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THE WAR NEWS.

FROM GEN. McCLELLAN'S ARMY.

Two Great Battles before Richmond—General McClellan Directing all movements in person—Federal Loss 3000—Rebel loss in killed and wounded over 1200.

The Battle on Saturday.

HEADQUARTERS GEN. McCLELLAN'S ARMY, June 2, P. M.

Two days of the battle of Richmond have been fought, on both of which occasions our troops have been victorious, with a heavy loss on both sides.

The battle was opened by the enemy making an attack on Gen. Casey's division, which was encamped near Seven Pines, on the turnpike leading over Bottom Bridge, and within seven miles of Richmond.

The attack was made at about 1 o'clock on Saturday afternoon, by Gen. Hill's Division, composed of five rebel brigades, the troops being, in most part, from Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia.

The fight here was disastrous. General Casey's troops were forced to retire before superior numbers, leaving all their baggage and two batteries on the field.

Col. Baily, in endeavoring to save his battery, was killed.

Some of the troops in this division from New York and Pennsylvania (according to a dispatch from New York there were no Pennsylvania troops in this command) behaved very badly. Many of the officers were killed and wounded in endeavoring to rally their men.

Gen. Heintzelman, on ascertaining the result, ordered forward a portion of the divisions of Generals Kearney and Hooker to regain the day.

Gen. Kearney's men, on being brought into action, charged with the bayonet, driving the rebels before them like sheep, and regaining all the lost ground, but after proceeding half a mile night came on, and the operations were brought to a close.

General Sumner's two divisions, under Generals Sedgwick and Richardson, crossed the Chickahominy at 2 o'clock on Saturday afternoon, taking a position on Gen. Heintzelman's right. Here they encountered General Longstreet's, Rain's, and Hughes' divisions—the flower of the rebel army. The fighting was desperate, every foot of ground being hotly contested, but our soldiers were too much for them.

The enemy would stand manfully at a distance of sixty yards and be shot at, but they were afraid of the bayonet, and in every instance that our men charged they were victorious.

These two divisions did nobly, driving the rebels at every point until dark. The enemy's loss here was very heavy, many of them being killed by the bayonet.

General Pettigrew of South Carolina, was taken prisoner.

We have about 500 prisoners, among whom are several prominent officers.

The Battle on Sunday.

On Sunday, as soon as it was daylight, the fight was renewed by General Sumner with marked success, lasting nearly the whole day.

The rebels were driven at every point with heavy loss.

The ground gained by General Sumner was about two and a half miles.

General Heintzelman retook on Sunday morning the ground lost the day before by General Casey.

Our loss in the two days' engagement in killed and wounded will amount to about three thousand.

A great number are missing, who will probably return, having strayed away. All of the enemy's killed, and most of wounded, fell into our hands.

The country in which the battle was fought is swampy with thick underbrush. Most of the fighting was in the woods.

Owing to the nature of the ground very little artillery was used.

Both balloons were up nearly all day yesterday.

All the troops left Richmond and marched out in the direction of the battlefield. The railroad has been of inestimable advantage to us, the cars running within a mile and a half of the battlefield, bringing forward ammunition and supplies.

The wounded were immediately put on board the cars and sent to the White House. General McClellan arrived on the battlefield on Saturday evening, where he has remained ever since, directing all the movements in person. His presence among the troops had a great effect.

Four separate charges with the bayonet were made during yesterday. In one instance the enemy were driven, during which 173 were killed by the bayonet alone.

Lieut. Washington, an aid to Gen. Joe Johnson, was taken prisoner. The enemy's dead left on the field amounts to over 1200.

General Howard was wounded twice in the arm. Colonel Miller of the 81st Penn'a, and Col. Rippey of Pittsburg, were killed. Colonel Campbell, of Pennsylvania, was wounded in the thigh.

Another Account of the Battle on Sunday.

Flushed with their seeming victory of Saturday, the rebels awoke with confidence on Sunday to follow up their movements, sure of driving us this time to the Chickahominy and beyond, but they had made the unfortunate mistake of estimating the strength of our reserves by the weakness of our advance. Most bitterly did they pay for their mistake. Pressing eagerly forward with confidence of victory, they were met by the trained troops of Heintzelman and Sumner, whose unyielding columns checked their fierce assault, turning the tide of battle everywhere against them, and forcing them at the point of the bayonet on toward Richmond. It was their turn now to break and run, and their losses of the Sabbath left them little cause

for rejoicing over the trifling gain of Saturday.

