

# THIS WAS THE CIVIL WAR

## The Fate of a 'Peace Democrat'

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UPI Correspondent

The war correspondents stood by and took notes as Union Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans and Clement L. Vallandigham confronted each other at Murfreesboro, Tenn., one day in May, 1863.

Vallandigham recorded their conversations like this: Rosecrans (ending a lecture): "Why sir, do you know that unless I protect you with a guard my soldiers will tear you to pieces in an instant?"

Vallandigham: "That sir, is because they are just as ignorant of my character as yourself. But, General, I have a proposition to make. Draw your soldiers up in a hollow square tomorrow morning, and announce to them that Vallandigham desires to vindicate himself, and I will guarantee that when they have heard me through they will be no more willing to tear Lincoln or yourself to pieces than they will Vallandigham."

### Hanging Threatened

The correspondents reported that Rosecrans added at this point: "Vallandigham, don't you ever come back here. If you do, Vallandigham, I'll be God damned, and may God forgive me for the expression - I'll be God damned if I don't hang you."

The correspondents added a line of their own. "The general claims he never blasphemes, but sometimes swears."

The next morning a squad of Union soldiers escorted Vallandigham to the Confederate lines. They galloped

away as the Confederate picket - a private - hesitated about what to do with his unusual prisoner.

Turning Vallandigham over to the reluctant Confederates was President Lincoln's solution to a problem that was getting too hot to handle.

Vallandigham was a Democrat - an especially vociferous member of the Peace wing of the party. His faction wanted to end the Civil War at almost any price, even if it meant giving the Confederacy its freedom.

In 1863 and thereafter for the rest of the war the Peace Democrats skated close to treason, with Vallandigham in the forefront.

He had been a member of the U. S. House of Representatives from Ohio and a leader of the opposition to Lincoln and the administration but had been defeated in the elections of 1862.

Defeat slowed him down not a whit. In the lame duck Congress early in 1863 he told the House that rather than aid the Northern war effort "I had rather my right arm were plucked from its socket, and cast into eternal burnings."

### Most Theatrical

Vallandigham was the most theatrical of the Peace Democrats and commanded a small but noisy following. In 1863 he was 43 years old, handsome and a speaker of considerable power. In Congress he refused to vote monitoring or men for the war, claiming he refused to state back into the Union was unconstitutional. The Emancipation proclamation was the last straw

for the Ohioan. Now the war was being waged solely to free the slaves, he contended.

After a speech-making tour on the way home from Congress, he scheduled an address for May 1 in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, where the Peace Democrats were strong.

"It was a proud and glorious day for the faithful and unconquerable Democracy of old Knox (county)," the Mt. Vernon Democratic Banner reported. "... a profusion of butternuts and Liberty or copperhead pins, Union badges, and other appropriate emblems of Liberty and Union also were distinguishable." (Copperhead pins were the Liberty emblem cut from copper cents and worn in the lapel by Peace Democrats and other opponents of the war. From that came the name Copperhead which was applied to all opponents of the war, Democrats or not. The venomous snake of the same name did not figure in the origin of the term but soon was applied to wearers of the pin).

Preceded by Parade The speechmaking was preceded by a parade "four to five miles in length, and was over two hours passing any one point," the newspaper reported.

"One of the most noticeable and pleasing incidents of the procession and meeting, was a very large wagon drawn by six horses... containing thirty-four young ladies representing the thirty-four states of the Union. The wagon was tastefully shaded with evergreens..."

Vallandigham outdid himself in a two-hour oration. He called the Washington government despotic, charged it had rejected peace offers from the South, that it was waging war to free Negroes and enslave white men, that the President was "King Lincoln," and that no free man would submit to conscription.

The crowds, described as "acres and acres," applauded generously.

Three Union army captains in plain clothing took notes and reported to Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside, now the commander of the Department of Ohio since his removal from command of the Army of the Potomac after the battle of Fredericksburg.

Two weeks before Burnside had issued General Order No. 38 which said "... hereafter



**POLITICAL LEADER ARRESTED** - Clement L. Vallandigham was a member of the Peace Wing of the Democratic Party who had been defeated in the elections of 1862. He and his group came to favor at the end of the Civil War, even if it meant recognizing the Confederacy. On May 5, 1863, to back up an order by Gen. Ambrose Burnside, Vallandigham was arrested in his home at Dayton, Ohio. He was tried and sentenced to imprisonment for the duration of the war, but because of loud protests from certain Democrats, President Lincoln had him removed from prison and turned over to the Confederates. His reception was chilly, and Vallandigham later went to Canada. He would be heard from again before the war was over. In this drawing, from the Library of Congress collection, the arrest of Vallandigham is depicted. (UPI)

all persons found within our lines who commit acts for the benefit of the enemies of our country will be tried as spies or traitors and if convicted will suffer death. ... treason, expressed or implied, will not be tolerated. ...

