

THE NEW YORK HERALD.

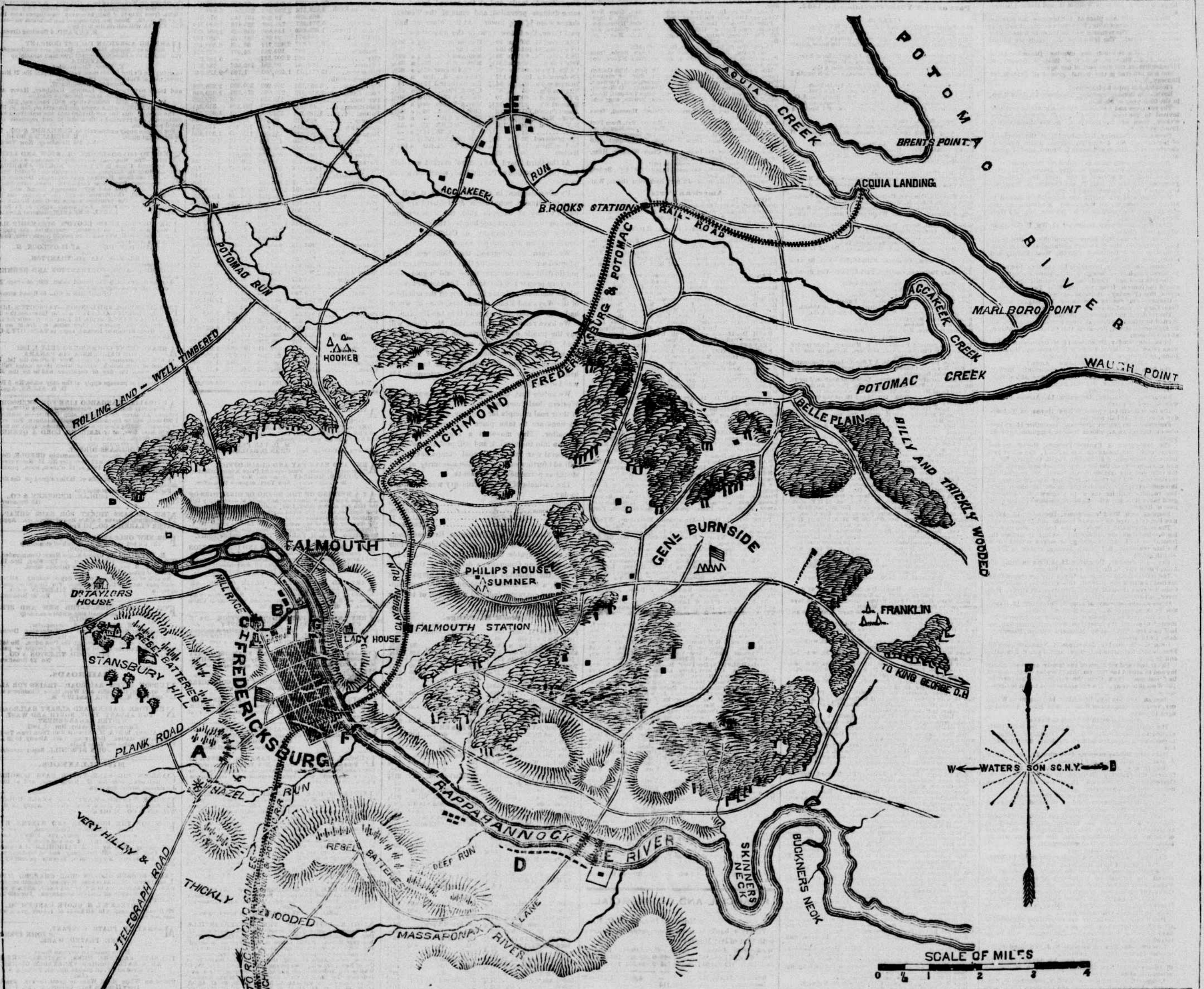
WHOLE NO. 9590.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1862.

PRICE THREE CENTS.

THE BATTLE AT FREDERICKSBURG.

Topographical Map of the Seat of War on the Rappahannock, from a Recent Survey---The Position of the Rebel Batteries on the Hills South of Fredericksburg.



NOTES OF REFERENCE.

A—Rebel battery. B—Long swivel guns, eight-inch rifles. The rest are field pieces (about twelve-pounders). C—Rebel rifle pits. D—Paper mill. E—Rebel rifle pits. F—Bridges over which Franklin crossed. G—Bridges over which Hooker crossed. H—Monument to Washington's mother.

THE RAPPAHANNOCK.

The Very Latest from Burnside's Army.

NO BATTLE YESTERDAY

More or Less Artillery Firing on Both Sides.

Seven Hundred Rebels Taken Prisoners.

The Wounded Removed from Fredericksburg.

