

THIS WAS THE CIVIL WAR



HOOVER'S GAP ANTAGONISTS - Gen. Braxton Bragg, left, of the Confederacy, and Union Gen. William Rosecrans, right, were the antagonists in the battle of Hoover's Gap in 1863. The battle of the Gap (UPI)

Ann Sothorn Given Hospital Treatment

Johnson City, N. Y. - (UPI) - Actress Ann Sothorn may be released today from Wilson Memorial hospital where she was admitted during the week end for treatment of dehydration.

"It all depends on how she feels and what the doctors say," a hospital spokesman said. "But she's feeling much better."

Miss Sothorn, 51, entered the hospital on Saturday suffering from dehydration, a condition in which there is a lack of moisture in the body tissues. In her case, the spokesman said the ailment apparently was brought on by gastric upset which prevented her from eating and drinking properly.

GIVES UP HARD

London - (UPI) - Robert Tyzack, 53, today began his eighth year of picketing the Plaistow Wharf sugar refinery in protest against his being fired for "repeated refusals to obey instructions." Tyzack, who pickets for 10 hours every work day, claims the firm owes him \$56,000 in back wages.

Paris - (UPI) - Former Vice President Richard M. Nixon arrived Sunday from Frankfurt, Germany, for a meeting Tuesday with President Charles de Gaulle.

Boat Smashed on Rocks at Depoe Bay

Depoe Bay - (UPI) - A 17-foot outboard motor boat was smashed into the rocks when it attempted to enter Depoe Bay Sunday afternoon.

Four persons in the boat escaped onto the rocks at the south side of the entrance. The Coast Guard towed the damaged vessel to safety.

Operator of the boat was Jake Prince Jr., 41, Albany. Also aboard were Albert Fortier, Harry Johnson and Frank Edwards, all of Albany.



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The Battle of Hoover's Gap

By MERTON T. AKERS
UPI Correspondent

July 1863 was by all odds the greatest month to date of the Civil War for the Federal armies.

Not only had the battle of Gettysburg been won and Vicksburg, Miss., captured but the Rebel Army of Tennessee had been maneuvered out of the state by Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans.

Port Hudson, La., fell of its own weight July 9 to Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks as soon as the garrison could be convinced of the word sent across the lines by Union soldiers that Vicksburg had fallen.

The military picture looked black for the Confederacy. Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant stood victorious at Vicksburg with about 70,000 men.

General Banks with about 40,000 camped farther down the Mississippi River at the site of their victory.

North Winning

General Rosecrans seemed poised with 50,000 men to wrest strategic Chattanooga, Tenn., from Gen. Braxton Bragg.

The North appeared well on the way to winning the war as July came to a close.

Now the time had come, it seemed, to apply the crusher in the East and in the West and the Confederacy would be beaten to its knees, its armies defeated, its 29-month-old government dispersed.

A tattoo of quick blows and the citizen soldiers could not thanksgiving dinner at home. So it seemed - but that wasn't the way it turned out.

Instead of bagging Gen. Robert E. Lee's army in Maryland, Maj. Gen. George Gordon Meade let it escape to fight another day.

Instead of Grant slanting southeast and clearing out the rest of Mississippi and capturing Mobile, Ala., an important port, in concert with Banks' army, as he suggested to Washington, his army was dispersed bit by bit until he was down to the three corps with which he had started the Vicksburg campaign.

Instead of beating Bragg around Chattanooga Rosecrans walked into a trap that snapped shut a month hence on Chickamauga Creek.

There was no central command to coordinate the immense manpower and industrial might of the North and bring it to focus on the weaker resources of the South.

So the piecemeal war went on.

Rosecrans in maneuvering Bragg out of Tennessee achieved one of those cheap and easy victories so dear to the hearts of many Civil War generals - tactical brilliance - territory won - opponents' armies left intact - nothing decisive.

The Army of the Cumberland, Rosecrans' command, had sat like a bump on a log at Murfreesboro, Tenn., since the New Year when he had won a costly victory over Bragg at Stones River.