Terribly did the rebels suffer on this, as well as the previous day, from the well directed fire of our artillery, filling the ground with the plain, terrible also to them were the frequent charges of our solid columns, pressing them back step by step to the last point of endurance, when they broke and ran ignominiously, leaving behind them many of their men and officers as well as private prisoners in our hands.

The number of these it is not yet possible to ascertain, several days necessarily elapsing after every engagement before a full inventory can be taken.

Another Account of the Battle on Saturday.

HEADQUARTERS OF GEN. CASEY, SEVEN PINES, VA. May 31, 1862.—The advance division of the Army on the Potomac, under the command of Brigadier General Sias Casey, were attacked to-day by an overwhelming force of the enemy and driven back a distance of two miles. Preliminary symptoms of an attack had shown themselves for two days previous, and it was generally the opinion in camp that the enemy contemplated such a movement.

Yesterday the enemy had a reconnaissance in force, and learned exactly the position of our line of pickets, as well as the location of our camp, and made their preparations accordingly.

At the time the attack was made, General Casey's outposts were within about five miles of Richmond, near Fair Oak station.

The position was gained by the reconnaissance made by Gen. Nagle, on Saturday, the 24th inst, and our General had orders to hold the position at all hazards. The rebel Generals undoubtedly made the attack in order to prevent us from completing the fortifications which we were building, and also to feel our strength and learn our exact position.

The outposts of our pickets were less than a mile from the general encampment and very close to the pickets of the enemy.

About 1 o'clock the enemy fired three shells into our camp, one after the other, at intervals of about a minute, which was probably a signal to their forces that everything was in readiness, and which caused no uneasiness in our camp from the frequency of its occurrence of late.

Within a few minutes they came upon our pickets unawares, and attacked them with great vigor and a large force.

Our pickets were either killed, captured or driven in very quickly, and the enemy advanced as rapidly as possible upon our camp.

In the meantime the regiments of the different brigades had fallen into line in anticipation of an order to that effect, which soon arrived and at once were off in double quick to the scene of conflict. The most terrible of the fighting secured just as the enemy had got through the woods and where our reserve was drawn up to receive them.

The most desperate courage was displayed here from both sides, our regiments charging repeatedly on the enemy, driving them back for a while, when they would again in turn get the upper hand and drive us before them. The loss upon both sides at this point must have been fearful, as every inch of ground was disputed in the most desperate manner, and was only gained by overwhelming numbers and by passing over the bodies of our dead and wounded soldiers.

Our batteries at this time were pouring into the rebel ranks a perfect shower of grape and canister, moving them down in windows, but still they steadily step by step advanced till our lines commenced to give way when they charged upon our batteries and succeeded in capturing seven guns which we were unable to remove owing to the horses having been killed.

The enemy were now in possession of our camp, and had turned our guns upon our retreating columns, while the infantry continued to follow them up as closely as possible.

Our men, although compelled to fall back, did so without any symptoms of panic, but still quite hastily.

The enemy captured everything belonging to Casey's division excepting what they had on their backs, leaving them without a tent or a blanket to cover them.

The supply of commissary stores was very light in camp, and all the baggage wagons and officers' baggage had been sent to the rear two days before. So that our loss falls principally upon the men who had left all their effects in their tents.

The attack was made so suddenly and unexpectedly, that at this time (6 P. M.) while the fight is still going on, and all is confusion, it is impossible to give the exact position which each regiment held in the engagement.

The position of the different brigades before the engagement, were as follows: Gen. Nagle's brigade, consisting of the 104th Pennsylvania, Col. W. H. Davis; 11th Maine, Lt. Col. Plamsted; 50th New York, Col. C. H. Yanoyck; 52nd Pennsylvania, Col. J. C. Dodge; 100th New York, Col. J. M. Brown, were on the right of the Williamsburg and Richmond stage road and extended across the rail track some distance.

The second brigade, under command of Gen. Wessells, consisting of the 85th Pennsylvania, Col. T. B. H. Howell, 101st Pennsylvania, Col. T. H. Wilson, 103d Penna., Col. M. H. Lehman, 96th N. Y., Col. J. Fairman, occupied the centre and guarded the turnpike, while the 3d brigade, Gen. J. N. Palmer commanding, consisting of the 81st N. Y., Lieut. Col. Delorest, 86th N. Y., Col. T. S. Belknap, 92d N. Y., Lieut. Col. Anderson, 98th N. Y., Lieut. Col. Durkee, were on the left of the road and joined the pickets of Gen. Couch's division.

