

SERIES 1, VOLUME 6, PART 2

VOLUME OVERVIEW

In Part 1 of this volume, it was mentioned that Quartermaster Maj. Justus McKinstry was appointed provost marshal of St. Louis. In this capacity, he issued an order for the arrest of the president of the Board of Police Commissioners, John A. Brownlee, upon the charge of treason. Later in August, Brownlee is released from the St. Louis Arsenal under the condition that he sign a pledge to leave the city. The Board elects Basil Duke to replace Brownlee, and Duke starts off with a proclamation, appealing to the residents of St. Louis to co-operate with the civil and military authorities in preserving peace and order in the city and county. He warns that any violation of an order will be followed “by prompt and adequate punishment regardless of persons or positions.”¹

Much of Part 2 focuses on Gen. Nathaniel Lyon and his death at the Battle of Wilson’s Creek on August 10. Many articles are tributes to him or information concerning the arrangements for his remains, which are destined ultimately for burial in Connecticut. However, discussion also starts on the topic of placing blame for Lyon’s death. The articles accuse the War Department of neglecting Lyon since his situation was fully laid before it, and both Maj. Gen. John C. Fremont and Lyon had called in vain for men and money. Although Fremont is also blamed, it is known only indirectly through an editorial, in which the author defends him and redirects the blame to the War Department. Reinforcements were finally sent after Lyon’s death, but one editorial notes that the late reinforcements “does not atone for the criminality of previous conduct.”²

A skirmish takes place near North Fabius River in Lewis County on August 15, between Union Home Guards and Rebel (MSG) Gen. Martin Green’s men. Despite the rebels’ larger force, the Home Guards were victorious, and the rebels fled, running in every direction and leaving everything behind. In Warrensburg (Johnson County), the rebels denounce and disregard Provisional Gov. Hamilton R. Gamble’s proclamation of peace, dated August 3 (covered in Part 1), which notes that the Military Bill has been annulled, and thus, the Missouri State Guard is no longer recognized. The local Home Guards capture contraband kegs of powder and a list of other items seized from the rebels, including musket caps and cartridges served with Minie balls. From Cairo, Illinois, troops have left on an expedition to Herculaneum, Missouri (Jefferson County), and forces left on a reconnaissance for New Madrid, where it is reported there are some 8,000 rebels.

Fremont orders troops to Commerce (Scott County) to dispossess the Confederates who have taken the village, intending to command the channel and interrupt communication between Cairo and St. Louis. Rebel (MSG) Gen. M. Jefferson Thompson’s men have come and gone, plundering stores and private homes. The gunboat *Tyler* remains at Commerce to protect the city against the rebels. At Charleston (Mississippi County), Col. Henry Dougherty and his federal troops rout a superior force of Confederates, then return to Bird’s Point with prisoners and horses. Later, Thompson’s forces fortify Benton (Scott County), and Commerce is reported to be deserted.

On August 20, near Lookout Station, in Cole County, shots are fired at a train carrying 250 U.S. soldiers and a number of civilian passengers. One of the soldiers is killed outright and several others wounded, a couple of them mortally.

The Reserve Corps Home Guards in Kansas City seize gold from the Mechanics and Union Banks, and several shots are exchanged between mounted rebels on the north bank of the Missouri River and the ferry guard on the south bank.

According to reports, an attack is anticipated on Ironton, so Gen. Ulysses S. Grant issues an order to arrest the prominent secessionists in town. He decides to prepare to move on the enemy’s force in Ironton, and reinforcements arrive, to be used as a reserve force.

¹ See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Aug#69).

² See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Aug#104.1).

Provisional Gov. Hamilton says it has become necessary to provide a military force to secure the peace of Missouri. He calls 42,000 volunteers into active service.³ Former Gov. Robert M. Stewart appeals to the people of Missouri, urging them to fight for the Union and reject the Confederacy. He claims that only by ending the war quickly will Missouri be able to move forward with making it a great state of prosperity and peace, and he reminds Missourians that their “paramount allegiance is due to the government of the United States, and that government has the right to station troops on every foot of soil under its jurisdiction.”⁴

This volume includes the list of military appointments and promotions made by President Lincoln and/or the Senate.

There is also included an editorial that provides an example of Fremont at work, a typical conversation with an officer requiring his (the general's) approval of some documents, and the hours he keeps, contrasting Fremont's work ethic with that of Sec. of War Simon Cameron.

On August 30, Fremont declares martial law throughout Missouri.⁵ Maj. McKinstry issues an order prohibiting all persons from leaving St. Louis without a special permit and forbidding the agents of ferries, steamboats, and railroad from selling or transferring tickets to those without said permit.

C.S.A. Gen. Benjamin McCulloch and Rebel (MSG) Maj. Gen. Sterling Price have had a disagreement and, according to a report, may part ways.

³ See Provisional Gov. Gamble's proclamation, (FLP: Ser 1MD-Aug#131).

⁴ See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Aug#128).

⁵ See (FLP: Ser 1MD-Aug#167).