

The War Fifty Years Ago

First Encounter of the Army of the Potomac With the Defenders of the Peninsula--Battle of Lee's Mills, Near Yorktown--Gallantry of the Vermont Brigade. Many Green Mountain Heroes--Fighting Begins at New Orleans--Captain D. D. Porter's Mortar Flotilla Opens Fire Upon the Confederate Forts--Farragut's Fleet Moves Up the River--Gallant Exploit Cutting Away Chain Obstructions Under Fire.

By Captain GEORGE L. KILMER, Late U. S. V.

ON April 16, 1862, the first important action of the Army of the Potomac in the peninsula campaign was fought on the Yorktown line. This was a spirited attempt by the Federal troops to secure a foothold at the center of the Confederate position covering the approaches to Yorktown.

The peninsula is bounded on the north by York river, which is commanded by Yorktown and Gloucester, on opposite sides. Both places were strongly fortified to obstruct the entrance of the river by Federal gunboats. The Confederate batteries mounted fifty-six guns, many of which were rifled hundred pounders and could have sunk the entire fleet. The James river, which bounds the peninsula on the south, was in full possession of the Confederates. The line of defense at Yorktown was selected with great judgment. Taking advantage of the highest ground on the peninsula at that place and projecting a line of fortifications and forts bearing a little southwest to a point connecting with the head of Warwick river, the engineers had continued the works down that stream to the James river.

Battle Near Lee's Mills.

Warwick river was a barrier between the Federals and the Confederate works which General J. B. Magruder had laid out and nearly completed before the Federals arrived in force. Midway of this line Magruder had placed a dam and protected it by rifle pits along the west bank and two redoubts mounting three cannon.

On the 15th General McClellan learned that the Confederates were strengthening these works and ordered the commander on this line to take action and prevent it. General W. F. Smith's division was nearest, and Smith gave the task to the Vermont brigade. Colonel R. B. Ayres stationed three batteries of his artillery brigade in position to shell the Confederate works.

While a battalion of the Third Vermont waded the river, Colonel Hyde was directed to send two companies of the Third, to be supported by two more companies, across to assault and drive the Confederates from the nearest rifle pits. If they succeeded in carrying these they were to announce the fact by cheers and waving a white handkerchief, when more troops were to be sent to support them and to attack the earthworks beyond. Colonel Hyde took for the attack Companies D, E and K. Company D, Captain Harrington, and E, Captain Pizore, formed in line near the river bank.

Dash of the Vermont Battalion. About 3 o'clock on the 16th the guns of Mott's, Wheeler's and Kennedy's batteries opened a vigorous cannonade from the crest of the slope. Magruder's artillery responded, but his fire soon slackened under the storm of shot and shell, and the moment arrived for the Vermonters to advance.

The men pushed across the stream in good shape, though they were under a sharp musketry fire from the start and though the bottom was in many places covered with a network of felled trees, over which many tripped and fell, wetting both guns and ammunition. Plundering along in spite of all obstacles, however, the two companies reached the opposite bank and dashed straight for the rifle pits, driving out of them a force about equal in number to their own. They were soon joined by Companies E and K.

Corporal Hutchinson of Company D, who had been selected to signal the occupancy of the works by waving a

handkerchief attached to his bayonet, had fallen, mortally wounded, but the men shouted lustily back across the stream, handkerchiefs were waved by several hands, and officers and men looked with anxiety for the promised supports. Their situation was a precarious one. The enemy was swiftly rallying and with no lack of troops. His first counter attack was made by the Fifteenth North Carolina, which came down on the double quick from its camp over the crest and charged the rifle pits. It was met by the men



Review of Reviews company. GENERAL J. B. MAGRUDER, U. S. A., DISTINGUISHED IN THE DEFENSE OF YORKTOWN.

of the Third Vermont with a fire by which its commander, Colonel McKinney, was killed and some forty of his men killed and wounded and retired in extreme disorder.

Rally of the Confederates.