Threatened Attack on Franklin's Forces.

Additional Accounts of Saturday's Battle.

THE BODY OF GENERAL BAYARD.

THE KILLED AND WOUNDED.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Dec. 15--11 A.M.

There was considerable firing yesterday between the advanced troops of the two armies.

At one time the rebels showed a disposition to move upon General Franklin's forces.

Occasionally the rebels would throw a few shells among our troops, just to remind us that they were still there. With these exceptions everything was quiet.

There is some skirmishing this morning, with considerable artillery firing.

The body of General Bayard left for Washington to-day. He was to have been married next Wednesday.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Dec. 15--P. M.

The weather to-day has been clear and warm, with a strong southerly wind. The roads are in very good condition.

The position of the two armies remains nearly the same.

There was not much artillery firing this afternoon by either party. Those shots the rebels did fire were thrown into the city.

The enemy, who are in plain view, are not idle, but busily employed in strengthening their position.

Most of the wounded to-day were removed from the city to this side of the river, as on the removal of the battle the rebel guns would likely cause its destruction.

Over seven hundred prisoners have been taken since our army crossed the river.

THE BATTLE OF SATURDAY.

FREDERICKSBURG, Va. Dec. 14, 1862.

The battle of yesterday was one of the most severely and desperately contested of the whole war. It raged fiercely throughout the entire day, and even after darkness had shrouded the field it was kept up with a determination on both sides, which seemed as though it was likely to last until one army or the other had become so exhausted as to be unable to maintain the fight any longer.

THE RIGHT AND CENTER UNDER SUMNER.

The fighting on our immediate front and right and beyond Fredericksburg was carried on by General Sumner's grand division, comprising the Second and Ninth army corps. Shortly after nine o'clock the Second corps, General Couch, which constituted the right of the attacking force, moved out from the upper part of the city between the plank road and western outskirts, with strong detachments of skirmishers. The enemy yielded gradually, though they contested our progress with great stubbornness, and for some time the rattle of musketry was incessant.

ARTILLERY ENGAGEMENT.

At the same time that this movement was commenced the batteries of the division stationed on the bluffs across the river opened with shell to aid the exit of the rebels and cover our advance. The rebel infantry having fallen back to their first line of intrenchments and rifle pits, their batteries opened with a vigorous and rapid fire upon our columns, which now had come to a temporary halt, awaiting the result of the artillery fighting. For some time our artillery on the bluffs kept up a heavy fire upon the rebel batteries with such success that the batteries on Taylor's Hill, nearly opposite Falmouth, and commanding our right flank, were finally silenced. During this time the artillery of the rebels was almost entirely devoted to the shelling of our advanced troops. Occasionally they would send a shot towards our batteries, but they fell short or lodged in the town beyond.

HANCOCK IN THE ADVANCE.

Hancock's division had the advance, supported by the other divisions of the corps; while the Ninth corps, Gen. Wilcox, remained under arms in town, in readiness to obey the signal to advance to the assistance and support of their comrades wherever they could effectually do so. Soon after the whole corps deployed into line of battle, with Hancock's division on the right, and in this order moved forward to attack and storm the rebel right batteries, while from all the enemy's works a terrible shower of shell, grape and shrapnel tore through their bleeding ranks, notwithstanding which they steadily pushed on to the rifle pits, within a short distance of the first line of intrenchments. From the former they drove the rebels, making prisoners of some, while the remainder retreated behind the earthworks. This was accomplished after the most heroic and long continued efforts, and a gallant and murderous fire. Human nature was unable to hold out against the terrible fire which they now encountered, and they finally retired, but in good

order, carrying away with them their wounded comrades. They fell back to their original line of pickets, thus holding the ground which they first occupied, and which they held until this morning, when they were re-taken by General Sumner's command.

FRANKLIN ON THE LEFT--REBELS JOIN US.

Just previous to the advance of Couch's corps, being firing and a dense fog on the left indicated the fact that Franklin, with his grand division, was advancing upon and had already engaged the enemy's right flank. To open communication with him, therefore, Gen. Wilcox detached his division under Gen. Burns and sent it to the left by the edge of the river, with instructions to advance under cover of the river bank until he could place himself in close proximity to Gen. Franklin's right. General Burns accordingly moved his division forward, crossed Hazel run and took position with his left resting on Deep run, to the opposite bank of which General Franklin's right extended. From this position he was enabled to support, if necessary, any demonstration having for its field of operations the space of ground between Deep run and Couch's corps, and though the division did not take part in the day's engagement, it rendered valuable assistance otherwise.

GEN. STURGES' DIVISION SHOWS COURAGE--GEN. WENDELL.

