



# THIS WAS THE CIVIL WAR

**WAR SPIRIT**—The shots that toppled the Stars and Stripes from the ramparts of Fort Sumter signaled the uprising of a war spirit in the North greater than was ever seen. President Lincoln proclaimed that rebellion had broken out in the land and called for 75,000 soldiers to put it down. Gov. John A. Andrew of Massachusetts has set his militia to drilling in early January and by the middle of April, 1861, he had four regiments ready to move. This drawing shows the 6th Massachusetts Regiment marching past the State House at Boston on April 17, 1861, as they prepared to leave for Washington and the war.

(UPI Telephoto)

## The North Springs Into Action

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The shot that toppled the Stars and Stripes from the ramparts of Ft. Sumter signaled the uprising of a war spirit in the North greater than was ever seen. Dormant almost to the point of indifference through the five months of suspense between the election of President Lincoln and the firing on Sumter, northern public opinion exploded with the news of the bombardment of the Charleston, S. C., fort. Sumter had snowballed into a symbol of the Union far above its military value to either the North or the South and the North seized the opportunity to release its emotions.

### Rebellion Breaks Out

Maj. Robert Anderson and his powder-stained garrison had not yet started for New York after 34 hours of bombardment to become the darlings of the Union when Lincoln proclaimed that rebellion had broken out in the land and called for 75,000 soldiers for three months service to put it down.

Lincoln and his cabinet spent Sunday, April 14, 1861, the day that Anderson lowered the Sumter flag, drafting the proclamation. The morning newspapers of April 15.

The President called on all loyal citizens "to redress the wrongs already long enough endured." He called the roll of seceding states and said that they represented "combinations too powerful to be suppressed" by ordinary governmental means.

Each loyal state was to furnish a quota—New York 17 regiments, Pennsylvania 16 and so on down the list, each regiment to be 780 men. Five states—Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri—rejected the call. Maryland and Delaware made conditional answers.

Lincoln set a deadline. "I hereby command the persons composing the aforesaid combinations to disperse and retire peaceably to their abodes within 20 days." That inflamed the South and cheered the North.

Lincoln was acting under the constitutional mandate that the President must enforce the laws. He appended a paragraph calling Congress into special session on July 4, 1861. Meantime he would act on his own under emergency powers.

What happened when the proclamation reached the North has been called "the uprising of the people."

Crowds flocked into the streets and to mass meetings, bands played patriotic airs on street corners and in parades. Only a few militia companies existed in the North and they were mostly ceremonial and social organizations. They responded in dress uniforms better suited to ballrooms than to battlefields. New companies formed faster than Army officers could muster them into the federal service.

Far from the end of a telegraph wire, Gov. Samuel J. Wood of Iowa was working in his cornfield when a courier rode in with the proclamation and told him that the President wanted him to raise a regiment. Kirkwood wondered if the state could raise a whole regiment. In a few days he had 10 and was appealing to Washington for arms.

Crowds marched on pro-secessionist newspaper offices in New York and forced them to fly the Union flag.

In Pittsburgh, hangman's nooses were draped from lamp-posts with placards reading, "Death to traitors."

Callers hastened to the White House that Sunday evening to renew their pledges of allegiance and offer their services. Chief among them was Stephen A. Douglas, Lincoln's long-time political opponent. Douglas pledged his support on the spot, prepared a statement for the press to go with the proclamation and took off on a western tour to arouse Democrats to the side of war. This was Douglas' last bit for his country. In a month and a half he was dead.

**Little Planning**

But for all the enthusiasm, there was little planning, little realization of what was ahead, few arms and a dangerous scarcity of equipment.

Gov. John A. Andrew of Massachusetts had seen farther ahead than most. He had set his militia to drilling in early January. April 16 found four regiments—his quota was two—maneuvering on the Boston Common. The 6th Massachusetts, 800 strong, started for Washington first and by April 19 was marching through Baltimore.

Secessionists were strong in this third city of the country and they took over from the authorities for nearly a week. The 6th was attacked as it

marched from one railroad station to another. The militia men fired back. Four of them were killed and a dozen civilians in the mob died. But the regiment arrived in Washington at 5 p.m. the same day, carrying its dead and wounded on litters. The day before, five companies of Pennsylvania militia had arrived in the capital but they had only 34 muskets among them and no ammunition. That with some District militia made up the Washington "garrison."

The Baltimore secessionists cut the railroad bridges north of the city and Washington was isolated with hostile Marylanders west, north and east.

Virginia, after hesitating for months, voted to secede April 17 and that completed the ring of enemies around the capital. The Virginia ordinance of secession was to be voted on May 23 but Lincoln's call for troops not only had jarred Virginia out of the Union but also made ratification certain. The state tumbled into the Confederacy without further ceremony.

Virginia had been planning too, and on April 18 her troops marched on the U. S. arsenal at Harper's Ferry. The federal garrison of 45 was tipped off and had time to destroy much of the munitions before it fled, but the Virginians saved enough for a good start towards arming themselves.

**Blockade Proclaimed**

Farthest reaching of any move in the first busy week of war came April 19 when President Lincoln proclaimed a blockade of all Confederate ports. The blockade was unenforceable at the moment for the Union's small Navy was scattered around the world, but in time this early move would slowly strangle the Confederacy.

On April 21 Virginia troops seized the Norfolk, Va., navy yard, a storehouse of cannon, machine shops and powder. The federal troops succeeded in destroying some of the war material, but great amounts fell into the hands of the Confederates.

This was action at long last. The North settled to its tasks—tasks at which the South had been busy for months.

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