

# The New-York Times

Monday, June 24, 1861

## DETAILS OF THE BATTLE OF BOONVILLE

*Correspondence of the Missouri Democrat*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE WAR

The steamers *A. McDowell*, *Iatan* and *City of Louisiana*, left Jefferson City yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock, and reached a point a mile below Providence last night, where it was thought best to lay up a few hours. Three companies of BOERNSTEIN'S Regiment, under his command, were left to protect the capital. We were cheered enthusiastically by the little town of Marion as we passed there yesterday evening. This morning we took an early start, and reached Rocheport before 6 o'clock, where we made a short stop, but found the people mostly surly and not disposed to be communicative. We learned, however, that the enemy were in considerable force a few miles below this place, and preparing to make a vigorous defense. Leaving there, and taking the ferry-boat *Paul Wilcox* with us, we ran up steadily till we had passed the foot of the island, eight miles below here, and seeing a battery on the bluffs, and scouts hastening to report our arrival, we fell back to a point opposite the foot of the island, and at 7 o'clock A. M. disembarked on the south shore, where the bottom land between the river and bluffs is some mile and a half wide. No traitors were visible there, and the troops at once took the river road for this city. Following this road somewhat over a mile and a half to where it ascends the bluffs, several shots from our scouts announced the driving in of the enemy's pickets.

We continued to ascend a gently undulating slope for nearly half a mile, when the enemy were reported in full force near the summit of the next swell of ground, about three hundred yards from our front. The enemy were exceedingly well posted, having every advantage in the selection of their ground, but as you will see, it has been clearly demonstrated, that one Secessionist is hardly superior to many more than his equal number.

Arriving at the brow of the ascent, Capt. TOTTEN open the engagement by throwing a few nine-pounder explosives into their ranks, while the infantry filed oblique right and left, and commenced a terrific volley of musketry, which was for a short time well replied to, the balls flying thick and fast about our ears, and occasionally wounding a man on our side. The enemy were posted in a lane running toward the river from the road along which the grand army of the United States were advancing, and in a brick house on the northeast corner of the junction of the two roads. A couple of bombs were thrown through the east wall of that house, scattering the enemy in all directions. The well directed fire of the German infantry, Lieut.-Col. SCHAEFFER on the right, and Gen. LYON'S company of regulars and part of Col. BLAIR'S regiment on the left of the road, soon compelled the enemy to present an inglorious aspect. They clambered over the fence into a field of wheat, and again formed in line just on the brow of the hill. They then advanced some twenty steps to meet us, and for a short time the cannons were worked with great rapidity and effect. Just at this time the enemy opened a galling fire from a grove just on the left of our centre, and from a shed beyond and still farther to the left.

The skirmish now assumed the magnitude of a battle. The commander, Gen. LYON exhibited the most remarkable coolness, and preserved throughout that undisturbed presence of mind shown by him alike in the camp, private life, and on the field of battle. "Forward on the extreme right;" "Give them another shot, Capt. TOTTEN," echoed above the roar of musketry, clear and distinct from lips of the General, who led the advancing column. Our force was 2,000 in all; but not over 500 participated at any one time in the battle. The enemy, as we have since been reliably informed, were over 4,000 strong, and yet twenty minutes from the time when the first gun was fired, the rebels were in full retreat, and our troops occupying the ground on which they first stood in line. The consummate cowardice displayed by the seceshers will be more fully understood when I add that the spurs of successive elevations now become more abrupt steep and rugged, the enemy being fully acquainted with their ground, and strong positions behind natural defenses, orchards and clumps of trees offering themselves every few yards. Nothing more, however, was seen of the flying fugitives until about one mile west of the house of WM. M. ADAMS, where they were first posted. Just there was Camp Vest, and a considerable force seemed prepared to defend the approaches to it. Meanwhile, a shot from the iron howitzer on the *McDowell* announced to us the Capt. VORSTER, with his artillery men, and Capt. RICHARDSON'S company of infantry, who were left in charge of the boats, were commencing operations on the battery over a mile below Camp Vest. This but increased the panic among the invincible (?) traitors, and Capt. TOTTEN had but to give them a few rounds before their heels were again in requisition, and Capt. COLN and MILLER, at the head of their companies, entered and took possession of the enemy's deserted breakfast tables.

About twenty horses had by this time arrived within our lines with vacant saddles, and the corps reportorial were successfully mounted on chosen steeds. The amount of plunder secured in Camp Vest, or Bacon as the citizens here call it, from the name of the gentleman owning a fine house close by, was very large. On thousand, two hundred shoes, twenty or thirty tents, quantities of ammunition, some fifty guns of various patterns, blankets, coats, carpet-sacks, and two secession flags were included in the sum total.