It is impossible at this time to give any

reliable report of the number killed and wounded in Casey's division.

These regiments were mostly composed of comparative new troops and have been reduced very much from sickness since they have been on the Peninsula.

The whole division could not have numbered more than 6,000 effective men, while the force of the enemy was from thirty to fifty thousand.

The officers all as far as I could learn behaved in the most gallant manner, and their loss is large.

Gen. Casey was in the thickest of the fight and was reported wounded, but afterwards learned that he escaped unhurt.

Gen. Palmer is reported killed, and it is generally believed to be true, as he was in the thickest of the fight and could not be found. He may have been wounded and taken prisoner.

General Nagle had his clothes riddled by bullets, but escaped, almost miraculously, without any serious wound. Gen. Wessells is reported wounded.

Casey's division fell back to the Seven Pines, where the division of Gen. Couch was drawn up behind little pines.

The battle raged fiercely here for a time, when Gen. Couch fell back, with considerable loss, a short distance, but finally succeeded in making a successful stand till the arrival of reinforcements from Gen. Heintzelman, whose troops were pouring in on the railroad as I left the field and, I learn, succeeded jointly in checking the enemy and retaking part of the ground lost during the day. What the casualties were in Couch's division, it is impossible to learn at the time of writing, as it is near dark, and those whose statements can be relied upon are still on the field. I learn that Peck and Devens' brigades were actually engaged and suffered considerable loss, but can learn nothing reliable from the balance.

About four o'clock word was sent to General Sumner to bring up his corps, which was encamped beyond the Chickahominy. They crossed the bridge back by his troops about three miles above Bottom's Bridge, and designated by the name of Grapevine bridge. The last of them crossed about seven o'clock, and marched directly to the front, where they will be ready for whatever may transpire in the morning.

It is impossible to fix accurately upon the number of our killed, wounded and missing to night, but I should judge they will reach six or seven hundred.

The loss of the enemy must have been very heavy, as they received the concentrated fire of our batteries for a considerable time, besides the deadly volley poured into them by our infantry.

A large number of our killed and wounded must have fallen into their hands. The object of the enemy, in my opinion, was to make a strong reconnaissance, in order to feel our position, and, if successful, to drive us back as far as possible. If such was the object of the movement, it was eminently successful, as far as the extent of the day is concerned; but what will transpire tomorrow remains to be seen.

From a prisoner I learn that the advance of the enemy consisted of Mississippi and North Carolina troops, under the command of General Rhodes, and supported by 50,000 men.

As the troops under Generals Heintzelman and Sumner were seen coming up the railroad and turnpike at a double quick every one seemed to feel relieved and felt sure that now the day was ours, and that the enemy, though temporarily successful, would soon be driven back beyond our former lines.

As night approached the field presented a dreadful appearance. Long lines of ambulances could be seen conveying the dead and wounded from the field, while those that could not obtain conveyances were being carried by their comrades.

Most of the wounded officers were carried back to the House occupied by Gen. Heintzelman, where their wounds were dressed, and every attention paid them to make them comfortable, while all the out-houses and tents were used as hospitals for those unable to get in the house.

Our surgeons did their utmost to mitigate their sufferings. Among our surgeons whom I noticed as being very busy were Drs. Haven, Simpson, Brown, David and Smith.

About dark a train consisting of six or seven cars was loaded with wounded and started for the White House, where they arrived about 10 o'clock, and the wounded carried on board the steamers prepared for the purpose. The steamers were provided with every convenience and luxury for the wounded, with kind and faithful female nurses.

One cause of the disaster to Gen. Casey's division was owing to the great number of officers sick and unfit for duty. Some of the regiments went into action with only one field officer, and very few companions, obtained their full complement of officers.

The division has suffered more from sickness than any other on the peninsula, from the fact of its being composed of troops raised last, some of the regiments in fact having been in the field but a few days, while the other divisions had an opportunity, while encamped around Washington, to get in a measure acclimated and accustomed to camp life.

It must be allowed that the rebels fought with great bravery, and their loss must have been very severe. They again succeeded in playing the old dodge upon our troops, by displaying a flag of truce till they got within good range, and then pouring in upon them a deadly volley.

They succeeded in this way at one time in completely silencing the fire of our batteries.

