

GRANT.

THE BATTLE FIELD OF FRIDAY.

The Military Situation South of Petersburg—Scene of Grant's Operations on the Boydton and White Oak Roads.

THE FIGHTING ON FRIDAY.

Dispatches from the President and Secretary Stanton.

OUR LEFT DRIVEN BACK.

The Troops Turn and Drive the Rebels, and Capture the White Oak Road.

CAPTURE OF FOUR FLAGS.

The Combination Against Richmond.

Details of Thursday's Operations on the Left.

Very Little Fighting on that Day, and Our Lines Steadily Advancing.

Lee Commanding the Rebel Forces in Person.

Wilcox's, Wise's, Bushrod Johnson's, Heth's and Pickett's Rebel Divisions on the Front.

Sheridan Started Around the Enemy's Flank.

CASUALTIES, &c., &c., &c.

THE OFFICIAL REPORTS.

Secretary Stanton to General Dix.

Major General Dix, New York.

The following telegram, in relation to the military operations now going on at the front, was received this morning.

There has been much hard fighting this morning. The enemy drove our left from near Dabney's House back towards the Boydton plank road.

Later he telegraphed again as follows:— Our troops after being driven back to the Boydton plank road turned and drove the enemy in turn, and took the White Oak road, which we now have.

This gives us the ground occupied by the enemy this morning. I will send you a rebel flag captured by our troops in driving the enemy back. There have been four flags captured to-day.

Judging by the two captures from which General Grant telegraphs, I infer that he moved his headquarters about one mile since he sent the first of the two despatches. A. LINCOLN.

THE HERALD REPORTS.

Mr. S. T. Bulkeley's Despatch.

It is necessary to issue a heavy rain storm is so have General Meade issue his orders for a movement of the Army of the Potomac.

Since the engagement between General Griffin's division of the Fifth corps, and a portion of Anderson's rebel corps, on the Quaker road yesterday afternoon, very little fighting has occurred up to the hour of writing.

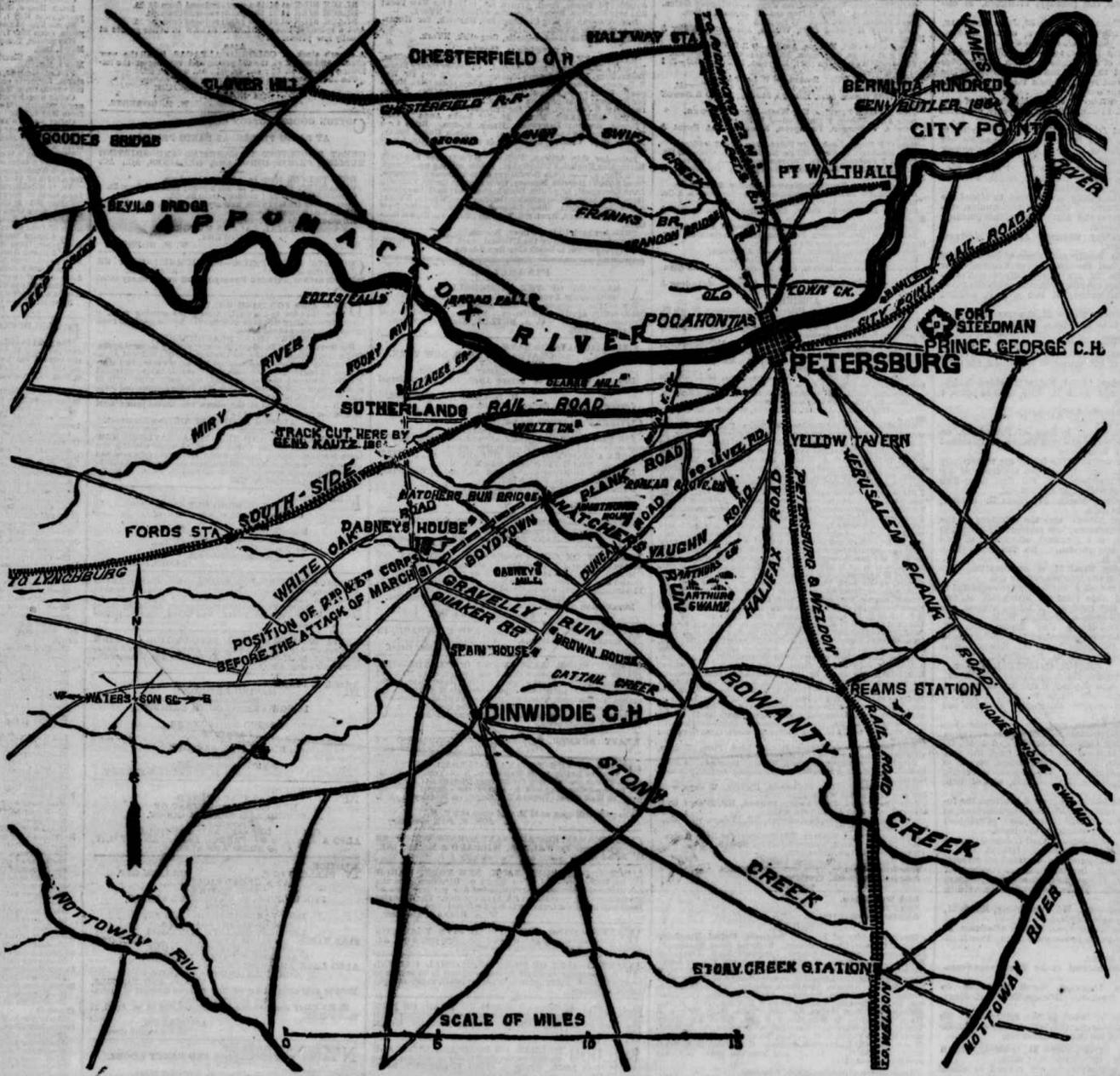
This is about the situation of matters to-night, and so far as is working well. The movement is not intended, in my opinion, to attack the enemy in his intrenchments, but merely to occupy his attention while Sheridan is at work.

