

Marion Andrew Ross



Born	October 9, 1832 Christiansburg, Ohio
Died	June 18, 1862 (aged 29) Atlanta, Georgia
Place of burial	Chattanooga National Cemetery Chattanooga, Tennessee
Allegiance	United States of America
Service/branch	United States Army (POW)
Years of service	1861 - 1862
Rank	Sergeant Major
Unit	2 nd Ohio Infantry
Battles/wars	American Civil War
Awards	Medal of Honor

Sergeant Major Marion Ross was the first posthumous award of the Medal of Honor in the award's history. In the 1950s, Disney Studios released the movie "The Great Locomotive Chase" to herald the exploits of the Andrews Raid.

Marion A Ross was born October 9, 1832, the son of Levi and Mary Ruffner Ross. He was one of nine children. Marion was born in a log house that stood near Honey Creek in Addison, Champaign County, Ohio.

Marion was 28 years old, and a student at Antioch College, when he answered President Lincoln's call for volunteers into the Army to fight in the Civil War. He was mustered in at Camp Dennison, Ohio, Company A. 2nd Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, August 20, 1861 with the Rank of Private, for a period of three years. On December 7th, 1861 he was appointed the Rank of Sergeant Major.

From February 28th to May 31, 1862, Sergeant Major Marion A Ross was listed as "absent on secret service" by General O M Mitchell. It was not known until much later the nature of his absence.

General Mitchell had called for volunteers for a "secret mission". Under the leadership of a civilian, James J Andrews, 24 men boarded a Western and Atlantic Railroad train at Marietta, Georgia. The train made a scheduled stop at Big Shanty, Georgia (later known as Kennesaw, Georgia). While the crew and most of the passengers went to breakfast, Andrews' men uncoupled the passenger cars and left the station with the locomotive the "General" and three box cars.

Due to the rainy weather and the pursuit by Confederate authorities, forcing the locomotive to run out of fuel after a 90 mile chase, the "Andrews' Raid" failed. The "Raiders" were captured. Andrews and seven of his men were tried by Court Martial, condemned and hanged. James J Andrews was hastily executed on June 7, 1862

and seven others, including Marion Ross, were executed on June 18, 1862.

The final resting place of these eight men, including James Andrews, is in the Chattanooga National Cemetery in Chattanooga, Tennessee. They are side-by-side.

On September 17th, 1863, Sergeant Major Marion A Ross was the first to be issued, posthumously, the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery in the service of his Country.

Family links:

Parents:

Levi Ross (1792 - 1863)

Mary Ruffner Ross (1802 - 1865)

Siblings:

Minerva Jane Ross Thomas (1830 - 1914)

Mary Catherine Ross (1831 - 1834)

Marion A. Ross (1832 - 1862)

Melvina Ellen Ross Bragunier (1834 - 1913)

Marine Ruffner Ross (1835 - 1886)

Morgan Levi Ross (1838 - 1838)

Margaret Elizabeth Ross Pond (1840 - 1934)

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.

Cause of death: Hanged as a spy by Confederate forces