National Tribune.

"To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

ESTABLISHED 1877—NEW SERIES. WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1896. VOL. XVI—NO. 7—WHOLE NO. 798.

Library War Department

MEMOIRS of General William T. Sherman

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF

CAMPAIGNING AGAINST VICKSBURG

TRYING TO GAIN THE HIGHLANDS IN THE REAR.

The Thrilling Steele's Bayou Expedition.

RESCUE OF THE GUNBOATS FROM DESTRUCTION.

(COPYRIGHT.)

CHAPTER XIII.

VICKSBURG—JANUARY TO JULY, 1863.

THE CAMPAIGN of 1863, resulting in the capture of Vicksburg, was so important that its history has been well studied and well described in all the books treating of the civil war, more especially by Dr. Draper, in his "History of the Civil War in America," and in Badeau's "Military History of Gen. Grant." In the latter it is more fully and accurately given than in any other, and is well illustrated by maps and original documents. I now need only attempt to further illustrate Badeau's account by some additional details. When our expedition came out of the Arkansas River, Jan. 18, 1863, and rendezvoused at the river-bank, in front of the town of Napoleon, Ark., we were visited by Gen. Grant in person, who had come down from Memphis in a steamboat. Although at this time Maj.-Gen. J. A. McClernand was in command of the Army of the Mississippi, by virtue of a confidential order of the War Department, dated Oct. 21, 1862, which order bore the indorsement of President Lincoln, Gen. Grant still

EXERCISED A COMMAND OVER HIM,

by reason of his general command of the Department of the Tennessee. By an order (No. 210) of Dec. 18, 1862, from the War Department, received at Arkansas Post, the Western armies had been grouped into five *corps d'armee;* viz, the Thirteenth, Maj.-Gen. McClernand; the Fourteenth, Maj.-Gen. Geo. H. Thomas, in Middle Tennessee; the Fifteenth, Maj.-Gen. W. T. Sherman; the Sixteenth, Maj.-Gen. Hurlbut, then at or near Memphis; and the Seventeenth, Maj.-Gen. McPherson, also at and back of Memphis. Gen. Grant when at Napoleon, on the 18th of January, ordered McClernand with his own and my corps to return to Vicksburg, to disembark on the west bank, and to resume work on a canal across the peninsula, which had been begun by Gen. Thomas Williams the Summer before, the object being to turn the Mississippi River at that point, or at least to make a passage for our fleet of gunboats and transports across the peninsula, opposite Vicksburg. Gen. Grant then

GEN. HUGH EWING.

returned to Memphis, ordered to Lake Providence, about 60 miles above us, McPherson's Corps, the Seventeenth, and then came down again to give his personal supervision to the whole movement.

THOSE CANALS.

The Mississippi River was very high, and rising, and we began that system of canals on which we expended so much hard work fruitlessly: First, the canal at Young's Plantation, opposite Vicksburg; second, that at Lake Providence; and, third, at the Yazoo Pass, leading into the headwaters of the Yazoo River. Early in February the gunboats Indianola and Queen of the West ran the batteries of Vicksburg. The latter was afterward crippled in Red River, and was captured by the rebels; and the Indianola was butted and sunk about 40 miles below Vicksburg. We heard the booming of the guns, but did not know of her loss till some days after. During the months of January and February we were digging the canal and fighting off the water of the Mississippi, which continued to rise and threatened to drown us. We had no sure place of refuge except the narrow levee and such steamboats as remained abreast of our camps. My two divisions furnished alternately a detail of 500 men a day to work on the canal. So high was the water in the beginning of March that McClernand's Corps was moved to higher ground at Milliken's Bend, but I remained at Young's Plantation, laid off a due proportion of the levee for each subdivision of my command, and assigned other parts to such steamboats as lay at the levee. My own Headquarters were in Mrs. Grove's house, which had the water all around it, and could only be reached by a plank-walk from the levee, built on posts.