No supports followed the detachment of the Third Vermont. Meanwhile the Confederates gathered in heavy force. By the exertions of General Howell Cobb and Colonel Anderson the demoralized regiments were rallied and others brought up, till no less than seven regiments hemmed in the little band of Vermonters. Captain Pizore sent back two successive messengers to Colonel Hyde, asking either for reinforcements or for permission to retreat.

The rattle of musketry and roar of artillery was too continuous at this time to permit orders to be heard for any distance, but those who did hear saw that a retreat was ordered and in five minutes the line had scattered back across the creek through a shower of musket balls. Of the 15 brave men who crossed the stream about 100 came back unharmed bearing with them as many as the rest of their wounded comrades. The had carried a line of rifle pits and held their position in front of the Confederate brigades for forty minutes till they were ordered back.

A general cannonade was then opened by the Federal batteries, and four companies of the Fourth Vermont dashed across to attack a one gun redoubt near the stream, while four companies of the Sixth Vermont assaulted the Confederate rifle pits below the dam. Colonel Ayres' batteries fired over the heads of the Vermonters and then dashed into the stream with fixed bayonets. But an outburst of Confederate musketry and artillery fire met the assaults, and General Smith recalled the battalion of the Fourth to save it from destruction. The men of the Sixth, however, waded the stream, holding their muskets and cartridge boxes above their heads. The excited Confederates beyond fired over the heads of this column, and only a few rushed to the breastworks. It was madness to try to hold on, and orders came to retreat. In the advance about forty men fell and an equal number on the retreat.

Smith's division lost 164 killed and wounded and Magruder's Confederate command sixty-five in all. General Smith said in his report, "There were more individual acts of heroism performed than I ever heard of in the great battle."

Opening the Mississippi.

Farragut's naval expedition fitted out during the winter of 1862 to attack New Orleans came as an afterthought in Washington. The first plan adopted for prosecuting the war on the water was to blockade every important harbor on the southern coast. But the fleet of new Federal ironclads built on the upper Mississippi in the fall of 1861 was looking for more sea room, which could only be had by seeking it downstream. Now, if ships could plow one way they could the other, and in spite of the woeful unpreparedness of those times the contract was given out on the spur of the moment to open up the lower Mississippi and cut the Confederacy in two.

The outlook in the winter of 1862 didn't worry the Confederates blockaded in the Crescent City. "Nothing that walks can cross the swamps," was the cheerful cry of the populace on the levees. When Lincoln was ap

pealed to by Captain D. D. Porter, U. S. N., who had been on blockade duty in the gulf, to send ships and soldiers to New Orleans he said: "This should have been done before. The Mississippi is the backbone of the Confederacy."

The plan put down on paper was to send at once a Federal fleet mounting 200 guns, a powerful mortar flotilla and an army of 20,000 soldiers to raze the forts at the mouth of the Mississippi, capture New Orleans and fortify the river bluffs as far up as Vicksburg. At the same time the ironclad gunboats hemmed in around St. Louis and Cairo and never yet under fire would fight their way down the river and unite forces around Vicksburg.

Captain Porter created out of raw materials almost the mortar fleet, a peculiar adjunct of the navy designed to fight against land forts. The required vessels were not yet owned by the government when the expedition was planned. They were to number twenty, each carrying a thirteen inch mortar and two thirty-two pounder cannon.

The southerners appreciated the "backbone" importance of the Mississippi for the purpose long before President Lincoln coined the term. In April, 1861, while the business of seizing Federal forts on southern soil was very brisk, they had hoisted the bonny blue flag over two old citadels standing on opposite sides of the river below New Orleans. Fort Jackson, the first above the mouth, was a star shaped fortress, built of stone and mounting seventy-four guns, heavy and light. There were strong bomb proofs and casemates and a citadel of heavy masonry, which, in anticipation of some raiding Farragut, they stored with ammunition and supplies for a long siege. Fort Philip, across the river from Fort Jackson, was built of stone and brick and mounted fifty-two guns.

Confederate Defenses.

