

THIS WAS THE CIVIL WAR

Unionists Threaten Richmond

By MERTON T. AKERS
UPI Correspondent

I know not what to expect when our many failures are to be remembered, yet I try to make a successful resistance.

Confederate President Jefferson Davis was writing to Varina, his wife, who was in Raleigh, N. C.

This was on May 13, 1862. The day before he had ridden down the peninsula to see Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, who commanded the Confederate army which lay between Union Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan's host of more than 100,000 troops and Richmond, Va., the C.S.A. capital.

McClellan was marching up the peninsula, a neck of land between the James and York rivers which runs southeast from the capital to Chesapeake Bay.

Yorktown, where General Washington had closed out the Revolution, had fallen to McClellan. So had Williamsburg, an earlier capital of Virginia, after a battle. Walking wounded from that fight still crammed the Richmond hospitals and overflowed into drawing rooms. Stragglers slept in streets, in doorways, anywhere, much the same as their Union counterparts had in Washington after the battle of Bull Run (Manassas).

Mrs. Davis had left Richmond on May 10.

Reception Interrupted

The night before, one of her receptions in the Confederate White House had been interrupted by a messenger with news that Federal gunboats were coming up the James river. (Actually the gunboats were not on the way—yet.)

Davis told her she must leave Richmond immediately with the children.

"Always averse to flight, I entreated him to grant a little delay, but he was firm," Mrs. Davis wrote.

Many other Richmond residents preceded and followed Mrs. Davis. Prices for baggage wagons doubled, then tripled under the heavy demand.

Only a few days earlier the President had been baptized privately in the Episcopal church. Davis had come from Baptist stock but Mrs. Davis urged him to join her church. He was baptized with Col. Josiah Gorgas, Confederate chief of ordnance, at the Executive Mansion and confirmed at St. Paul's church.

The Richmond Examiner found out about it and chided the President for taking time out for baptism while Richmond was threatened.

On May 11, Norfolk, Va., with its naval base which the Confederates had seized at the

start of the war and its big store of guns and munitions, was abandoned to the Union army and its garrison drawn back toward Richmond.

President Lincoln was at Fortress Monroe, across the Bay, with Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton and Secretary of Treasury Salmon P. Chase when Norfolk fell.

"... you can imagine his delight when we told him Norfolk was ours..." Chase wrote. "Stanton soon came up, and was equally delighted. He fairly hugged General (John E.) Wool (Fortress Monroe commandant)."

Loss of Norfolk doomed the Merrimac (Virginia), the ironclad which had fought the Monitor to a standoff only two months before. She drew too much water to go up the James in defense of Richmond. That same day her crew ran her aground, set her afire and went up river to man the land batteries at Drewry's Bluff, seven miles below Richmond.

End of Vessel

That was the end of the vessel the South had depended on to break the Federal blockade.

The Monitor, the Galena and three other ironclads steamed up the James and engaged the Confederate batteries at Drewry's Bluff on May 15.

John B. Jones, diary-writing clerk in the Richmond war department, was depressed.

"The guns are heard distinctly in the city and yet there is no consternation manifested by the people. If the enemy pass the obstructions, the city will be, it is true, very much at their mercy. They may shell us out of it, and this may occur any hour. South of the city the enemy have no forces, and we can find refuge there. I suppose the government would go to Lynchburg."

Despite the fact that the Confederates had been able to mount only five guns, the fire of the Union ironclads was ineffective because their guns could not be elevated sufficiently to reach the Confederate artillery on the high bluffs which were manned by the Merrimac crew.

After four hours of firing the gunboats withdrew and Jones felt better.

"Joyful tidings," he wrote, "the gunboats have been repulsed;... we breathe freely."

The gunboats lost 13 killed and 14 wounded. The Confederates reported "several" killed.

Threat Remains

But the threat of McClellan's army remained; there was no agreement among Davis, Johnston and Gen. Robert E. Lee, the President's military adviser, on a plan to turn him back.

Johnston's plan all along had been to mass before Richmond all the army the C.S.A. could muster and fight McClellan there. Lee felt that Johnston should fight delaying actions all along the peninsula and try to draw McClellan into a trap.

Davis had overruled Johnston in favor of Lee in a conference in Richmond earlier. Johnston had taken the setback gracefully enough.

"The belief that events on the Peninsula would soon compel the Confederate government to adopt my method of opposing the Federal army, reconciled me somewhat to the necessity of obeying the President's order," Johnston wrote.

Events bore him out. McClellan kept the pressure on. Johnston pulled back his army in stages. By May 17, his lines were only seven miles south of Richmond, touching at

some points the earthworks erected in 1861 only three miles from the capital.

Davis tried again to find out what Johnston intended to do. He sent Col. C. W. C. Lee, the general's son, with a carefully written letter.

"As on all former occasions," Davis wrote, "my design is to suggest, not to direct, recognizing the impossibility of anyone to decide in advance; and reposing confidently as well on your ability as your zeal, it is my wish to leave with you the fullest powers to exercise your judgment. Colonel Lee will communicate freely with you and bear to me any information and reply you may intrust to him."

Johnston, as frosty a man as Davis, told Colonel Lee nothing.

The capital was getting apprehensive, too, and clerk Jones did something about it. He wrote a letter to Davis, "stating what I have every reason to believe would be the consequences of the abandonment of Richmond. There would be demoralization and even insubordination in the Army. Better die here!"

The legislature had also passed resolutions calling upon the C.S. government to defend Richmond at all hazards, relieving the Confederate authorities, in advance, for any damage sustained.

The stage was nearly set for a back-to-the-wall defense of Richmond. By May's end it would start.