EXPEDITION TO STEELE'S BAYOU, DEER CREEK, ETC., IN CONNECTION WITH THE GUNBOAT FLEET, MARCH, 1863.

Gen. Frederick Steele commanded the First Division, and Gen. D. Stuart the Second; this latter division had been reinforced by Gen. Hugh Ewing's Brigade, which had arrived from West Virginia.

THE FIRST BAYOU EXPEDITION.

At the time of its date I received the following note from Gen. Grant:

MILLIKEN'S BEND, March 16, 1863.

Gen. SHERMAN.

DEAR SIR: I have just returned from a reconnoissance up Steele's Bayou, with the Admiral (Porter), and five of his gunboats. With some labor in cutting treetops out of the way, it will be navigable for any class of steamers.

I want you to have your pioneer corps, or one regiment of good men for such work, detailed and at the landing as soon as possible.

The party will want to take with them their rations, arms, and sufficient camp and garrison equipage for a few days. I will have a boat at any place you may designate as early as the men can be there. The 8th Mo. (being many of them boatmen) would be excellent men for this purpose.

As soon as you give directions for these men to be in readiness come up and see me, and I will explain fully. The tug that takes this is instructed to wait for you. A full supply of axes will be required.

Very respectfully,
U. S. GRANT, Major-General.

This letter was instantly (8 a. m.) sent to Col. Giles A. Smith, commanding the 8th Mo., with orders to prepare immediately. He returned it at 9:15, with an answer that the regiment was all ready. I went up to Milliken's Bend in the tug, and had a conference with the General, resulting in these orders:

HEADQ'RS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE, BEFORE VICKSBURG, March 16, 1863.

Maj.-Gen. W. T. SHERMAN, commanding Fifteenth Army Corps.

GENERAL: You will proceed as early as practicable up Steele's Bayou, and through Black Bayou to Deer Creek, and thence with the gunboats now there by any route they may take to get into the Yazoo River, for the purpose of determining the feasibility of getting an army through that route to the east bank of that river, and at a point from which they can act advantageously against Vicksburg.

Make such details from your army corps as may be required to clear out the channel of the various bayous through which transports would have to run, and to hold such points as in your judgment should be occupied.

I place at your dispossl to-day the steamers Diligent and Silver Wave, the only two suitable for the present navigation of this route. Others will be supplied you as fast as required, and they can be got.

I have given directions (and you may repeat them) that the party going on board the steamer Diligent push on until they reach Black Bayou, only stopping sufficiently long at any point before reaching there to remove such obstructions as prevent their own progress. Capt. Kossak, of the Engineers, will go with this party. The other boat load will commence their work in Steele's Bayou, and make the navigation as free as possible all the way through.

There is but little work to be done in Steele's Bayou, except for about five miles about midway of the bayou. In this portion many overhanging trees will have to be removed, and should be dragged out of the channel.

Very respectfully,
U. S. GRANT, Major-General.

On returning to my camp at Young's Point, I started these two boats up the Yazoo and Steele's Bayou, with the 8th Mo. and some pioneers, with axes, saws, and all the tools necessary. I gave orders for a part of Stuart's Division to proceed in the large boats up the Mississippi River to a point at Gwin's Plantation, where a bend of Steele's Bayou neared the main river; and the next day, with one or two staff officers and Orderlies, got a navy-tug, and hurried up to overtake Admiral Porter. About 60 miles up Steele's Bayou we came to the gunboat Price, Lieut. Woodworth, United States Navy, commanding, and then turned into Black Bayou, a narrow, crooked channel, obstructed by overhanging oaks, and filled with cypress and cottonwood trees. The gunboats had forced their way through,

PUSHING ASIDE TREES A FOOT IN DIAMETER.

