in this testimony — that is to say, the witnesses who are to depose here, together with a Mr. Mason, and the seven who were executed.

A. — They are as follows —

William Knight, Co. E, 21st Ohio.

Wilson H. Brown, Co. F

Daniel A. Dorsey, Co. H, 33d Ohio.

Mark Wood,

Alfred Wilson, Co. C, 21st Ohio.

This was the only instance where two men were taken from the same company.

Martin J. Hawkins, Co. A, 33d Ohio.

John Wollan,

and John R. Porter, Co. G, 21st Ohio.

These eight that I have just named were those who succeeded in making their escape, and were not retaken at the time that we were. We saw in a Confederate paper an extract from the "Cincinnati Commercial," stating that the



two last named, Wollam and Porter, had succeeded in reaching our lines in a very destitute condition at Corinth, which was then in our possession. We were told by Col. Lee, the Provost Marshal at Atlanta, that three of those who had escaped, had been shot and left in the woods; but we did not know how much dependence to place upon that.

Wm. Pittenger

Co G 2 Ohio Regt. Col.

(Attach copy of article from  
"Southern Confederacy")

From the "Southern Confederacy" of 15th April 1862.  
The Great Railroad Chase!

The most extraordinary and astounding  
adventure of the war!!

The most daring undertaking that you-  
has ever planned or attempted to execute

Stealing an engine - Leaping up the track  
- Pursued on foot, on board cars and  
Engines - Overtaken - A scattering - The  
capture - The wonderful energy of  
Messrs Fuller, Murphy and Cain -  
Some reflections &c, &c.

Full Particulars

Since our last issue we have obtained  
full particulars of the most thrilling  
Railroad adventure that ever occurred  
on the American Continent, as well as  
the mightiest and most important  
military results, if successful, that has been  
conceived by the Lincoln Government  
since the commencement of this war.  
Nothing on so grand a scale has been  
attempted, and nothing within the  
range of possibility could be conceived  
that would fall with such a tremen-  
dous force upon us, as the



ishment of the plans which were con-  
cocted and dependent on the execu-  
tion of the one whose history we now  
proceed to narrate.

Its reality - what was actually done  
exceeds all the extravagant concep-  
tions of the Arrow-Smith hoax, which  
fiction created such a profound  
sensational in Europe.

To make the matter more complete  
and intelligible, we will take over  
readers over the same history of the  
case which we related in our last  
the main features of which are cor-  
rect, but are lacking in details.

We will begin at the breakfast  
table, or the Big Shanty Hotel at  
Camp McDonald, on the W. & A. R. R.  
where several regiments of soldiers  
are now encamped. The morning  
mail and passenger train had  
left here at 4 am on last Saturday  
morning as usual, and had stop-  
ped there for breakfast. The Conductor  
W. A. Fuller, the engineer, I gain-  
brock of the city - and the passengers  
were at the table, when some light  
men having completed the engine  
and three empty box cars.

in the passenger and baggage  
cars, mounted the engine, pulled  
upon the valve, put on all steam,  
and left Conductor, engineers, pas-  
sengers, Spectators, and the Soldiers  
in the Camp hard by, all lost in  
amazement and dumfounded at the  
strange, startling daring act.  
This unheard of act was doubtless  
undertaken at that place and time  
upon the presumption that pursuit  
could not be made by an engine  
short at Thompson, some thirty miles  
above or from this place, and that by  
cutting down the telegraph wires as  
they proceeded the adventurers could  
calculate on at least, three or four  
hours' slat of any pursuit. It was  
reasonable to expect. This was a le-  
gitimate conclusion, and but for  
the will, energy, and quick and  
good judgement of Mr Fuller and  
Mr Larn, and Mr Anthony, Murphy  
the intelligent and practical freeman  
of the wood department of the State  
Road Shop, who accidentally went on  
the train from this place that morning  
their calculations would have worked  
out as originally contemplated  
and the results would have been



shamed long ere this reaches the  
eyes of our readers - the most terrible  
to us of any that we can conceive  
as possible; and unimagined by  
anything attempted or conceived  
since this war was commenced  
Now for the chase!

These three determined men, without  
a moments delay, put out after the  
flying train on foot, amidst shouts  
of laughter by the crowd, who, though  
last in arrangement at the unexpected  
and daring act, could not re-  
press their visibility at seeing three  
men start after a train on foot, which  
they had just witnessed depart at  
lightning speed. They put on all  
their speed, and ran along the  
tracks for three miles, when they  
came across some track raisers  
who had a small track car,  
which is shoved along by men so  
employed on railroads, on which  
to carry their tools. This truck and  
men were at once "impressed." They  
took it by turns at a time to  
run behind the truck and push  
it along all up grades and level  
portions of the road, and let it  
drive at will on all the down

A little way further up the fugitive  
adventurers had stopped, cut  
the telegraph wires, and torn up the  
road. Here the pursuers were thrown  
at pell-mell, truck and men, upon  
the side of the road. Fortunately  
'nobody was hurt on our side'. The  
truck was soon placed on the road  
again; enough hands were left  
to repair the track, and with all the  
power of determined will and mas-  
cle, they pushed on to Etowah Station,  
some twenty miles above. Here, most  
fortunately Major Cooper's old coal  
engine - the 'Jonah' - one of the first  
engines on the state road, was stand-  
ing out fixed up. This venerable loco-  
motive was immediately turned  
upon her old track, and like an  
old racer at the tap of the drum  
popped up her ears, and made  
fine time to Kingston.  
The fugitives, not expecting such  
early pursuit, quietly took in wood  
and water at Cass Station, and  
borrowed a schedule from the tank  
tender upon the plausible plea that  
they were running a pressed train  
loaded with powder for Beauregard.  
The attentive and patriotic tank



