

## SERIES 4, VOLUME 2 VOLUME OVERVIEW

Volume 2 of Series 4 covers the months of August through December 1861. At the end of Volume 1, there was discussion over the Missouri State Convention's second session, but results were not yet published. The current volume starts out with those results, declaring vacant the offices of governor, lieutenant governor, and secretary of state, and adopting the report of the Committee of Eight (formerly Seven and mentioned in the previous volume). The Convention elects retired Judge Hamilton R. Gamble, member of said committee, the new (provisional) governor of Missouri. Former U.S. Congressman Willard P. Hall is elected lieutenant governor and former U.S. Congressman Mordecai Oliver secretary of state.

Gen. John Pope, commander of the District of North Missouri, assigns Gen. Stephen A. Hurlbut the command of the federal forces along the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad. Orders are issued that "the people will be held strictly responsible for destructions committed. If hostilities occur and troops are called to the relief, they will be sent in sufficient numbers to take possession of the village or villages that may be making trouble."<sup>1</sup>

U.S. Sen. Truett Polk writes a secessionist editor, in which he demonstrates his hope that Missouri will join the South, thus exposing his pro-South sentiments. (He would be ousted officially from the Senate in January 1862).

A correspondent forecasts a battle at any time, with the cavalry ready to move and the Home Guards in motion. Rebels are encamped at Wilson's Creek, and reports of rebels flanking the city on three sides have alarmed the people of Springfield (Green County). On the other side of the state, Rebel (MSG)<sup>2</sup> Gen. M. Jefferson Thompson makes a demonstration against Cape Girardeau (Cape Girardeau County) on August 9, but seeing it was well-defended, fled. Another party of rebels makes a dash on Potosi (Washington County) but is forced by the Home Guards to retire.

One report notes the observation of a Texan, who describes deposed Gov. Claiborne F. Jackson's army, the Rebel (MSG), as one of the most confused bodies of men he has ever seen, half armed, poorly organized, and undisciplined. According to the same article, many rebels said they would shoot Jackson over President Lincoln in target practice. "The way that the federal troops conduct themselves in Missouri is fast gaining the good will of the people."<sup>3</sup>

Maj. Gen. John C. Fremont orders a reorganization of the Reserve Corps in St. Louis and declares martial law for the city and county of St. Louis. He appoints Maj. Justus McKinstry provost marshal, who then issues a proclamation calling on citizens to remain peaceful, and warning them that any violation of the order will be followed by prompt punishment. He forbids citizens from carrying concealed weapons or to sell or give away any without a special permit. McKinstry arrests the president of the Board of Police Commissioners, appointing Basil Duke to replace John A. Brownlee.

Another correspondent reports that Gen. Nathaniel Lyon has been calling for reinforcements for several weeks, and Fremont orders the 3<sup>rd</sup> Kansas to join him (Lyon). Although he is killed at the Battle of Wilson's Creek on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August, the first report of his death to appear in the *New York Tribune* is on August 17, which mentions he was buried on the farm of Col. John Phelps, near Springfield. Later articles offer a biography, eulogy, wishes to honor the deceased general, details on the transport of Lyon's remains from St. Louis to its final destination, and a description of the general's funeral in Eastford, Connecticut. Plans to send Lyon's body east to his birthplace include a letter from Fremont accepting the Adams Express Company's offer to transport the remains to Connecticut.

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<sup>1</sup> See (FLP: Ser 4NYT-Aug#5).

<sup>2</sup> After the conclusion of the Missouri State Convention, which closed on July 31, the Missouri State Guard was no longer recognized by the state since it was created under the Military Bill, which was voided at the Convention; therefore, after that date, the former State Guard is referred to as the Rebel (MSG).

<sup>3</sup> See (FLP: Ser 4NYT-Aug#12).

A train carrying civilians and U.S. soldiers is attacked near Lookout Station in Cole County, killing a soldier and wounding several others.