The best channel up the river from the far near the west bank under the guns of Fort Jackson. This passageway the Confederates blocked with a row of old hulks, anchored and bound together with chain cables. Several tugs and steamers fitted out for battle during the summer and fall of 1861 patrolled the river above the line of hulks, and farther upstream, in actual waiting while Farragut was scouring northern harbors for his ships, by the new ironclad Louisiana mounting twelve guns, and the ponderous whitebacked iron ram *Manassas*. Several converted steamers cut-ton clad, with heavy bales around their engines and machinery, completed the river defense fleet. Still another ironclad, the *Mississippi* was on the ways had nearly finished.

Farragut peached the army rendezvous in person Feb. 20, 1862, but not until March 18 were the war steamers assigned to him on the scene. The fleet which finally went into action consisted of the first class screw sloops *Hartford*, *Brooklyn*, *Richmond* and *Pennacola*, the second class sloops *Onega*, *Varuna* and *Iroquois*, the screw gunboats *Cayuga*, *Hazen*, *Katahdin*, *Kennebec*, *Kineo*, *Pinola*, *Seton*, *Winona* and *Wishnieton*, the sailing sloops *Portsmouth* and the side-wheeler *Mississippi*.

The Mortars Begin to Shoot.

On the 16th of April the fleet was well into the channel, within three miles of Fort Jackson. The mortar boats went into hiding on both banks of the river, curtained or disguised by the branches of trees. The range to Fort Jackson was one mile and a half and to Fort Philip two miles.

Porter's mortars opened fire upon the Confederate forts guarding the channel April 18. The third night of the bombardment the Federal vessels *Pinola* and *Hazen* steamed up the river to sever the line of hulks and chains stretched across the stream under the guns of the fort. They were discovered by the enemy and fired upon.

The *Pinola* finally dropped astern, but the *Hazen*, under Lieutenant C. H. B. Caldwell, threw a grape shot aboard a



CAPTAIN D. D. PORTER, U. S. N., COMMANDER OF THE MORTAR FLOTILLA AT NEW ORLEANS.

Confederate schooner in the line, which caught on the rail. The rail gave way, and the steamer, her engines moving slowly, grappled on the next hulk. The strong current soon caused both vessels to swing around under the guns of the forts. The *Pinola* ran to the assistance of her consort, and as soon as his ship was free again Lieutenant Caldwell steamed on through the opening he had made. Passing far enough beyond the obstructions to give the *Hazen* good headway, he turned downstream with a full head on, struck the chains holding the hulks together and tore them asunder by the weight of his ship.

Church Directories

Christian Church.
Elder H. H. Dawson, Pastor.
Bible school every Tuesday 9:45 a. m. D. J. Brooks, superintendent.
Y. P. S. C. E. every Wednesday 8:30 p. m.
Prayer meeting every Thursday evening 8:15 p. m.
Preaching every second and fourth Lord's day, morning and evening, 11 a. m., 7:30 p. m.
All cordially invited to attend all meetings of the church. A. J. Smith is welcome by the pastor.

Methodist Episcopal Church.
Services each Sunday as follows:
Sunday school at 9:45 a. m.
Prayer service at 11 a. m.
Junior League at 3 p. m.
Epworth League at 7:30 p. m.
Prayer service at 8:00 p. m.
Prayer meeting each Thursday at 8:00 p. m.
You are cordially invited to attend at these services.
L. C. POWELL, Pastor.

Evangelical Church.
G. W. Weidener, Pastor.
Oregon Sunday school at 10 a. m. R. C. Kunkel, superintendent.
Prayer meeting Thursday at 8 p. m.
Preaching, first and third Sundays at 11 a. m., second and fourth Sundays at 8 p. m.
Nickels Grove Sunday school at 10 a. m. Jas. Ramsay, superintendent.
Y. P. S. C. E. at 7:30 p. m.
Prayer meeting Wednesday at 8 p. m.
Preaching, first and third Sundays at 8 p. m., second and fourth Sundays at 11 a. m.
Benton Sunday school at 10 a. m. Preaching second Sunday at 11 a. m., fourth Sunday at 8 o'clock p. m.
Any one is cordially welcomed to any of these services.

German M. E. Church.
Rev. W. L. Meyer, Pastor.
Sunday school at 9:30 a. m.
Preaching every Sunday at 10:30 a. m.
Preaching every Sunday at the Nodaw, church at 7:30 p. m.
Prayer Meeting Wednesday afternoon 4:30.
Everybody cordially invited to attend all services.

