

Martin J. Hawkins



Born	1830 Mercer County, Pennsylvania
Died	1886 (aged 55–56)
Buried	Quincy, Illinois
Allegiance	 United States of America
Service/branch	 United States Army
Rank	First Lieutenant
Unit	 Company A, 33rd Ohio Infantry
Battles/wars	American Civil War Great Locomotive Chase
Awards	 Medal of Honor

Martin Jones Hawkins (1830 – February 7, 1886) was a Union Army officer in the American Civil War who received the U.S. military's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor.

Hawkins was born in Mercer County, Pennsylvania in 1830 and entered service at Portsmouth, Scioto County, Ohio. He was awarded the Medal of Honor, for extraordinary heroism shown in April 1862 during

the Great Locomotive Chase, at Big Shanty, Georgia while serving as a Corporal with Company A, 33rd Ohio Infantry.

In April 1862 General Mitchell and General Buell tasked 22 volunteers (including 2 civilians) under the leadership of James Andrews, with a daring raid. The men, later known as "Andrews' Raiders" penetrated 200 miles into enemy territory to capture a railroad train at Big Shanty, Georgia. Their mission was to destroy vital railroad lines and bridges between Chattanooga and Atlanta to disrupt movement of Confederate soldiers and supplies. Only partially successful, their capture of the locomotive "The General" resulted in a nearly 100 mile race that became known as "The Great Locomotive Chase". Corporal Hawkins was one of these raiders, traveling in a small group for four days to reach Big Shanty and then joining the reunited group in the daring sabotage mission. In the ensuing race, a limited amount of damage was accomplished to bridges and rail lines, and in the end all members of the Andrew's Raid were captured and confined in Confederate prisons. On June 7th James Andrews was hanged as a spy, and on the 18th seven more raiders (including the civilian members) were hanged. Fourteen raiders later escaped their prison camp. Hawkins was 1 of 8 recaptured and returned to prison.

His Medal of Honor was issued in September 1863.

Hawkins died at the age of 55, on February 7, 1886 and was buried at Woodland Cemetery in Quincy, Illinois.

Citation

One of the 19 of 22 men (including 2 civilians) who, by direction of Gen. Mitchell (or Buell), penetrated nearly 200 miles south into enemy territory and captured a railroad train at Big Shanty, Ga., in an attempt to destroy the bridges and track between Chattanooga and Atlanta.