Under, Mr. William Russell said he  
gave them his schedule, and would  
have sent the shirt off his back  
to Blawieard, if I had seen some  
for. Here the adventurous fugitives  
inquired which end of the switch  
they should go in on at Kingston.  
When they arrived at Kingston, they  
stopped, went to the Agent there,  
told the powder story, readily got  
the Switch Key, went on the upper turn-  
out, and waited for the down way  
freight train to pass. To all inquiries  
they replied with the same powder  
story. When the freight train had  
passed they immediately proceed-  
ed on to the next station - Adams-  
ville - where they were to meet  
the regular down freight train.  
At some point on the way they had  
taken on some fifty cross-ties, and  
before reaching Adamsville, they  
stopped on a curve, tore up the  
rails, and put seven cross-ties  
on the track - no doubt intending  
to wreck this down freight train  
which would be along in a few  
minutes. They had out upon the car  
give a red handkerchief as a kind  
of flag or signal, which in Rail

reading means another train is  
behind - thereby indicating to all  
that the regular passenger train  
would be along presently. They  
stopped a moment at Adams-  
ville and said Fuller, with the  
regular passenger train was behind  
and would wait at Kingston for  
the freight train, and told the con-  
ductor thereon to push ahead and  
meet him at that point. They pas-  
sed on to Balltown, where they met  
the down passenger train, due here  
at 4.20 P.M., and without making  
any stop, they proceeded - on, on, and

But we must return to Fuller  
and his party whom we have un-  
consciously left on the old "Gonah"  
making their way to Kingston.  
Arriving there and learning the  
adventurers were but twenty minutes  
ahead, they left the "Gonah" to blow  
off, while they mounted the engine  
of the Rome Branch Road, which  
was ready fired up, and waiting  
for the arrival of the passenger train  
nearly due, when it would have pro-  
ceeded to Rome. A large party of  
Gentlemen volunteered for the chase



Judge Advocate General's Office  
March 27<sup>th</sup> 1863  
Hon Edwin M. Stanton  
Secretary of War

Sir,

I have the honor to  
transmit for your consideration, the accompanying  
depositions of Corporal William Pittenger Co. H. 33 Reg Ohio Vols.  
Ohio Vols; Private Jacob Parrot Co. K. 21<sup>st</sup> Reg  
Private Robert Bruffum, Co. H. 21<sup>st</sup> Reg  
Corporal William Paddock Co. B. 33 Reg  
+ Private William Bensinger Co. G. 21<sup>st</sup> Reg  
taken at this office on the 24<sup>th</sup> inst, in compli-  
ance with your written instructions, from which the  
following facts will appear.  
These were commissioned officers & privates  
belonged to a expedition set on foot in April  
1862, at the suggestion of Major Andrew <sup>acting as the subject of</sup> who led it, &  
under the authority & direction of Gen. D. M. Hatch, <sup>acting as the subject of</sup>

with the Georgia State Rail Road, between Atlanta & Chattahoochee. ~~The mode of~~ <sup>by burning the bridge</sup> The mode of operation proposed, was to reach a point on the road, where they could seize a engine & train of cars, & then dash back in the direction of Chattahoochee, cutting the telegraph wires, & ~~burning~~ <sup>burning</sup> the bridges behind them, as they advanced, until they reached their own lines. The expedition consisted of twenty <sup>men</sup> ~~men~~ <sup>men</sup> who, with the exception of its leader, Mr. Anderson, <sup>was another citizen</sup> ~~was another citizen~~ <sup>who had been selected from the different companies for their known courage & discretion.</sup> They were informed that the movement was to be a secret one, & they doubtless comprehended something of its purpose, but they knew nothing of its precise direction or object. They however, voluntarily engaged in it, <sup>made their way</sup> ~~made their way~~ <sup>in parties of two & three, in citizens' dress, & carrying only their side arms, to Chattahoochee, at the point of rendezvous agreed upon, where twenty two out of the twenty four</sup>

with Mr. O. J. Anderson was in  
as well as a commissioned officer



for Marcella which they  
searched <sup>about</sup> at noon on the night of the 11th of Oct.  
~~the following morning~~ <sup>the following morning</sup> they took the cars back again  
in the direction of Chhattanooga, & at a place called  
Big Shanty, where the engineers & passengers were  
breakfasting, they detached the engine & three box  
cars from the train, & started at full speed for  
Chhattanooga. They were now upon the field of the  
operations proposed by the expedition, but  
suddenly encountered unforeseen obstacles.  
According to the schedule of the road, which Mr. Andrews  
had proposed himself, they should have met but a  
single train on that day, whereas they met three, two  
of them being engaged on extraordinary service. One  
train, however, was lost, in waiting to allow these  
trains to pass, which enabled their pursuers to pass  
closely upon them. They removed rails, threw out obstructions  
on the road, & cut the wires from time to time, &  
attained such a rate of speed of <sup>30</sup> 35 miles an hour.

The  
with Mr. J. V. Anderson was in  
as was a Commissioner of the





The estimate of its character entertained in the  
South will be found fully expressed in an  
editorial from the "Southern Confederacy" -  
a prominent rebel journal - under date of the  
15<sup>th</sup> April, & which is appended to & adapted as  
a part of Mr Pittenger's deposition. The editor  
says: "The mind & heart shrink back appalled  
at the bare contemplation of the awful consequences  
which would have followed the success of this  
one act." "We doubt if the victory of Manassas or  
"Boricult" - none worth so much to us as the frustration  
"of this grand coup d'etat. It is not by any means  
"certain that the annihilation of Beauregard's  
"wholesale at Boricult would be a fatal blow  
"to us, as would have been the burning of the  
"bridges at that time by these men".  
So soon as those composing the expedition  
had left the camp, & dispersed themselves in the

them re-  
with Mr. J. J. Andrews was in  
was met a commissionaire officer  
of the 11<sup>th</sup> Mass. Inf.

his way to prison but ~~regiment~~ <sup>seemingly</sup> to love his  
country only the more for all that he has endured  
in its defence. His subdued & modest manner  
while narrating the fact he had borne in that life  
nothing showed him to be badly informed or  
having done everything more than perform  
his simple duty as a soldier. Such Spartan  
fortitude & much fidelity to the trust of friendship  
& the inspirations of patriotism deserve an  
enduring record in the archives of the govern-  
ment & will prove a lesson in the ~~thought~~  
heart of a loyal people.