Leaving Capt. COLE in command of the camp, we pushed on toward Bonneville, chasing the cowardly wretches who outmanned us two to one. The *McDowell* now came along up in the rear and off to the right from our troops and having a more distant view of the enemy from the river, and observing their intention to make another stand at the Fair grounds, one mile east of here, where the State has an armory extemporized Capt. VORSTER again sent them his compliments from the old howitzer's mouth, which with a couple of shorts from Capt. TOTTEN and a volley from LOTHROP'S detachment of rifles, scatter the now thoroughly alarmed enemy in all directions. The flight through the village commenced soon after 8 o'clock, and continued until after 1. Some three hundred crossed the river many went South, but the bulk kept on westwardly. A good many persons were taken at the different points of pattle, but is believed the enemy secured none of ours.

Capt. RICHARDSON had landed below, and with the support of the howitzer from the steamer *McDowell*, captured their battery, consisting of two 6pounders, (with which they intended to sink our fleet,) twenty prisoners, one caisson, and eight horses with military saddles. They enemy did not fire a shot from their cannon. Speaking of prizes,

the brilliant achievement in that line was by our reverend friend WM. A. PILL, Chaplain of the First Regiment. He had charge of a party of four men - two mounted and two on foot - with which to take charge of the wounded. Ascending the brow of a hill, he suddenly came upon a company of twenty-four rebels, armed with revolvers, and fully bent upon securing a place of safety for their carcasses. Their intentions, however, were considerably modified when the parson ordered them to halt, which they did, surrendering their arms. Surrendered by the squad of five men. They were then marched on board the Louisiana, prisoners of war. The parson also captured two other secessionists during the day, and at one time, needing a wagon and horses for the wounded, and finding friendly suggestions wasted on a stubborn old rebel, placed a revolver at this head, and the desired articles were forthcoming. In time of peace the preacher had prepared for war.

After passing the Fair Grounds, our troops came slowly towards town. They were met on the east side of the creek by Judge MILLER, of the District Court, and other prominent citizens, bearing a flag of truce, in order to assure our troops of friendly feelings sustained by three-fourths of the inhabitants, and if possible prevent the shedding of innocent blood. They were met cordially by General LYON and Col. BLAIR, who promised, if no resistance was made to their entrance that no harm need be feared. Major O'BRIEN soon joined the party from the city, and formally surrendered the city to the federal forces. The troops then advanced headed by the Major and Gen. LYON, and were met at the principal corner of the street by a party bearing and waving that beautiful emblem under which our armies gather and march forth conquering and to conquer. The flag party cheered the troops, who lustily returned the compliment. American flags are now quite thick on the street, and Secessionist are nowhere.

As usual, the traitors had destroyed the telegraphic communication with the East, and I have, therefore, been unable to transmit the news of our victory.

The gallant bearing of our men is the subject of constant remark and praise from the officers, while Col. BLAIR, Lieut-Col. ANDREWS, Adj. HASCOCK, Maj. CONANT, and many others won golden opinions from the soldiers for their fearless and determined behavior.

There were two men killed on our side - JACOB KIBURTZ, Commissary of Company B, Second Regiment, who kept a cigar manufactory on Second Street, St. Louis between Plum and Popular, AND M. N. COOLIDGE, of Company H., First Regiment. Nine of our men were wounded, but few of them severely. One man is also missing, who was known to have been badly shot. THOMAS MCCORD of LORTHROP'S regulars, who one of the most seriously hurt. The loss of the enemy will probably never be fully ascertained. It did not fall short of fifty, and probably will run nearly as high as a hundred. Among their dead are DR. WILLIAM QUARLES, ISAAC HODGES, and thirteen others of the Cooper County Company; FRANCIS A. HULIN, of the Pettis County Rifles, and many others more or less prominent, some of whom have not yet been recognized.

The enemy had two regiments of 1,800 men under command of Col. J. S. MARMADUKE of Arrow Rock and 900 cavalry, besides other companies whose muster rolls have not been captured. HORACE H. BRAND was Lieutenant Colonel of MARMADUKE'S Regiment. It was reported, and for sometime generally believed, that he was among the dead, but he has since been heard from, taking a meal several miles away. Gov. JACKSON was also seen at 3 o'clock this afternoon at a blacksmith's shop about

fifteen miles from here. Gen. PRICE left Sunday morning on the steamer *H. D. Bacon* for Arrow Rock. His health was very poor when he left.

You can hardly imagine the joy expressed and felt by the loyal citizens here when the Federal troops entered the city. Stores, which had been closed all day began to open, the national flag was quickly run upon a secession pole, cheers for the Union, LYON, BLAIR and LINCOLN were frequently heard, and everything betokened the restoration of peace, law and order. True men say, had the troops delayed ten days longer it would have been impossible for them to remain in safety. Irresponsible vagabonds had been taking guns where ever they could find them, and notifying the most substantial and prosperous citizens to leave. As a specimen of the feeling here, Mr. MCPHERSON, proprietor of the City Hotel, denounces the whole secession movement as the greatest crime committed since the crucifixion of our savior.

