

THIS WAS THE CIVIL WAR

Forces Tangle at Seven Pines

By MERTON T. AKERS
UPI Correspondent

At the end of May 1862 — an unusually rainy month in the peninsula of Virginia — Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, his army backed up to Richmond, the Confederate capital, saw a chance to deal a blow to the Union Army of the Potomac. One corps of the Army of the Potomac was isolated. Now Johnston was in a position to slice off a big bite of the 100,000 man Federal force and chew it up before reinforcements could arrive.

Journalism Prizes Given to Students

Eugene — (UPI) — A total of \$7,630 in scholarships, awards and prizes was awarded University of Oregon journalism students and high school seniors who will enter the university this fall at the annual journalism awards dinner Friday night.

The sum was the largest in the event's history.

Largest single awards were two new scholarships given by the Jackson Foundation of Portland, Lloyd W. Paseman, Eugene, and Philip A. Cogswell, Portland, each received \$1,000.

Cogswell received also the William G. Gurney Memorial award.

Kay Fraser, Portland, and Joseph E. Berger, St. Helens, received the Eugene Register-Guard Allen scholarships of \$500.

The Crown Zellerbach Foundation gave \$500 to Mary Ann Dean of San Marino, Calif., and Ronald A. Buel of Tillamook.

The Bernard Mainwaring Memorial of \$300 went to Martin Ketels of Alameda, Calif. Two \$200 and five \$100 awards were presented by the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, among others.

Potomac. President Jefferson Davis kept prodding him to fight or at least reveal his over-all plan of defending Richmond. Johnston was telling Davis nothing, conditioned perhaps by earlier leaks of military information to Richmond newspapers which were read every day by Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, commanding the Army of the Potomac.

The Confederated commander ordered his troops into action at dawn May 31.

East of Junction

The isolated Federal corps—the IVth — was commanded by Maj. Gen. Erasmus D. Keyes. It lay east of a road junction called Seven Pines, about six miles east of Richmond where Nine-Mile rd. and the Williamsburg Stage rd., both running southeast from Richmond, crossed.

About a mile north of Seven Pines lay Fair Oaks, a village station on the Richmond and York River railroad. Two miles north of Fair Oaks the Chickahominy river, a sluggish stream normally from 30 to 80 feet wide, ran eastward. It was lined on both sides with bottom land which overflowed in every heavy rain.

Three corps of the Army of the Potomac lay north of the river. Several bridges, both permanent and pontoon, arched the stream.

Keyes' IVth corps and the IIId, commanded by Maj. Gen. Samuel F. Heintzelman, were south of the river, the IIId west of Keyes.

That was the setting Johnston chose for the battle which would be called Seven Pines or Fair Oaks, the first of a month-long series of bloody fights for Richmond.

Johnston's battle plan called for a double envelopment, a complicated maneuver even for veteran troops and a trained staff, neither of which Johnston had.

One part of the Confederate army under Maj. Gen. Gustavus Smith was ordered to keep the three Federal corps north of the Chickahominy from going to the aid of

Keyes. The main part under Maj. Gen. James Longstreet was to attack Keyes along Nine-Mile road. Another part under Maj. Gen. D. H. Hill was to attack along the Williamsburg Stage road. Maj. Gen. Benjamin Huger with a division was to guard the Confederate right flank on the south.

Rained All Night

It rained all night on May 30-31 and the slow-flowing Chickahominy ran over its banks, further isolating the Federal corps north of the river and making General Smith's part of the battle appear comparatively easy.

But Longstreet failed to move his troops along Nine-Mile rd. as verbally ordered by Johnston. Instead he was on the Williamsburg road part of the time. All morning staff officers galloped through the mud and backwaters of the Chickahominy trying to straighten out the commands.

Although the battle was scheduled to start at dawn, noon came and went without action.

At 1 p.m. Hill attacked alone. His brigade ran into Keyes' forward division commanded by Brig. Gen. Silas Casey. The fighting was fierce, the casualties heavy as they battled in the boggy ground and in the flood waters sometimes waist deep. Casey was severely wounded in the fighting but won a major generalship. The Federals were pushed back to their second line, then to the third before Brig. Gen. Phil Kearney's division came up from the east and Maj. Gen. Edwin V. Sumner succeeded in moving some troops across the Chickahominy on shaky pontoon bridges.

Later in the afternoon when Smith drove against Keyes' right flank, it had been reinforced enough to repulse the attack.