The twenty two captives, when secured,  
were thrust into the negro jail of Chattanooga.  
They occupied a single room, half under ground,  
& but thirteen feet square, so that there was not  
<sup>space</sup> enough for them all to lie down together &  
a part of them were in consequence obliged to  
sleep sitting & leaning against the walls. The only



entrance was through a trap door in the ceiling,  
~~that~~ <sup>great</sup> noise raised twice a day to let down their scanty  
meals, which were lowered in a bucket. They had  
no other light or ventilation than that which came through  
two small grated windows. They were covered with  
warmings over min, & the heat was so oppressive  
that they were often obliged to strip themselves  
entirely of their clothes, to ~~be able~~ <sup>be able</sup> to bear it.  
Add to this, they were all handcuffed, with  
their chains secured ~~with~~ <sup>by</sup> padlocks around  
their necks, & were fastened to each other in  
groups of two or three. Their food, which  
was doled out to them twice a day, consisted of  
a little flour wet with water & baked in the form  
of bread, & spoiled pickled beef. They had no  
opportunity of procuring any supplies from  
the outside world, & they had no means of doing  
so - Their pockets having been rifled of their  
last cent by the Confederate authorities,  
prominent among whom was an officer bearing



County personally appeared Jacob. Parrott when  
being only seven according to law decrees &  
that, on Wednesday evening on the 6 day of  
April 1862 he left the regiment on the special  
service set forth in his declaration. Then Nathaniel mean  
Mansphorump Jun. and crossed the Cumberland  
mountains arriving at Charleston on the next Friday  
evening - on that evening both the train to Chattanooga Ga.  
There are stated as missing on the next morning we  
got on the up train as stated and was captured as  
Native, and woman as stated. This was on the 12 day  
of April 1862. The only one of my comrades  
who was present when Band the ingenis was one  
Bootsen, who was afterwards taken into the prison  
and hung, we have gathered off the train together &  
and both together, native captured. The only  
hospital he was in was the prison, where he was  
kept until he was released & exchanged.  
11 m 45 o'clock, until he was released & exchanged.  
after he got up to Richmond he was released in  
a rebel Hospital (East Thimble) where they applied  
a plaster to his back. All of the expedition who were  
captured & remained with me in the prison saw my  
ingenis and Hawkins one of them removed the seats from  
my back - no officers were with us. J. J. Anderson was in  
charge of the square. A was one a commissary officer



The very  
 Department of the Interior,  
 PENSION OFFICE, INVALID DIVISION.  
 June 23, 1875  
 Respectfully referred to the Judge of the Court of Claims, General  
 to the enclosed statement of Jacob Parrott, an  
 applicant for invalid pension No 161515, and  
 with the request that  
 claimants and others  
 advocates of the  
 pension be referred to May  
 be furnished this Office.  
 M. J. Baker  
 Commissioner

County personally appeared Jacob Parrott who  
 to have deposed &

Captains & remain in the  
 inguis and Hawkins one of them  
 my back - no officers were  
 change of the square

Jacob Parrott Application for Invalid Pension #161515

The Deposition of the Andrews Raiders  
Judge Advocate General's Office  
March 24, 1863  
For Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton

*Marshall*  
Judge Advocate General's Office  
March 24<sup>th</sup> 1863  
Hon. Edwin M. Stanton  
Secretary of War  
Sir:  
I have the honor  
to transmit for your consideration, the  
accompanying depositions of:  
Corporal William Pittenger, Co. G 2<sup>d</sup> Regt. Chic. Vols.  
Private Jacob Parrot, Co. K 33<sup>d</sup> Regt. Chic. Vols.  
Private Robert Buffum, Co. H 21<sup>st</sup> Regt. Chic. Vols.  
Corporal William Reddick, Co. B 33<sup>d</sup> Regt. Chic. Vols.  
Private William Bensing, Co. G 21<sup>st</sup> Regt. Chic. Vols.  
taken at this office on the 24<sup>th</sup> inst in compliance  
with your written instructions; from which the  
following facts will appear:  
These noncommissioned officers and  
privates belonged to an expedition, set on foot  
in April 1862, at the suggestion of Mr. S. S.  
Andrews, a citizen of Kentucky, who led it, and  
under the authority and direction of General  
C. M. Mitchell, the object of which was to destroy  
the communications on the Georgia State Rail  
Road, between Atlanta and Chattanooga.  
The mode of operation proposed, was to reach  
a point on the road, where they could seize  
an engine and train of cars, and then dash  
back in the direction of Chattanooga, cutting



Judge Advocate General's Office

March 24<sup>th</sup> 1863

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taken at this office on the 24<sup>th</sup> inst in compliance

with your written instructions; from which the

following facts will appear:

These noncommissioned officers and privates belonged to an expedition, set on foot in April 1862, at the suggestion of Mr. J. J. Andrews, a citizen of Kentucky, who led it, and under authority and direction of General O. M. Mitchell, the object of which was to destroy the communications on the Georgia State Rail Road, between Atlanta and Chattanooga.

The mode of operation proposed, was to reach a point on the road, where they could seize an engine and train of cars, and then dash-back in the direction of Chattanooga, cutting

the telegraph wires, and burning the bridges behind them, as they advanced, until they reached their own lines. The expedition consisted of 24 men, who, with the exception of its leader Mr Andrews, another citizen of Kentucky - who acted on the occasion as the substitute of a soldier—had been selected from the different companies for their known courage and discretion. They were informed that the movement was to be a secret one, and they doubtless comprehended something of its perils, but they knew nothing of its precise direction or object. They however, voluntarily engaged in it, and made their way, in parties of two and three, in citizens dress, and carrying only their side arms, to Chattanooga, the point of rendezvous agreed upon, where twenty two out of the twenty four, arrived safely. Here they took passage, without attracting observation, for Marietta, which they reached at 12 oClock on the night of the 11<sup>th</sup> April. The following morning, they took the cars back again in the direction of Chattanooga, and at a place called Big Shanty, while the engineer and passengers were breakfasting, they detached the engine and three box cars from the train, and started at full speed for Chattanooga. They were now upon the field of the perilous operations proposed by the expedition, but sudd-



