

VICKSBURG.

Important Official Despatch of Admiral Porter.

Immense Destruction of Rebel War Material at Haines' Bluff.

The Whole of the Yazoo River in Our Possession.

The Brilliant Success of the Army and Navy.

Additional Details of the Battle of Baker's Creek.

Telegram from Admiral Porter.

WASHINGTON, May 25, 1863. The following was received in Washington at ten minutes past eleven this morning:—

CAIRO, Ill., May 25, 1863. Hon. GIBBON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy:—

The following despatch has just been received from Admiral Porter.

A. M. PENROCK, Fleet Captain of the Mississippi Squadron.

FLAGSHIP BLACKHAWK, HAINES' BLUFF, YAZOO RIVER, MAY 25, 1863. Hon. GIBBON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy:—

On the morning of the 15th I came over to the Yazoo to be ready to co-operate with General Grant. Leaving two of the iron-clads at Red river, one at Grand Gulf, one at Carthage, three at Warrenton and two in the Yazoo, left me a small force. Still I disposed of them to the best advantage.

On the 18th, at meridian, firing was heard in the rear of Vicksburg, which assured me that General Grant was approaching the city. The cannonading was kept up furiously for some time, when, by the aid of glasses, I discerned a company of our artillery advancing, taking position and driving the rebels before them. I immediately saw that General Sherman's division had come on to the left of Snyder's Bluff, and that the rebels at that place had been cut off from joining the forces in the city. I dispatched the DeKalb, Lieutenant Commander Walker, Choctaw, Lieutenant Commander Ramsey, Romeo, Petrel and Forest Rose, all under command of Lieutenant Commander Brees, up the Yazoo to open communication in that way with General Grant and Sherman.

This I succeeded in doing, and in three hours received letters from Generals Grant, Sherman and Steele informing me of this vast success, and asking me to send up provisions, which was at once done.

In the meantime Lieutenant Commander Walker, in the DeKalb, pushed on to Haines' Bluff, which the enemy had commenced evacuating the day before, and a party remained behind in the hopes of destroying or taking away a large amount of ammunition on hand.

When they saw the gunboats they ran out and left everything in good order—guns, forts, tents and equipage of all kinds, which fell into our hands.

As soon as the capture of Haines' Bluff and fourteen forts was reported to me I shoved up the gunboats from below Vicksburg to fire at the hill batteries, which fire was kept up for two or three hours. At midnight they moved up to the town and opened on it for about an hour, and continued at intervals during the night to annoy the garrison.

On the 19th I placed six mortars in position, with orders to fire night and day as rapidly as they could.

The works at Haines' Bluff are very formidable. There are fourteen of the heaviest kind of mounted eight and ten inch and seven and a half inch rifled guns, with ammunition enough to last a long siege. As the gun carriages might again fall into the hands of the enemy, I had them burned, blew up the magazine and destroyed the works generally. I also burned up the encampments, which were permanently and remarkably well constructed, looking as if the rebels intended to stay for some time.

These works and encampments covered many acres of ground, and the fortifications and the rifle pits proper of Haines' Bluff extend about a mile and a quarter. Such a network of defences I never saw.

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In the meantime General Grant has closely invested Vicksburg, and has possession of the best commanding points. In a very short time a general assault will take place, when I hope to announce that Vicksburg has fallen, after a series of the most brilliant successes that ever attended an army.

There has never been a case during the war where the rebels have been so successfully beaten at all points, and the patience and endurance shown by our army and navy for so many months are about being rewarded.

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low Vicksburg, the Mississippi will be open its entire length. D. D. PORTER, Rear Admiral commanding the Mississippi squadron.

DETAILS OF THE BATTLES.

The Advance on Raymond.

When I last wrote Gen. McPherson was on the extreme right, with Osterhaus' division advanced to Rocky Spring. General McPherson at that time lay, with his army camped to the westward, near Bentonsville, on a road running nearly parallel to that occupied by McPherson. Gen. Sherman was on the road between Grand Gulf and Gen. McPherson. On Thursday, the 17th inst., Gen. McPherson moved his corps to Rocky Spring also, and his camp was occupied next day by Gen. Sherman. On Saturday McPherson again moved to the eastward, to the village of Ulio, crossing the road occupied by McPherson, and leaving the latter on his left. On Sunday morning McPherson marched to Five Mile creek, and encamped on the south bank at noon, on account of broken bridges, which were repaired the same day. Monday morning Sherman's corps came up, passed McPherson's, and encamped that night at the village of Auburn, about ten miles south of Edwards' Station, on the railroad from Vicksburg to Jackson. As soon as it passed McPherson's corps followed a few miles and then took a road going obliquely to the left, leading to Haines' Ferry, on the Big Black river. Thus, on Monday evening General McPherson was at Haines' Ferry; General Sherman was at Auburn, six or eight miles to the northeast, and General Osterhaus was about eight miles still further to the northeast, a few miles north of Ulio. The whole force, an immense one of both arms, Sherman's corps being in front, with those of McPherson and Osterhaus forming the right and left wings. It will be observed also that a change of front had been effected. From Grand Gulf the army marched eastward, but by these last movements, swinging on the left as the enemy's pickets were driven back, the army had not appeared on our line of march. On Tuesday morning General McPherson's advance drove in the enemy's pickets near Haines' Ferry, and broke skirmishing ensued for an hour or two, with little loss to either side. By noon the rebels had disappeared from his front, and soon wounded and were killed by the total Union force. General Sherman's division in motion early in the morning and came upon the enemy at the crossing of Fourteen Mile creek, four miles from Haines' Ferry. The rebels were driven into the thick woods that skirt the stream, and was unable, owing to the nature of the ground, to make a charge or clear the rebels from their position. Late in the afternoon the rebels were driven back to their camp, and there a few shells into the bushy undergrowth striking the stream, which gave some considerable damage. They were thrown out and advanced to the creek, driving the enemy slowly. A brigade was thrown to the right and left banks, when the rebel force, mainly cavalry, with their arms fixed to the ground, were driven back to the creek, and a crossing was constructed in two hours, and the rebels were passing before noon.

