



August 2020

License Plate to Medon Station - Skirmish at the Depot



*This battlefield preservation supporter following the route of Armstrong's Raid stops in Medon, TN where the Mississippi Central Railroad once ran between Jackson and Bolivar and where a skirmish on **August 31, 1862** at the railroad depot resulted in an estimated 50 Confederate and less than 5 Union soldiers killed.*

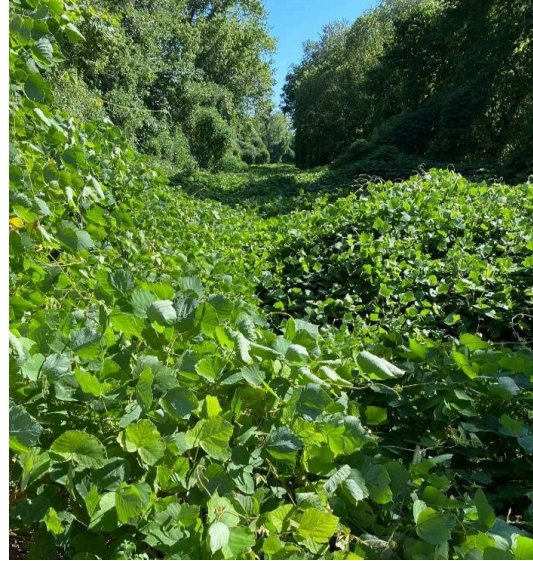
The skirmish at **Medon Station** was part of Brig. Gen. Frank C. Armstrong's cavalry raid, as he advanced north from Holly Springs, Mississippi, into West Tennessee. His mission, with roughly

2,700 troopers, was to raid along the railroad, harass the enemy, and disrupt Federal supply lines.

The skirmish began when elements of Armstrong's raiding force, comprised of eight regiments of Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee cavalry, struck Federal infantry guarding the railroad between Medon and Toone's Stations. As the aggressive Confederates burned bridges and trestles, the small Union detachments from the 45th Illinois and 11th Iowa, retired to Medon, where they built a barricade using cotton bales. This makeshift fortification was soon attacked and surrounded by the Confederate horse-soldiers. The arrival and counterattack made by Federal reinforcements (7th Missouri Infantry) rushed by rail from Jackson, saw Armstrong's troopers withdraw west to **Denmark** to fight a larger engagement the next day, **September 1, 1862, at Britton Lane**.



Remnants of the depot loading area are all that remain at the site. When the railroad was built in this area (ca. 1857) the depot became known as "Medon Station." Local lore suggests the railroad foreman of Irish descent dug a drainage ditch for the railroad and said upon reporting he had completed the task, "Me Done".



Kudzu has consumed the abandoned railroad bed at the depot site, looking south. The railroad was active through this area until the 1980s.

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