### INCIDENTS OF THE BATTLE

At one time, when bullets were flying thick, and Gen. LYON was at the head of the column, mounted, he undertook to dismount, that his position might be a trifle less conspicuous, when his horse suddenly jumped with fright, throwing the General to the ground, but without injuring him seriously. The rumor suddenly spread through the ranks that Gen. LYON had been shot from his horse, and the indignation and cries of vengeance were terrific.

At the Fair Grounds several hundred muskets were siezed at the armory, where flint-locks were being altered.

Capt. TOTTEN says he fired about 100 rounds of ball, shell and canister.

The following companies of Col. BLAIR'S regiment, through actively engaged in the skirmishing had none of their men killed or wounded: Companies A. Capt. FUSCH; C, Capt. STONE; D, Captain RICHARDSON; E, Capt. COLE; F, Capt. GRATZ; G, Capt. CAVENDER; K, Capt. BURKE. Company B Captain MAURICE has one wounded and one missing; Company H, Capt. YATES has one killed and four wounded; Company I, Capt. MILLER, one wounded.

The following interesting documents were found among others equally interesting and more decidedly treasonable

### HEADQUARTERS FIRST REG'T RIFLES, M. S. G.

BOONEVILLE, MO., June 14, 1851.

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 3 - The commanders of companies of the regiment and of the troops attached will bring their companies to Booneville with the greatest dispatch. They will proceed to move the instant this order is received bringing with them all arms and ammunition it is possible to procure. The expenses of said movement will be paid by the State. All orders of a prior date conflicting with this from any headquarters whatever will be disobeyed.

By order of  
COLONEL J. S. MARMADUKE  
JOHN W. YOUNG, Adjutant.

Captain: Hurry on day and night. Everybody, citizens and soldiers, must come bringing their arms and ammunition. Time is everything.

In great haste, J. S. MARMADUKE

## SECOND LETTER

BOONVILLE, June 18

The reportorial corps, determined to distinguish themselves in some way or another, started out this morning on a plunder expedition. Having been advised of a secession flag belonging to GEORGE B. HARPER, teller in the St. Lois Bank, and having a squad of men at their command, posted one man in front and one at the side entrance, to prevent all ingress or egress, while with the balance of the squad they proceeded to the drugstore of HARPER BROS., which underwent a thorough examination from cellar to third story. Finding nothing there, they took with them the cashier and visited the bank. Entering that building from Main street, your correspondent turned to a closet, just to the right and under the stairs leading to the second story, when lo ! a fine secession flag lay before me, which the reporter carried in triumph to our hotel, and delivered to Company D.

We next visited several buildings where rebels had deposited their guns as they fled through the village. Nine of these were taken and handed to Company G. But your correspondent afterwards got on track of an item which left the above exploits entirely in the shade. Being fully satisfied of the whereabouts of a quantity of State provisions, Capt. CAVENDER kindly gave me a squad of men with which, the finding of 86 sacks of flour, about 80 sacks of dried apples, 40 sacks of meal, and 8 hogsheads of bacon. They were all sent on board the steamer and delivered to the commissary department.

PARSON PILE, today, found on the battlefield a check for \$4,000 on the American Exchange Bank, which has been sent to the Secretary of War.

Capt. STONE, with a "squad" of printers, is about publishing the *American Patriot* to be issued from the office of the defunct Booneville *Patriot*, whose editor, it is said, was on the battlefield yesterday. It will be issued semi-occasionally until further notice.

I expected there would be an opportunity to send you this sooner by telegraph, or I should have dispatched a messenger with it. When the damage done by CLAIB. JACKSON and his tools can be repaired. Booneville will be again in connection with the outside world. At present we are pretty thoroughly shut out. - B.

BOONVILLE, Tuesday, June 18 - 10 P.M.

An opportunity pressing itself to forward our mail tomorrow morning, I hasten to submit the latest intelligence. The steamers *Sunshine* and *White Cloud* arrived from above today, and the *War Eagle* from below. The rumors are conflicting, and it is difficult to ascertain facts. One report says the traitors are preparing to make another stand at Lexington. Another says that GOV. JACKSON met several thousand of our troops from the North Missouri and Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad, and that he was taken prisoner. That is doubtful.

Two large loads of camp equipage were found four miles west of here today, left by the flying enemy, who thought LYON and BLAIR were just behind them.

W. SIMPSON of the Observer, came here from Jefferson City last Saturday under suspicious circumstance and was arrested last night as a spy, but was released. Tonight he became uproarious, and an officer attempted to arrest him, when he drew a pistol, and the officer then drew his sword, and struck him with the side over the head.