SOC Student Elected To Summer Program

Ashland - Roland Reed, a Southern Oregon college education major with his major interest in the field of psychology, has been selected to attend the summer work-study program for Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Juvenile Rehabilitation at the University of Oregon this summer, James Armonson, assistant professor of psychology, has announced.

According to Armonson, Reed, a first term junior from Oakridge, was chosen as one of 40 out of more than 200 applicants.

Internships are jointly sponsored by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, the University of Oregon Summer Session, the Oregon state board of control, and the Washington state department of institutions.

Reed is a graduate of Glide High school near Roseburg.

Branchfield Group Discusses Plans

The committee for Ed Branchfield for state representative discussed coverage of the county to acquaint everyone with Branchfield's name when it met recently during a noon luncheon meeting at Ping's restaurant.

Mrs. Eve Nye, of the Republican central committee, and G. W. Kellington, Branchfield's law partner, were special guests.

The committee consists of Sam B. Harbison as chairman, Eugene F. Burrill, secretary, Boyd Budge, treasurer, William McCorkle, publicity, and Archie Fries, Ashland, Glenn Smith, Rich, Doris Reed, Applegate, Lou Cranston, Medford, William Starzinger, Rogue River, and Edith Hoag, Medford.

PREDICT VISIT

Manila - (UPI) - Diplomatic sources predicted Saturday President Diosdado Macapagal would go ahead with his planned state visit to Washington next month if President Kennedy used his personal touch to smooth over hurt Philippine feelings.



MOVE ON CAPITAL—The Union forces were moving up the Tidewater Peninsula toward Richmond in early May, 1862. They had taken Yorktown and Williamsburg and were moving toward the capital of the Confederacy. Gen. Joseph E. Johnston planned to mass the Confederate Army in front of Richmond, but he was overruled by President Jefferson Davis. Instead, Davis went along with his military advisor, Gen. Robert E. Lee, who believed that a guerrilla type warfare should be employed. In this sketch, from the Library of Congress collection, Union soldiers are fired on by Virginia farmers during the peninsular maneuver. It was done by Civil War artist Alfred R. Waud. (UPI)



Small Worlds Around Us

By LYNN M. WATKINS

(Register and Tribune Syndicate 1962)

After Manicure, Pooch Proudly Presented Paws

Like human fingernails, dogs' claws, too, become long when not worn down by frequent earth-digging or running on an abrasive surface.

The little dog with the funny name, Here Tis, spent most of his time indoors on a soft rug. Therefore, there was no possibility of wear on ever-lengthening claws, so at about the age of 6 months it became necessary to take him for a manicure and a pedicure.

The first time the nails were clipped the dog was nervous; so much so he shivered and shook for an hour after the ordeal was over. He acted almost disappointed that the operation didn't hurt, so he just felt sorry for himself.

The second time the nails had to be trimmed the dog gave every indication of enjoying the entire procedure. He even attempted to lick the hand of the operator just to show him there were no hard feelings.

It was the third time the nails had to be trimmed that the dog displayed a mannerism that puzzled his owners and delighted the children.

The children were in school and for the first time did not accompany the dog to the vet's. The children's mother took him and they returned.

before the children were home from school.

When they arrived naturally, the children were excited to know how Tis performed at the manicure parlor. They rushed into the house and began the daily welcoming act. The dog, as usual responded, tickled to have the family all together again.

The first excitement of the homecoming over, the dog held up his right foot as if he were willing to shake hands. The children obliged. Then Tis held up his other front paw, holding it there for the children to see and admire.

The children quickly perceived what they believed the obvious reason for the gesture. They both yelled at once. "Look, mother, Tis wants us to see how nice his nails look!"

It seemed that was the reason, for several times that evening the little dog displayed first one foot then the other with a seeming gesture of extreme pride in his personal appearance. Like a child with a new pair of shiny shoes, Tis seemed proud.

HEADS OFBL

Corvallis - (UPI) - Roberta Marsh of Oregon City was elected president of Oregon's Future Business Leaders of America Saturday as the group ended a two-day convention at Oregon State University.

Soviets To Inspect Northwest Dams

Washington - (UPI) - A group of 12 Soviet hydroelectric power specialists will inspect at least five Columbia river dams during the week of May 20.

The Russians, arriving in New York on May 17, are scheduled to go to Washington state after a quick visit here.

They will visit the Seattle World's Fair and at least the Rocky Reach, Wanapum, Priest Rapids, John Day and The Dalles dams. They also are slated to visit the Swift Dam.

It was understood the group also might visit Grand Coulee.

Medco Submits High Bid for FS Timber

Medford Corporation was a high bidder last week for 8,360,000 board feet of national forest timber in the Lodgepole area, Butte Falls Ranger district, Rogue River National forest.

C. E. Brown, forest supervisor, said the high bid totaled \$109,970, compared to the forest service appraised price of \$109,502.

Next high bidder in the oral auction for the timber was Fir-Ply, Inc., Medford. Other bidders were Kogap Manufacturing company, Olson-Lawyer Lumber, Inc., and Steve O. Wilson.

The timber in the unit consisted of 5,400,000 board feet of Douglas-fir bid in at \$16.90 per thousand board feet, 360,000 board feet of pines bid in at \$15.50 per thousand board feet, and 2,600,000 board feet of white fir and other species bid in at \$5.05 per thousand board feet.

PILGRIMS JAM FATIMA

Fatima, Portugal - (UPI) - Francisco Cardinal Roberti, prefect of the Vatican Apostolic Tribunal, celebrated solemn high mass Sunday on the apron of the famed Fatima Basilica. More than half a million pilgrims packed the sanctuary and the adjoining grounds on this annual pilgrimage day.

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