-only encountered unforeseen obstacles. According to the schedule of the road, of which Mr. Andrews had possessed himself, they should, have met but a single train on that day, whereas they met three, two of them being engaged on extraordinary service. More than an hour was lost, in waiting to allow these trains to pass, which enabled their pursuer to press closely upon them. They removed rails, threw out obstructions on the road, and cut wires from time to time, and attained when in motion a speed of sixty miles an hour; but the time lost could not be regained after having run about 100 miles, they found their supply of wood, water and oil exhausted, while the rebel engine which had been chasing them was in sight. Under these circumstances, they had no alternative, but to abandon their cars, and fly to the woods, which they did, under the direction of Mr Andrews, each one endeavoring to save himself as best he might.

The expedition thus failed, from causes which reflected neither upon the genius by which it was planned, nor upon the intrepidity and discretion of those engaged in conducting it. But for the accident of meeting the extra trains-which could not have been anticipated-the movement would have been a complete success, and the whole aspect of the war in

the south and southwest would have been at once changed. The expedition itself, in the daring of its conception, had the wildness of a romance, while in the gigantic and overwhelming results, which it sought and was likely to accomplish, it was absolutely sublime.

The estimate of its character entertained in the south will be found expressed in an editorial from the "Southern Confederacy."

-a prominent rebel Journal - under date of the 15<sup>th</sup> April, and which is appended to and adopted as part of Mr Pittenger's deposition. The Editor says: "The mind and heart shrank back appalled at the bare contemplation of the awful consequences which would have followed the success of this one act." "We doubt if the victory of Manassas or "Corinth were worth as much to us as the frustration "of this grand coup d' e'tat. It is not by any means "certain that the annihilation of Beauregard's "whole army at Corinth would be so fatal a blow "to us as would have been the burning of the "bridges at that time, by these men."

So soon as those composing the expedition had left the cars, and dispersed themselves in the woods, the population of the country around, turned out in their pursuit, employing for this purpose dogs which are trained to



to hunt down the fugitive slaves of the south. The whole twenty two were captured. Among them was Private Jacob Parrot of Co. "K" 33 Regt. Ohio Vols. When arrested, he, was without any form of trial, taken possession of by a military officer, and four soldiers, who stripped him, bent him over a stone, and while two pistols were held over his head, a lieutenant in rebel uniform, inflicted, with a raw hide, upwards of a hundred lashes on his bare back. This was done in the presence of an infuriated crowd who clamored for his blood, and actually brought a rope with which to hang him. The object of this prolonged scourging was to force this young man to confess to them the objects of the expedition and the names of his comrades- especially that of the engineer who had run the train. Their purpose was no doubt, not only to take the life of the latter, if identified, but to do so every circumstance of humiliation and torture which they could devise. Three times, in the progress of this horrible Flogging, it was suspended and Mr. Parrot, was asked, if he would not confess; but steadily and firmly to the last, he refused all disclosures, and it was not till his tormentors were weary of their brutal work, that the task of subduing their victim, was abandoned as

hopeless. This youth is an orphan, without father or mother, and without any of the advantages of education. Soon after the rebellion broke out, though but eighteen years of age, he left his trade, and threw himself into the ranks of our armies, as a volunteer, and now, though still suffering from the outrages committed on his person in the south, he is on his way, to rejoin his regiment, seeming to love his country, only the more for all that he has endured in its defence. His subdued and modest manner, while narrating the part he had borne in this expedition, showed him to be wholly unconscious of having done any thing more than perform his simple duty as a soldier. Such Spartan fortitude, and such fidelity to the trust of friendship and to the inspirations of patriotism, deserve an enduring record in the archives of the government, and will find one, I am sure, in the heart of a loyal people.



The twenty two captives, when secured, were thrust into the Negro Jail of Chattanooga. They occupied a single room, half underground, + but thirteen feet square, so that there was not space enough for them all to lie down together, + a part of them were in consequence, obliged to sleep sitting + leaning against the walls.

The only entrance was through a trap door in the ceiling, that was raised twice a day to let down their scanty meals, which were lowered in a bucket. They had no other light or ventilation than that which came through two small grated windows. They were covered with swarming vermin + the heat was so oppressive that they were often obliged to strip themselves entirely of their clothes to bear it. Add to this, they were all handcuffed, + with trace chains secured by padlocks around their necks, were fastened to each other in companies of two's and threes. Their food, which was doled out to them twice a day, consisted of a little flour wet with water + baked in the form of bread, + spoiled pickled beef. They had no opportunity of procuring any supplies from the outside, nor had they any means of doing so - their pockets having been rifled of their last cent by the Confederate Authorities, prominent among whom was an officer wearing the Rebel uniform of a Major. No part of the money, thus basely taken was ever returned.

During this imprisonment at Chattanooga their Leader Mr Andrews, was tried + condemned as

a Spy + was subsequently executed at Atlanta the 7<sup>th</sup> of June. They were strong + in perfect health when they entered this Negro Jail, but at the end of something more than three weeks, when they were require to leave it, they were so exhausted from the treatment to which they had been subjected, as scarcely to be able to walk, + several staggered from weakness as they passed through the streets to the cars.

