

## SERIES 2, VOLUME 4, PART 1

### VOLUME OVERVIEW

Volume 4 of Series 2 is divided into two parts due to the large number of documents, which did not fit in one book. Part 1 covers the first two weeks of August. At the start of the month, the new commander of the Western Department, Maj. Gen. John C. Fremont, had been present in St. Louis for just one week. He had arrived in the city amid disorderly and insurrectionary conditions. The three-months men were completing their time, and many refused to reenlist since they had not been paid for their service to date. In addition to men, ammunition and supplies were needed. When Fremont asked Postmaster Gen. Montgomery Blair for help, the latter responded that he was on his own, as it was impossible to get Washington to pay attention to Missouri.

August begins with a new (provisional) governor, lieutenant governor, and secretary of state, the previous administration finding many of their seats vacated by the second session of the Missouri State Convention, which closed on July 31. Lt. Gov. Willard P. Hall's remarks, after taking his oath of office, is included in this volume, as well as Provisional Gov. Hamilton R. Gamble's proclamation of August 3, in which he promises peace in Missouri as his utmost priority. The Convention also voided the Military Bill, and as a result, illegitimized the Missouri State Guard, created by the Bill. In this volume, the State Guard are now referred to as Rebel (MSG), a title that recognizes the members as former Missouri State Guard who continue to support deposed Gov. Jackson, and also distinguishes them from guerrillas, who fought in Missouri, were not organized, and never swore allegiance to the state. (See the article explaining the purpose of the new title, on Roman numeral page li.)

The previous month also discussed the march to Springfield of both Union and Confederate forces. This volume includes the diary of one Union soldier, which describes the movement of the 1<sup>st</sup> Iowa Infantry to join with Gen. Franz Sigel's forces at Springfield, to meet the secessionist former governor's forces.

The start of August sees Rebel (MSG) Gen. M. Jefferson Thompson urging the citizens of Missouri to join the fight against the federal forces, in order to defeat them quickly and end the war. He informs C.S.A. Gen. Gideon J. Pillow of his wish to send his command to Buchanan or Lakeville and a regiment to Benton or Hamburg, mentioning that Maj. Gen. Fremont is reportedly headed for Cape Girardeau and will likely bring a large command.

This volume covers the skirmishes at Dug Springs and at Potosi and the Battle of Wilson's Creek, each of these with their own special section, containing a description of the event and a list of all related documents. Also included are numerous personal letters, both from well-known figures, such as Gen. Curtis to his wife, but also soldiers and civilians to family members, which portray the views and sentiments of men during this period.

Gen. John Pope's actions in the North Missouri District are covered, particularly those related to General Orders No. 3, the orders which are criticized by Isaac H. Sturgeon, Esq., general superintendent of the North Missouri Railroad, as "harsh, unjust and tyrannical," but Pope explains are meant to bring peace. He tells Sturgeon that if the citizens wish their property to be secure and that the military leave, they need to cooperate with the officials to aid in the arrest of those responsible for the violence. Pope requests that two or three secessionists be included on the committees of public safety to ensure peace in the district.

In the southeast, C.S.A. Gen. Pillow asks for additional troops to help fight Union forces at Bird's Point and keep them from reaching Cape Girardeau, where C.S.A. Maj. Gen. Polk reports Maj. Gen. Fremont is concentrating his force (Cape Girardeau and Cairo). Pillow sends a force to destroy railroad communications between Bird's Point and the interior. Shortly after, C.S.A. Gen. William J. Hardee sends a force to burn bridges and tear up the railroad between Ironton and St. Louis to prevent communication; however, the order is not executed, and since his own force is too weak to advance to Ironton, Hardee awaits the cooperation of Rebel (MSG) Gen. Thompson, who is away on another expedition. On Thompson's return, he sent dragoons and infantry to Greenville. Pillow continues to request more troops and warns that he will abandon his location for the interior if he does not receive the support he needs.

In the southwest, C.S.A. Gen. Benjamin McCulloch is placed in command of the combined Confederate States and Rebel (MSG) armies.

On August 5, Claiborne F. Jackson proclaims Missouri a sovereign republic, insisting that all bonds between the state and the United States of America are dissolved. He and his followers refuse to recognize Gamble as governor, as well as all decisions of the second session of the State Convention. The Confederate States Congress passes an Act to give aid of clothing, subsistence, arms, and ammunition to Missourians who cooperate with the Confederate States of America during the war.

Asst. Sec. of War Thomas A. Scott authorizes Gov. Gamble to raise and organize 15 regiments, though Fremont had requested, just a couple of days before, that he withhold from making any militia appointments until Gamble heard from him.

Gen. Pope introduces Ulysses S. Grant to Maj. Gen. Fremont, and Fremont directs Grant to take command of forces stationed at Pilot Knob and continue work on laying out entrenchments. On August 8, Grant assumed command of the Military District of Ironton.

Fremont requests authorization to recruit more experienced men and the funds to pay these men and purchase equipment. He assigns Gen. Samuel R. Curtis to command an instruction camp for volunteers at Jefferson Barracks.

Gen. Nathaniel Lyon is at McCullah's Farm in Stone County, some 24 miles from Springfield, when he requests much-needed supplies from Fremont and suggests that it might be impractical to advance, so he might decide to turn back to Springfield though he believes the rebels might try to reach the town ahead of them. Fremont sends Col. John D. Stevenson and his 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment Missouri Volunteers to join Lyon and says that other reinforcements and supplies will be sent as soon as possible. U.S. Congressmen John Phelps and Frank Blair, Jr. (both also colonels in the U.S. Volunteers) ask President Lincoln for 5,000 stand of improved arms and supplies to be sent to Springfield. Meanwhile, Capt. William E. Prince instructs Col. James Montgomery, commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Kansas Volunteers, to unite his forces with Lyon's and load up wagons with supplies, arms, and ammunition to take to Springfield. Gov. Gamble suggests that Fremont send sufficient forces to Lyon to drive the rebels out of the state.

By August 9, Lyon believes he has taken a strong position and can resist any attack from the front, but he must retire if he's surrounded. He has not received the reinforcements, arms and supplies he had requested numerous times. However, in a letter to Fremont, he vows to hold his ground as long as possible. The next day, letters are still going out, requesting reinforcement for Lyon. Lyon's army battles the rebels at Wilson's Creek, and he is killed.

Gen. Fremont declares and establishes martial law in St. Louis, and appoints Maj. Justus McKinstry provost marshal.