Mr. Wm. J. Starke's Despatch.

A heavy rain storm set in during last night and has continued all day. The sky is clear, however, as I sit down to write, and the morning looks fair to be pleasant.

Mr. L. A. Hendrich's Despatch.

Mr. L. A. Hendrich's Despatch.



who fell back on our approach almost without firing a shot.

The country over which the line passed is the worst imaginable. The ground is naturally swampy and full of quackmuds, while decayed trees and a thick growth of undergrowth, added to the slushiness of the enemy, were calculated to render it impossible in the estimation of one unacquainted with the indomitable energy of our brave soldiers and their accomplished leader. The heavy rain, too, had made the country one vast lake, through which the line waded, driving the enemy pell mell before them.

Several lines of works had been constructed by the enemy, but they did not attempt to hold them, but steadily fell back as we advanced.

By noon our line was advanced a mile and a half, when it was in plain sight of the enemy's main line of works. As under the circumstances it was impossible to bring up our artillery, a halt was ordered and our troops commenced throwing up works and turning those constructed by the enemy.

During the advance which was made under a pelting shower of rain, but little fighting was done, and the casualties are very few. General Humphreys, who is regarded as one of the most accomplished engineer officers in this or any other army, considers the advance under the circumstances as one of the most remarkable in the annals of war.

Our line at present extends from Hatcher's run on the right to the Boydton plank road on the left, connecting with the Fifth corps, whose advance this morning was simultaneous with ours.

Sheridan's cavalry is on the right of the Fifth, and is now moving forward at an early hour this morning, and our close proximity to the enemy will bring on an engagement at an early hour. The country now in our front is high and rolling, and is extremely well adapted to the passage of troops.

Heavy details are at work building corduroy roads for the passage of artillery and trains.

In my despatch recounting the operations of this corps on the 28th—the day of the attack on the Ninth—you caused me to say that a color was captured by the One Hundred and Twenty-first New York. It should have read the One Hundred and Twenty-fourth New York. I make this correction out of justice to the latter regiment, which behaved with great gallantry on the occasion.

I forward a list of casualties for the day and yesterday.

Killed—Lieut. S. Patterson, Co. I, 7th Michigan.

Wounded—John Walker, Co. H, 40th New York; David Taylor, Co. G, Second New York heavy artillery; I. Troy, Co. B, Second New York heavy artillery.

Mr. L. A. Hendrich's Despatch.

o'clock our skirmish line advanced, and, contrary to expectation, did not meet with the resistance anticipated. The enemy left his line of outer works fronting us, and fell back to a second, believed to be a stronger one. It is difficult to account for this abandonment of their works—a long and strong infantry parapet, with good positions for artillery—especially in view of a subsequent charge made to drive us back.

This change was handsomely repaid. It was made about three o'clock. Batteries B, Fourth United States, and D and G, Fifth United States, rendered most efficient service in repulsing this assault.

Now occupy the dividing ridge between Gravelly run and Hatcher's run. Our advance is about three-fourths of a mile beyond the position occupied last evening. We are nearly a mile north of the junction of the Quaker road and Boydton plank road. General Griffin is on the right, General Crawford in the center, and General Ayres on the left, whose troops now command the White Oak road.

GENERAL LEE IS OBSERVED IN OUR FRONT. Prisoners and deserters agree in the statement that General Lee is in command of the enemy confronting us. It is said that preparations were made for a general assault this morning, but that, after riding along his line, General Lee countermanded the order, and directed, in case of our advance, falling back to the position they now occupy.