About noon Gen. Sturges was ordered to the support of Gen. Couch. So, forming his division with Gen. Ferrero's brigade in the advance, he moved obliquely with out on the left bank of Gen. Couch, with the intention of attacking the batteries which had been occupying Couch's front from the right corner of the rebel position. He opened the attack with General Ferrero's brigade, which deployed into line of battle parallel to the enemy's works, with General Nagle's brigade forming in the rear, and with in easy supporting distance. General Ferrero then advanced, pouring in terrible volumes of musketry, and driving the rebels back. To retard this movement the rebels opened a raking fire upon his left flank, upon discovering which General Sturges ordered Nagle's brigade to advance by the left flank, and forming into line of battle to attack the enemy's battery on the left. The movement was accordingly attempted, but, in consequence of ravines which it was impracticable to leave in their rear, General Nagle was unable to carry out the order, and he then fell back to the direct support of General Ferrero. Couch's corps was falling back while this was transpiring, and by the time General Nagle had resumed his original position, was nearly on the field, leaving Sturges alone in the advance, and upon

his command the enemy now concentrated almost their entire force, and the fight now became one of the most desperate character.

THE CHARGE--THE HILL CAPTURED.

Despite the storm of missiles from the numerous rebel works, Gen. Ferrero continued to advance, supported now also by Lightner's battery, which was disabled in fifteen minutes after coming into action, when its place was relieved by another battery. At last, by a dashing charge, the brigade carried the crest of the hill, and approached within eighty paces of the enemy's intrenchments. Their success, however, was not of long continuance, as the tremendous fire from the rebel batteries soon rendered it necessary for them to retire, which they did when the order to do so had been given for the third time. It was now dark and the division fell back to its original position, after being six hours under fire. Gen. Sturges' division may be said to have borne the brunt of the fighting on the part of the Ninth corps, and behaved most splendidly throughout the whole affair. When Sturges was most warmly engaged, the third division under General Getty, advanced to his support executing a movement to his left similar to that which he was making in relation to General Couch. After occupying for some time the position first indicated by the order from General Wilcox, the division was formed for an attack on the right rebel battery, which had been occupying the ranks of General Sturges; and to the accomplishment of this particular object Colonel Hawkins' brigade, with Edwards' and the Fifth Massachusetts battery, was particularly assigned, while the second brigade, under Colonel Martin, formed in the rear as a reserve support.

THE ONSET OF HAWKINS' BRIGADE.

The order having been given to charge those batteries, Colonel Hawkins' brigade dashed forward, and, in ascending the slope, were compelled to cross an old canal and a deep ditch. Passing these, they found themselves on a level piece of ground, on reaching which darkness had overtaken them. Notwithstanding the obscurity of the night they maintained themselves against the rebel battery until they were ordered to fall back. A straggling, scattering fire on both sides was maintained until about eight o'clock, when both parties ceased for the night.

WHAT FRANKLIN DID.

On the left, which extended for some three miles below the city, General Franklin's grand division were actively engaged in smothering the efforts of the day's portion of this division crossed on Thursday evening

and the remainder crossed on Friday. About half past nine o'clock the order was given to advance, and Thursday pushed forward cautiously. The skirmishers met in a corn field, and the rebels immediately opened with artillery in the field. The enemy were making an effort to turn our left flank, when our artillery on the left of Franklin's position was speedily wheeled into position and opened upon the enemy. The commanding was for a time very severe on both sides, while the sharpshooters were at work in a very lively manner in front. Our artillery on the other side of the river also opened upon them, and they were soon convinced of the uselessness of their efforts.

A GENERAL ADVANCE ORDERED.

About twelve o'clock there was an order for a general advance about the whole line. The enemy occupied a line of elevated land mostly wooded, but in some places cleared and extended in a semi-circular form, near the river below, around to Fredericksburg above, giving him an enfilading fire on the whole field, and making a line of battle at least six miles in extent. The rebel batteries were on the crest of the rising ground, well supported by infantry. General Sumner's corps were at this time advancing the river to support the movement on the left. The batteries on both sides now blazed away with fearful fury. Doubleday on the left flank, close to the river, advanced his lines gradually, moving with but little opposition. At one o'clock the division of General Meade and Gibbons advanced, under cover of our artillery. They went forward in splendid style, with colors flying. They soon became actively engaged in the work of the day. General Sumner's corps were at this time, their artillery was pointed on the crest as mentioned in the previous paragraph, and a number of batteries of howitzer advanced to the woods, and a number of prisoners, hundred or more, were captured by them. The fire of artillery and musketry was incessant at this time, though from the woods on the Pennsylvania reserves, throwing nearly the whole of that division into confusion and disorder. This emboldened the rebels, and they continued to advance, meeting with not much opposition from those troops. Their officers tried to rally them, but without much success. Gen. Jackson, commanding one of the brigades, was killed by a musket ball, which struck him in the head, while endeavoring to rally his men. His body was left upon the field, together with that of his Adjutant, Capt. Swearingen. This unfortunate

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