M. E. Church, Forest City.
Rev. C. H. Werner, Pastor.
1st Saturday evening, Sunday morning and evening at Tarkio Chapel.
2nd Sunday morning at 11 a. m. at Forest City; Sunday evening at Kinsey school house at 8 o'clock.
3rd Sunday morning at Tarkio Chapel at 11 a. m. and evening at Forest City at 8 p. m.
4th Sunday at Kinsey at 11 a. m. and at Forest City at 8 p. m.
Sunday school at 9:30 a. m., J. M. Lense, superintendent.
Junior League at 2:30 p. m. Mrs. Werner, superintendent.
Epworth League at 7 p. m. Miss Mary Buelck, President.
Prayer meeting Wednesday at 8 p. m.
Women's Home Mission Society Friday a 2:30 p. m. Mrs. Scott, President.
Choir practice Thursday at 8 p. m.
Sunday school at Kinsey school house at 11 a. m. S. Smith, Superintendent.
Epworth League at Kinsey school house Sunday at 7 p. m.
Sunday school at Tarkio Chapel at 9:45 a. m. E. E. Hoyd, Superintendent.
Prayer meeting at Tarkio Chapel Sunday and Wednesday at 7:30 p. m.

Presbyterian Church.
Sabbath School at 9:30 every Sabbath.
Y. P. S. C. E. at 6:30 p. m.
Prayer Service Thursday evening at 7:30 p. m.
Preaching every Sabbath at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.
Everybody cordially invited to attend the above services.
If the pastor can help you, please call for his services.

Presbyterian Church, New Point.
Rev. T. D. Roberts, Pastor.
Preaching the first and third Sundays of each month. Sabbath school each Sunday at 10 a. m.

Presbyterian Church, Woodville.
Rev. T. D. Roberts, Pastor.
Preaching the second and fourth Sundays of each month. Sabbath school each Sunday at 10 a. m.

German Christian Church, Bluff City.
W. H. Hardman, Pastor.
Preaching on the second and fourth Lord's day at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.
Bible school each Lord's day at 10 a. m.

Christian Church, New Point.
Elder Fred D. Augustine, Pastor.
Sunday school, 10 a. m.
Preaching on the second and fourth Sunday in each month, 11 a. m., and evening.
Y. P. S. C. E. every Monday evening, 8:30 p. m.
All are cordially invited to attend.

Baptist Church.
Wm. Mitchell, Pastor.
Services at the First Baptist church the first Sunday in each month a 11 a. m. and 8 p. m.
Sunday school at 3 p. m. each Sunday.
Y. P. S. C. E. at 7 p. m.
All are invited.

Christian Church, Forest City.
Elder Fred D. Augustine, Pastor.
Sunday school at 10 a. m.
Preaching on the first and third Sundays of each month, morning and evening.
All cordially invited to attend these services.

Notice of Final Settlement.
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned Administrator of the estate of John J. Ingraham, deceased, will make final settlement of his accounts with said estate as such Administrator, at the next Term of the Probate Court of Holt County, Missouri, to be held in said County, on the 15th day of May, A. D. 1912.
GEORGE W. CUMMINS, Public Administrator.
First Insertion March 26th, 1912.

Notice of Final Settlement.
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned Administrator of the estate of Jesse Noland, deceased, will make final settlement of his accounts with said estate as such Administrator, at the next Term of the Probate Court of Holt County, Missouri, to be held in said County, on the 15th day of May, A. D. 1912.
GEORGE W. CUMMINS, Public Administrator.
First Insertion March 26th, 1912.

—Anyone having cattle and horses to pasture during the coming season, address O. E. Bush, Napier, Mo., for terms. This is a tame and wild grass pasture with water and shade.

For \$1.50 You Can Get The Sentinel and Your Choice of Any One the Following Publications for one Year: Twice-a-Week St. Louis Globe Democrat or Republic, Kansas City Weekly Star or Journal, Toledo Weekly Blade, St. Louis Monthly Journal of Agriculture, McCall's Magazine, Missouri Ruralist.