THE FORCE OPPOSITE US. The most reliable information leaves no doubt of the enemy having been considerably reinforced to-day. Anderson's, Wilcox's, Wise's and Bushrod Johnson's commands are said to have been in our front yesterday and to-day. Hatcher's and Heth's divisions are said to have joined them. Pickett's troops, it is stated, have just come from Richmond, where they had been sent to oppose the expected advance of Sheridan upon the rebel capital.

WHY THE ENEMY REFUSES TO FIGHT. I have alluded to the mysterious falling back of the enemy and inability to account for it. I have just been told that the strongest reason for it is that the severe drafts that have recently been made on the rebel army here to oppose Sherman, and the Union advance on Lynchburg, compel them to set upon the defensive. In addition to this it is alleged that the enemy is a good deal bewildered by the rapid and multifarious movements of Sheridan on our left.

GENERAL PRATTEN OF THE HOVINGERS. Altogether our present position is a most gratifying and encouraging one. We have now a continuous line established to City Point. On the right of the line, in the direction of City Point, our forces last night and to-day, by reports reaching us, have kept the enemy busy in their front, and rendered dangerous, if not impossible, any weakening of the enemy's force. A few days will determine the result in our favor or against us. Our troops have no fear of the final result. The chain is tightening about the enemy. It is most curious or strange that Petersburg and Richmond, or wherever.

From the official report to-day I find that the aggregate losses of the First division, including killed, wounded and missing, are 400. The following is the official report:—

Table with columns: Killed, Wounded, Missing, Total. Rows for First, Second, and Third brigades.

A good many of the missing will turn up. Quite a number have to-day reported. It is believed the number will dwindle down to fifty, and possibly much less. Our captures are one hundred and fifty-seven, besides fourteen rebel wounded. Our losses to-day have been only twenty.

six wounded, as will be seen from the list I send with this. We have had also killed:—

This morning Private Peter Wick, of General Griffin's staff, with a dog, buried for our own and the enemy's dog left on the field after yesterday's fight. He buried one hundred and twenty-five rebel dogs, including thirteen officers. In one place within my brief compass were found twenty-nine dead bodies, and three officers among them. The enemy got a large number of dead, according to the statements of prisoners subsequently captured. Taking their killed and mangled skeletons of their loss, it is probable that the casualties of the enemy yesterday sum up fully twelve hundred.

A REBEL OFFICER CAPTURED BY US. Not knowing that we had taken the Boydton plank road and a rebel officer (Lieutenant Foulke, Forty-eighth Virginia regiment) his liberty. He came into our lines by mistake. Judging from conversation with him, I do not conclude that he is suffering from great grief or account of his temporary withdrawal from the rebel service. From him I learn that Lieutenant Warwick, of General Wise's staff, was killed yesterday. He admits the enemy's loss yesterday as over a thousand killed and wounded, which shows that my estimated loss given above is very close to the truth.

A VOLUNTEER NEGRO SOLDIER. A negro servant, Charles Hyatt, by name, of an officer of the One Hundred and Eighty-fifth New York regiment, is among the many heroes of yesterday's fight. He deserves special mention, as his gallant conduct was voluntary. When the regiment went into action he managed to get a musket, and took position in the front rank, and fought with as stout a heart and efficient result as the bravest. He would not give up fighting until he had been wounded five times. His final wound cost him a leg.

REBELS GENERAL CHARGE. This gallant officer, whose brigade sustained the brunt of yesterday's fight, still remains in command of his brigade, notwithstanding his wound. He did not relinquish his command, although advised and urged to go to the hospital.

THE WEATHER. A rain storm set in last evening, and, with occasional intervals, it has rained all day. It was no common rain, but a regular deluge. Our supply trains have been nearly all day coming a very few miles, on account of the bad condition of the roads. The sky has cleared up to-night.

THE SANITARY AND CHEMICAL COMMISSIONERS. We never have a battle without accomplishment of valuable services rendered by the Sanitary or Chemical Commission. Their agents have been unusually active thus far. At the hospital, Mr. Chase, of the Christian Commission, has performed a most appreciative act of charity by copying supplies of hot tea and coffee and beef tea. He has a mounted mechanical contrivance, by which he keeps a large and continuous supply of these invigorating liquids on hand, and the most salutary and benevolent results follow this free and generous disposal of them.

Mr. Theodore C. Willson's Despatch.

After a march of over four hundred miles, General Sheridan entered the lines of the Army of the Potomac on Monday, the 27th.

The succeeding day—Tuesday, the 28th—was devoted to resting his command and preparing it for another expedition.

THE CAVALRY ORGANIZATION. By a new organization the cavalry is divided into two wings. One of these is commanded by Major General Crook, and the other by Brevet Major General C. R. The whole is commanded by Major General Sheridan.

