

ensuing march the command did its share of foraging and railroad wrecking.³⁷ Jones was especially pleased with their work in tearing up track and a large bridge over the Ogeechee River on November 30. It was accomplished, he noted in his report, "in a very effectual manner."³⁸

The brigade was on the far left of the Union line, on the banks of the Savannah River, as Sherman approached the city of the same name. It suffered some casualties from Confederate gunboat shells and some of the men were captured when they were posted on Hutchinson Island, the eventual avenue of escape for the bottled up Rebel army.³⁹ Early on the morning of December 21, Geary's division entered the city of Savannah. Jones' brigade encamped on Forsyth Place and were ordered to guard and patrol a district of the city.⁴⁰

On January 4, 1865, Jones left for New York State on a leave of absence. Ten days later his old regiment learned of and cheered his promotion to brigadier general, to rank from December 6, 1864. This advance in rank had been recommended at various times by Generals Howard, Hooker and Sherman. Jones did not receive his commission,⁴¹ however, until April 18, 1865.

Because he was suffering from chronic diarrhea, Jones' leave of absence was twice extended, and in the Campaign of the Carolinas his brigade was commanded by Colonel George W. Mindil of the 33rd New Jersey.⁴² After his recovery Jones returned and assumed command at Goldsboro, North Carolina, on March 30, 1865. Sherman had gathered a large army there to begin a final campaign against Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston. From April 14 to 25, Jones' brigade was camped on the grounds of the insane asylum in Raleigh. Many visitors,