—Paints, Oils, Japalac, Campell's Stains, Brushes, etc., at Phillips' Drug Store.

—Miss Mayme Greene has closed a most successful term of school at Ross Grove and has returned home for the summer.

—Skeptics may scoff, theologians may guess, scientists may speculate, but what say the Scriptures—where are the Dead? Hear Gossin at the opera house, Sunday, 3 p. m.

—Four persons are known to have been killed and some fifty seriously injured, eight probably fatal, as the result of a tornado which swept several counties of Central Kansas and Oklahoma, Saturday last, April 29.

—Tom and Mina Curry returned Thursday from Corpus Christi, Tex., where they have spent the past four months in hopes of benefiting Mr. Curry's health. His many friends will be glad to learn that he is much improved.

—It was so very cold during July, 1856, that harvest hands worked in the fields with their coats on. Will Morris says he remembers it very well. Although only 12 years old, he helped in the field, and he had to wear his coat.

—If you want anything in the concrete line you should see the Oregon Pressed Stone Co.

—Otto, the 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Stallard, of Forest City, so badly cut his eye with a pen-knife, Sunday last, April 21, that it was necessary to take him to St. Joseph for treatment. It is feared he may lose the sight.

—R. C. Benton closed a deal last Monday by which Harry S. Hanna and wife sold their nice little 4 acre home, just north of the Kunkel mill site, to Mrs. Mary M. Foley, now of Maitland, for \$1,100. Mrs. Foley is to take possession October 1, 1912.

—William Turnham and wife have returned from St. Joseph, where they spent the winter with their daughter, Mrs. Charles Narans. Glen came up with them to attend the post meeting, which meets at the home of Fred Mark tomorrow, Saturday.

—Rev. Henry Crampton, who was pastor of the M. E. church here from 1866 to 1903, now stationed at Jamesport, Mo., was here Tuesday and preached the funeral sermon of Mrs. G. W. Poynter. Though his coming was a sad one, his many friends were indeed glad to see him.

FRIDAY and SATURDAY SPECIAL

2 pounds of English Walnuts for 25 cents. KREEK & HASNESS.

—Uncle Sam has decided that he wants no more women acting as rural mail carriers and has issued orders to the postmasters over the country to allow no more women to take the examination for this position. Holt county has no regular women carriers and but few substitute carriers.

—The dredge boat that was used in the construction of the Little Tarkio drainage canal, has been sold by C. M. Knight to the Seltz-Peterman Engineering Co., of St. Joseph. It will take about two weeks to dismantle the boat, after which it will be shipped to Shelby county, where the company has a drainage contract. —Craig Leader.

—No wonder time is represented as haggard and worn; a watch keeps time, the chorister beats time; the train runs on time sometimes; the foreman lays out time; people threaten to do things if they get time; soldiers mark time; criminals serve time; few spare time; everybody now and then tries to kill time; and perhaps your subscription is behind time.

—See L. I. Moore, Joe H. Murray, or Matt Elier for liberal contract for raising Sweet Corn for Oregon Canning Co. —291

—Mrs. Etta Meyer, of Santa Monica, Cal., after a delightful and extended visit here with her cousins, Mrs. C. W. Lukens, and Mr. C. B. Rayhill, left for her home Tuesday, going to Kansas City for a visit there. It was her first winter out of California in 25 years, and the snow here, and her getting a snow bath by being thrown out of a sleigh, will no doubt be incidents in her life that linger in her mind for some time. She is a niece of the late Uncle Jacob Rayhill.

—Only the immediate members of the family assembled at the home of C. J. Hunt and wife, Wednesday evening of this week, April 24, and witnessed the marriage of their daughter, Miss Eva, to Mr. Virgie H. Grinstead, a young man of Salem, Neb. The ceremony was performed at 9 o'clock by the Rev. L. C. Powell, of the M. E. church, and they immediately left, taking the evening B. & M. train for their new home, where the groom had prepared a cozy little cottage ready for them to go to house-keeping, and where two hearts shall dwell as one. THE SENTINEL sends its sincere congratulations.