In about four miles we overtook the gunboat fleet just as it was emerging into Deer Creek. Along Deer Creek the alluvium was higher, and there was a large cotton-plantation belonging to a Mr. Hill, who was absent, and the negroes were in charge of the place. Here I overtook Admiral Porter, and accompanied him a couple of miles up Deer Creek, which was much wider and more free of trees, with plantations on both sides at intervals. Admiral Porter thought he had passed the worst, and that he would be able to reach the Rolling Fork and Sunflower. He requested me to return and use all possible means to clear out Black Bayou. I returned to Hill's Plantation, which was soon reached by Maj. Coleman, with a part of the 8th Mo.; the bulk of the regiment and the pioneers had been distributed along the bayous, and set to work under the general supervision of Capt. Kossak. The Diligent and Silver Wave then returned to Gwin's Plantation and brought up Brig.-Gen. Giles A. Smith, with the 6th Mo., and part of the 116th Ill. Admiral Porter was then working up Deer Creek with his ironclads, but he had left me a tug, which enabled me to

CLEARING AWAY OBSTRUCTIONS.

reconnoiter the country, which was all under water except the narrow strip along Deer Creek. During the 19th I heard the heavy navy guns booming more frequently than seemed consistent with mere guerrilla operations; and that night I got a message from Porter, written on tissue-paper, brought me through the swamp by a negro, who had it concealed in a piece of tobacco.

The Admiral stated that he had met a force of infantry and artillery which

GAVE HIM GREAT TROUBLE

by killing the men who had to expose themselves outside the iron armor to shove off the bows of the boats, which had so little headway that they would not steer. He begged me to come to his rescue as quickly as possible. Giles A. Smith had only about 800 men with him, but I ordered him to start up Deer Creek at once, crossing to the east side by an old bridge at Hill's Plantation, which we had repaired for the purpose; to work his way up to the gunboat fleet, and to report to the Admiral that I would

GEN. J. M. TUTTLE.

came up with every man I could raise as soon as possible. I was almost alone at Hill's, but took a canoe, paddled down Black Bayou to the gunboat Price, and there, luckily, found the Silver Wave with a load of men just arrived from Gwin's Plantation. Taking some of the parties who were at work along the bayou into an empty coal-barge, we tugged it up by a navy-tug, followed by the Silver Wave, crashing through the trees, carrying away pilot-house, smoke-stacks, and everything above deck; but the Captain (McMillan, of Pittsburg,) was a brave fellow, and realized the necessity. The night was absolutely black, and we could only make two and a half of the four miles. We then disembarked, and marched through the canebrake, carrying lighted candles in our hands, till we got into the open cottonfields at Hill's Plantation, where we lay down for a few hours' rest. These men were a part of Giles A. Smith's Brigade, and part belonged to the brigade of T. Kilby Smith, the senior officer present being Lieut.-Col. Rice, 54th Ohio, an excellent young officer. We had no horses.

On Sunday morning, March 21, as soon as daylight appeared, we started, following the same route which Giles A. Smith had taken the day before; the battalion of the 13th U. S. Regulars, Maj. Chase, in the lead. We could hear Porter's guns, and knew that moments were precious. Being on foot myself, no man could complain, and we generally went at the double-quick, with occasional rests. The road lay along Deer Creek, passing several plantations; and occasionally, at the bends, it crossed the swamp, where the water came above my hips. The smaller drummer-boys had to carry their drums on their heads, and most of the men slung their cartridge-boxes around their necks. The soldiers generally were glad to have their general and field officers afoot, but we gave them a fair specimen of marching, accomplishing about 21 miles by noon. Of course, our speed was accelerated by the sounds of the navy guns, which became more and more distinct, though we could see nothing. At a plantation near some Indian mounds we met a detachment of the 8th Mo. that had been up to the fleet, and had been sent down as a picket to prevent any obstructions below. This picket reported that Admiral Porter had found Deer Creek badly obstructed—had turned back; that there was a rebel force beyond the fleet with some six-pounders, and nothing between us and the fleet. So I sat down on the door-sill of a cabin to rest, but had not been seated 10 minutes when, in the wood just ahead, not 300 yards off, I heard

QUICK AND RAPID FIRING OF MUSKETRY.