Finally twelve of the number, including the five who have deposed + Mr Mason of C. K. 21. Regt. Ohio. Vols, - who was prevented by illness from giving his evidence – were transferred to the prison of Knoxville Tennessee. On arriving there, seven of them were arraigned before a Court Martial charged with being Spies. Their trial of course was summary. They were permitted to be present, but not to hear either the argument of their own counsel or that of the Judge Advocate. Their Counsel however afterwards, visited the prison + read to them the written defence which he made before the Court in their behalf. The substance of that paper is thus stated by one of the witnesses, Corporal Pittenger “He (the Counsel) contended that our being “dressed in citizen clothes, was nothing more than what- “the Confederate Government itself had authorized + “was only what all the guerillas in the service of the “Confederacy did in all occasions, when it would be “Advantage to them to do so. And he cited the instance “of Genl. Morgan having dressed his men in the uniform



“of our Soldiers + passed them off as being from  
 “the 8<sup>th</sup> Pa. Calvary Regiment, + by that means succeeded  
 “in reaching a Railroad + destroying it. This instance  
 “was mentioned to show that our being in citizens  
 “clothes, did not take from us the protection awarded  
 “to prisoners of war. The plea went on further to state  
 “that we had told the object of our expedition - that  
 “it was a purely Military one, for the destruction  
 “of communications + as such, lawful according to  
 “the rules of War”

This just + unanswerable presentation of the case  
 appears to have produced its appropriate impression.  
 Several members of the Court Martial afterwards called  
 on the prisoners + assured them that from the evidence  
 against them that they could not be condemned as Spies;  
 that they had come for a certain know object + not  
 having lingered about or visited any of their camps  
 obtaining or seeking information, they could not  
 be convicted. Soon thereafter all the prisoners were  
 removed to Atlanta Georgia, + they left Knoxville under  
 a belief that their comrades, who had been tried,  
 either had been or would be acquitted In the  
 mean time however the news entertained and  
 expressed to them by the members of the Court, were  
 overcome, it may be + safely assumed, under the  
 prompting of the remorseless despotism at Richmond.  
 On the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, after their arrival at Atlanta  
 where they rejoined the comrades from whom they

had been separated at Chattanooga - their prison door was opened + the death sentences of the seven, who had been tried at Knoxville, were read to them. They were told to bid their friends farewell "and to be quick about it". They were at once tied and carried out to execution. Among the seven was Private Samuel Robinson Co. G 33<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Vols., who was too ill to walk. He was, however, prisoned like the rest, + in this condition, was dragged from the floor on which he was lying, to the scaffold. In an hour or more the Calvary escort, which had accompanied them, was seen returning with the cart, but the cart was empty – the tragedy had been consummated.

On that evening + the following morning, the prisoners learned from the Provost Marshall + Guard, that their comrades had died as all true Soldiers of the Republic should die, in the presence of its enemies. Among the revolting incidents which they mentioned in connection with this cowardly butchery, was the fall of two of the victims from the breaking of the ropes, after they had been for some time suspended. On their being restored to consciousness, they begged for an hour in which to pray + to prepare for death, but this was refused them: the ropes were readjusted + the execution at once proceeded.

Among those who thus perished



was Private Alfred Wilson Co. "C" 21<sup>st</sup> Ohio Vols. He was a mechanic from Cincinnati, who, it seems, in the exercise of his trade, had traveled much through the states North + South + who had greatness of soul, which intensely sympathized with our struggle for National Life, and was in that dark hour filled with joyous convictions of our final triumph. Though surrounded by a scowling crowd impatient for his sacrifice, he did not hesitate while standing under the gallows to make them a brief address. He told them that though they were all wrong, he had no hostile feeling toward the southern people-. Believing that not they but their leaders were responsible for the rebellion; that he was no Spy as charged, but only a soldier regularly detailed for military duty; that he did not regret to die for his country, but only regretted the manner of his death; + he added for their admonition, that they would yet see the time, when the old Union would be restored, and when its flag would wave over them again. And with these words, the brave man died. He, like his comrades, calmly met the ignominious doom of a felon - but happily, ignominious for him and for them, only so far as the Martyrdom of the patriot the hero can be degraded by the hands of ruffians + traitors.

The remaining prisoners, now reduced to fourteen, - were kept closely confined under special guard in the jail at Atlanta, until October, when over hearing a conversation between the jailer and another officer, they became satisfied that it was the purpose of the authorities to hang them as they had done their companions. This led them to form a plan for escape, which they carried into execution on the evening of the next day, by seizing the jailer when he opened the door to carry away the bucket in which their supper had been brought. This was followed by the seizure also of the seven guards on duty, + before the alarm was given eight of the fugitives were beyond the reach of pursuit. It has been since ascertained that six of these, after long + painful wanderings, succeeded in reaching our lines; of the fate of the other two, nothing is known. The remaining six of the fourteen, consisting of the five witnesses who have deposed + Mr Mason, were recaptured + confined in the barracks until December, when they were removed to Richmond. There they were shut up in a room in Castle Thunder, where they shivered through the winter without fire, thinly clad + with but two small blankets which they had saved with their clothes, to cover the whole party. So they remained until a few days since when they were exchanged, + thus at the end of Eleven Months, terminated their pitiless persecutions



in the prisons of the South -- persecutions begins and continued, amid indignities + suffering on their part, + of atrocities on the part of their traitorous foes, which illustrates far more faithfully than any human language could express it, the demoniac spirit of a revolt every throb of whose life is a crime against the very race to which we belong

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

*J M Holt*

Judge Advocate General

*Hon. Edwin M. Stanton*

Secretary of War

## Testimony

### Depositions of

Corporal William Pittenger, Co. G, 2d Reg. Ohio volunteers		
Private Jacob Parrot, Co. K, 33d Reg.	“	“
Private Robert Buffum, Co. H, 21 <sup>st</sup> Reg.	“	“
Corporal William Reddick, Co. B, 33d Reg.	“	“
and Private Wm. Bensinger, Co. G, 21 <sup>st</sup> Reg.	“	“

Taken at the Office of the  
Judge Advocate General of the Army

In the City of Washington,

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of March, 1863,

Before N. Callan Justice of the Peace

In Compliance with the  
 Written Instructions of the  
Secretary of the War.



Pittenger

Corporal William Pittenger was duly sworn  
and examined as follows-

By Judge Advocate General.

Q. – will you state what position you hold in  
the military service?

A. – I am a corporal in Co. G., second regi-  
ment, Ohio Volunteers.

Q. – Will you state whether you belonged to the  
expedition fitted out in the spring of 1862  
by Gen. O. M. Mitchell for operations in the  
State of Georgia?