All the Confederate attacks were delivered piecemeal despite Johnston's best effort to strike both on the right and the left at the same time with all his forces. But amateur



WAR HANGS IN BALANCE — The Civil War seemed to hang in the balance in early summer of 1862. The guns were silent on the Tidewater Peninsula, but Richmond was still under siege. There was quiet on the Chickahominy river, but there was no silence in the West. Corinth, Miss., an important railroad point, had been abandoned to Union forces. Forts Pillow and Randolph on the Mississippi river, guarding Memphis, were taken by the Union on June 4, 1862. The next Union objective was Memphis, the most important commercial city on the river between St. Louis and New Orleans. On June 6, 1862, a Federal fleet,

consisting of five ironclad gunboats mounting 68 heavy cannon and three Ellet rams, moved on the Confederate ships guarding Memphis. Between the rams and the Federal gunboats, seven of eight Confederate vessels were sunk or beached. In an hour and 10 minutes, it was over. Memphis had fallen and now only Vicksburg remained as a stronghold to prevent complete Federal domination of the river for its entire length. Anasconda, the big border squeeze, was working. This sketch, from Harpers Weekly of the time, was taken from the Library of Congress collection. It depicts the naval battle at Memphis on June 6. (UPI)

staff work, slow communications between the Confederate forces and lack of marching skill by the green troops combined to bog down the Rebels in the Chickahominy mud and give the Federals time enough to fight delaying actions and form new battle lines.

At 7 p.m., Johnston, trying to bring some order into the attacks by riding over the field, was hit in the right shoulder by a musket ball and a moment later knocked off his horse by a shell fragment in the chest. He was gravely wounded. Smith took temporary command.

The fighting ceased at dark. Smith ordered his troops to renew the battle the next day, June 1, a Sunday. But fresh Federal troops had crossed the Chickahominy during the night and two Confederate attacks were repulsed easily. Smith called off the fight about noon.

Of 41,797 troops in the battle the Federals lost 790 killed, 3,594 wounded, 647 missing. The Confederates, of 41,816 effective troops, lost 880 killed, 4,749 wounded and 405 missing.

President Davis and his military adviser, Gen. Robert E. Lee, were on the field at Seven Pines.

That Sunday night Davis and Lee rode slowly back to

Richmond, threading their horses through vehicles carrying wounded to the capital.

Somewhere on that ride, in words which history failed to record, Davis appointed Lee to command the Confederate

Army in place of Johnston.

But at this point in his career, Lee was regarded as a failure. He had lost in West Virginia and had failed to stop the Union Army on the south-east coast.



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Foreign Markets Found To Be Good For American Music

New York — (UPI) — There's one United States product that today finds a ready market almost anywhere beyond the borders or overseas: The popular music record, said Sidney Frey.

"Wherever there's a way to play them," said the 40-year-old Frey, "there's a market for American music — good music."

"Latin-American market? Sure. European? Common Market? Of course."

"Music, particularly on records that people can play day in and day out, is one of the greatest things in the world today to develop international good feeling."

Frey got into the record business at 26 when he found himself the possessor of several thousand Israeli folk records which he marketed to the surprise of other distributors who had considered them an unlikely prospect.

An engineer by education, Frey has an ear for good clean sound, whether in music or in the patterns of noise which make up an ordinary life. He has recorded the sound and music of the bullfight ring in Mexico; at the other extreme, a classical album series recorded by 80 musicians selected from England's leading symphonies.

He made an LP of railroad

sounds, which the buffs admired greatly.

Now head of Audio Fidelity Inc., Frey said that overseas sales last year picked up from 200,000 units of the year before to 500,000 units.

"It's an untapped market," he said. "But it's got its problems. There is wholesale 'bootlegging' in some areas of our records."

Hi-Fi Pioneer

Frey said that in the record business, one gets accustomed to battling for the market, particularly if he is an independent. He pioneered the commercial development of the stereophonic record; Audio Fidelity released it to the industry in November, 1957, offering a pure vinyl record.

Frey is a stickler, he says, for accurate recording and reproduction. Listeners should learn the difference, he said, between true stereo sound and imitation stereo; the term should not be, he said, used as loosely as "hi-fi."

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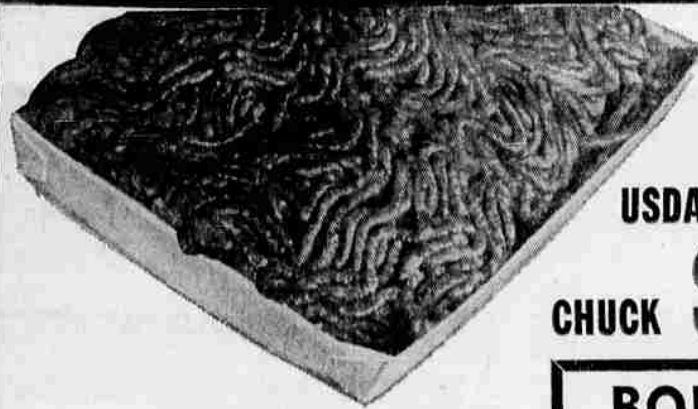
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