This volume introduces the Fremont Reserve, a new military organization with headquarters in Chicago. According to the report, the Reserve will include upward of 50,000 men, who will be thoroughly organized, armed, and drilled, and ready to be called into the field at a moment's notice, when necessary.

Gov. Gamble issues a proclamation, calling for 42,000 men into active service for six months "unless peace in the state shall be sooner restored."<sup>4</sup>

A deserter from C.S.A. Gen. Gideon J. Pillow's army claims that most of the men under the general are demoralized and only stay in hopes of taking St. Louis. Rebel (MSG) Maj. Gen. Sterling Price is reported to be moving northward toward Jefferson City while C.S.A. Gen. Benjamin McCulloch is moving south. One article notes that while the rebels have stripped stores and sometimes houses of all they contain, they compensate the owners in most cases.

Fremont extends martial law throughout Missouri.<sup>5</sup> In response, Rebel (MSG) Capt. W. H. Kidd brings a message, under a flag of truce, warning Fremont that "if a single rebel is shot or hung, they will retaliate by taking life for life."<sup>6</sup> Kidd, however, is not allowed to hold communication with anyone. Fremont clarifies his proclamation, explaining he did not give instructions to shoot the wounded or those engaged in humanely alleviating their sufferings, and that the proclamation only addresses those of the army in the military occupation of Missouri. President Lincoln disagrees with a couple of points in Fremont's martial law proclamation, and several articles discuss their views on the issue. Fremont, expressly ordered to do so, modifies the proclamation in regard to declaring free the slaves of active rebels. The *Tribune* criticizes Lincoln's order, and asks whether the president and his advisers are aware of the fact that there is war in Missouri. "A desperate, unscrupulous, bloodthirsty foe is over-running the state, driving out Union men and stealing their property wherever it has the power, torturing prisoners..., assassinating old citizens in their own houses, firing into railroad cars and steamboats..., cutting bridges, and murdering and wounding a hundred innocent persons at once....In such a condition of affairs, General Fremont's policy was *simply a military necessity*."<sup>7</sup>

Gen. Benjamin Prentiss finds himself superseded in command by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant on his arrival in Cape Girardeau. Prentiss refuses to take orders from Grant, whom he believes is below him in rank, and places himself under arrest. He forwards his resignation to Fremont, with whom he requests an interview to clear up the issue of seniority. Fremont does not accept Prentiss's resignation.

A train on the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad went over the Little Platte River Bridge in Buchanan County after tracks had been sabotaged by rebels. The incident resulted in death or serious injury to most of those on board.

Col. Frank P. Blair, Jr. is arrested for using disrespectful language when attending superior officers, and for making complaints against Fremont with a view to his removal.

After the fall of Lexington on September 13, Fremont announces he is personally marching upon the rebels to recapture the town. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis assumes command at St. Louis during Fremont's absence.

Editorials discuss the obstacles impeding Fremont, such as lack of arms, raw recruits, fewer men, and lack of transportation. One correspondent points out that Fremont has used his personal resources to help run his department. On October 2, Col. Blair files charges against Fremont, but the Cabinet, which met to consider both the charges against Fremont and those of Fremont against Blair (filed on the same day), come to no conclusion. President Lincoln states that Fremont has no authority to issue commissions, and thus, he is not

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<sup>4</sup> See (FLP: Ser 4NYT-Aug#47).

<sup>5</sup> For the text of the MGen. Fremont's martial law proclamation, see (FLP: Ser 4NYT-Sep-Annex-7).

<sup>6</sup> See (FLP: Ser 4NYT-Sep#25).

<sup>7</sup> See (FLP: Ser 4NYT-Sep#30).

recognizing any of Fremont's commissions or permits. (In December, the *Tribune* published letters proving that Fremont never gave any commissions, but rather made appointments that were subject to the president's approval, and the president would issue the commissions. Letters also proved that Fremont was given the authority for these appointments.) Sec. of War Simon Cameron instructs Fremont to apply the heavy sums due to the Quartermaster's Department to current expenses, and any other debts are to remain unpaid until properly examined and settled by the president. He states that no payments will be made to officers except those whose appointments have been approved by the president. He also calls a halt to the construction of fortifications in St. Louis and Jefferson City.