But the principal operations of the line of march was in the front of General McPherson. General Logan's division came upon a body of rebel troops, estimated at about ten thousand, posted on Tondren's creek, two miles south-west of this, at the mouth of the Yazoo. The rebels were in a skirmishing line, and a general engagement was soon brought on. The enemy (as in front of General Sherman) was almost entirely broken up by the bayonet charge. The stream, behind which their forces were posted. Their artillery was on an eminence that commanded our approach. Our troops had to cross an open field, and the rebels were in a position to enfilade our ranks. General Logan's division, commanded by General J. E. Smith and General Dennis (both Illinois men), were in the thickest of the fight, and suffered most severely. The rebels, on the other hand, were in a position to enfilade our ranks, and the principal one taking the road to Jackson. The federal line in killed, wounded and missing will not be far from three hundred. The rebel loss is much greater. They have already on the 17th twenty-five of their dead left on the field. Our own killed will, it is thought, fall below that number. The principal officers killed were: General Logan, instantly killed; Colonel Ed. McKee, of the Thirty-first Illinois, in body wounded in the foot, and started for General Logan's headquarters; Major George W. Lamb, of the Seventh Missouri, was mortally killed; Captain Stevens, of Company H, and Lieutenant Sayres, of Company C, Twenty-fifth Illinois, were also killed. At the writing it is impossible to give a full list of killed, or do more than convey a general account of the result of the battle.

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The rebels were a year constructing them, and all were rendered useless in an hour. As soon as I got through with the destruction of the magazines and other works I started Lieutenant Commander Walker up the Yazoo river with sufficient force to destroy all the enemy's property in that direction, with orders to return with all despatch, and only to proceed as far as Yazoo City, where the rebels have a navy yard and storehouses.

In the meantime General Grant has closely invested Vicksburg, and has possession of the best commanding points. In a very short time a general assault will take place, when I hope to announce that Vicksburg has fallen, after a series of the most brilliant successes that ever attended an army.

There has never been a case during the war where the rebels have been so successfully beaten at all points, and the patience and endurance shown by our army and navy for so many months are about being rewarded.

It is a mere question of a few hours, and then, with the exception of Fort Hudson, which will fol-

low Vicksburg, the Mississippi will be open its entire length. D. D. PORTER, Rear Admiral commanding the Mississippi squadron.

On the morning of the 15th I came over to the Yazoo to be ready to co-operate with General Grant. Leaving two of the iron-clads at Red river, one at Grand Gulf, one at Carthage, three at Warrenton and two in the Yazoo, left me a small force. Still I disposed of them to the best advantage.

On the 18th, at meridian, firing was heard in the rear of Vicksburg, which assured me that General Grant was approaching the city. The cannonading was kept up furiously for some time, when, by the aid of glasses, I discerned a company of our artillery advancing, taking position and driving the rebels before them. I immediately saw that General Sherman's division had come on to the left of Snyder's Bluff, and that the rebels at that place had been cut off from joining the forces in the city. I dispatched the DeKalb, Lieutenant Commander Walker, Choctaw, Lieutenant Commander Ramsey, Romeo, Petrel and Forest Rose, all under command of Lieutenant Commander Brees, up the Yazoo to open communication in that way with General Grant and Sherman.

This I succeeded in doing, and in three hours received letters from Generals Grant, Sherman and Steele informing me of this vast success, and asking me to send up provisions, which was at once done.

In the meantime Lieutenant Commander Walker, in the DeKalb, pushed on to Haines' Bluff, which the enemy had commenced evacuating the day before, and a party remained behind in the hopes of destroying or taking away a large amount of ammunition on hand.

When they saw the gunboats they ran out and left everything in good order—guns, forts, tents and equipage of all kinds, which fell into our hands.

As soon as the capture of Haines' Bluff and fourteen forts was reported to me I shoved up the gunboats from below Vicksburg to fire at the hill batteries, which fire was kept up for two or three hours. At midnight they moved up to the town and opened on it for about an hour, and continued at intervals during the night to annoy the garrison.

On the 19th I placed six mortars in position, with orders to fire night and day as rapidly as they could.

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