

SERIES 2, VOLUME 8 VOLUME OVERVIEW

In the previous volume, covering November, Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck had requested authorization from President Lincoln to establish martial law in Missouri, but the commanding general of the U.S. Army, Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, had questions and had not yet given his approval of the request. On December 2, covered in this volume (Vol. 8), President Lincoln finally authorizes Halleck to exercise martial law in the state, and on December 26, Halleck declares martial law in St. Louis and around all railroads in Missouri.

Also in the previous volume, Gen. Justus McKinstry was arrested and taken to the St. Louis Arsenal, where he is still held during December. McKinstry's lawyer, Col. John M. Krum, claims the arrest and imprisonment constitutes persecution and "punishment before conviction."¹ McKinstry remains ignorant of why he was arrested, and no charges have been made against him. Krum requests that President Lincoln not allow such abuse of authority.

After Maj. Gen. John C. Fremont was discharged and Maj. Gen. McClellan took over command of the U.S. Army, the latter dismissed all officers who were appointed by Fremont without the president's approval, effective November 12. However, on December 9, Halleck informs the U.S. Adjutant Gen. Lorenzo Thomas that those men who received commissions from Fremont and performed valuable service are deserving of their pay, and he asks for the authority to order payment for their service, as they are now in destitute circumstances. Thomas approved the request but did not respond until January 13, 1862. (The response is included in the present volume as a special insert.) Halleck later informs McClellan that he had attempted to induce Fremont's Body Guard to remain in service but was told they were enlisted to serve Fremont and not the United States. Halleck is concerned that there are many troops not legally in service, but he argues that doing away with them is not only unfair to the men but also harmful to the public service.

The previous volume introduced Maj. Gen. David Hunter as the new but temporary commander of the Western Department, replaced by Maj. Gen. Halleck with the creation of the Department of the Missouri just one week later. Hunter was then made commander of the newly created Department of Kansas. However, Hunter was dissatisfied with this command and unhappy that he was replaced in his earlier command. He sulks about being passed over for an "important" command and describes Kansas to Maj. Gen. McClellan as an "immense wilderness." McClellan explains why Halleck was placed in charge, but Hunter, unsatisfied with the explanation, turns to President Lincoln. He complains that he has been dishonored by not being assigned a command appropriate to his rank as major general. Lincoln's reply was a scolding, pointing out that Hunter's "flood of grumbling dispatches and letters" have caused him to lose some of his confidence in Hunter. Lincoln suggests that Hunter is adopting the best possible way to ruin himself. He advises him to "act well" his part, reminding him that "he who does something at the head of one regiment will eclipse him who does nothing at the head of a hundred."²

Changes also took place within the Rebel (MSG). Elections were held for brigadier general in the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th and 8th Military Divisions. Rebel (MSG) Gen. Martin E. Green replaced the original commander for the 2nd Division and Rebel (MSG) Gen. Edwin W. Price, Sterling Price's son, replaced the former commander for the 3rd Division. Rebel (MSG) Gens. William Y. Slack (4th Division), James H. McBride (7th) and James S. Rains (8th) continued in command of those divisions to which they had been originally appointed by then Gov. Claiborne F. Jackson. Sterling Price assigns his adjutant general, C.S.A. Col. Lewis H. Little, to the command of the Volunteer Corps

Rebel (MSG) M. Jefferson Thompson, commander of the 1st Military District, is placed in command of the fort at New Madrid. He requests in separate letters to Rebel (MSG) Gen. John B. Clark, Sr., C.S.A. Gen. Gideon J. Pillow, and ex-Gov. Jackson, information regarding reorganization, as lack of any official order or instruction is causing trouble in keeping the men whose terms of enlistment are expiring daily. Jackson

¹ See (FLP: Ser 2PS-Dec#69).

² See (FLP: Ser 2PS-Dec#255).

agrees that reorganization take place immediately, and Thompson asks C.S.A. Maj. Gen. Leonidas Polk to send a mustering officer right away. C.S.A. Col. Edward W. Gantt informs Polk that Thompson and his staff are careless as far as discipline, drill, defense and fortifications are concerned, and therefore, he (Gantt) would feel better if he were in command of the fort and report to Thompson as commandant of the post.

Ex-Gov. Claiborne F. Jackson updates Rebel (MSG) Maj. Gen. Sterling Price on his communications with C.S.A. President Jefferson F. Davis's reluctance to appoint Price as commander. Davis says he prefers to appoint someone from outside Missouri to command when the Rebel (MSG) joins the C.S. Army. However, Price is assured by C.S.A. Gen. Clark and a delegation that his men want him in command of the Missouri army, and the Congress will confirm no one but him. They also accuse ex-Gov. Jackson of creating doubt in Davis's mind.

In a letter to Davis, Jackson complains that the Confederate States is not supporting the Rebel (MSG). Davis responds on January 8, 1862 (letter included in this volume), admonishing Jackson for his complaints, negativity, and his complete failure to note what has been done for him and the Rebel (MSG).

Meanwhile, Maj. Gen. McClellan proposes Halleck send troops to Hunter to enable him to move into the Indian Territory and upon northern Texas. Hunter, however, complains that the expedition is impractical, noting that Rebel (MSG) Maj. Gen. Price's command greatly outnumbers his, and his men are severely lacking weapons (which he blames on Fremont).

Hunter tells Halleck he believes enemy forces are moving north to Kansas City, and thus, a brigade must be sent to reinforce that city and another sent to Lexington. He reports that rebels have possession of the railroad between Weston and St. Joseph and requests that an officer be placed at St. Joseph and regiments be sent to Liberty and Weston. Halleck sends Prentiss to coordinate with Hunter at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, and informs Hunter that Prentiss is to consult and act in concert with him.

President Lincoln requests James H. Lane be appointed general of volunteers, while Halleck reports to McClellan that the conduct of the forces under Lane and Col. Charles R. Jennison "has done more for the enemy in this state than could have been accomplished by 20,000 of his own army."³ The president's response was that he was "sorry General Halleck is so unfavorably impressed with General Lane." The editor of the rebel *Missouri Army Argus* publishes an article, included in this volume, referencing actions committed by Lane, Jennison, and Prentiss as examples of Jayhawkers, a term it defines as "thieves." (Prentiss was not a Jayhawker despite the editor's accusation.) The editorial discusses the criminal acts of Jayhawkers and how they should be punished and exiled from polite society.

The newly appointed provost marshal, Gen. Bernard G. Farrar, bans citizens in St. Louis from carrying arms or leaving the city to hunt without a special license. He also informs the supporters of the enemy that they will be assessed fines which will be used to aid suffering families who fled their homes, and non-compliance will result in added penalties.

Included in this volume is the official report of a scout of Maj. George C. Marshall's command, the 2nd Missouri Cavalry (Merrill's Horse). It contains a 12-day diary of the march through Howard, Saline, Lafayette, and Pettis counties in Missouri. The volume also covers the Battle of Salem, Skirmish at Blackwater Creek, and Battle of Mt. Zion Church, all with their own special section describing the event and listing all the documents associated with it.

Among the personal letters included in this volume, two stand out, both from the same individual, a Private George Shinn, one letter to his mother, the other to his sister. Instead of the usual conversations dealing with the movements and condition of troops or assignments of the writers, found in the other letters to family, Shinn reflects nostalgically on being away from his family on Christmas, offering an insight into the soldier's plight during the holidays, away from their loved ones.

³ See (FLP: Ser 2PS-Dec#157)