Cameron, accompanied by Adj. Gen. Lorenzo Thomas, visits Missouri to examine the condition of affairs in the Western Department. They review Gen. McKinstry's and Gen. Alexander S. Asboth's divisions, with Fremont accompanying them, then move on to St. Louis. Thomas issues a report,<sup>8</sup> which several news articles critically analyze—several of the issues presented against the general are questioned and addressed, the report criticized for its errors, based on hearsay evidence.

On November 5, the *New York Tribune* received a dispatch informing the paper of Fremont's removal three days earlier. The general was preparing to attack the enemy, "who had come within twelve miles of him, when the order for his removal reached him."<sup>9</sup> (This was contrary to President Lincoln's instructions, which were to relieve Fremont when he was not in a battle, in expectation of a battle or in the immediate presence of the enemy.) Fremont's farewell address to his men is included in the annex.<sup>10</sup> Maj. Gen. David Hunter succeeds Fremont, and according to one report, he is rising in popularity among the men, despite the initial discontent on Fremont's dismissal. However, Hunter's command is temporary, lasting no more than a week, and the Western Department is discontinued; the Department of the Missouri is created, and Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck is appointed its commander.

Halleck gives orders excluding certain people, including slaves, from any camp, and directs the former staff officers under Fremont, who were relieved of duty per a special order from Washington, to report to headquarters in St. Louis. Later, he also orders all municipal officers to subscribe to the oath of allegiance prescribed by the State Convention.

The chief clerk of the Quartermaster's Office, Henry W. Clements, is arrested and sent to Jefferson Barracks. The former quartermaster, Gen. McKinstry, and his cashier are also arrested and taken to the St. Louis Arsenal. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis takes command of McKinstry's division. (The last article in this volume, published at the end of the year, indicates that McKinstry is still in confinement and has not been informed of the charges against him.)

Correspondents report that many of Rebel (MSG) Maj. Gen. Price's men are deserting his army due to both desertion and the expiration of their time of service. They are going home, where they are making mischief. Price issues a proclamation, calling for 50,000 men. His force moves near Osceola, where he sets up his headquarters. Recruits are underway at four offices in Lexington, and meetings are held for recruitment purposes and for raising money there and at several river counties.

Gen. John Pope is assigned command of Union forces between the Missouri and Osage Rivers. U.S. Gen. Thomas L. Price leaves his command to run for Congress to fill a vacancy caused by the expulsion of Congressman John W. Reid, who had taken up arms against the Union.

The rebels destroy the North Missouri Railroad from Warrenton (Warren County) to Hudson (Bates County), then Pope's forces capture a large number of rebels, arms and munitions. On December 26, Gen. Halleck issues a general order, declaring martial law to be enforced "in and about all the railroads"<sup>11</sup> in Missouri.

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<sup>8</sup> See (FLP: Ser 2PS-Oct#92).

<sup>9</sup> See (FLP: Ser 2PS-Nov#10).

<sup>10</sup> See (FLP: Ser 4NYT-Nov-Annex-15).

<sup>11</sup> See (FLP: Ser 2PS-Dec#32.2).

This volume covers the Battles of Wilson's Creek, Lexington, and Salem, each with its own special section describing the event, and one article covers the Battle at Blue Mills Landing. Also included is an article about Gen. Lyon's political affiliations and the reason behind his change from the Democratic Party to the Republican Party. The same article reviews *The Last Political Writings of General Nathaniel Lyon*, a collection of Lyon's writings. Another article, an editorial, gives a detailed history of Maj. Gen. Fremont's campaign in Missouri and the condition of the Western Department from his arrival at St. Louis up to the time of his removal. The writer's purpose in writing this history is his belief that if the public knows the facts, it will exonerate Fremont.