Fuller returns give Capt. YATES one killed and six wounded.

The Federals captured over 100 prisoners during the engagement.

### IMPORTANT FROM ST. LOUIS

St. Louis, Sunday, June 23,

The steamer *J. C. Swan* arrived at the Arsenal from Booneville at 2 P. M. today, bringing 300 troops from Jefferson City, and the wounded from Booneville, nine in number, and one died on the way down.

Col. BLAIR arrived on the *Swan*, and will proceed to Washington tomorrow via Cincinnati. He states that the number of State troops killed at Booneville is not less than 40, and thinks the number was much more.

About 5,000 United States troops have concentrated at Booneville, embracing the Iowa troops under Col. BATES, the Kansas forces under Col. SPENCE, and Gen. LYON, in command of the United States Regulars and Missouri Volunteers.

### NOTES OF THE REBELLION

#### THE BATTLE AT BOONVILLE

A dispatch to the St. Louis Republican, dated Jefferson City, June 19, gives the following version of the battle at Booneville:

"The news of the total defeat of the State troops at Booneville is confirmed, and is undoubtedly true, from the various reports brought in by gentlemen who have just arrived from Booneville by skiff or stage. I gather the following particulars as most reliable:

The United States troops landed at a wood-yard, about five miles this side of Booneville and one mile below the encampment of the State troops; the latter had a battery near Booneville pointed towards the river, but it was circumvented by the United States troops, and proved perfectly useless. Immediately after landing, the United States troops advanced upon the State troops, who met them in a lane and here the firing commenced. After a short skirmish, the United States troops retreated into a wheat field, whither they were followed in hot haste by the State troops, who undoubtedly thought they had the advantage over the enemy, but it appeared that this movement on the part of the United States troops was only a stratagem. They had no sooner taken a stand in the wheat field, than they opened a most destructive fire upon the State troops killing many, and utterly confusing and disconcerting the remainder. After the lapse of a very short time, the State troops, were totally routed, and fled in every direction. Gov. was about a mile off, surrounded by Cap. company as a body guard. It is reported that he was severely reprimanded during the engagement by men of his own party, for lack of direction and cowardice. As soon as he saw the result he and Capt KELLY'S Company, and MONROE PARSONS, according to some accounts took a boat and went up the river. Another account says that he fled alone, on horseback, in the direction of Syracuse. MONROE PARSONS was not in the fight, but had been previously reported sick. The City of Booneville was not injured at all, not a shot a shot being fired into it. Gen. PRICE'S

absence is accounted for in the following way: On Sunday morning the report was brought to the Governor by some of his picket guards, that seven boats were coming up the river, loaded with United States troops. A consultation was at once had Gen. PRICE, the result of which was that Gov. JACKSON sent orders to the troops to disband, as they could not sustain themselves against such a force. Gen PRICE then left for home. The troops, however, were exceedingly displeased with the Governor's order, and said they were determined to have a fight. Col. MARMADUKE, from Saline County, who commanded them, became disaffected and resigned. A few hours afterwards the port about the seven steamboats proved to be untrue. Then Governor then agreed to revoke his order, and recommended his troops to sustain their position and prepare for resistance to the United States troops. He also issued a proclamation, stating that the command had been given to one Mr. Little. What the sequel was is related above.

No one has any reliable news as to the number of killed and wounded, and those taken prisoners. It is stated, however, that LYON once had the State troops in a position whence he could have mowed them down with terrible effect, but that he order the firing to stop just at that time, and proceeded to make prisoners.

A gentleman, just from Syracuse, tells me that a number of fugitives had arrived in that town, and it was attempted to gather them, if possible, for another attack; also, that Senator MONROE was using every exertion to encourage and provide for them. Another report says that troops are gathering in two counties west from here, and it is proposed to make another stand in Jackson County.

Another dispatch says that 600 State troops had arrived at Syracuse with six cannon, and that they would make fight there."

### **A REBEL VIEW**

The Louisville *Courier* has a happy way of taking defeat. This is the way in which it announces the result of the battle at Boonville, Missouri:

"Our news columns are filled with war intelligence. In addition to the report of the two battles near the Kansas borders, in which the Missourians were victorious, we have news from private sources about the affair at Boonville. A gentleman who left St. Louis yesterday evening, says that Gen. LYON was repulsed in his attack on Boonville, and retreated to his boats. On his return to Jefferson City, at Rocheport, a masked battery opened on him and completely riddled the boats. They were in a sinking condition, and Gen. LYON and his entire force were compelled to surrender. Three hundred of the Federal troops are said to have been slain. We think this news is reliable, as letters have been received corroborating a portion of the above."