Jumping up, I ran up the road and found Lieut.-Col. Rice, who said the head of his column had struck a small force of rebels with a working gang of negroes, provided with axes, who on the first fire had broken and run back into the swamp. I ordered Rice to deploy his brigade, his left on the road, and extending as far into the swamp as the ground would permit, and then to sweep forward until he uncovered the gunboats. The movement was rapid and well executed, and we soon came to some large cottonfields, and could see our gunboats in Deer Creek, occasionally firing a heavy 8-inch gun across the cottonfield into the swamp behind. About that time Maj. Kirby, of the 8th Mo., galloped down the road on a horse he had picked up the night before and met me. He explained the situation of affairs, and offered me his horse. I got on bareback, and rode up the levee, the sailors coming out of their ironclads and

CHEERING MOST VOCIFEROUSLY

as I rode by, and as our men swept forward across the cottonfield in full view. I soon found Admiral Porter, who was on the deck of one of his ironclads, with a shield made of the section of a smoke-stack, and I doubt if he was ever more glad to meet a friend than he was to see me. He explained that he had almost reached the Rolling Fork, when the woods became full of sharpshooters, who, taking advantage of trees, stumps, and the levee, would shoot down every man that poked his nose outside the protection of their armor; so that he could not handle his clumsy boats in the narrow channel. The rebels had evidently dispatched a force from Haines's Bluff up the Sunflower to the Rolling Fork, had anticipated the movement of Admiral Porter's fleet, and had completely obstructed the channel of the upper part of Deer Creek by felling trees into it, so that further progress in

GEN. GILES A. SMITH.

that direction was simply impossible. It also happened that at the instant of my arrival a party of about 400 rebels, armed and supplied with axes, had passed around the fleet and had got below it, intending in like manner to block up the channel by the felling of trees, so as to cut off retreat. This was the force we had struck so opportunely at the time before described. I inquired of Admiral Porter what he pro-

(Continued on second page.)

THE GREAT MORGAN RAID.

The True Story of the Capture of the Terror of Three States.

RAIDER SURRENDERS.

Audacity, Extent and Purpose of the Dash Through Hostile Territory.

CREDIT TO THE CAPTOR.

Last Days of the Notorious Leader, and How He Was Killed.

BY THE CAPTOR HIMSELF, GEO. W. RUE, MAJOR, 9TH KY. CAV., HAMILTON, O.

(Continued from last week.)

I FORMED MY men in line across the road. Maj. Graham rapidly closed up the column, throwing down the intervening fences, so that a line-of-battle was soon formed and ready for action. I had previously ordered Lieut. Burton, 11th Ky. Cav., with 30 men, to annoy the rear of the enemy by following him on the main road, and for the further purpose of preventing him from retreating that way.

"The enemy was thus completely surrounded. Morgan at once dispatched a flag of truce, which met me in advance with the demand that I should surrender my force to him.

"I told the bearer of the flag to return at once to his command and notify him that I demanded the instant and unconditional surrender of his entire

THE ADVANCE.

force, or else I would forthwith open fire upon them. The man bearing the flag left with the demand, and in a few minutes Maj. Steele was brought to me by Capt. Neal, of the 9th Ky. Cav., who said Morgan had already surrendered to my command. Col. Hart Gibson, of Morgan's staff, then rode up and said that Morgan surrendered to my command.

"I then rode forward to Gen. Morgan, Gibson being with me. A few minutes after this someone said that the surrender had been made to one Capt. Burbick, and that Morgan claimed to have been paroled by him. Morgan simply stated the fact that he had surrendered, but

A REBEL CHARGE.

said nothing to me to whom the surrender had been made, the surrender having been made to me first by Maj. Steele and Maj. Gibson.

"I was then informed that Capt. Burbick was a militia officer and a prisoner in the hands of Morgan at the time the pretended surrender was made, and at the identical time when Morgan found himself intercepted by my command, and while he was hurrying Capt. Burbick along the road as a prisoner of war. I, therefore, treated this claim as absurd and held the prisoners until Gen. Shackelford came up, which was about an hour after the capture of Morgan, when I placed all at the disposal of Gen. Shackelford. The number of men captured was 384, rank and file, and about 400 horses. The arms and horses I turned over to Maj.-Gen. Brooks, of Wellsville, O.