About 2:30 in the morning of May 5 Burnside sent a company of soldiers to Dayton, Vallandigham's home town, broke down a door of his house and arrested him. He was quickly put on a waiting train, sent to Cincinnati and put into military prison.

By noon Dayton was seething with Vallandigham's followers. About dusk a mob of 500 to 600 attacked the office of the Dayton Daily Journal, a Republican newspaper, shot out the windows and set it afire. The blaze spread to Leobold's hat shop, Bornstein's Segar Store, the Gospel

Herald office and Wild's livery stable. The mob cut fire hoses and disabled engines to slow up efforts to put out the blaze.

Burnside sent more troops. They restored order and put out the fires.

Vallandigham was tried by a military commission and convicted May 16 of "publicly expressing, in violation of General Order No. 38, sympathy with those in arms against the Government of the United States, and declaring disloyal sentiments and opinions, with the object and purpose of weakening the power of the Government in its efforts to suppress an unlawful rebellion."

Writ Refused The commission sentenced him to imprisonment for the duration of the war. His lawyers applied for a writ of hab-

corpus but it was refused by a Democratic Federal judge.

Lincoln had been watching the case but not interfering.

Now with Democratic opposition mounting in the North with mass meetings of denouncing the arrest, trial and sentencing of Vallandigham, Lincoln commuted the sentence on May 19 and ordered Vallandigham sent across the lines to "his friends."

After Rosecrans gave Vallandigham to the embarrassed Confederates the Ohioan went to Richmond to a chilly reception and eventually was paroled. Later he went to Canada. He would be heard from again before the war was over.

## Robert Price Receives Pin for 50-Mile Swim

Mrs. Lanell Wilkes, Jackson county Red Cross water safety chairman, was at the Medford YMCA last week to present a pin and card to Robert D. Price, Medford, for being the first to complete the 50-mile "Swim and Stay Fit" program currently being conducted at the Y.

Price started the program December 12, 1962, and reached his 50-mile goal April 13. He started his swim in quarter mile stretches, but soon increased his endurance to the point where he was swimming three-quarters of a mile to a mile each day during his lunch hour.

The program consists of a 50-mile swim to be completed in quarter mile stretches over an indefinite period of time. Each participant sets his or her own pace. The initial three miles are done in quarter mile laps, although they do not have to be completed non-stop.

Progress is registered on charts in the swimming area and individual cards are kept

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by participants. Progressive cards are issued by the Red Cross as the swimmers pass the 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 mile marks.

The program was designed by the American Red Cross in response to the President's request for more stress on physical fitness, and has been used extensively throughout the United States. The Medford YMCA introduced the program locally Dec. 1, 1962.

Currently there are about 60 Y members participating in the "Swim and Stay Fit" 50-mile swim.

YMCA officials have announced that time will be provided throughout the summer for swimmers engaged in the program and newcomers are urged to join in the program. Additional information may be obtained by telephoning the Medford YMCA at 772-6295.

### Many Policies Include Retirement Coverage

New York - A sharp increase has been reported in the trend in group health insurance policies to provide workers with coverage after retirement.

The Health Insurance Institute reports that in group policies written last year by insurance companies, four of every five workers had the right to retain their coverage on retiring. The year before, two of three workers had this right. In 1959, the proportion was little more than half.

### Sleep Like Log

Stop Stomach Gas 3 Times Faster! Take Bellina tablets with hot water at bed time. Read in bed until you sleep. Bellina tablets relieve stomach gas due to excess stomach acid. No harmful drugs. Get Bellina today. 35¢ at drugists. Send postal to Bellina, Orangeburg, N. Y. for liberal free sample!

**SATELLITE FIRED**  
Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. - A secret satellite, believed to be a Discoverer on a space exploration mission, was fired toward a polar orbit Saturday from this Pacific missile range base.



That's what parents often say when told about the decline in our children's physical fitness. To be sure, parents can't assume full responsibility for this problem. But parents should see to it that their children get proper health care - and that physical fitness isn't neglected in schools.

Urge your local school officials to provide a physical education program that calls for at least 15 minutes of vigorous activity every day for all girls and boys. A basic program has been developed that is improving the fitness of our children. It is easy to administer in any school. It costs little to get it started. It can improve any child's physical fitness.

If you'd like to know more about this program, write to The President's Council on Physical Fitness, Washington 25, D. C.

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