A. – I did.

Q. – Please state the character of that expedition,  
the number of men engaged in it, its ope=  
rations, and the final result.

A.- The expedition was planned between Gen.  
Mitchell and Mr. J. J. Andrews, a citizen of  
Kentucky, then in the "Secret Service" of the  
government. Mr Andrews asked for a detail  
of 24 men from the three Ohio regiments of  
the brigade then commanded by Col, afterward General  
Sills. Of these 24 men only 22 succeeded  
in getting through the lines. The object of the  
expedition was to destroy the communications on  
the Georgia State Railroad between Atlanta  
and Chattanooga by burning the bridges.  
For this purpose we intended to seize an engine  
and a train of cars, at a place where there

could be no other engine and train of cars to pursue us, and to run ahead, cutting the telegraph wires, and burning the bridges behind us, if possible until we should reach our own lines. Gen Mitchell at that time was moving on Huntsville, and it was supposed that he would be there as soon as we could reach there. We started in citizen's clothes; we were ordered to dress in citizen's clothes armed with side arms only, and we were to pass through the lines in squads of three or four, to meet at Chattanooga. We met no pickets or opposition of any kind on the way, there being no large military force there - nothing but camps of instruction, for new recruits in that section of the country. From Chattanooga we proceeded to Marietta, Georgia, by rail, and arrived there on the night of the 11<sup>th</sup> of April at midnight. On the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup> we took passage back from Marietta towards Chattanooga, and at a place called Big Shanty, while the passengers, the engineer and conductor were at breakfast, we detached the engine and three box cars from the engine and started. There was no engine there to pursue us, but we were pursued by a hand car. Mr. Andrews, the leader of the expedition, had a schedule of the road; and according to that schedule we had



but one train to pass at a station but a short distance from where we captured the train; and after that we intended to run the train through at full speed, and accomplish the object of the expedition. Unfortunately, however, that morning for the first time, two other additional trains had been put on the road, making three that we had to meet and pass instead of one, and at considerable intervals. We were obliged to wait at one station for twenty-five minutes; and at the second we had to wait; and we were also delayed waiting for the third train. By this means we lost so much time that those pursuing came nearby up with us from behind; and we had no time to accomplish the object of the expedition. We attempted to delay the pursuit by taking up the rails; but they had forethought enough to take a party of workmen with them to lay the rails again. We proceeded until we were within some fifteen or eighteen miles of Chattanooga, when we got out of wood and water, and the pursuing train was so close behind us that we had not time to take in any more, and we therefore abandoned the train. Our leader, Mr. Andrews, told us to take to the woods and disperse, and save ourselves if we could. We were immediately

pursued by the whole population. There was great excitement, and all the planters and people of the neighborhood, turned out with the dogs that they employed to hunt their negroes, and pursued us. Some of our party were taken that day, and some on the next day; two were not taken until three week afterwards, but all were finally captured. The party consisted of twenty U. S. soldiers, one citizen of Kentucky, who was on a visit to our regiment, and went in the place of another soldier, and Mr. Andrews, our leader.

Q - Who was Mr. Andrews?

A – He was the citizen in the employ of the government. He had been employed in the secret service of the government. He told me about several of his expeditions; among others, he stated that he had visited Fort Donelson before it was captured. We were all, 22 of us, taken to the jail, or rather the negro prison in Chattanooga, and confined there in a lower apartment or dungeon of the building, only thirteen feet square, and about the same height, and partly under ground, having only two windows on opposite sides, not over eighteen inches in diameter, with triple rows of bars. The ventilation there was so imperfect, that it reminded me more

of the black hole of Calcutta than anything else. When the first of our party were taken there to the jail, there were others, Union men of Tennessee, who were confined there in this same room. As others of our party were taken and brought there, some of these Union men were taken out, until finally there were none there but the 22 of our party. We were placed in irons; were hand cuffed, and chained twos and twos with chains. I think there were two parties of three coupled together, but the remainder were coupled in twos. The trap door in the building, the only entrance, was raised only to let down our meals, which were lowered to us in a bucket by a rope, twice a day. Our fare was very scanty, and we were reduced so as to be scarcely able to walk; although before, we had all been well, hearty, strong men. We were confined there, I think, for a little over three weeks; and when we came out at the end of that time we were scarcely able to walk; some actually staggered along as they marched to the cars. While we were there, Mr. Andrews was tried before a Court Martial, under the orders, I believe, of Gen. Leadbetter, or those of Kirby Smith, his superior. His sentence was not announced until we had



left there. After we had been confined there about three weeks, and Gen. Mitchel advanced to Bridgeport, producing a great panic in Chattanooga; and they transferred us South to Madison in Georgia. We remained there until they found that Gen. Mitchell did not intend to advance on Chattanooga, when they brought us back. By this time we had been put under the charge of a Captain, who interceded for us and procured us some little better quarters. We were allowed to occupy an upper story of the jail, a room of the same size, but having larger windows, and three instead of two. We remained there a few days I do not remember exactly how long, when twelve of us were taken to Knoxville, and the remainder were kept in Chattanooga. I was one of those who were sent to Knoxville. Shortly after we had gone to Knoxville, Mr. Andrews' sentence was read to him, and in accordance with that he was executed at Atlanta Ga. on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June. At Knoxville some of our boys were put on trial as spies. Only seven were tried, and the trial occupied but a very short time. Although we were allowed the privilege of employing counsel, yet we were not allowed to hear the pleas of counsel. When our men demanded the

privilege of learning the plea of our counsel, and of the Judge Advocate against us, they refused it. The first one who was tried demanded that privilege, and they refused him and said they would not allow it – which, of course, amounted to refusal for all. Our lawyer, however, visited us, and read his plea to us. I suppose that it was the same in which he read in Court; in which he contended that our being dressed in citizen's clothes was nothing more than what the Confederate government itself had authorized, and was only what all the guerillas in the service of the Confederacy had done on all occasions where it would be of advantage of them to do so. And he cited the instance of Gen. Morgan having dressed his men in the uniform of our soldiers, and passed them off as being from the 8<sup>th</sup> Pa cavalry regiment, and by that succeeded in reaching a railroad and destroying it. This instance was mentioned to show that our being dressed in citizen's clothes did not take from us the protection accorded to prisoners of war. The plea went on further to state that we had told the object of our expedition - that it was a purely military one, for the destruction of communication, and as such Lawful according to the rules