Another Account of the fight on Sunday. BATTLE-FIELD, Monday, June 2. The enemy still occupied the camps of Casey's and Couch's Divisions on Sunday

morning with a strong picket force guarding the road facing Sumner's house and the wheat field where our earthworks were thrown up, extending from our extreme left to the railroad, near Fair Oak Station. The distance from the point where our earthworks were located to the edge of the wood could not have been more than four hundred yards. This position the rebels held until day dawned on Sunday morning.

Gen. Heintzelman was on the ground at the point as soon as day dawned, accompanied by two aids. Gen. Hooker met him, and the two Generals set down at the foot of a tree behind our breastworks, arranging a plan for the day's proceedings.

Gen. Johnson, Keys and Sickles arrived at the front soon after, and the fight of Saturday was talked over as one of no particular advantage to the enemy, as they had concentrated their main force upon this portion of our front line, and the effect was more disastrous to them.

Their loss in killed men, including their wounded, it is impossible to form an estimate. Several of their men brought in as prisoners gave their loss in killed and wounded upward of three thousand. They made a desperate attack, it is true, and gained considerable ground, besides a large number of guns, camps, equipage, &c., as trophies, which they immediately sent to Richmond to dazzle the eyes of its poor inhabitants, who doubtless secretly wish to see the city fall into the hands of McClellan.

Gen. Heintzelman, at 6 A. M., ordered a reconnaissance to be made by a small force on the left of the wood and to the right toward the railroad. A lieutenant with two cavalrymen crossed over the wheat-field behind Sumner's house, and was about to penetrate the wood near the Williamsburg road, when the enemy's pickets appeared at his front. He immediately turned back and reported to Gen. Heintzelman the close proximity of the enemy.

In the meantime, the other parties sent out came in, and reported the enemy in great force in front of our right and left flanks.

It was about a quarter of seven when Gen. Heintzelman ordered Gen. Hooker to attack the rebels in his front, and drive them from the woods. The Excelsior brigade marched out from their camps in the woods to the Williamsburg road, the New Jersey Fifth and Sixth following.

The Excelsior brigade filed in the wheat-field in front of our earthworks, to the right of the road, while the two regiments of New Jersey troops took a position to the left. As the Second Regiment, Excelsior Brigade, was forming in position to the front of the wood, the rebels opened a rapid and heavy fire upon it, killing two or three privates, and wounding about six. Among those wounded at the first fire of the rebels was Lieut. Lawrie (formerly an aid to Gen. Sickles) and a Captain Nolan.

The fire of the enemy immediately became simultaneous along their entire line, loading and firing without flinching from their position. General Sickles' regiments did great execution, advancing at every freepoint the rebels masked by the wood. However, it was plainly to be seen the enemy had every advantage, and a new rebuff was clear the woods at the point of the Excelsior.

Gen. Sickles rode along the front of his men, in the midst of an iron hail which the rebels poured in, and gave orders to the Second Regiment, Col. G. B. Hall, to charge bayonets. No sooner was the order given than the men fixed bayonets—Col. Hall gallantly led the charge—only a few moments were made in any battle. Not a man struck or straggled from the ranks.

The rebels presented a strong front to the gleaming bayonets of men, not a hundred yards distant.

As the Second advanced on the double quick, cheering and shouting, the rebels fired back their fire until our men were hardly one hundred feet from their line, when they fired a murderous volley into the ranks of the Second. It proved too low, and few were killed or wounded.

Immediately after the rebels fired this volley, they broke ranks and fled through the wood. A few of them however remained to resist our passage, but they were soon mowed down by the steel front of the gallant Second Excelsior.

Maj. Herbert, of the Eighth Alabama Regiment, was taken prisoner at this time. His horse had been shot under him, and as he fell he received a shot in his side. He sprang to his feet, however, almost instantly, and seeing several of our men in front of him, mistook them for some of his own regiment.

"Fally once more, boys!" he cried, but they corrected his mistake by presenting their bayonets and demanding him to surrender, which he did with all the grace and finish that an original secessionist, as he afterwards informed me he was, could do under the circumstances. The rebels made two or three attempts to flank us on the left, after retreating from their centre; but they were beat back with great loss, our troops pursuing them for nearly two miles.

Richardson's Brigade, before the enemy's centre gave way, had a hard fight; the ground was hotly contested by the rebels. The Fourth and Fifth Excelsior Regiments were sent to support one of Richardson's Batteries, but before the battery got in far working order, the enemy began to show signs of retreat. The rebel officers could be distinctly heard urging the men to fight, but they would run away.—The Irish brigade fought splendidly, and routed the rebels at the point of the bayonet.

