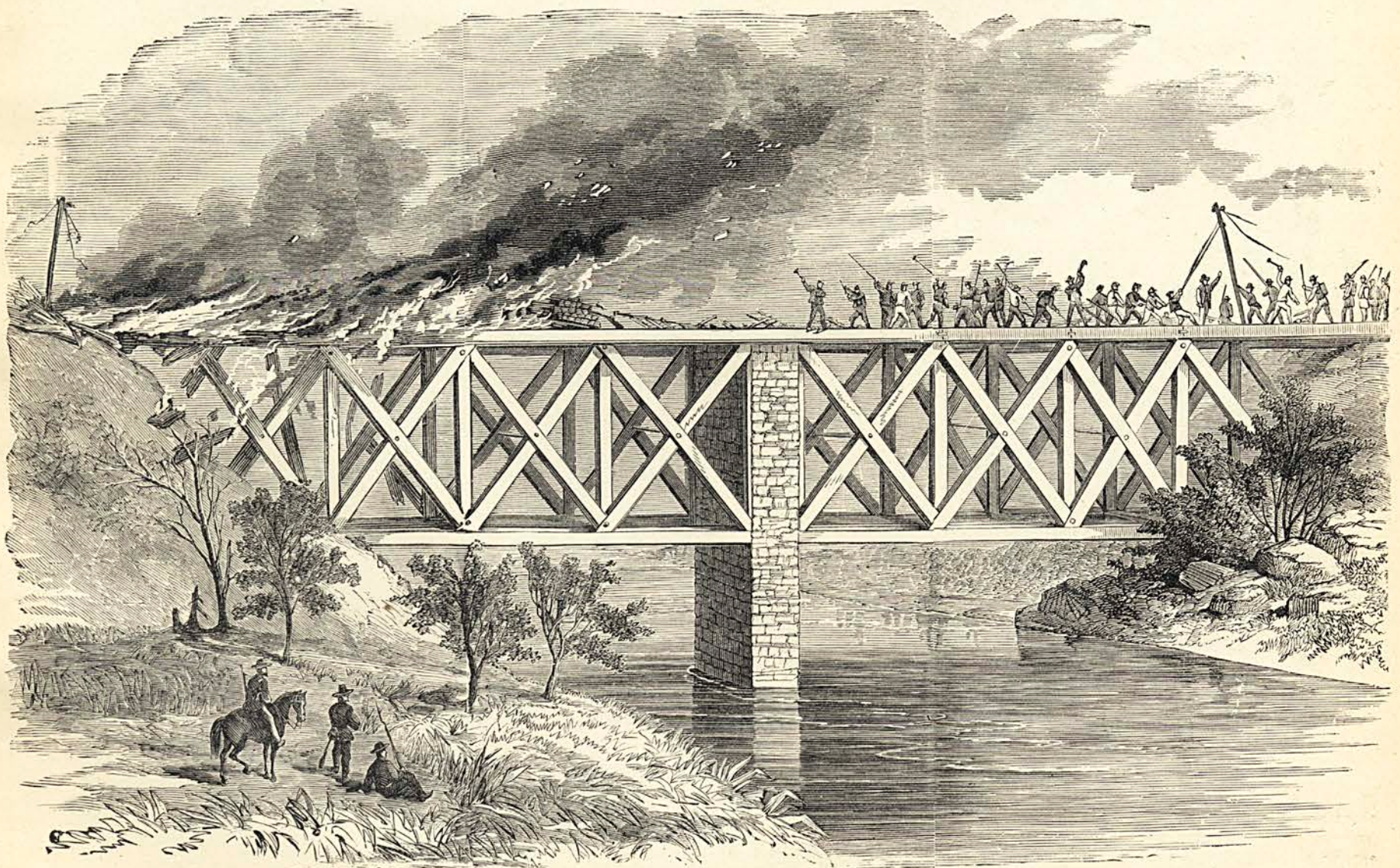




BURNING OF THE RAILROAD ROUND-HOUSE AT ATLANTA, NOVEMBER 14, 1864.—FEDERAL SOLDIERS AT WORK ALONG THE RAILROAD TRACK.

When Sherman decided to abandon the Atlanta region and strike across the country to the sea, the stern necessities of war compelled him to destroy the conquered city and render it useless to the enemy. After the inhabitants had removed with all their goods, the army engineers began the work of demolition, taking care not to injure private dwellings. Only public buildings, machine shops, depots, and arsenals were doomed, and these became the prey of gunpowder and the torch. The awful carnival of destruction occupied an entire night. Sixty thousand soldiers witnessed the thrilling spectacle, not one seeking his blanket for rest until the brilliant glare of the vast conflagration died out of the heavens. The routine duties and observations of camp life were forgotten, and the army yielded to the excitement of the hour, an hour never to be banished from the minds of those who passed through the strange experience. In more senses than one it was a parallel to the burning of Rome, for the Union bands accompanied the roar and crackle of the flames, the boom of monster explosions and crashing of falling debris, with the martial airs soldiers love so well.



BURNING OF THE GEORGIA CENTRAL RAILROAD BRIDGE OVER THE OGEECHEE RIVER, NOVEMBER 30, 1864,
BY THE FEDERAL FORCES UNDER COLONEL P. H. JONES.

The march to the sea was protected on the flanks by the destruction of all means of communication which could serve the enemy in attack or pursuit. The corps of Davis and Williams struck the Georgia Central near Lotrisville, and moving down the line toward Millen destroyed the entire track, including the bridges between those points.