of war. What reply the Judge Advocate made to this, we never had any means of knowing, as we were not allowed to hear it. Members of the Court Martial, however, visited us and told us that from the evidence against us we could not be convicted as spies; that is, we came for a certain, known object, did not visit in their camps at any place, did not remain about them or seek to obtain any information of them, and therefore we could not be convicted as spies. Shortly afterwards, they transferred us twelve to Atlanta, Ga. where those who had remained in Chattanooga had been previously taken. After remaining there for a short time, an order came for the execution of our seven comrades who had been tried. It was at that time entirely unexpected to us, although at first it would not have been. Sentence of death was read to them, and they were immediately tied, without any time for preparation being allowed them; they were told to bid us farewell and to be quick about it, and then they were taken out of the prison, and we could see them from the window, in a wagon escorted by cavalry. In the course of something like an hour or so, the cavalry returned without them. That evening, Captain Forakers, the Provost Marshall, called upon us. We asked



him how our companies had met their fate. He told us like brave men. The next day we conversed with the guard who was guarding us – with one in particular, who described the scene of the execution, where he was present. He told us of the speech that one of those men, named Wilson, from my regiment, had made on the scaffold, and also told us that two of the heaviest men had broken the ropes when they were hanging, and fell to the ground. They afterwards revived and asked for a drink of water, which was given to them; and they requested for an hour to prepare for death and to pray before they were again hung up. That was refused them, and as soon as the ropes were adjusted, they were compelled to ascend the scaffold again. The guard told me that Mr Wilson had spoken very calmly had told them that they were all in the wrong, that they would yet see the time when the old Union would yet be restored, and the flag of our country would wave over all that country – that he had no bad feelings toward the Southern people, but considered that it was only their leaders who were to blame for the course they had taken. He also said that although he was condemned as a spy, he was none, but was

a regularly detailed soldier and died perfectly innocent of the charge against him – that he did not regret to die for his country, but only regretted the manner of his death. That is the substance of it, as far as I can recollect. We all expected to share the same fate as our companions.

We remained there confined very closely in the city jail. A special guard was placed over us from + before the time of the execution on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, until in October. We were all, fifteen of us, kept in the same room all the time – a room not much larger than this [the Judge Advocates General's Office.] I said there were fifteen of us – the fourteen surviving members of the expedition, and a Captain Frye, a federal officer of east Tennessee, who had been sent from Knoxville with us and confined in the same room with us, as they considered it the securest part of the building.

Q. – What knowledge, if any, have you, of one of your companions in the expedition, Mr. Parrot, having been seized and scourged by the Confederate authorities? State all you know on the subject, either from your own knowledge, or from his statements, or from the statements of Confederate officers.

A – That occurred before I was myself captured after leaving the train. Mr. Parrot himself gave me a complete narrative of the transaction as soon as we reached Chattanooga, where we were all taken after a time. In addition to his statement, I heard the statement of his companion, the man taken with him, and one of those subsequently executed, who told me substantially the same story that Mr. Parrot did – that Mr. Parrot received over one hundred lashes to make him confess the object of the expedition, the names of his companions, and particularly name of the engineer who ran the train – all of which he refused to do. It was said by the Confederates that this flogging was inflicted by a mob, that “they took him and whipped him” - that was the expression they used. Afterwards, when we were going to Madison, at the time when they were taken away from Chattanooga, a Confederate officer called upon us at a station where the cars stopped, and spoke to Mr. Parrot in my hearing and told him that he admired his courage and hardihood in refusing to confess under the flogging he had received, and also stated that he was sorry that they had beaten him so severely.

In October, Col. Lee, who was their



Provost Marshal, having taken the place of the former Provost Marshal, came to us and told us that he had received a letter from the Secretary of War of the Confederacy, inquiring why we had not been executed. Col. Lee told us that he had replied that he was personally unacquainted with the affair, but he supposed it were probable that there were some mitigating circumstances in our own cases, and had referred to the Court Martial which tried the others, for those circumstances. One or two days after that, the jailer was overheard talking with an officer of the guard, and telling him that the remainder of our party were to be executed also. From this we supposed that the Secretary of War had ordered it, and we determined to escape if possible. On the evening of the next day, after we had had our supper, when they opened the door to take out the buckets in which our supper was brought, we seized the jailor and held him, opened another room of the prison in which others were confined, went downstairs and seized the guard – there were seven of the guard – and then attempted to make our escape; and eight of us succeeded in getting off before the alarm was given. The others were captured, four on the same evening and two others the next day. I was one

of those capture on the same evening, shortly after that, they removed us to the barracks in town, where we were better treated – more kindly treated – than we had ever been before that. We remained there until December, when we were sent to Richmond. We were first taken to Libby Prison, and told that we were to be exchanged. They sent a very light guard along with us, trusting to our belief that we would be exchanged; and so believing, - we went along quietly and made no attempt to escape, which we could easily have done. We were taken to the Libby Prison and kept there about an hour, and then transferred to the criminal prison, Castle Thunder. Here we were put in a little room upstairs, of which three sides were only weather boarded; and there we remained during the months of December and January, without any fire and with a very scanty supply of clothing, as they had taken all our blankets from us when we left Atlanta, with the exception of two small ones which we had managed to secret when we left the barracks. This was the only covering we had during those two months, for all six of us there. We were very destitute of other clothing at that time – nearly out of it, in fact. About the first of February,

however, they wanted that room with a number of other rooms on the same floor, for hospital purposes, and transferred us to a large room down stairs on the ground floor, which was assigned to union prisoners. Here we enjoyed more liberty than we had before, and remained until a special exchange was made. They finally exchanged us as citizens, leaving our names on the citizens list from Castle Thunder, although we had our names marked as soldiers, and our companies and regiments were down on the prison books, and in the charges and specifications given to the seven of our comrades who were tried and executed, it was admitted that they were soldiers, and their companies and regiments were named.