None of our forces on the left flank participate in the fight. The rebels were defeated and driven back by Hooker's and Richardson's Divisions.

Advance parties scoured the woods on both sides of the Richmond road, and suc-

ceeded in capturing nearly two hundred of the rebels, among them three lieutenants.

At 11 o'clock the firing on both sides ceased. The rebels had fallen back to beyond our original lines, leaving guards stationed to watch our advance and bring their wounded off the field.

The enemy was driven from every position they occupied by our troops. The main column rested a mile in advance of their position, at the commencement of the fight.

In company with Gen. Sickles, Col. Graham, Col. Hall and Lieut. Graham, I rode up upon the battle field on Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock. The scene witnessed here baffles all description. Calabans, with horses shot dead in their traces, ambulances, wagons, &c., &c., filled the road in front of Casey's camp. There were about two hundred of our wounded still lying where they fell on Saturday. Some of them spoke kindly of the rebels, saying they treated them very well.

We lost 13 guns in the fight on Saturday. Not one of them has been recovered. The rebels ran a train down near Fair Oak Station, and carried away our commissary stores, guns, ect., ect., to Richmond.

The rebels destroyed what they could not conveniently carry away including the new tents of Casey and Couch's division.

Federal Evacuation and Confederate Occupation of Winchester.

Mr. George A. Roelke, of Baltimore, who opened a shoe store in Winchester immediately after its occupation by Gen. Banks, and who remained there four days after its recent capture by the confederates, and then made his escape, makes a detailed statement of what he witnessed, which is published in the Baltimore American, and from which we make the following extracts:

Mr. Roelke, in common with the military, ridiculed the predictions constantly being made by the rebel citizens that Jackson would again be back and obtain possession of Winchester. On Saturday [24th] they received intelligence of the rout of Colonel Kenly, which caused some uneasiness, but the military were sure that General Banks would be able to hold Winchester, and he, with others, went to bed on Saturday night fully satisfied that no danger would be incurred by remaining. He was awake on Sunday morning by the sound of cannon and musketry in close proximity, and whilst hastily dressing saw the federal troops retreating through the town. He hesitated for a few moments what to do, and by the time he reached the street the rebel cavalry were following in pursuit. Here we may add that Mr. R. assures us that he did not see or hear of any shooting having been done by females while the federal troops were passing through, and is sure that no female was shot in the net of firing, as claimed to have been done. Some of the rebel citizens joined in the fight from their houses, but he heard nothing of females fighting.

The stories of the burning of the two hospitals with all in them are entirely untrue. Neither of the buildings were injured, and the wounded, both federal and rebel, were brought in and deposited in them, and were receiving as good attention as they were capable of giving them. They, of course, suffered for want of attention, but all suffered alike. He saw or heard of no brutality to the wounded or prisoners. The rebels were in no good humor with their success to be harsh with any one.

On Friday nearly all the prisoners from Front Royal were brought into Winchester. The rebels claimed that there were fifteen hundred of them, but Mr. R. is of the impression that there was not more than half that number. The wounded were taken to the hospital; the privates were confined to the court-house and court yard and the officers were released on parole to go where they pleased in the town.

Col. Kenly was suffering, but not severely or dangerously, from a sabre wound on the side of the head, and was taken to the private house of Mr. Barton, a lawyer, where he was receiving every attention.

The whole number of federal prisoners in Winchester, including the sick and wounded, he estimated at nearly 3,000. They were confined in the railroad depot, the court-house, and other buildings. The farmers brought a great many straggling prisoners into the town on Sunday and Monday, who had sought food and succor from them, only to be delivered up to their enemies.

The only destruction of property in Winchester at the time of the evacuation was that of the buildings containing the federal commissary stores, which were fired by order of General Banks. The flames extended from them to E. Rosentberg's store and the Express office, both of which were consumed. The stores containing ammunition and forage were by express orders from General Banks, not destroyed, and fell into the hands of the enemy. The firing of them would have levelled the whole town and destroyed the inhabitants, there being a large amount of powder and ammunition, which General Banks did not feel justified in doing.

A large number of stores, principally those of sutlers and other army followers, together with a train of army supplies, all fell into the hands of the rebels, and were appropriated by the troops, who came into the town almost in a starving condition. The prisoners were also nearly starved, but were soon provided for with the other troops.

A number of the wives of federal officers were also in Winchester, having fled to make their escape in time. Those who did escape and were overtaken at Martinsburg, were sent to our lines on Friday last.