"My entire command acted with the greatest promptness and alacrity. Maj. Graham, Lieut. Boynton and the other gallant officers and men who composed my command for the time being are worthy of all the praise that can be bestowed upon them.

"I would especially return my thanks to Capt. Pond, Adj't Pearce, Capt. Neal and the 20 private soldiers of the advance-guard, who, by their bravery, merited the position to which they were assigned. Lieut. Farr also deserves praise for the valiant efforts that he made to forward his artillery during the various changes of the command until he was placed in the rear at Hammondsville."

This was the close of the great Morgan raid, and caused general rejoicing throughout the United States. Gen.

THE BEARER OF THE FLAG OF TRUCE.

Shackelford was the senior commander. Maj. Rue was in command of his advance, mounted on all fresh horses, right out of the Government stables at Covington, Ky. His soldiers were all veterans, and belonged to the cavalry service, and Rue was a veteran of the Mexican war.

Rev. F. Senour, in his History of the Morgan Raid in Indiana and Ohio, says:

"It was a good providence that put Maj. Rue in the front; he had fresh men and horses, true courage, and a great anxiety to capture Morgan; besides, he had confronted him in almost every raid he had made through Kentucky, and was perfectly familiar with all his foxy devices. He was the man for the occasion. His military career had been short, but of such a character as will not soon be forgotten.

"Maj. Rue returned from Mexico with very poor health, and spent most of his time in farming, until he felt that our country and her great free institutions were in peril, when he raised a battalion and joined the 9th Ky. Cav. Since that time he has made for himself a record of which he need not be ashamed, and of which his country is proud.

"Maj. Rue is a Christian man, and a member of the Presbyterian Church. Such men enter the service of their country from deep conviction of duty, and, like Oliver Cromwell, they fear not the face of any foe, because their trust is in the God of Battles.

"When John Morgan was captured he was in Columbiana County, on the line between Wayne and Madison Townships, and on the public road between the farms of John Crawford and David Burbick, and about nine miles from the Pennsylvania line."

Maj. Rue states that his interview with Gen. Morgan after his capture was pleasant. Among other things Morgan said to Rue: 'You have beaten me, and I give up the chase.'

"Maj. Rue introduced Gen. Shackelford and Col. Wolford to Morgan when they came up. The interview was quite amusing to the spectators. Wolford's countenance indicated great joy on beholding Morgan as a prisoner.

"'I am glad to see you on this occasion,' said he to Morgan. 'You and the Colonel have met before,' said Gen. Shackelford. A laugh followed this remark, as Wolford was once a prisoner of Morgan's 'Not as friends,' said Morgan, at the same time he was shaking hands with Shackelford and Wolford."

There has been a great deal said about the surrender of Morgan, which I wish to straighten out, and I think that my report to Gen. Burnside should be sufficient. That pretended surrender to Capt. Burbick was all a farce. I talked with Burbick himself after the capture, and asked him to give me the straight story.

He said to me that he had been captured that morning, or a short time before, by Morgan, and that he was a prisoner in his hands at the time of the surrender. I asked Burbick when this

THE PURSUIT.

surrender took place? He said, "Just at the time that your command was

CHARGING AROUND HIS RIGHT FLANK

to the front." I had treated the Burbick surrender with contempt from the start, and paid no attention to it. It would have been better for the honor of Morgan had it never been accomplished. It was a small dodge, and he tried to pass it on Shackelford and on to Burnside.

Gov. Todd telegraphed to me to come by Columbus and talk with him about the matter, which I did.

The Governor went with me to Cincinnati to see Burnside. I was present

Published by permission of D. Appleton & Co., publishers of the Personal Memoirs of Gen. W. T. Sherman.