Q – Were the men engaged in that expedition detailed by the officers, or did they volunteer? Under what circumstances did they enter upon that expedition?

A Gen. Mitchell issued an order to the Cols. of the three Ohio regiments in Sill's Brigade. To have a man detailed from each company – for the captain of each company to select a reliable man of his company for this purpose. They were then sent to the Colonel's quarters, and told what they were wanted to do -



that they were wanted to dress in citizen clothes and obey the orders of Mr. Andrews. The expedition was not explained to us then, but we were told that we were to obey Mr. Andrews' orders, and to go with him on a secret expedition. The object of the expedition was explained to us that night by Mr. Andrews, who assembled us together about a mile from Shelbyville, after it got dark, and there gave us the main outlines – that we were to go into Georgia, to Marietta, - to make our way there as well as we could, and there to seize a train, and he would be with us all the time after reaching there, to direct us how to proceed.

Q. The leading object of the expedition was to cut the communications + to destroy the bridges?

A. Yes sir; the capture of the engine and train was merely a means to that end.

Q. Have you any evidence of the estimate which was placed by Confederate authorities upon the importance of this expedition, had it been successful?

A. I have a paper here now, one of the most influential in the State of Georgia, at least, called the "Southern Confederacy." The copy which I have is dated April 15, 1862. We seized the train on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April, and

this paper was printed three days after, and before they learned the full particulars of the capture. I will read a portion of that article.

[The witness produced the paper and read  
From the article referred to.]

Q. How came you in possession of that paper?

A. The officer of the guard in charge of us had it and laid it down, and I took it and have carried it secreted about my person ever since, which accounts for its soiled and worn condition. I would refer to the entire article as the best answer to your question as to the importance attached to the expedition by the Confederate authorities.

[A copy of the article referred to is hereto appended, as a portion of this deposition.]

Q. Were you personally acquainted with Mr. Wilson, who made the address upon the scaffold before his execution?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Will you state to what Company and Regiment he belonged, and from what part of the State of Ohio he came.

A. He was a member of Co. B, of the Second Ohio Regiment – my regiment. He had resided in Cincinnati a long time, and came from there. He was a shoemaker by trade,

a man between 30 and 35 years of age, and had travelled a great deal over the United States, working at his trade. He said he had a family of two children; his wife was not living.

Q. – Will you please give, if you can, the names of all your comrades that were executed, with the companies and regiments to which they belonged.

A. There was George D. Wilson, Co. B, 2d Ohio Infantry;  
 Marion Ross, Co. A, 2d Ohio Infantry,  
 the Sergeant Major of the regiment;  
 Perry G. Shadrack, Co. K, 2d Ohio.  
 Samuel Roberson, Co. G, 33d Ohio.  
 Samuel Slavens, Co. D, 33d Ohio.  
 John Scott Co. F, 21<sup>st</sup> Ohio.  
 William Campbell, a citizen of Kentucky,  
 and J. J. Andrews, a citizen of Kentucky also,  
 and our leader.

William Campbell was on a visit to our regiment at the time this detail was made. The captain of one of our companies asked him if he would go in the place of one of the soldiers, and he agreed to do so. We always said, when questioned about him, that he was a soldier.

Q. Will you state what you know, if anything, in regard to the origin of this secret expedition - by whom it was planned, and when?



A. I do not know of my own knowledge, but Mr. Andrews told me that he himself, in his visits to the South had noticed that this thing could be accomplished, and that it would be of great benefit to us. He had proposed it to Gen. Buell; who did not give him much encouragement; afterwards he proposed it to Gen. Mitchell, who gave him more encouragement, and gave him permission to take eight men from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Regiment, which he had been with considerable, and attempt to execute the plan. The men were given him and he proceeded in the same way that we did, to Atlanta; but on arriving there, they found that the engineer whom Mr Andrews had engaged to run the train for them was not there, on account of having been pressed to run reinforcements to Beauregard at Corinth. For this reason they were obliged to give up the plan and go quietly back as passengers to Chattanooga, and their return through the country to our camp. Mr. Andrews then told Gen. Mitchell that from all he had seen in that expedition, he still considered the thing easy of accomplishment, and asked for a larger detail of 24 men from the three regiments, which he obtained. He asked to have some engineers selected, so that there should be no possibility of a failure the second time

like the first. There were consequently four men in our party, who could run engines; only one however did so on that expedition. None of those on the first expedition went on the second; entirely new men were selected the second time.

Q \_\_\_\_\_ Will you, if you can, give the names of the members of that expedition, in addition to those spoken of in this testimony -- that is to say, the witnesses who are to depose here, together with a Mr Mason, and the seven who were executed.

A. \_\_\_\_ They are as follows; --

William Knight, Co E. 21<sup>st</sup> Ohio

William H. Brown, Co. J “ “

Daniel A. Dorsey, Co. H, 33d Ohio.

Mark Wood, Co. C, 21<sup>st</sup> Ohio

Alfred Wilson of the same Co. and Regiment.

This is the only instance where two men were taken of the same Company.

Martin J. Hawkins, Co. A, 33d Ohio.

John Wollam, Co. C. “ “

and John R. Porter, Co. G 21<sup>st</sup> Ohio.

These eight that I have just named were those who succeeded in making their escape, and were not retaken at the time that we were. We saw in a Confederate paper and extract from the “Cincinnati Commercial”, stating that the

two last named, Wollam and Porter, had succeeded in reaching own lines in a very destitute condition at Corinth, which was then in our possession. We were told by Col. Lee, the Provost Marshal at Atlanta, that three of those who had escaped, had been shot and left in the woods; but we did not know how much dependence to place upon that.

Wm. Pittenger

Co H 2<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Regt. Vol.

(Attach Copy of Article from  
"Southern Confederacy")