Prodded for Action

All spring Washington prodded him incessantly for action. Rosecrans replied by demanding more men, more horses, more guns. The weather was cold. It was raining or it was snowing. The roads were belly deep in mud or so dry any movement would signal the enemy with pillars of dust by day. So ran Rosecrans' communications to Washington. "Old Rosy" was a rough-tongued man and often his temper showed through.

Not until June 23 could he be persuaded to move against time to good advantage to perfect his troop training and to erect formidable works at Shelbyville and Tullahoma.

Tenn., south of Murfreesboro. A direct assault on these works would be suicidal. Both Bragg and Rosecrans knew that.

At the moment Bragg had 46,665 men. Rosecrans had 50,617. Bragg's cavalry was superior and he had more of it.

The road from Murfreesboro to Shelbyville along the Nashville & Chattanooga railroad was the easier one. The one to the southeast was harder with hills and only farm roads.

Rosecrans sent his cavalry under Brig. Gen. David S. Stanley along the Shelbyville road. Stanley staged a good show. He kindled long lines of campfires, beat drums and blew bugles along the line as if the whole army was advancing.

His ruse worked. The Confederates prepared to fight there.

Meanwhile the main Union army marched over the hills and along the farm roads and flanked Bragg on his right. As soon as the movement started it began to rain and the downpour continued.

Negroes Arrested For Protest March

Farmville, Va. - (UPI) - About 125 Negroes marched on the courthouse here Saturday to protest Prince Edward county's closed school policy and ten were arrested when they refused to disperse.

It was the largest demonstration held in the Southwest Virginia tobacco town during the three-day-old desegregation drive - first that Negroes have generated here since schools were closed in 1959 to avoid desegregation.

In Charleston, S. C., about 100 Negroes protesting segregation customs Whites picketing integrated stores met on a narrow street in the old city and passed each other without so much as a "howdy."

The Charleston demonstrations sparked a brief fracas when Henry R. Solotest, manager of a recently integrated shop, ran outside and headed toward White pickets, who identified themselves as members of the National Association for the Protection of White Persons (NAPWP).

AGREEMENT SIGNED

Tehran, Iran - (UPI) - Iran and the Soviet Union Saturday signed an agreement on technical and economic cooperation under which the Russians will grant an initial \$35 million in credit for construction of dams and other projects.

In nine days Rosecrans forced Bragg out of his fortified positions and across the Tennessee River into Alabama. He lost 84 killed, 473 wounded, 13 missing. Bragg made no casualty report but the Federals captured 1,634 Confederates.

Four regiments led the advance. One of them was the 123rd Illinois Mounted Infantry. Their first fight was 12 miles out from Murfreesboro.

Maj. James A. Connolly of the 123rd wrote the story of the fight at Hoover's Gap.

"... we were nearing the formidable 'Hoover's Gap' which it was supposed would cost a great many lives to pass through, and our brigade commander determined to surprise the enemy if possible, by a rapid march, and make a bold dash through the 'Gap' and hold it... until the rest of the army could get up."

Soon the 123rd surprised and routed a regiment of Confederate cavalry "and we reached the celebrated 'Gap' on the run."

The Gap was only wide enough for two wagons to pass and ran for two miles. The 123rd made it at a gallop. At the end Rebel artillery opened against it. The 123rd sent its horses out of danger, unlimbered its light guns and replied.

"Presently the enemy got near enough to us to make a charge on our battery," Connolly wrote, "and on they came; our men were on their feet in an instant and a terrible fire from the 'Spencers' caused the advancing regiment to reel and its colors fell to the ground but in an instant their colors were up again and on they came, thinking to reach the battery before our guns could be reloaded, but they reckoned without their host' they didn't know we had the 'Spencers' and their charging yell was answered by another terrible volley, and another and another without cessation, until the poor regiment was cut to pieces and but few men of the 20th Tennessee will ever charge again..."

The 123rd held the pass until the infantry arrived.

Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas, the corps commander, came riding by and told the 123rd:

"You have saved the lives of a thousand men by your gallant conduct today. I didn't expect to get this gap for three days."

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