Sheridan's PARADES TO-NIGHT. At six o'clock on the morning of the 29th the cavalry left camp, moving by the rear line of Grant's works, and partially under cover of woods, from the Jerusalem plank road to Reams' station.

By half-past nine we reached Rowanty creek, and found the bridge over said stream totally destroyed. By means of this a few bridges had to be constructed, which caused a delay of several hours, greatly retarding our progress. Again, the roads were not in as good condition as we expected to find them.

When Crook's command got across we pushed on for Dinwiddie Court House, when near the place we had a brief skirmish, the first rebel independent battalions attempting to check our advance. Colonel Knowles, in command of the Twenty-first Pennsylvania, charged a portion of his command and drove the rebels off.

Mr. Charles H. Hammond's Despatch.

HEADQUARTERS, BRIGADE ARMY CORPS, 1st MAJ. PENNSYLVANIA, March 30, 1865.

THE ENEMY STILL IN FORCE IN FRONT OF THE SIXTH CORPS. The movement on the left has not yet been actually participated in by this corps, although we are hourly expecting to do so. Our movements must of necessity depend almost entirely on those of the enemy. Up to the time I am writing this we have not learned anything which would lead us to suppose that their line on our front has been weakened. For information of this kind we are dependent on our signal officers, and they have not yet noticed the withdrawal of any large force of rebels towards the extreme right of their lines. From the deserters who came in last night no information of any moment was obtained, and they were not aware that Lee had recently made any great changes in the disposition of his troops. The operations of our forces on the extreme left will be fully reported by the large number of correspondents you have on there, and consequently I need not write any of the thousand and one rumors circulating in our camps in relation to matters out there.

ACTIVITY OF THE REBELS. This great activity prevails in the rebel camps is apparent from the signal rockets they sent up last night, and the heavy firing kept up by their batteries on the right of our lines. Along the Bermuda Hundred front it appeared to be particularly brisk. The line held by this corps was never more quiet than it has been during the last twenty-four hours. This state of suspense has been hardy for General Wright's veterans to bear, and more trying to their patience, than would be an active participation in movements on the left.

GENERAL WRIGHT'S STAFF. The following is a complete roster of staff officers of headquarters of the Sixth corps:—

Lieutenant Colonel M. F. McManis, Assistant Adjutant General (absent).

General Meade will exchange a number of prisoners to-day. The General's flagship New York returned to Varina landing yesterday afternoon, with upwards of five hundred prisoners of war aboard, who will enter the rebel lines at Bonaventure's landing, on the Upper James.

I am advised that the recruiting of rebel troops for the rebel army still continues to be a slow business. All talk about a brigade of them having been reviewed to Richmond a week ago (the 29th inst.) is simply base. The negroes often desert the confederacy, but volunteer in its armies for the purpose of fighting to enslave themselves.

A new and somewhat novel practice has sprung up among the rebels, which demonstrates that honest work does not always exist even among them. A rebel soldier is taken to the Union lines and pilot him through for the sum of six hundred rebel dollars, deposited in Richmond. If a citizen, he is led down to a point near our lines, and robbed of his watch, gold and clothes, if the latter are worth taking, and then sent out of the rebel lines to shift as best he may. Several instances of this style of thing are cited.

Brevet Major C. E. Walbridge, so long the efficient Quartermaster at Bermuda Hundred, has been ordered to report to Major General Terry, to be assigned to duty by Brigadier General George S. Dodge. The latter, some months since, of Major Walbridge, in sitting out the last expedition against Fort Fisher, at Bermuda Hundred, was arduous in the extreme, and earned for his labors.

Brevet Major General Ferrero, commanding on the Bermuda line of defenses, under Major General Hartwell, met with a severe accident day before yesterday, falling from his horse, which had stepped suddenly into a post hole or pitfall. The General was violently pitched from the animal, breaking his arm and dislocating the wrist. The accident will incapacitate the General for any time to come.

GENERAL WRIGHT'S HEADQUARTERS, March 31—J. A. H.

EVERYTHING CONTINUES QUIET ALONG THESE LINES. A fresh rain storm continues to prevail.

Our Special Washington Despatch.

WASHINGTON, April 1, 1865.

No later information from General Grant has been made public here than that contained in Mr. Stanton's bulletin of this morning. It is probable, however, that further news may be received by the War Department and made public during the night.

It is evident that, although the rebels are fighting vigorously for the possession of the Southside and Danville Railroads, they are unable successfully to withstand the heavy force now operating against them; and it is fully believed here that General Sheridan, with his cavalry, has already occupied Berkleyville station, and is engaged in the destruction of the roads.

THE CASUALTIES.

Partial List of Casualties in the Fifth Corps at Gravelly Run, March 30, 1865.

WOUNDED.

- List of names and ranks of wounded soldiers, including Marvin Warle, J. Griffith, Chas. F. Wilkey, etc.

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